



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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To: State Directors

From: Director

Subject: Compliance with the Reporting Requirements of the National Fire Plan and Healthy Forests Restoration Act

The Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) adopted a four-part monitoring plan to implement a directive from the National Fire Plan's *10-Year Implementation Strategy* in January 2006. This monitoring requirement directs us to look at the effectiveness of fuels treatments and provide answers to questions regarding how these treatments impact the environment. The WFLC has established an annual report to document the results of this monitoring effort.

In addition, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act directs the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service (FS) to monitor a representative sample of the fuels projects and issue a report that includes an evaluation of the progress toward achieving fuel treatment objectives. The BLM and FS, under the oversight of the WFLC Monitoring Oversight Committee, have jointly developed an approach to collect necessary information from local interdisciplinary teams, other local government agencies and stakeholders.

This approach will rely on agency staff to assist the monitoring effort on a random sample of fuel treatments drawn from the National Fire Plan Operations Reporting System. A team (potentially composed of FS Enterprise Team members and BLM employees) will facilitate data collection at each randomly selected site. This approach was chosen because it has the least overall impact on the budget and will utilize local expertise and knowledge. Results will be analyzed and reported in four regions of the continental United States (Southeast, Northeast, Southwest, and Northwest) and summarized nationally in the report to Congress.

Field offices will be notified as soon as possible about treatments within their geographic area that are randomly selected for monitoring. They will be asked if the treatment is complete and available for a summer 2008 site visit. The time required of local agency staff, at each selected site, is expected to be approximately two days. The Treatment Monitoring Team will first develop monitoring questions and review background documentation for treatment objectives and mitigation measures assisted by a trained monitoring facilitator to address treatment effects

and effectiveness. The team will then visit the treatment site and record their findings. Every effort will be made to schedule site visits to minimize disruption to ongoing work at the local unit.

The following members of the Broad-based Monitoring Team may be contacted for additional information pertaining to the approach to monitoring fuels treatment effects and effectiveness:

- Everell 'Butch' Hayes, Broad-based Monitoring Team BLM Co-Lead – 775-861-6479
- Leslie Sekavec, Broad-based Monitoring Team Forest Service Co-Lead – 208-387-5228

Your assistance with this effort will help us develop sound monitoring information and meet our obligation to Congress. Thank you in advance for your support.

Signed by:
Henri R. Bisson
Acting, Director

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Robert M. Williams
Division of IRM Governance, WO-560