Implementation

Required Skills And Qualifications

Wildland fire management is complex and demanding. Certain skills and qualifications are necessary to successfully plan and implement a wildland fire use program. The minimum national skills, knowledge, standards, and physical qualifications for each position required for fire use implementation are outlined in the Wildland Fire Qualification Subsystem Guide, NWCG, PMS 310-1 (see FSM 5108 for further information on this guide) and the Wildland Fire Qualifications Handbook, FSH 5109.17. Exceptions are noted for Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist, Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 3, and Fire Use Manager. Standards are provided for these positions in FSM 5145.21, 5145.22, and 5145.31, respectively (FSM 5145.1).

Line officer delegation of authority to approve Wildland Fire Implementation Plans (WFIP) and implementation positions are the two categories of qualifications concerning management of the WFU program. Each Forest Fire Management Officer and Forest Supervisor will review designated personnel that are delegated the authority for WFU approval on an annual basis. Training, experience, and knowledge will be part of this review prior to issuance of the delegation of authority letter. Line officers must meet the standards outlined in R4 supplement 5100-2001-5 5140.42.

Every wildland fire used to achieve resource objectives requires that the line officer designate a Fire Use Manager (FUMA) who is directly responsible for all aspects of the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP)(FSM 5145.3). The FUMA may individually manage multiple fires that do not require significant staffing, external communication, or holding resources for plan implementation, or the FUMA may be the leader of a specialized team needed to manage one or more complex fires. An individual FUMA must be assigned for each wildland fire requiring Stage III analysis described in the Implementation Guide (FSM 5143.32). As complexity increases, consideration should be given to assigning a formal team. Indicators of increasing complexity include: safety, the number of fires being managed, acreage increases, anticipated severe weather, increasing coordination needs, smoke issues, threatened resources, and logistical demands. Fire Use Management Team (FUMT) leaders, Type I or II Incident Commanders may also be designated as FUMAs when they have completed appropriate fire use training (FSM 5145.31). In the case of a long duration fire where the FUMA needs to be relieved due to consecutive days of service, the replacement must be designated by a line officer at the same level of authority as made the initial FUMA assignment.

When required by the Implementation Guide (FSM 5140.32), long-term fire behavior predictions, based on the best scientific process available must be provided by a Long Term Fire Analyst (LTAN) or Fire Behavior Analyst (FBAN) with experience in long-term fire behavior prediction.

The Fire Use Manager (FUMA) or formal team leader determines, through development of the WFIP, the organization and expertise necessary to successfully manage wildland fire(s) to meet resource objectives. The organization required to implement fire use projects is based on the complexity of the project, the number of fires burning, and the resources available at any one time. On less complex projects, one person may perform multiple duties simultaneously. More complex projects require more highly qualified personnel. The required organization must be delineated in the approved Prescribed Fire Burn Plan (RxBP) or Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP). Requirements of the FUMA position include:

- Prior successful management of wildland fires used to meet resource objectives, or the successful completion of a training assignment certified by a qualified Fire Use Manager, and:

- Qualification as a Prescribed Fire Burn Boss 1 (RxB1).

In addition, a FUMA must have successfully completed a suitable fire use course at the Regional or National level, such as Advanced Fire Applications, S 580. The required fitness level is moderate. Only assignment as FUMA maintains currency (FSM 5145.31).

Along with the Fire Use Manager and District Ranger involvement, participation in developing the WFIP and managing the WFU may also include local specialists familiar with issues and policies associated with the fire management unit and the wildland fire use program.
These specialists may include but are not limited to:

- Wilderness Resource Specialist - provides input on resource issues and impacts. May assist in development of the MMA.
- Aerial Monitor - usually a person familiar with local conditions such as the regular Forest aerial observer. May have the need for an ICS-qualified FOBS or FBAN.
- Resource Advisor - not necessarily ICS qualified; may include other specialists such as wildlife or fish biologist, soil scientist, hydrologist, or archaeologist.
- Technical Specialists - experienced with RERAP, FARSITE, and GIS programs.
- Public Information Officer - familiar with language and concepts of wildland fire use.
- Division Supervisor - may implement holding actions identified in the WFIP.

If a wildland fire managed for resource benefits exceeds prescription parameters and cannot be brought back into prescription within 48 hours, it will be declared a wildfire. A Wildland Fire Situation Analysis will then be prepared and the appropriate suppression response taken.

All personnel assigned to any wildland fire will meet the qualification standards established by their home agency unless they are trainees operating under Task Books and with a fully qualified person for the training position.

A small pool of qualified FUMAs exists in the Greater Yellowstone Area. A list of qualified personnel is updated yearly in the Greater Yellowstone Area Interagency Fire Management Planning and Coordination Guide. Personnel listed in the guide should be available for Fire Use assignments under the jurisdiction of any of the agencies that are members of the GYA.

Wildland Fire

A wildland fire will be managed for protection considerations whenever an ignition does not meet one or more of the prescription criteria in the initial Stage I decision process, the Stage II analysis and wildland fire implementation plan development, or exceeds prescription parameters during Stage III Management and the daily revalidation. An appropriate management response must be initiated immediately once a fire is no longer being managed as wildland fire use. The appropriate management response will likely differ between wilderness and non-wilderness areas. The appropriate management response will be based on least cost plus value lost that is consistent with Forest management goals and objectives. The following guidelines will help select the most appropriate management response:

- Suppression strategies must consider cost-effectiveness, preservation of both wilderness and non-wilderness values, protection of private property, and human life.

- Within wilderness, fire suppression will be accomplished utilizing methods and equipment that cause the least impact to the wilderness (Minimum Impact Management Tactics).

- Within wilderness, motorized equipment will only be used to the extent that it is necessary for the safe and most efficient fire suppression response possible. The Forest Supervisor or District Ranger delegated authority must approve the use of motorized equipment within the wilderness according to conditions established in FSM 2326.1. Where time constraints and fire situation allow, consider using the R4 Minimum Requirements Decision Guide to evaluate if specific actions are warranted.

- Within wilderness, aircraft will only be utilized in suppression and demobilization efforts when such use is necessary to meet other fire emergencies, for safety, and to reduce possible significant impacts to the wilderness resource. The Forest Supervisor, District Ranger delegated authority, or authorized Acting Line Officer must approve the use of air tankers and helicopters within wilderness.

- Heavy equipment use (tractors, dozers, graders etc.) will be minimized within the wilderness. Regional Forester approval is necessary for heavy equipment utilization within the wilderness.

- In non-wilderness areas, pre-plan dispatch guidelines and available resources will dictate the appropriate management response.

For wildland fires occurring within wilderness, impacts on wilderness values must be considered when deciding upon an appropriate management response. Suppression techniques that have the least impact on wilderness resources should be utilized. Initial attack crews will be briefed on appropriate wilderness suppression tactics and methods. Initial attack crews will be trained to properly select campsites, rehabilitate campsites, firelines, helispots, and the overall fire area from suppression action impacts.

A Resource Advisor knowledgeable in wilderness management and wilderness suppression methods should be assigned to any complex wildfire, or consulted with concerning smaller wildfires occurring within the wilderness. Wildland Fires that cross jurisdictional boundaries may have more than one resource advisor assigned to the incident.

Permit emergency burned area rehabilitation only if necessary to prevent an unnatural loss of the wilderness resource or to protect life, property, and other resource values outside of wilderness. Normally use hand tools and equipment to install selected land and channel treatments (FSM 2323.43b).

Conduct all fire management activities within the wilderness in a manner compatible with overall wilderness management objectives. Give preference to using methods and equipment that cause the least:

- Alteration of the wilderness landscape
- Disturbance of the land surface
- Disturbance to visitor solitude
- Reduction of visibility during periods of visitor use
- Adverse effect on other air quality-related values (FSM 2324.23).

Minimum Impact Management Tactics

Minimum impact management tactics (formerly "Light Hand" or Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics) should be applied to all lands, not just wilderness. However, they are especially essential within wilderness areas to protect such wilderness values as naturalness and wildness. The tactics are organized by basic fire management activities–fireline construction, burning out and mop-up, and by specific types of actions such as tree cutting, hazard tree management, helicopter operations, and camp situations. A section on rehabilitation is also included.
One of the most basic tools in minimum impact management tactics is choosing the time of day in which to concentrate fire management efforts. Typically efforts should be concentrated at night or in the cooler parts of the day. Efforts in the heat of the day are often ineffective, especially in lighter fuels such as grass and sagebrush. Efforts at night or the cooler part of the day using much less impactive methods can be quite successful.

Firelining

The basic intent of fireline is to halt additional fire spread. Fireline does not have to be constructed to meet this intent.

- Use aerial tactics (retardant or bucket drops) in light fuels, such as grass.
- Burn out from existing roads or trails, including animal trails.
- Use foam or water along the fire edge.
    - When using water, use spray or mist nozzle settings. Do not use straight stream settings.
    - Use 72-gallon blivits with lightweight hose long-lined in by helicopter in remote areas.
- Use all available natural barriers, such as rocky areas, bare streambeds, vegetation changes, and already cool fire perimeter.
- When hand fireline must be constructed, consider such measures as:
- Locate the fireline in areas requiring a minimum of scraping and cutting.
- Keep the width and depth to the minimum necessary to stop the fire's spread.
- Widen minimal firelines through burning out.
- Limb or fall trees and snags <u>only</u> when necessary for safety or to prevent fire spread.
- Minimize clearing of fuels next to the fire's edge.
- If possible, roll logs out of intended fireline instead of bucking. If not possible to roll, consider building fireline around the log and let it remain in the burned area if it will not pose a serious threat to fire escape.
- When possible, scrape fuels from the base of snags or around heavy fuel concentrations to prevent fire spread and possible spotting.
- Consider the use of fireline explosives to construct line and fell snags and trees.
- If machine fireline will be used, consider the following:
    - Have dozer operators avoid gouging the soil layer.
    - Use excavators instead of dozers, especially in deep duff.

Burning Out

- Conduct burning out operations using the same considerations and methods as when conducting a prescribed fire. Complete consumption of all live or dead fuels is not necessary. Creating mosaic type burns can also serve to adequate slow or halt fire spread without creating high fire intensities or burn severities.
- Conduct burnouts during periods of lower fire intensity, such as at night or cooler portions of the day.

Mop-up

Some mop-up may be necessary in order to fully contain the fire. However, it is often not necessary to mop-up every smoke. Evaluate the potential of any smoking area to actually threaten escape and further spread before mopping-up.

To lessen mop-up activities:

- Cold trail extensively.
- Try to avoid tool scars by using water or foam to extinguish the fire.
- Minimize spading. When spading, minimize soil disturbance.
- Do not use straight stream nozzle settings except during attempts to extinguish burning snags and trees.
- Roll logs to check for fire instead of bucking or excessive cutting. If rolling is not possible, let the log burn out if it is not a threat to additional fire spread.
- Cool, remove, or burn fuels that may ignite and cause fire spread.
- Allow fuels, snags, and trees to burn until out when they are well inside the fire perimeter and do not pose a serious threat to safety or fire spread.
- When falling appears necessary, consider alternative methods such as fireline.

Tree Cutting

The basic questions to ask when considering cutting a tree down are: 1) does the tree or snag pose a risk of fire escape and continued spread and 2) if the tree or snag does not pose a risk, is it necessary that firefighters be working in its vicinity.
Consider the following alternatives to cutting:

Firelining

- Use minimum limbing (pruning) for trees with branches that extend to the ground.
- Avoid cutting any trees whose limbs are well above the surface fuel layer even when near a fireline.
- Gambel oak is not susceptible to fire spread up the bole; avoid cutting these trees even when near the fireline.
- Scrape around the base of trees or snags near the fireline to keep fire spread from igniting the base.
- Where burning out is planned, fall only those snags that would reach the fireline, should they burn and fall over.
- Avoid felling snags outside of the line in the intended burned out area only if they are an obvious safety hazard to crews working in the area.
- When necessary to cut trees or snags, follow up on rehabilitation to reduce the impact.

Mop-up

- Whenever possible, allow burning trees and snags to burn themselves out or down provided they do not pose a safety risk to crews that must work in the vicinity.
- Identify hazard trees with an observer, flagging, or glow-sticks.
- If burning trees or snags pose a serious threat of spreading firebrands, extinguish the fire with water or dirt. Consider falling by blasting, if available. Felling by chainsaw should be the last resort.

Hazard Trees

- Carefully evaluate any tree for true hazard to trails and roads after the fire. Many tree species can withstand partial consumption of the bole and remain solid on the stump for many years.
- Trees weakened by fire tend to fall over in the direction of the cat face. If the cat face points away from the road or trail allow it to fall over on its own.
- Trees that lean away from the road or trail should be allowed to fall over naturally.
- Evaluate the height of the tree or snag; will it even reach the road or trail? If not, allow it to stand.
- Trees and snags on the downhill side of the road or trail should be left unless they have a pronounced uphill lean.

Helicopter Operations

Planning/Proposed Phase

- What will be the primary function of this helispot (crew shuttle, logistic support, or both)?
- If for logistic support only, use long line remote hook instead of constructed helispots.
- If for crew shuttle, consider the minimum sized helicopter and opening for safe operations and still meet the intended management response.
- Use natural openings as far as practical. If construction is necessary, avoid high visitor use areas. Perform an aerial reconnaissance discussion over the area or fire perimeter where helispots are desired. With a Type II or I Incident Management Team involve, at minimum the Air Operations Manager, Resource Advisor, and Helitack Foreman who will be in charge of on-the-ground construction. With a Type III Incident Management Team involve, at minimum, the Resource Advisor and Helitack Foreman. Draw a sketch and discuss which trees to cut to ensure safe helicopter operations. Insure that all parties involved in the discussion have audio equipped helmets.
- As a group, discuss mitigating measures in order to restore the helispot to as natural a condition as possible or to blend the opening with the surrounding untouched natural landscape.
- If adverse environmental or wilderness impacts are anticipated from proposed helispots inside or within the fire area, are there other possibilities some distance away that would result in less impact and still accomplish the intended management objectives?
- Provide specific instructions, preferably written, for the on-the-ground supervisor and crew to use when constructing the helispot.
- If possible, monitor helispot construction.

Construction Phase

- Cut trees and snags close to the ground, leaving stump heights of 0-3 inches. Follow-up flush cutting may be necessary to reduce stumps to this height.
- If possible, directionally fell trees and snags such that the boles will be in a criss-crossed or in a natural appearing arrangement.
- Buck only what is necessary to create safe and practical operating space in and around the landing pad area.
- Limb only what is necessary to create safe and practical operating space; if possible break limbs instead of cutting them.

Base/Spike Camps and Personal Conduct

- If possible, use existing campsites.
- Camp at impact resistant sites such as rocky or sandy soils or openings within dense vegetation. Avoid camping in meadows or near stream banks and lakeshores.
- Avoid clearing vegetation, trenching around bedding sites, and cutting boughs for bedding.
- Change camp location if the area shows excessive use; use alternate travel routes to avoid excessive trail wear.
- Use stoves for cooking when possible and avoid construction of several campfire sites, especially fire pits and rock rings.
- Locate toilet sites a minimum of 200 feet from water sources.
- Keep latrine holes to less than 8 inches deep to speed decomposition of waste by soil bacteria.
- Evaluate coyote and spike camps verses daily travel to and from base camps, especially where sensitive areas are involved.

Rehabilitation

- Before starting rehabilitation activities, walk through adjacent untouched areas and observe the appearance, arrangement, and color scheme of the vegetation. Use these areas as a guide in directing rehabilitation efforts.
- Firelines and Mop-up Activity
- After fire spread is secured, replace dug-out soil and duff; obliterate berms and leave as natural appearing.
- Provide some means of drainage to prevent erosion on firelines or trails created on steeper slopes, such as shallow depth water bars or natural materials to act as sediment dams.
- Scatter some cut brush and limbs onto fireline or impacted areas so it blends more with the natural appearing landscape.
- Scatter obvious, excess accumulations of cut limbs, seedlings, and saplings into a more natural arrangement.
- Flush cut stumps of felled trees and snags with the ground surface; scatter cut portion out of sight.
- Camouflage cut stumps in a manner that blends with the surrounding landscape.
- Use a variety of methods to camouflage cut faces of stumps and boles instead of just one: rocks, dead woody material, dirt, fragments of stumps or bolewood, fallen or broken green branches, hack with pulaski or ax, etc.
- If needed, bring in some natural material from adjacent untouched areas to use in camouflaging cut faces of boles and stumps.

- Piece together cut sections of downed logs so they appear as un-cut, if possible. Place soil or some existing debris over the cuts.
- Position cut logs where they will be least noticeable to visitors.
- If bolewood can be moved, place cut end adjacent or underneath existing down material.
- For large size bolewood that cannot be moved, place a slant cut (45-60 degree angle) on the bottom side.
- Do not lop and scatter tops of cut trees.
- Selectively place a few of the cut seedlings and saplings in an upright position (wedged between downed logs, old root wads, etc.).
- If there has been an excessive amount of bucking, limbing, and topping; consider slinging or removing cut rounds and tops from the site.
- Consider using explosives on some stumps and cut faces of bolewood to create the appearance of a wind-thrown tree.
- Remove all flagging and trash along the fireline.

Helispots

- If excessive amounts of cut material exist, pile and arrange for it to be burned at a later date or consider slinging cut material from the site.
- Obliterate the landing pad and leave in as natural a condition as possible. Bury painted helispot markers, if they exist.

Camps

- Scatter campfire site rocks and charcoal; cover charred fire ring rocks with soil if necessary.
- Scatter any cut limbs or splittings that may have occurred.
- Cover latrine site.
- Remove camp or tent poles and stakes made from trees and scatter in a nearby tree-covered area.
- Pick up litter and pack out all garbage.

Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA)

The Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) is a decision making process in which the agency administrator or representative describes the situation, establishes objectives and constraints, compares multiple strategic wildland fire management alternatives, evaluates the expected effects of the alternatives, selects the preferred alternative, and documents the decision.

Use of the WFSA is integral to successful management of both wildland and prescribed fires. It serves as a contingency when fire spread and behavior exceed suppression efforts, when there is an inability to accomplish wildland fire use objectives, or when prescribed fires can no longer be implemented in accordance with the approved plan. The WFSA document can be used to compare alternatives reflecting the full range of appropriate management responses and can assess alternatives for realizing protection and/or resource benefits opportunities.

If a prescribed fire or wildland fire use event is converted to a suppression-oriented response, a WFSA will be developed. After this decision is made, the fire will never revert back to the original status. A WFSA will also be prepared for all suppression fires that escape initial attack. The WFSA may be prepared using WFSA software. This software guides the user step by step through a Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) and/or a Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP). The program automatically retrieves stored data and makes all the necessary calculations to help prepare and display the significant tradeoffs between alternatives. The Wildland Fire Situation Analysis is compatible with the NWCG accepted format. The Wildland Fire Use assessments and plans are compatible with USDA Forest Service and DOI agency wildland fire use standards.

Interagency and Intraagency Coordination

The Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee developed the Greater Yellowstone Area Interagency Fire Management Planning and Coordinating Guide (June 1990) to strengthen fire management planning and to develop specific operating principles and procedures to provide effective interagency coordination and management of prescribed natural fires and wildfires occurring in the Greater Yellowstone Area. The Coordination Guide was revised in 1995 and more recently in March 2000. The purpose of this document is to address fire management issues and operational procedures which in the view of the GYCC, must be addressed and implemented on an area-wide basis in a consistent manner. The GYA Coordination Guide is included in its entirety in Appendix D

Operational procedures that will encourage a high level of interagency fire management planning and coordination in the GYA include:

- To conduct an annual spring and fall meeting of all GYA FMO's.
- Maintaining the interagency peer review process for new and revised NPS fire management plans and that portion of USFS land use plans that focus on wildland fire use.
- Operate and apply the GYA Fire Situation Report.
- Adhere to the GYA Preparedness Plan
- Utilize the GYCC Fire Management Advisory Group (FMAG) to serve as professional level consultants to the GYCC/
- Maintain a consistent process for the management of prescribed fires and wildland fires in the GYA as described in the *Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy Implementation Procedures Reference Guide.*

On March 6, 1992 an Interagency Fire Management Agreement was entered into by the six national forests and two national parks that comprise the GYA. The purpose for this agreement was to establish specific operating procedures for the coordinated management of various fire activities, which are planned, or have potential to cross the administrative boundaries of individual GYA units. These activities include, but are not limited to:

- Allowing WFUs to cross administrative boundaries.
- Joint management of wildland fires, which have the potential or have already crossed administrative boundaries.
- Execution of prescribed fires which will cross administrative boundaries.
- Joint training and fire prevention efforts.

Other interagency coordination should occur when program changes, drought conditions, or other factors warrant such coordination. Coordination may occur through interagency meetings, memos, news releases, or public meetings. The following governmental agencies or entities should be consulted during preseason planning when coordination is necessary:

Other Federal Agencies

- USDI Bureau of Land Management
- USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs
- USDI Fish and Wildlife Service
- USFS (Bridger-Teton NF and Gallatin NF)
- National Park Service (Grand Teton NP and Yellowstone NP)

States of Wyoming and Idaho

- Wyoming Game and Fish
- Idaho Dept. of State Lands
- Wyoming Dept. of Environmental Quality

Local Governments

- City Governments (Jackson, Wilson, Victor, Driggs, Ashton, St. Anthony, Island Park, West Yellowstone).
- County Board of Commissioners
- City/County Health Departments
- City/Rural/Volunteer Fire Departments

The following agencies may be informed of ongoing fire status in the event of a WFU event within the plan area. Coordination and information-sharing intensity and effort will be based on the overall fire situation complexity. The WFU Analysis Team or Incident Management Team must decide on who should be contacted and what appropriate media is most efficient.

Other Federal Agencies

- USFS (Bridger Teton and Gallatin NF
- National Park Service (Grand Teton and Yellowstone NP)
- USDI Bureau of Land Management
- USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs
- USDI Fish and Wildlife Service

States of Wyoming and Idaho

- Wyoming Game and Fish
- Idaho Dept. of State Lands
- Wyoming Dept. of Environmental Quality

Local Governments

- City Governments (Jackson, Wilson, Victor, Driggs, Ashton, St. Anthony, Island Park, West Yellowstone).
- County Board of Commissioners
- City/County Health Departments
- County Sheriffs
- City/Rural/Volunteer Fire Departments

Coordination must also occur at the local level among the units managing the included FMUs. Decisions made by one District could affect the potential decisions made by the adjacent District. Good communications should be maintained to facilitate information exchange concerning WFU within the subsection. Timely information exchange aids in the Stage I and Stage II decision process, this information assists the analysis team and/or decision maker to evaluate the cumulative effects of the decision on adjacent communities, Forest users, and fire suppression resources.

Wildland Fire Use Contact List

Supervisor's Office: 1405 Hollipark Dr. Idaho Falls, ID 83401 (208) 524-7500

Forest Supervisor	Jerry Reese
Fire Management Officer	Chris Ourada
C-TNF/NPF Fire/Fuels Planner	Gina Martin
Fuels	John Kidd
Recreation/Operations	Lisa Klinger
Public Affairs Officer	Lynn Ballard

Ashton / Island Park Ranger District: PO Box 858 Ashton, ID 83420 (208) 652-7442; HC 65 Box 975 Island Park; ID 83429 (208) 558-7301

District Ranger	Adrienne Keller
North Zone Fire Management Officer	Skip Hurt (shared)
Wilderness Program Manager	Megan Bogle

Dubois Ranger Station: PO Box 46 Dubois, ID 83423 (208) 374-5422

District Ranger	Robert Mickelsen
North Zone Fire Management Officer	Skip Hurt (shared)

Palisades Ranger District: 3659 E. Ririe Highway Idaho Falls, ID 83401 (208) 542-5800

District Ranger	Ronald Dickemore
Fire Management Officer	Larry Zajanc (shared)
Asst. Fire Management Officer	Kraig Carroll (shared)

Teton Basin Ranger District: PO Box 777 Driggs, ID 83422 (208) 354-2312

District Ranger	Jay Pence
Zone Fire Management Officer	Larry Zajanc (shared)
Asst. Fire Management Officer	Kraig Carroll (shared)
Wilderness Program Manager	Megan Bogle

Montpelier Ranger District: 322 N. 4th Montpelier, ID 83254 (208) 847-0375

District Ranger	Dennis Duehren
Zone Fire Management Officer	Garth Alleman (shared)

Soda Springs Ranger District: 421 W. Second S. Soda Springs, ID 83276 (208) 547-4356

District Ranger	Dave Whittekiend
Zone Fire Management Officer	Garth Alleman (shared)

Westside Ranger District: 75 S. 140 E. Malad, ID 83252 (208) 766-4743;
415 S. Arthur Pocatello, Idaho 83204 (208) 236-7500

District Ranger	Jerald Tower
Zone Fire Management Officer	Greg Burch (shared)
Asst. Fire Management Officer	Jeff Hill (shared)

Off Forest Contacts

Bridger Teton National Park		
Forest FMO	Vacant	(307) 739-5576
Gallatin National Forest		
Forest FMO	Bill Breedlove	(406) 587-6717
Grand Teton National Park		
Fire Management Officer	Lisa Elenz	(307) 739-3310
Yellowstone National Park		
Fire Management Officer	Phil Perkins	(406) 344-2180
Bureau of Land Management		
Fire Management Officer	Rick Belger	(208) 524-7601
Teton Interagency Dispatch Center		(307) 739-3630
Bozeman Interagency Dispatch Center		(406) 587-6719
Yellowstone Dispatch Center		(307) 344-2181

Inform and Involve Plan

The Wildland Fire Use Inform and Involve program is crucial to gain the support and understanding necessary to re-establish and implement a successful program. The following categories will guide Wildland Fire Use information dissemination and coordination pertaining to Wildland Fire Use on the Caribou-Targhee NF.

Pre-Fire Season Information and Involvement- These activities prepare the subsection complex for the upcoming fire season. Strategies to emphasize public awareness and education also occur here.

Fire Use Management- A specific Inform and Involve Plan is developed for each WFU. This category of action involves current activity.

Post-Season Activities- Information gathering and evaluation of the Wildland Fire Use Program. Activities consist of analyzing individual fire monitoring plans and programmatic monitoring data. Program results and interpretations should be disseminated to interested parties, other agencies, and within agency.

1.Pre-fire season Information and Involvement

TASK	TOOLS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMING
Dry run of WFU ignition evaluation and decision scenario	Meeting	Forest Supervisor and District Rangers	Annually by May
Develop list of qualified individuals for positions to implement the Wildland Fire Use Program	GYA FMO meeting	Wilderness and Fire Managers	Annually by May
Present general wilderness/fire management information to employees	Brochures, videos, and meetings	District Rangers, Wilderness and Fire Staff	Annually by June
Integrate wilderness fire management into annual wilderness and fire mgmt. training.	Meetings	Fire Management	Annually by June
Provide information to outfitters, permittees, general Forest users, and the public that may be affected by wildland fire use	Meetings, brochures, and videos	District Rangers	As needed

TASK	TOOLS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMING
Integrate Wildland Fire Management into Forest education programs at local schools	Classroom presentations	District Rangers	As needed
Prepare news releases on Wildland Fire Use in the Forest	News Releases	District Rangers and PIO	Pre-fire season and also during and post-fire season
Post Wildland Fire Use info at the trailheads and access points	Posters and signs	District Ranger	Annually by June

2. Fire Use Management

TASK	TOOLS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMING
Keep appropriate Line Officer appraised of current and expected fire behavior and fire status	Meetings, phone calls, and briefings associated with analysis and management of WFU	Fire Use Manager (FUMA) Analysis Team	On-going during, ignition, fire duration, and when significant changes occur
Make news media aware of Wildland Fire situation	Radio, Television and papers	Forest Supervisor, District Ranger, FUMA, and PIO	On-going during ignition, fire duration, and when significant changes occur
Post "Fire Caution" signs and information at trailheads and access points	Signs and posters	FUMA and District Ranger	Duration of Wildland Fire
Determine conditions that would dictate a fire closure. Coordinate with adjacent units and agencies	Meetings, phone calls, and field recons	Forest Supervisor, Forest FMO, FBA, and FUMA	Determined by current and expected conditions
Post fire closure signs at trailheads and access points. Contact permittees, general forest users, and other agencies	Signs, posters, phone calls and meetings	Forest Supervisor, District Ranger, PIO, and FUMA	When closure is put into effect

TASK	TOOLS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMING
Keep National, Regional, and Local political contacts appraised of Wildland Fire status	Phone calls, meetings, briefing papers, and news releases	Regional Office, Forest Supervisor, District Ranger, PIO and FUMA	Based on National, Regional, and Local fire situation
Keep wilderness rangers, field personnel, and frontliners appraised of fire status	Phone calls and meetings	Forest Supervisor and District Ranger	Duration of Wildland Fire

3. Post-Season Activities

TASK	TOOLS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMING
Review information and education efforts involving Wildland Fire Use	Meetings	Forest Supervisor, Forest FMO, and District Rangers	Within three months of fire season ending
Evaluate and interpret post-fire monitoring and programmatic monitoring efforts and results	Meetings	Forest Supervisor, Forest FMO, and District Rangers	Within three months of fire season ending
Review C-T Fire Use Guidebook and Forest FMAP to ascertain how they were implemented and how they operated during the past fire season	Evaluation and Recommendation Report	Forest Supervisor	By the end of the calendar year
Contact general Forest users, permittees, and the public concerning this past seasons fire activity	Meetings, phone calls and news releases	District Rangers and PIO	By the end of the calendar year
Report motorized use and mechanized transport with wilderness to Forest Wilderness Program Manager	Phone calls, E-Mail	Dispatch	By the end of the calendar year

MONITORING, EVALUATION, and DOCUMENTATION

IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING

Monitoring and evaluation are important at several phases of the Wildland Fire Use (WFU) program. These phases are 1:Implementation (during the fire) 2:Effectiveness (within 6 months) and 3:Validation.

Any ongoing WFU will be monitored. Fire size, chronology, management actions (e.g. flights, holding actions, closures) and expenditures are all categories of information that must be tracked. The primary monitoring will be recorded in the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) and the Periodic Fire Assessment form. This information will be used for local/regional data base development and will be completed during the fire by the Fire Use Manager (FUMA). If multiple fires occur it is important to document each fire separately with such items as visibility impairments, days of trail closures, etc. All wildland fire use events will require either a complete or abbreviated ICS-209. An abbreviated ICS-209 is defined as Blocks 2 through 7, 9 through 11, 14, 15, and 44 through 47. Once a WFU reaches 100 acres in size in timber, or 300 acres in grass fuel types a complete ICS-209 will be required (Great Basin Mob Guide).

EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING

The wildland fire use observation record form (located in Stage III) should be initiated. This form identifies items that need to be captured for all fires Class B or larger and in some cases the evaluation may be helpful for Class A fires. This would indicate if there were problems with the process or if special circumstances related to ecological or social concerns are present (e.g. T&E species or concentrated public use).

The information for the WFU records would be collected on the Forest within six months of the fire. The FUMA and Resource Advisor at a minimum need to be involved. For fires of 100 acres and larger an on-site interdisciplinary review will be conducted. This review will collect the following information:

- Fire Intensity Mapping (with Photo corroboration)
    - Fire Area (acres)
    - % Crown Fire (acres)
    - % lethal underburn (acres)
    - % non-lethal underburn (acres)
    - % un-burned area within fire perimeter (acres)
    - indicate vegetation or habitat type and fuel model
- Fuel Consumption: give a narrative description of what is left or an estimate of percent consumed. This may help with estimate of smoke emissions and risk reduction. It is also important ecologically as it relates to moisture retention, organic material available for soil building, cover, and erosion.
- Extended Damage:
    - Trail system damage as a result of fire. (e.g. loss of trail structures, miles of trail clearing, etc.). Give number of years to restore trail and complete hazard reductions.
    - Other structures (e.g. signs, cabins).
    - Weed infestations within the burned area.
- Look at management actions that have the potential to impact the area characteristics such as use of aircraft, pumps, chainsaws, locations of helispots, spikecamps, and fire

control lines. Determine if such actions impacted the area characteristics and if so what alternative course of action may be used in the future to reduce the effects of such use.

- Assess what opportunities were available for additional monitoring or research concerning fire effects on wildlife, soils, water and biodiversity. Were appropriate individuals and/or groups made aware of these opportunities? What was done to facilitate the initiation implementation of additional fire effects monitoring and research?

- A cost analysis should be accomplished for fires over 100 acres in size to determine the cost effectiveness of allowing these fires to burn. The cost comparison should be made using the WFSA cost analysis versus the actual cost of the WFU project.

- Post-fire evaluations should be implemented at the District office in collaboration with the Supervisors office.

VALIDATION MONITORING

The primary objective of the WFU program in these subsections is to permit lightning caused fires to play, as nearly as possible, their natural ecological role. This objective cannot be measured in a quantitative way, but can be gauged in a relative sense.

A WFU in any subsection is only a part of a bigger picture; for this reason validation monitoring needs to take place. This overview by regional and forest staff will answer questions relating to broad scale reintroduction of fire into the landscape. This will be completed within six months of the fire.

Information in the fire records will include:

- Total number of starts in the subsection.
- % of fires in WFU status.
- % of fires in Confine, Contain status.
- Acres included in each of the previous categories.
- Agency acceptance.
- Days of restrictions of programs because of smoke, safety concerns, political reasons.
- Decision analysis, including all starts.
- Tracking of off-site smoke problems.

An important aspect of monitoring is to track the number of starts that are suppressed and the number and size of management ignited fires used to reduce fuel loadings in order to return fire to its natural role in the ecosystem.

Analyze the suppression responses that were utilized in response to wildfires and/or WFU to determine impacts on area resources. Different suppression responses have varying effects on resource values.

Analyze the decision process for all fire to evaluate the rationale as to why some fires are managed as WFU and some are not. Analyze suppression responses to all fires to ascertain whether the chosen strategy was appropriate considering resource values, smoke concerns, public and personnel safety, and threats to administrative facilities and private property.

Determine through history and experience whether adjustments in procedures or guidelines need to be implemented to streamline or improve the effectiveness of the Wildland Fire Use Program.

Evaluate yearly what effect the WFU program has on fire personnel, public, and resource user safety.

Analyze public information requirements during a WFU and ascertain whether opportunities increased for the public and permittees to observe and interpret fires natural role in the ecosystem?

General Funding Requirements

The initial sighting of all fires within this fire management area will be financed with appropriated fire funds, the same as any other reported or detected ignition. A determination must be made after detection whether the ignition will be a wildland fire use (WFU) or a wildfire

When it is determined that the fire will be managed as wildland fire use, dispatch will assign the fire a "G" code following established procedures on assigning fire numbers. When contact with the Regional Office Fire, Aviation and Air (RO FAA) staff is made by the Forest FMO; they will be notified of the "G" code assigned.

All personnel involved with the management of the WFU will charge to the "G" code using the same rules as for "P" codes. Those individuals that are funded from appropriated fire funds (Program Leadership and Production) will charge their base 8 time and all overtime and hazard pay to the "G" code. Those individuals that are not funded by appropriated fire dollars (including fuels funded persons) will charge all time associated with WFU management to the "G" code. If personnel are needed for the management of the WFU that are not located on the Forest, the normal dispatch ordering channels will be used to fire order those necessary positions.

Managing a WFU that is either inactive, small in size, or has a low probability of developing into a large fire, may only require occasional surveillance. It's anticipated these fires can most efficiently be observed during routine wildfire detection flights. Managing a WFU having more active fire behavior (minor surface spread, some individual tree torching) may also be observed during routine wildfire detection reconnaissance. A proportionate amount of the total detection cost may be funded from the WFU fire number ("G" code), depending on the time involved and on a case-by-case basis.

If a special flight is deemed necessary or on-site observations are required (as could be expected for large and/or very active fires), the entire cost would be charged to the “G” code.

Any specialized equipment costs for managing the WFU (i.e. helicopters, IR flights, film development, etc.) will be charged to the assigned “G” code.

When prescriptive criteria are exceeded and the fire cannot be brought back into prescription, the fire will then be managed for protection considerations and appropriate suppression action will be taken. Dispatch will then change the fire number from a "G" code to a "P" code. The "P" code will retain the same 6-digit code as the "G" code, the first digit will simply be changed from a G to a P. All activities, equipment, tools, and extra personnel needed to perform the appropriate suppression response will be financed as any wildfire suppression by emergency fire suppression funds utilizing this "P" code. This coding structure enables all costs associated with a particular ignition to be tracked at all levels.