



NORTHERN ROCKIES COORDINATING GROUP

NRCG 2010 Guidelines for Wildland Fire Decision Documentation

During the 2010 fire season there will be multiple incident management decision documents in use by the various federal and state Northern Rockies agencies. Most federal agencies will use the Wildland Decision Support System (WFDSS). Idaho and Montana state agencies will use other, customized, analysis tools.

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 offset protection exchange.

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 identify which document will convey their final management decision.
4. The Delegation of Authority will incorporate these planning documents and will clearly communicate the intent of the leader(s). The Delegation of Authority will be signed by all agencies.

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

/s/ Mike McMeekin

MIKE MCMEEKIN

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Date