

## **TASK FORCE CHARTER**

### **FIRE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE**

1. **BACKGROUND.** Although fire is a natural part of our ecosystem, the Corps does not have a fire management program in place. Across the United States, park rangers and natural resource management staff are using prescribed fire to accomplish natural resource management goals and using suppression techniques to contain wildfires. However, there are no approved national standards for the fire training of Corps personnel or the implementation of a fire program. This shortfall hinders the Corps ability to meet the professional standards it subscribes to for accomplishing its natural resource stewardship goals and also increases the Corps liability concerning fire management.

2. **OBJECTIVE.** Gather and analyze data to assist in the development of an effective and efficient Corps fire management program that address policy guidance, a sample format for Corps project fire management plans, and training and certification requirements.

3. **ACTIONS.** A special task force representing Natural Resource Management (here after called "Task Force") will accomplish the following specific actions:

A. Conduct a review of current fire management activities and practices.

1. Determine the extent of prescribed fire use of Corps lands.
2. Review District/Project fire management programs and determine/identify the training of people applying/responsible for those programs.
3. Determine the number of wildland fires reported on Corps land over the past ten years and the arrangements (not techniques) that were in place to suppress those fires.
4. Obtain, review, and analyze protocols and standards used by other Federal natural resource management agencies for fire management.
5. Obtain, review, and analyze District/Project memorandums of understanding/contracts concerning: prescribed; preparedness; and, suppression fire actions for the protection and management of natural resources.
6. Review and analyze the District/project equipment and capabilities to support a fire management program.

B. Recommend a Corps of Engineers fire management program and guidance

1. Identify training requirements to certify Corps park rangers and natural resource managers concerning the control and use of fire.
  2. Identify sources for training (e.g., classroom, field, etc.) and associated cost.
  3. Identify District/project personnel, capabilities, and equipment needed to support a fire management program.
4. **MILESTONES.** The following schedule of tasks, actions, responsibilities and milestones will be adhered to in the review and development process by the task force.

<u>TASK</u>	<u>SCHEDULE</u>
A. Review of prescribed fire use on Corps land	
B. Review current District/project Fire management programs and training	
C. Review the number of wildfires on Corps land	
D. Review protocols used by other agencies	
E. Review District/Project MOU's/contracts concerning fire management	
F. Review District/Project equipment and capabilities to support a fire management program	
G. Develop a draft fire management program that includes policy guidance, sample format for project fire management plans, and training and certification requirements.	

5. **PRODUCT.** The task force will:

- A. Brief representatives of CECW-ON on the findings, options, and recommendations concerning the "Actions" listed in item 3 above. The briefing will be conducted by the Task Force Chair no later than \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Produce a final written report that documents the findings, successes, problems, options, liabilities, conclusions, and recommendations for the "Actions" listed in item 3 above. The report will be forwarded to the Chief of CECW-ON by \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Produce a draft Fire Management Program that addresses policy guidance, an outline for project fire management plans and training and certification requirements. The document will be forwarded to the Chief of CECW-ON by \_\_\_\_\_.

6. **PROCESS.** The task force will:

- A. Meet three times (orientation, midpoint, and to finalize product) at HQUSACE. Each meeting will last 3 - 5 days.
- B. The Task Force Chair will utilize periodic phone conferences with task force members to ensure the timely completion of actions, written report, and Fire Management Program Plan.
- C. The Task Force Chair (and team if and when necessary) will conduct monthly in progress reviews with CECW-ON representatives.

7. **TASK FORCE CHAIR.** Chairperson will:

- A. Guide task force efforts from initial scoping through implementation and monitoring of the final process.
- B. Assign tasks, direct and monitor task force progress to assure effort is meeting milestones.
- C. Assure adequate logistical support for task force is provided, including the scheduling of meetings and the coordination of travel arrangements.
- D. Maintain communication between task force and CECW-ON to assure efforts consistent with the concept of establishing a Corps of Engineers fire management program.

8. **FUNDING.** Salary, travel and per diem costs are the responsibility of each individual task force members organization.