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Subject: Sustainable Operations in Incident Management - Preparing for the 2019 Fire Season

To: Regional Foresters and Station Directors

Sustainability is inherent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service mission, "To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." In addition, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Environmental Department Regulation 5600-05 requires the Forest Service to divert 55% of non-hazardous waste from landfills. Forest Service Fire operations have an extensive supply chain, resulting in substantial resource consumption. The scope of wildfire response efforts also presents an opportunity to manifest our mission through efficient federal operations. The National Greening Fire Team, a partnership with Washington Office Fire and Aviation Management, serves to coordinate efforts in support of this goal.

Via this letter, we ask those who support fire operations to identify opportunities to apply sustainable business practices, and to leverage the Greening Fire Team tools and resources described herein. It is imperative that such actions to reduce consumption of financial and natural resources are implemented without compromising firefighter and public safety or impeding incident objectives.

Specifically, we request the following during the 2019 fire season:

- Line Officers include expectations for implementing sustainability Best Management Practices on incidents (see **Enclosure 1**) in the Delegation of Authority and Incident Management Team in-briefings, plus provide on-forest assistance with identifying local sustainability resources.
- At Type 1 and 2 incidents, Incident Management Teams leverage the On-site Incident Recycling Blanket Purchase Agreement to order a recycling contractor to streamline and increase the efficacy of waste diversion efforts. This Blanket Purchase Agreement is expected to be awarded in late April 2019 and will provide on-site recycling services for the Northwest, Northern California, Southern California, and Southwest Geographic Area Coordination Centers. Refer to the [National GFT Website](#) for updates and information on how to issue Task Orders against this Blanket Purchase Agreement.

In recognition of the interagency nature of fire operations, we seek to expand and improve these efforts with our partners. As such, we desire partner input as the aforementioned Best Management Practices are applied.



For more information – or to provide feedback regarding fire-related sustainable operations successes or challenges – contact the [National GFT's Shared Inbox](#). In addition, bookmark and check the [National GFT's Website](#) regularly for new content.

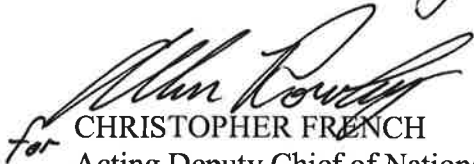
Finally, we invite all interested in learning more about the Greening Fire Team tools and resources, especially the forthcoming On-site Incident Recycling Blanket Purchase Agreement, to join us for a one-hour, national webinar on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at 10:00am PT/1:00pm ET Conference Line: (888) 844-9904; 6857433#.

Webinar URL: <https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/greeningfire2019/>.

No RSVP is required, but space is limited; participants are encouraged to join in groups. The webinar will be recorded. Thank you for continuing to work towards decreasing the environmental footprint of fire operations.



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Acting Deputy Chief State & Private Forestry



for CHRISTOPHER FRENCH
Acting Deputy Chief of National Forest Systems

Enclosures

cc: FAM Leadership, NWCG Logistics Mailing List, Greening Fire Team Bulletin Contacts, National Greening Fire Team Members and Ambassadors, R/S/A Sustainable Operations and Climate Change Coordinators, R/S/A Energy Managers

Summary of Current National Greening Fire Team Efforts

In support of the goal of reducing the ecological footprint of our fire operations, Washington Office Fire & Aviation Management (WO FAM) initiated a partnership with the National Greening Fire Team (GFT) in 2017 to further this objective.

Recent GFT highlights include:

- 1) Piloting [contracted incident recycling](#) resulting in 36-46% waste diversion rates at fire camps where this was applied;
- 2) Establishing an On-Site Incident Recycling Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) – award expected in late April 2019 – to service the Northwest, Northern California, Southern California, and Southwest Geographic Area Coordination Centers;
- 3) Developing a [quarterly Bulletin](#) to share Team accomplishments and tools in service to our agency and partners; and
- 4) Collaborating with the National Partnership Office to establish a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with [Hose 2 Habitat](#) to increase the rate of fire hose recycling.

Sustainability Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Incident Leadership and Sustainability Presence

- Identify staff (e.g., local Sustainable Operations Points of Contact/Green Team Chairs and Dispatch personnel) to work with Incident Management Teams to assist with implementing sustainable operations at incident command posts, incident bases, and spike camps.
- Within the Delegation of Authority, include expectations for sustainable operations (see sample language below). The hosting unit should provide local expertise on recycling capabilities and other opportunities for sustainable operations.

Delegation of Authority Language Suggestions:

BROAD STATEMENT:

- Work with [Contact's Name Here] to incorporate sustainable operations and utilize sustainability best management practices in all incident management activities to minimize environmental, social, and, when possible, fiscal impacts without compromising firefighter and public safety or impeding incident operations.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS:

- Implement sustainability best management practices (BMPs), as described in this letter and as outlined in the 2019 Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Laboratory [“Opportunities for Energy, Water, and Waste Reduction at U.S. Forest Service Fire Camps” Report](#), that are applicable to your incident.
- Utilize on-site recycle services to collect, sort, transport, and report on waste diversion rates throughout the incident.

Awareness and Communication

- Solicit feedback regarding sustainable operations occurring at incidents. Include sustainable operations information in after action reviews and closeout meetings.

- Increase awareness through inserting relevant sustainability messaging into incident action plans and operational briefings.
- Work with Public Information Officers to assist in the dissemination of sustainable operations information at incidents.
- To strengthen your communications, refer to the Myth Buster section, plus other timely updates, in our newly launched [National Greening Fire Team e-Bulletin](#).

Waste Diversion & Recycling at Fire Camps and Caches

- Caches are to consider opportunities to recycle fire hose (see [North Zone Fire Cache Hose2Habitat Workshop Example](#)). Note: This is not intended to occur at the incident.
- Identify opportunities to divert waste generated at camps from the landfill by recycling or other processes (e.g., reduce, re-use). 2018 contracted recycling pilots on the [Delta Fire](#) in Region 5 and the [Taylor Creek Fire](#) in Region 6 achieved a 36% - 46% waste diversion.
- At Type 1 and 2 incidents, leverage the On-site Incident Recycling BPA referenced above to order a recycling contractor to streamline and increase the efficacy of waste diversion efforts.
- At Type 2 and 3 incidents, identify local recycling opportunities/partnerships at fire camps (e.g., a Civilian Conservation Corps crew, a 4H Club, a Boy/Girl Scout troop, etc) based on sustainability input received from the hosting unit.
- As referenced above, the GFT is establishing an On-site Incident Recycling BPA to service the Northwest, Northern California, Southern California, and Southwest Geographic Area Coordination Centers based on lessons from our 2017-2018 contracted incident recycling pilots. BPA award is expected in late April 2019. Refer to the [National GFT Website](#) for updates and information on how to issue Task Orders against this BPA.

Incident Transportation

- Seek alternative sources of transportation in lieu of renting single passenger-occupied vehicles. Coordinate with local Dispatch Centers to arrange for shuttles, carpooling, or other means of travel to incident command posts when possible.
- Use the most fuel-efficient vehicle for the job, when available.
- Minimize vehicle idling. The [Vehicle Idling Procedure videos](#) (one focused on regular fuel, another focused on diesel fuel) are helpful resources on this topic.

Energy

- Pursue the use of renewable or alternative energy sources, where possible.
- Manage energy consumption proactively during operations through the use of efficient technologies. Refer to the National Technology and Development Program's [Sustainability Solutions Website](#) for more ideas.

Water

- Encourage the use of appropriate potable water options to limit the use of bottled water.
- Implement water conservation tactics (e.g., avoid over-watering for dust abatement in camp).
- Use vendors that have the ability to recycle water, where permissible.

Green Purchasing

- As required by U.S. Department of Agriculture and Forest Service policy, comply with [sustainable acquisition criteria](#).
- Ensure Dispatch Centers and Buying Teams are fully aware of such criteria.