



## NORTHERN ROCKIES COORDINATING GROUP

### **NRCG 2009 Guidelines for Wildland Fire Decision Documentation**

During the 2009 fire season there will be at least two different incident management decision documents in use by all of the Northern Rockies agencies. The most familiar one of these is the Wildland Fire Situation Analysis or WFSA. The other will be the newly developed Wildland Fire Decision Support System or WFDSS, which most Federal agencies will be transitioning to during 2009 and 2010 seasons.

One of the concerns that has been raised is the confusion that may be created by any incident management organization or team being provided more than one decision document for the management of a particular incident or complex of incidents that are either multi-jurisdictional in nature or are part of the protection exchange agreement.

The Northern Rockies Coordinating Group is providing these guidelines to eliminate confusion or conflicting direction to incident management organizations or teams. This will be of the utmost importance for the safety of our firefighters.

#### Guidelines:

1. Each Agency will decide which document they will use.
2. This should be documented in local operating plans.
3. In the event of a multi-jurisdiction incident, agencies will negotiate which document will contain the final management decision.

It is critical that we all remember the key to a good decision is not what you name the document, but the process and communication that you use with your partners in reaching the final, agreed upon decision. Early communication and full engagement by all parties involved in an incident will inevitably lead to the best decision for everyone.

/s/ Len Dems

LEN DEMS

Chair, Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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Date