

Allegheny National Forest Fire Management Plan 2004 - 2005

*Firefighter and Public Safety is the FIRST priority in every Fire
Management activity*



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SECTION I: Introduction

A. Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this plan is to define the implementation of the Fire Management Program on the Allegheny National Forest. This plan is developed in compliance with direction found in the Forest Service Manual, sections 5101, 5103, 5106 and 5108. This Fire Management Plan is also consistent with the *Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy and Implementation Procedures Reference Guide; Managing Impacts of Wildfires on Communities and the Environment, and Protecting People and Sustaining Resources in Fire Adapted Ecosystems – A Cohesive Strategy*; the interagency fire management plan template; and *A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment: 10-year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan*.

The Allegheny National Forest's annual Fire Management Plan (FMP) is prepared and approved each year to:

1. Formally document the forest's fire program elements, objectives, strategies and resource considerations based on the Forest's approved Land and Resource Management Plan of 1986, as amended.
2. Provide fire managers specific guidance to safely implement fire related direction for conducting wildland fire suppression and prescribed fire activities.
3. Interpret strategic land and resource management plan direction into specific fire management direction for each fire management unit delineated in the fire management plan.
4. Set out a specific detailed fire program that most efficiently meets fire management direction including organization, facilities, equipment, staffing needs and related costs.

B. Collaboration

This Fire Management Plan is consistent with, and guided by the Allegheny National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) 1986, as amended. The LRMP was developed through collaboration with interest groups, other agencies and the public. Consistent with the National Fire Plan, implementation of the FMP will provide opportunities to collaborate with local fire management agencies, including the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Allegheny National Fish Hatchery, and Municipal Fire Protection Organizations. In addition, collaborative opportunities exist with the Northeast Forestry Sciences Lab and the Seneca Nation of Indians, as well as private property owners within the Allegheny National Forest proclamation boundary.

C. Link to Policy

This Fire Management Plan is a detailed program of action to carry out fire management policies to achieve resource management and fire protection objectives as defined in the Allegheny National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) 1986, as amended.

The 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy directs federal agencies to achieve a balance between suppression to protect life, property, and resources, and fire use to regulate fuels and maintain healthy ecosystems. The policy provides nine guiding principles that are fundamental to the success of the federal wildland fire management program:

1. Firefighter and public safety is the first priority in every fire management activity.
2. The role of wildland fire as an essential ecological process and natural change agent will be incorporated into the planning process.
3. Fire management plans, programs, and activities support land and resource management plans and their implementation.
4. Sound risk management is a foundation for all fire management activity.

5. Fire management programs and activities are economically viable, based upon values to be protected, costs, and land and resource management objectives.
6. Fire management plans and activities are based upon best available science.
7. Fire management plans and activities incorporate health and environmental quality considerations.
8. Federal, State, tribal, local, interagency, and international coordination and cooperation are essential.
9. Standardization of policies and procedures among federal agencies is an ongoing objective.

D. Link to Land and Resource Management Planning

The Fire Management Plan supports the goals and objectives identified in the Allegheny National Forest LRMP. The FMP does not make decisions. Rather it provides the operational and administrative parameters for fire managers to implement the LRMP. The LRMP meets National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA – FSH 1909.15) requirements as well as other State and Federal regulatory requirements.

E. Authorities

Authorities for implementing this Fire Management Plan are found in the Forest Service Manual (FSM) at 5101 and 5108. FSM 5101 identifies acts that authorize and guide fire management activities for the protection of National Forest System lands and resources. FSM 5108 cites publications containing guidance on the minimum standards and procedures in various aspects of wildland fire management.

Acronyms Used in the Fire Management Plan Format

FMU – Fire Management Unit	MMA – Maximum Manageable Area
FMZ – Fire Management Zone	NAAQS – National Ambient Air Quality Standard
FSH – Forest Service Handbook	T&E – Threatened & Endangered Species
FSM – Forest Service Manual	WFIP – Wildland Fire Implementation Plan
LRMP – Land and Resource Management Plan	
WFSA – Wildland Fire Situation Analysis	

SECTION II: RELATIONSHIP TO LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND FIRE POLICY

A. Reference to Planning Documents

The Allegheny National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) is the guiding policy document for fire management on the Allegheny National Forest. Additional planning direction is found in the Allegheny National Forest (1997) NFMAS Analysis.

Forest wide standards and guidelines related to fire management include:

- Agreements for fire detection and suppression on National Forest system lands by cooperating firefighting agencies must define suppression action that will be commensurate with established resource management prescriptions and fire suppression operating plans.
- In all management areas (MA), except MA 5.0 - Wilderness, wildfire prevention, detection, suppression and fuels management (including fuel breaks and hazard reduction), will be planned based on an analysis of probable fire location, expected fire intensities, potential net resource value change, and risk to health and safety. This type of analysis is performed on an annual basis and the FMP is amended accordingly.

- A Cooperative Agreement will be maintained with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that defines prevention, training, detection and suppression actions.
- Prescribed fire may be used to maintain and/or enhance wildlife habitat under established management prescriptions.
- Prescribed fire for other than wildlife and fuel reduction purposes will only be considered after research studies determine its suitability on ecosystems common to the Allegheny National Forest.

B. Reference to Policy Documents

- ✓ Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy, Implementation Procedures and Reference Guide, August 1998.
- ✓ Federal Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review, January 2001.
- ✓ Protecting People and Sustaining Resources in Fire-Adapted Ecosystems: A Cohesive Strategy, October 2000.
- ✓ A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment, 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy, August 2001.
- ✓ Land and Resource Management Plan, 1986 Allegheny National Forest.
- ✓ Forest Service Manual (FSM) 5100.
- ✓ Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 5109.
- ✓ Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations 2004.
- ✓ Fireline Handbook, March 2004.
- ✓ Allegheny National Forest, 1997 NFMAS Analysis.

C. Goals and Desired Condition

Forest-wide goals related to fire as described by the Allegheny National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986):

1. Suppression

Firefighter and public safety is the FIRST priority in every fire management activity.

The primary criteria for choosing fire suppression strategies and tactics are to ensure the safety of the public and firefighting resources while minimizing suppression costs, resource loss, environmental damage, and the threat of wildland fire escaping onto non-Federal lands.

Respond to each wildfire ignition in a timely manner with appropriate forces, based upon established fire management direction. Suppression strategies appropriate to meet management direction range from direct control, minimizing acreage burned, to more indirect methods of containment and confinement. Surveillance can be appropriate when the fire is expected to be contained within a defined area.

Summary of Management Direction

MA	EMPHASIS	Acres	Suppression Tactic	Wildfire Use	Prescribed Burn	Non-fire Use ¹
1.0	Aspen; early successional	7,000	All	No	Yes	Yes
2.0	Shade tolerant vegetation	6,000	All	No	Yes	Yes
3.0	General forest zone	327,000	All	No	Yes	Yes
5.0	Wilderness	10,000	All ²	No	No	No
6.1	Semi-Primitive Motorized	101,000	All	No	Yes	Yes
6.2	Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	20,000	All	No	Yes	Yes
6.3	Buzzard Swamp WMA ³	1,000	All	No	Yes	Yes
6.4	Allegheny NRA ⁴	23,100	All	No	Yes	Yes
7.0	Developed recreation	1,000	All	No	Yes	Yes
8.0	Special Areas	6,000	All	No	Yes	Yes
9.1	Mature/Overmature Forest	1,000	All	No	Yes	Yes

¹ Non-fire Use – Refers to mechanical fuels treatment options.

² Regional Forester approval required prior to using mechanized equipment.

³ WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

⁴ NRA = National Recreation Area (Allegheny Front, Cornplanter, and Tracy Ridge areas).

2. Prescribed fire

Where prescribed burning is described as an acceptable practice in a management area, the following standards apply to those areas in addition to the ones that are stated for the individual management area:

- Any prescribed burning is conducted in consultation with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, local National Weather Service Offices located in State College and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the Predictive Services section of the Eastern Area Coordination Center.
- A written site-specific plan for all prescribed burns is prepared by a qualified resource specialist using guidance found in FSM 5140 - Supplement No.: R9 RO 5140-2002-4 and approved by the appropriate Forest Service line officer prior to project implementation.
- Smoke management guidelines are used to reduce smoke emissions. When feasible, backing and flanking fires are used instead of head fires. Slash piles are not burned unless relatively free of soil. All burns are completed during the active burning period and mopped up as soon as practical after completion.
- Smoke management guidelines are also used to enhance smoke dispersion. Burning is done when the atmosphere is thermally neutral to slightly unstable, not during pollution alerts, stagnant or humid weather, or inversions. Burning is done only when:
 - Air quality or visibility standards in smoke-sensitive areas such as highways, airports, populated areas, and Class I air sheds are not violated from smoke from the prescribed fire; and
 - National Weather Service local fire weather forecasts are consulted for predicted mixing heights, transport wind speeds, and dispersion rates.

SECTION III: Wildland Fire Management Strategies

A. General Management Considerations

The following management considerations are consistent with the *2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy*.

Safety

Firefighter and public safety is the first priority. All fire management plans and activities must reflect this commitment.

Fire Management and Ecosystem Sustainability

As nearly as is possible and practical, the full range of fire management activities will be used to help achieve ecosystem sustainability, including its interrelated ecological, economic, and social components.

Response to Wildland Fire

Fire as a critical natural process will be integrated into land and resource management plans and activities on a landscape scale, and across agency boundaries. Responses to wildland fire are based on many factors, including ecological, social, and legal consequences of the fire. The likely consequences to firefighter and public safety, natural and heritage resources, and other values, coupled with the circumstances (e.g., cause, location, predicted weather and fire behavior, available personnel, local/national situation, political concerns, etc.) under which a wildland fire occurs dictate the appropriate management response to the fire.

Use of Wildland Fire

Wildland fire will be used to protect, maintain, and enhance resources and, as nearly as possible, be allowed to function in its ecological role. Use of fire will be based on approved plans and will be coordinated with appropriate resource specialists. Decisions, strategies, and tactics for using fires will be documented in a Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP).

Rehabilitation and Restoration

Rehabilitation and restoration efforts will be undertaken to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health, and safety, and to help communities protect infrastructure.

Protection Priorities

The protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection. Once people have been committed to an incident, these human resources become the highest value to be protected.

Wildland Urban/Rural Interface

The operational roles of federal agencies as partners in the Wildland Urban/Rural Interface are wildland firefighting, hazardous fuels reduction, cooperative prevention and education, and technical assistance. Structural fire suppression, vehicle fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, search and rescue events, and other all-risk incidents are the responsibility of local governments. The Forest Service may assist with exterior structural protection activities only to the extent allowed in FSM 5137. The Forest Service can provide support or assistance to such above incidents through a host of interagency agreements and plans.

Planning

The Allegheny National Forest uses several levels of planning to address the range and scope of programs and activities that may occur on the Forest. National and regional level planning can

affect the Allegheny National Forest, but is not specific to the Forest. As provided for in the National Forest Management Act (NFMA, 1976), each national forest must have an overarching management plan to guide its planned and unplanned activities and policies. This plan must be consistent with higher level policies, but in itself serves as programmatic direction for the Forest. Individual projects must be consistent with the LRMP and are subject to the analysis and disclosure requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The Fire Management Plan is a mid-level strategic plan that defines a program to manage wildland and prescribed fires based on the LRMP.

Science

Fire management plans and programs will be based on a foundation of sound science. Efforts should be made to support research to increase scientific knowledge of biological, physical, and sociological factors affecting land and resource management. The proximity of the Northeast Forestry Sciences Lab, several universities and a history of technology transfer and other cooperation should continue to aid the Allegheny National Forest in incorporating the best available science into management policies and activities.

Preparedness

The Allegheny National Forest will insure its capability to provide safe, cost-effective fire management programs in support of its LMRP through appropriate planning, staffing, training, equipment, and management oversight.

Suppression

Fires are suppressed at minimum cost considering firefighter and public safety, benefits, and values to be protected, consistent with resource objectives.

Prevention

The Allegheny National Forest will work together with its partners and other affected groups and individuals to prevent unauthorized ignition of wildfires.

Standardization

The Allegheny National Forest will use planning processes, funding mechanisms, training and qualification requirements, operational procedures, value-to-be-protected methodologies, and public education programs that are compatible with other Federal and State agencies for all fire management activities.

Interagency Cooperation and Coordination

To the extent possible and practical, fire management planning, preparedness, prevention, suppression, fire use, restoration and rehabilitation, monitoring, research, education, and collaborative efforts will be conducted on an interagency basis with the involvement of cooperators and partners.

Communication and Education

Public support is critical for any public land management. The Allegheny National Forest will enhance knowledge and understanding of wildland fire management policies and practices through internal and external communication and education programs. These programs will be continuously improved through timely and effective exchange of information among all affected agencies and organizations.

Agency Administrators and Employee Roles

Agency administrators will insure their employees are trained, certified and made available to participate in the wildland fire program locally, regionally, and nationally as the situation demands. Employees with operational, administrative, or other skills will support the wildland fire program as necessary. Agency administrators are responsible and will be held accountable for employee participation and availability.

Evaluation

The Allegheny National Forest will develop and implement a systematic method of evaluation to determine effectiveness of projects through implementation of the *2001 Federal Fire Policy*. The evaluation will assure accountability, facilitate resolution of areas of conflict, and identify resource shortages and agency priorities.

B. Wildland Fire Management Goals

The following Management Goals are consistent to implement and address the issues contained in the *10-Year Comprehensive Strategy, National Fire Plan, Cohesive Strategy, and Forest Service Strategic Plan*, as well as the *2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy*.

- Achieve a program where firefighter and public safety are the highest priority in every fire management activity.
- Implement management practices including prescribed fire that will move all affected landscapes toward desired vegetation composition and structure, consistent with management area objectives found in the Allegheny National Forest LRMP (1986), as amended.
- Maintain an efficient and effective organization for the prevention and suppression of wildfires at a minimum cost consistent with the values at risk.

C. Wildland Fire Management Options

The scope of fire management options that can be implemented on the Allegheny National Forest are displayed below and further developed in this Fire Management Plan.

Wildland Fire Suppression

Due to the proximity of private land and forest system lands, initial attack suppression action will be taken on all fires as outlined in the Land and Resource Management Plan. The suppression response can vary with the resources at risk, fire situation, and safety to firefighters and the public. Suppression action will be taken on all escaped prescribed fires.

Wildland Fire Use

This management response will not be used on the Allegheny National Forest at the present time. However, it may be considered and analyzed for applicability to the Allegheny National Forest in future LRMP revisions or amendments.

Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire will be used to establish and maintain fuel profiles that contribute to the sustainability of ecosystem components and cost-efficient fire protection. It is used to treat both naturally occurring fuels and those created by management activities and to restore fire in those ecosystems where it had formerly been a naturally and historically occurring process.

Non-Fire Applications

Non-fire applications such as thinning, mechanical mastication and rearrangement will be used on the Allegheny National Forest as a fire management option in some management areas. Such treatments can be designed to remove or rearrange fuels to mitigate the consequences of wildfire and to permit efficient and safe management responses to wildland fire ignitions. These treatments are especially useful in areas where prescribed fire is less feasible, such as in the urban-wildland interface or in smoke-sensitive areas. Non-fire treatments can also be used to prepare areas for future fire applications by removing excessive ladder and surface fuels. Mechanical treatments are effective in disrupting horizontal and vertical continuity of fuels, removing larger size-class fuels, and selectively treating large areas with a defined prescription.

D. Description of Wildland Fire Management Strategies by Fire Management Unit

This section of the plan is currently under development in conjunction with the preparation of the Allegheny National Forest LRMP revision. The current LRMP contains little specific direction and guidance with regard to wildland and prescribed fire management, thus making the designation of Fire Management Units (FMU) limited at best. The Forest's current Fire Management Action Plan (1997) and 1997 NFMAS analysis defined all acres within the Forest's proclamation boundary as a single Fire Management Zone. FMU's are generally delineated by preferred suppression response, which is often dictated by fuel profile, firefighter and public safety, and risk of adverse impacts on natural resources.

During the current LRMP revision process, additional consideration of wildfire and prescribed fire management will be defined and incorporated into the revised plan. Consideration will be given to fire adapted vegetation and fire regimes, as well as the checkerboard/patchwork land ownership within the Forest's proclamation boundary and the inherent urban-wildland intermix factors associated with the ownership pattern. Another consideration will be given to areas within the forest that are subject to intensive oil and gas development. These areas present a unique response for wildland fire suppression and management. And finally, additional consideration for existing wilderness areas may include direction for Wildland Fire Use.

The following is only an EXAMPLE of how each FMU may be described and displayed within this document once forest plan revision is completed:

Areas with vegetation communities of similar fire adaptation or fire regimes are grouped to create FMU's for the Allegheny National Forest. Vegetation communities are used to define FMU's on the Forest because while the Forest Plan is permissive of prescribed fire use in all management prescriptions except for 5.0 (Wilderness) fire is not part of the natural disturbance regime for all vegetation communities of the Forest. Prescribed fire was considered an appropriate tool for vegetation management, generally tied to Silvicultural goals, by the Forest Plan and standards and guidelines are given by management prescription (MP). Prescribed fire may not be appropriate in all vegetation communities.

For the Allegheny National Forest, prescribed fire will be concentrated in areas with fire adapted vegetation communities. Fire adapted vegetation communities were determined from existing forest types, bio-physical settings, existing fire adapted understory vegetation, and general fire history at the landscape scale. These data were combined in GIS Model Builder to create a weighted average of fire adaptation. The weighted average was set at a range of one to five, with one being most fire adapted and five representing least fire adapted. Areas with an average value of 1, 2, or 3 are considered fire adapted vegetation communities and will be managed as one FMU. Areas assigned a 4 or 5 in the averaging process are considered non-fire adapted vegetation communities and will be managed as one FMU.

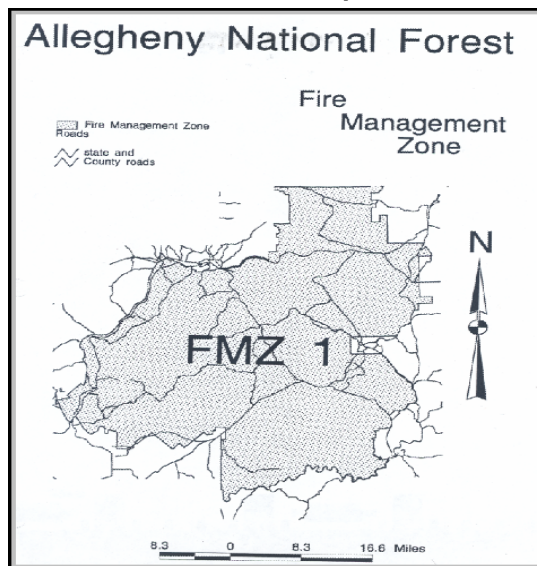
Two FMU's are being considered on the Allegheny National Forest.

- FMU FA - Fire Adapted Vegetation
- FMU NFA -Non-Fire Adapted Vegetation

In both FMU's there are inclusions of grassy or brushy areas. Fire may be used in these areas to meet management objectives other than returning fire as a disturbance element. Fire may be used in these areas to create or maintain open conditions or control non-native invasive species even in vegetation communities not originally adapted to fire. Examples of these areas include: savannahs, wildlife openings, and historic or cultural sites. Since these areas are generally small in size, non-contiguous, and may occur in either FMU they were not delineated into a separate FMU.

Fire Management Units (FMU's) on the Allegheny National Forest are also based on risk. FMU's are further defined by risk to improvements and resources as defined by the LRMP. Risk in fire management units is separated into two categories: General Risk and Specific Risk.

1. General Risk – FMU Map



Current FMU/FMZ from the 1997 Fire Management Action Plan (Based on guidance from the 1986 LRMP)

General risk as used in FMU determination is defined as a concentration of at-risk conditions that can be identified by a geographic area. General risk categories are used to describe relative risk on the Allegheny National Forest. Fuel conditions and concentrations of wildland urban intermix and interface areas may be used to define the need for protection from wildland fire were used to geographically define general risk categories.

General risk categories include:

Red Category - High Risk

This category is generally described as the oak type, and historically fire dependent species on the Allegheny National Forest. Fire may perform an important role in the function of the ecosystem but because of resource concerns and potentially high economic impacts from unplanned ignitions, considerable constraints and mitigation measures are required. The appropriate management response is usually aggressive suppression actions to fire control. Fuels reduction is a major means of mitigating potential risks and losses. Prescribed fire projects are complex and costly due to stringent contingency planning and monitoring. Unplanned ignitions are typically not managed to meet resource management objectives due to the proximity of improvements and the concentration of areas excluded from wildland fire use by the Allegheny National Forest LRMP. Large relative concentrations of private land in-holdings surrounded by fire adapted vegetation types has been classified a **HIGH** general risk area.

Yellow Category – Moderate Risk. Fire is a desirable component of the ecosystem with moderate mitigation requirements and constraints. This category generally applies to the re-establishment of warm season grasses and savannahs on the Allegheny National Forest. A significant level of prescribed fire activity is used to attain desired resource and ecological conditions. Prescribed fire treatments for hazard reduction is a lower priority than in the Red category. Wildland fires may be managed to meet resource management objectives under an approved wildland fire implementation plan (WFIP). Areas with scattered individual campgrounds or improvements and or vegetation that could have undesired effects from wildland fire have been classified as **MODERATE** general risk area.

Green Category – Low Risk. Fire is generally not an integral component in maintaining or achieving the desired future condition for affected lands. This category generally applies to the Allegheny Mixed Hardwood vegetation type on the forest. Prescribed fire for hazardous fuel reduction is not a priority except where an immediate threat to public health and safety exists. Wildland fires may be managed to meet resource management objectives under an approved WFIP. These areas have been classified as **LOW** general risk.

2. Specific Risk

Specific risks are subsets of the general risk category. They are individual improvements or resource values that have the potential to be at risk under identified fire behavior. These specific risks are displayed through geographic information system (GIS) that is a companion to this plan. Specific risk many times is defined by potential fire behavior. Some examples of specific risk include but are not limited to:

- Administrative sites
- Areas of fire fighter and public safety concerns
- Developed recreation sites
- Private cabin/home sites
- Designated communication sites
- Oil and gas facilities and improvements
- Municipal watersheds
- Private land with structures
- Noxious plants
- Above-ground utility corridors
- High-use travel corridors
- Historic/cultural resource areas
- Wildlife habitat / TES

3. Fire Management Unit Description Outline

The following is an ***EXAMPLE*** of the Allegheny National Forest Fire Management Unit (FMU) outline. Individual FMU's and their descriptions will be contained in the appendix once the revised LRMP is completed. The use of each section of the FMU is described by the italicized text for the section.

a. FMU Description:

(Provides general description of the fire management unit)

FMU Identifier:

(Common description)

FMU Number:

(Used for internal tracking)

General Risk category:

(General risk is explained previously in the fire management plan)

Fire Behavior indicator:

(NFDRS index that best represents fire danger)

NFDRS Weather station:

(The weather station that most accurately predicts fire danger for the individual FMU)

Nearest weather station:

(NFDRS weather station that is in the closest proximity or inside the FMU)

Acres:

(Total acres inside the FMU)

FMZ: RL

FMZ: RL

(Fire Management Zone "FMZ" and Representative Location "RL" are geographic areas that define pre-suppression funding and general suppression equipment response)

Predominant Vegetation Types:

(General vegetation make-up of the FMU. Listing the most predominant vegetation to the least predominant)

Administration:

(Local administrative unit)

Forest funded wildland fire response units:

(Suppression resources that typically respond to the FMU)

Fire Management Duty Officer Responsibility:

(Self-explanatory)

Initial Response Dispatch Office responsible for stage 1 assessment:

(Self-explanatory)

Communities at risk adjacent to this FMU:

(Communities at risk that have been listed in the Federal Register that are in or adjacent to the FMU)

Prescriptive Parameter for Wildland Fire use:

(A value that prescribes when a wildland fire that has started from a natural ignition may be considered as a candidate for wildland fire use. Values above this range will require appropriate suppression response and will not be used for resource benefit)

b. FMU Characteristics:

(This section describes general topographic features, fuels, typical public uses, improvements, resource values and areas of special significance. It is intended to offer an over-all character of the FMU)

Also see GIS information system for location and specific risk identification.

(Directs user to GIS data that is a companion to the Fire Management Plan)

c. Strategic and measurable management objectives.

Strategic objective:

Ecosystems are restored and maintained, consistent with land uses and historic fire regimes, through prescribed fire and mechanical fuels treatments and wildland fire use.

- Human life, firefighter and public safety is the highest priority and will determine all wildland fire and fuels treatment actions.
- Protect high value resources through fuel treatments and prescribed fire.
- Increase vegetation diversity (species, age, height, canopy closures, etc.) across the FMU.
- Increase the number of acres burned annually through prescribed fire and wildland fire use.
- Restore vegetation to the appropriate condition class and fire regime.
- Contain unwanted fires at the smallest possible size using the appropriate management response.

(Strategic objectives are derived from the Allegheny National Forest LRMP and/or a landscape analysis for the FMU)

Measurable objective:

(Measurable objectives are derived from the Allegheny National Forest LRMP and/or a landscape analysis for the FMU. They must be quantifiable and may only apply for the current year)

d. Management constraints or criteria affecting operational implementation.

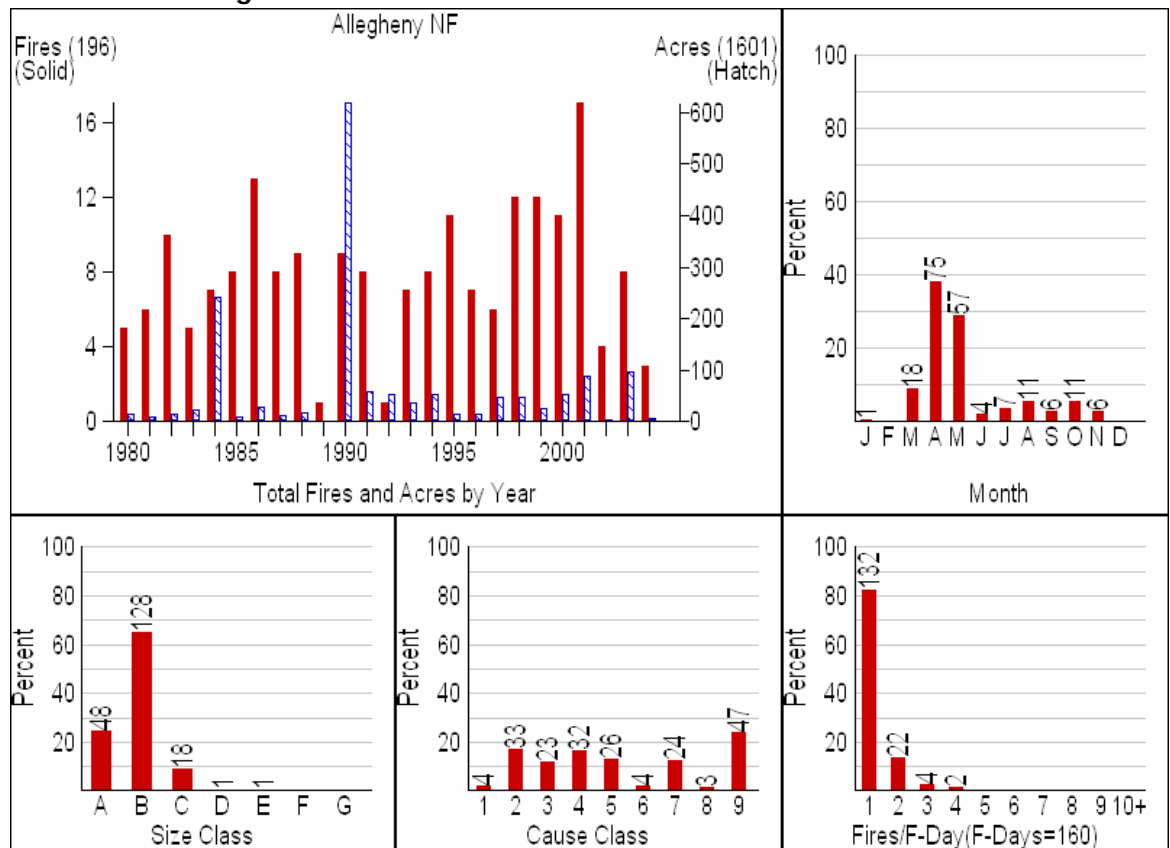
All wilderness areas require the use of primitive suppression activities and the use of minimum impact suppression activities. The use of leaf blowers warrants specific discussion. While leaf blowers are not a primitive tool, they do have a minimal impact to the wilderness. The use of leaf blowers will be considered on a case-by-case basis. They do require Regional Forester approval.

(Constraints or decision criteria will impact fire management activities within the FMU)

e. Historical fire occurrence.

The Allegheny National Forest averages eight (8) fires per year for a total of 66 acres. (1980 – 2004 average). Lightning accounts for 2 % of the fires while human caused ignitions account for 98% of the total.

f. Fire Management Situation.



This graph was created in FireFamily+ software to display historical fire occurrence.

(1) Weather patterns influencing fire behavior and historical weather analysis.

Below normal precipitation conditions are the primary contributor to fire events, with low 10, 100, and 1000-hour dead fuel moistures and high Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI).

Strong winds associated with frontal passages and thunder cell activity have historically influenced fire large growth and spread events.

A season slowing event typically associated with several days of wetting rain and freezing temperature occurs from early October through mid-November reducing the risk of large fire growth. A warming and drying trend associated with shorter days through mid-October may see fires but these fires are generally smaller in size. Persistent snow usually arrives by mid to late November.

(Describe the dominant weather patterns that influence and most greatly affect fire starts and large fire occurrence; i.e. consecutive days without measurable precipitation)

(2) Fire season determination.

Both the spring and fall fire seasons are largely influenced by the presence of deciduous leaf cover. Once leaf development reaches approximately 70 percent our spring fire season is over. The fall fire season coincides with the beginning of leaf fall in October and the onset of winter moisture. The established fire seasons for the Allegheny National Forest are **OCTOBER 20** through **November 15** and **April 1** through **MAY 31**.

(Describes climatic conditions that set up typical fire season situations within the FMU; i.e. soil moisture anomalies; fine fuel responsiveness)

(3) Fuels conditions in the FMU likely to influence fire behavior.

Dead fuel moisture in the hardwood leaf litter and brush communities is a significant factor in fire spread and intensity. A low relative live fuel moisture condition combined with a continuous fuel bed with available fine fuels elevates the potential for large fire growth.

Fuel loadings have increased across the FMU as a result of past fire suppression and a very limited prescribed burning program.

The possibility of fuel buildups from gypsy moth and beech bark disease killed stands continues to exist. The forest has also been susceptible to frequent weather related storm events (tornado, downbursts, ice) that contribute to increased vegetation mortality and fuel loading from blowdown accumulation.

(This section is used to described dominant fuel conditions and characteristics in the FMU in relation to fire behavior)

(4) Fire regime alteration.

The past history of controlling all fires has altered the historic fire regime. Currently most of the forest is in Condition Class 2 and 3. Condition Class 2 means that fuels accumulate on the ground and/or shrubs and regeneration begins to appear. Condition Class 3 means heavy fuels have accumulated, and/or multiple stories of vegetation and/or numerous ladder fuels exist. However, much of the Allegheny National Forest is subject to vegetation alteration by deer over browsing. Forest wide condition classes will be mapped using GIS and an interdisciplinary approach tied to the LRMP revision process.

(5) Control problems and dominant topographic features.

- ✓ Remote access
- ✓ Steep rocky terrain
- ✓ High fuel loadings
- ✓ Aspect
- ✓ Canopy configuration
- ✓ Continuity of fine fuels
- ✓ Forest users

(6) Other elements of the fire environment affecting management.

- Local cooperators
- T & E Species
- Smoke management and smoke sensitive areas including numerous small valley bottom communities, private in-holdings with structures

(wildland urban-intermix areas), campgrounds, landing strips, major transportation corridors.

- Special concern areas: oil and gas development sites, utility corridors, communication sites, municipal watersheds.

(This area of the FMU description is designed to draw attention to individual areas inside the FMU that may need individual assessments when managing wildland fire and fuels. They may include but are not limited to: historical/cultural sites, special use permitted areas and municipal watersheds.)

(7) Firefighter and public safety considerations specific to this FMU.

- Potential for fast moving fires.
- Recreational activities.
- Limited access.
- Wildland/Urban intermix areas.

(This section is designed to identify unusual attributes of an FMU that could affect firefighter and public safety)

(8) Fire prevention and education opportunities

- Maintain fire prevention signing in accordance with district sign plan.
- During high use periods visitor contacts are essential.
- Active dissemination of fire restriction information and forest user contacts.

(This section is designed to identify fire prevention measures of an FMU.)

(9) Values to be protected; some examples include

- T & E species
- Radio/communication towers
- Oil and gas developments and associated improvements
- Power lines and other utility corridors
- Developed recreation sites
- Scattered private in-holdings and associated structures
- Cultural and historic sites

(This area of the FMU description is designed to draw attention to individual values inside the FMU that may need protection when managing wildland fire and fuels.)

(10) Hazard fuels treatment or prescribed burns planned for FY 2005. Additional projects, both prescribed fire and mechanical treatment, may occur in FY 2005 pending completion of NEPA documentation and will be added to this list.

- Buzzard Swamp Prescribed Burn (150 acres)
- Oak Regeneration Prescribed Burn (39 acres)
- Hull Barn Prescribed Burn (20 acres)

SECTION IV: Wildland Fire Management Program Components

A. General Implementation Procedures

Specific information pertaining to Fire Management Units is found in section III. D.

Until Wildland Fire Implementation Plans (WFIP) are developed for specific management areas of the Allegheny National Forest, all wildfires, natural and human-caused, will be suppressed using fire management strategies based on cost-effective, aggressive initial attack keeping firefighter and public safety as the first priority. The use of natural barriers and burning out will be encouraged where appropriate.

When Wildland Fire Implementation Plans are written and approved for use on the Allegheny National Forest, the following procedures will apply.

1. Implementation Procedures

All unplanned wildland fire responses will have a Stage I Wildland Fire Assessment completed. This assessment and subsequent procedures are outlined in chapter 4 of the Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy Guide (FSM 5103, 5108 and 5232.32). Figure 1 describes time frames and requirements of the Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy Guide. All human caused fires will have a suppression response.

Where FMU development determines that suppression is the only appropriate response, the requirement for a decision checklist as part of Stage I analysis is considered to be met. Subsequently, the *Stage I Analysis* may be *satisfied* at the *programmatic level* in the FMP through determination made by combinations of values to be protected and/or fire behavior thresholds.

A WFSA must be completed when: (See Appendix H)

- Wildfire escapes pre-determined initial response objectives or is expected to exceed initial action, or
- A wildfire being managed for resource benefits exceeds maximum manageable area (MMA) prescription parameters in the fire management plan (parameters will be defined during the LMRP revision process), or
- A prescribed fire exceeds its prescription and is declared a wildfire.

Where FMU development determines that more than one type of response may be appropriate, the responsible Line Officer shall initiate a Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) for all wildland fires within the designated FMU. Stage I: Initial Fire Assessment provides the decision framework for selecting the appropriate management response. Operational management decisions are described in the WFIP. Specific WFIP requirements are outlined in chapter 4 of the Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy Implementation Procedures Reference Guide (FSM 5103, 5108, and 5132.32), hereafter referred to as the Implementation Guide.

Figure 1: WFIP implementation stages, requirement status, and completion timeframes.

Requirement status key:

- 1 = mandatory
- 2 = mandatory, but can be replanned
- 3 = optional
- 4 = completed if Stage II or Periodic Fire Assessment, Part 2 indicate need.

5 = completed if fire exceeds management capabilities
 6 = completed if Periodic Fire Assessment, Part 1 indicates need

WFIP Stage	Planning and Assessment Element	Requirement Status			Maximum completion timeframe
		Initial Attack	Other suppression-oriented appropriate management responses	Fire use actions	
WFIP Stage I: Initial Fire Assessment	Fire Situation	1	1	1	As soon as possible
	Decision Criteria Checklist (Initial GO or NO-GO Decision)	3	1	1	2 hours after first fire detection
WFIP Stage II: Short-term Implementation Actions	Short-Term Fire Behavior Predictions and Risk Assessment	3	1	1	24 hours after Stage I completion
	Short-term Implementation Actions	2	1	1	
	Complexity Analysis	3	1	1	
	Stage III Need Assessment Chart	NA	1	1	
WFIP Stage III: Long-Term Implementation Actions	MMA Definition	3	4	4	Within 24 hours after Stage II or Periodic Fire Assessment indicates need
	Fire Behavior Predictions	3	4	4	
	Long-Term Risk Assessment	3	4	4	
	Long-term Implementation Actions	3	4	4	
Periodic Fire Assessment	Part 1: Re-validation	NA	1	1	On assigned frequency
	Part 2: Stage III Need Assessment Chart	NA	1	1	
WFSA		5	5	6	Before implementing new strategy

The text box below outlines the information required for the Stage 1 Assessment. Every unplanned ignition will have this information assessed before a wildland fire response is initiated.

Figure 2: Stage 1 Assessment

<p>Allegheny National Forest WFIP Stage I: Initial Fire Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Fire name<input type="checkbox"/> Fire number<input type="checkbox"/> Jurisdiction(s)<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative unit(s)<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Management Unit (FMU)<input type="checkbox"/> Responsible duty officer<input type="checkbox"/> Geographic Area(s)<input type="checkbox"/> Management Code(s)<input type="checkbox"/> Start date/time<input type="checkbox"/> Discovery date/time<input type="checkbox"/> Current size<input type="checkbox"/> Location<input type="checkbox"/> Cause<input type="checkbox"/> Fuel model(s)/conditions<input type="checkbox"/> Current weather<input type="checkbox"/> Forecasted weather<input type="checkbox"/> Current fire behavior<input type="checkbox"/> Forecasted fire behavior<input type="checkbox"/> Availability of resources<input type="checkbox"/> Decision criteria checklist<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire behavior indicator<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Threats to fire fighter or public safety<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specific risk assessment<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended response action

B. Wildland Fire Suppression

Fires will be suppressed taking into consideration the safety of the public and firefighting resources while minimizing suppression costs, resource loss, environmental damage, and the threat of wildland fire escaping onto non-Federal lands.

Qualified Line Officers will be responsible for managing fires at the Type III level and below. The Forest Supervisor will be responsible for all Type I and II fires.

The Forest Supervisor has the authority to sign all WFSA's and Delegation of Authority.

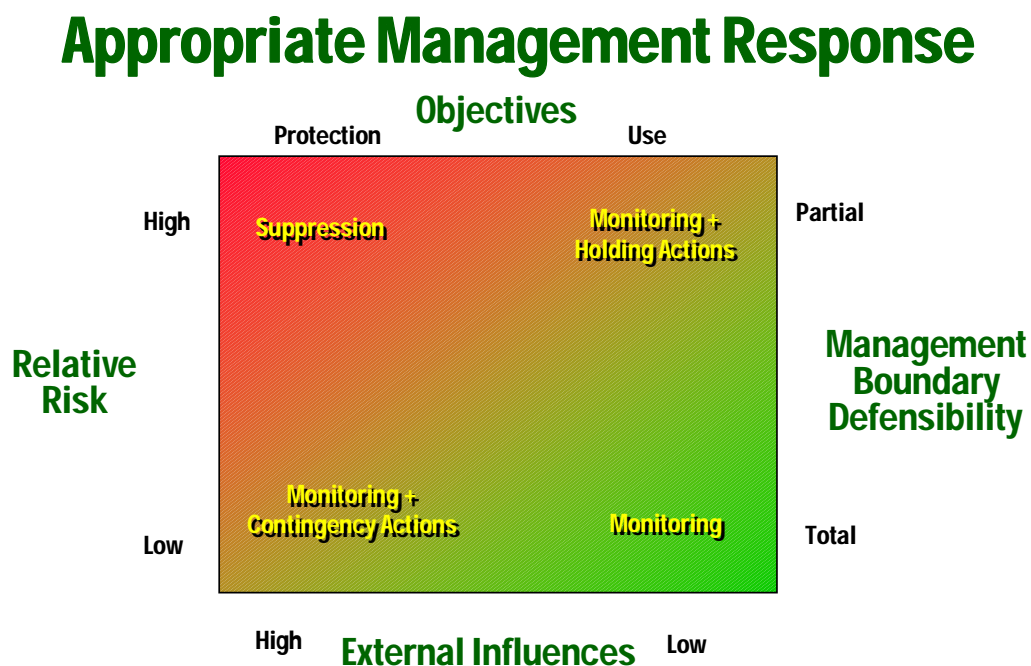
Suppression will be needed and desired in situations including, but not limited to the following:

- The fire is human-caused.
- The fire is located in an FMU that has a high general risk category.
- The fire is located in a low or moderate risk FMU, but the Decision Criteria Checklist indicates managing the fire for resource benefits is not within described limits or capabilities.

The level of suppression response intensity will range from aggressive initial attack to a combination of strategies to achieve confinement. The Burning Index is considered the appropriate fire danger indicator to determine initial attack suppression response.

The following charts can be used to estimate appropriate methods to implement desired/necessary strategies. To obtain this estimate, lines must be drawn to connect the top and bottom variables and the left and right variables. Where the two lines intersect is a potential management response for the defined conditions. (Reference: *Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy, Implementation Procedures Reference Guide, August 1998.*)

Figure 3 - Appropriate Management Response.

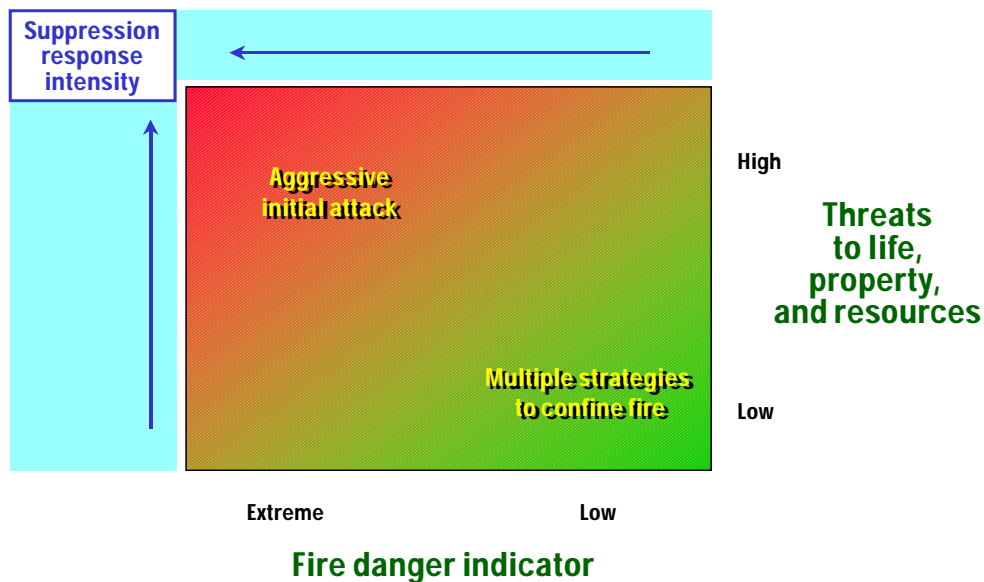


Ranges of appropriate management responses based on objectives, relative risk, complexity, and defensibility of management boundaries.

For those situations indicating a suppression-oriented response, a range of responses dealing with only suppression actions is available. The following chart (Figure 4) illustrates how the range of suppression-oriented appropriate management responses can vary.

Figure 4 - Appropriate Management Response

Appropriate Management Response



1. Range of Potential Behavior

The Forest averages 8 fires per year, burning 66 acres annually. Approximately 98% of these fires are human-caused ignitions with the balance of the fires (2%) natural ignitions. 99% of the fires are Class C or less (100 acres or less) and most fires burn at a Fire Intensity Level (FIL) 1 corresponding to flame heights between 0 and 2 feet. Large fires (greater than 100 acres) usually burn at FIL 2 (flame lengths of 2-4 feet) and FIL 3 (flame lengths of 4-6 feet).

2. Preparedness Actions

a. Fire Prevention, Community Education, Community Risk Assessment, and Other Community Assistance Activities (Firewise)

(1) Annual Prevention Program

The Allegheny National Forest policy on fire prevention and detection is to have the prevention program responsibilities reside with the District Rangers. Each District will annually prepare, by March 1st, a fire prevention plan that specifies what actions will be undertaken to keep person-caused fires to a minimum.

The Allegheny National Forest's objectives for a sound prevention program are (the Forest does not currently have a prevention plan or adequate program in place):

- Assign prevention responsibilities to each District Ranger.
- Provide training necessary to carry out prevention requirements.

- Work with Forest Service Law Enforcement to conduct aggressive investigations of all person-caused fires. It is each District Ranger's responsibility to see that this is done.
- Develop prevention plans and instructions as conditions dictate that provide employees and private property owners with the guidance they need.
- Instill in all forest employees the need to be alert to situations where a combination of hazard and risk exists. Bring these situations to the attention of his/her supervisor along with suggested ways to reduce the possibility of fire occurrence.
- Be especially alert to critical fire danger periods and develop effective plans to reduce the possibility of a fire starting on those days, especially in areas that are vulnerable to larger than average fires.

Annually the Forest FMO and District Rangers will assess the needs of the fire prevention program. If special situations exist that require a focused prevention plan then the FMO and District Rangers will prepare it. Special conditions, such as, high fuel loading in areas of heavy mortality coupled with existing or predicted drought conditions will be addressed.

Responsibilities

The District Ranger is responsible for the development and implementation of an annual general fire prevention program on his/her District. This program will include:

- The education of the how and why of fire prevention to employees and the people utilizing the resources of his/her District.
- Cooperation and coordination of the implementation of the plan with local volunteer fire departments and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry.
- The enforcement of fire laws and regulations required to achieve an acceptable level of risk and hazard reduction.
- Fire investigations - the Forest Service Law Enforcement will be contacted immediately when fires are detected. Investigation will be conducted to determine cause for all fire incidents occurring on the forest.

The Forest FMO is responsible for technical assistance in the field of fire prevention activities, i.e., training, planning, analysis of prevention problems and enforcement needs. The duties include:

- Develop a focused Forest Fire Prevention Plan when conditions dictate.
- Conduct field inspections sufficient to evaluate the overall Forest Fire Prevention effort. These inspections will be directed toward the effort made in the area where serious losses are most likely occur, and toward the knowledge level and attitude of the forest employees doing the work.
- Provide direction and assistance in trespass investigations, report preparation, and other complex fire law enforcement actions.

- Maintain forest level contacts with cooperating agencies, public utility companies and private organizations to promote fire prevention and fire management practices.
- Develop and maintain a working relationship with local news media.
- Evaluate, develop and revise prevention and enforcement action plans and programs, taking into account current and expected trends and needs.

(2) Special Orders and Closures

Authority – The Regional Forester and Forest Supervisor have authority to issue restrictions and closures of National Forest Lands. District Rangers, who are responsible for implementation and enforcement of the restrictions, will be contacted to ensure that proposed restrictions are coordinated across the unit as appropriate.

Fire restrictions or closures will be coordinated with the state and other interagency partners as appropriate.

Purpose – The purpose of the restrictions and closures is to reduce the risk of human-caused fires during periods of extended extreme fire danger.

Action Policy - When orders for closure are sent from the Forest Supervisor's Office, it will be the District's first priority to initiate and complete the closure to comply with the forest objectives. Road patrols will be conducted to the extent necessary to attain compliance with the intent of the closure.

Aerial reconnaissance flights may be requested to aid road patrols in locating closure violations. Flights will be requested through the Forest FMO or AFMO at the Supervisor's Office. However; if the Forest FMO or AFMO are unavailable, the Forest Dispatcher at Marienville District is to coordinate flight requests.

The general public will be notified of the closures through newspapers, television, radio, and direct contact with residents, visitors, and key cooperative people, and by posting of signs in public places, and signing key access routes. The general policy will be to issue Warning Notices to first offenders. Each violation will be treated on its individual merits. Township and Forest Service roads will be the primary means to effect closure for restricted access.

Levels of Restrictions and Closures – Restrictions and closures are keyed to the Forest's current "Fire Preparedness Level".

There are three levels of closure, each of which restricts certain activities and/or access to parts or all of the Forest. They are:

Restricted activity closure restricts the use of open fires, smoking, and other similar activity. The Regional Forester, through the Forest Supervisor's Office, will issue closure authority.

Partial closure limits access and/or activity to meet a specific problem in a specific area. When the need for a partial Forest closure is deemed necessary for the protection of resources and/or the health and safety of the public, the District Ranger will submit the request for closure to the Forest Supervisor for consideration. If the Forest Supervisor concurs with the need and extent of the closure request, authority can be issued under CFR 261.50 - Orders.

Complete closure allows no access for fishing, camping etc. within the forest. Access will be restricted to residents and for official use only. The Regional Forester, through the Forest Supervisor's Office, will issue closure authority.

Each District Closure Plan will be directed toward meeting fire prevention goals. Closure actions will be in accordance with each District plan. Posting will be done at locations identified on the District's closure plan map, which will be submitted to the Forest Supervisor.

Standard Forest Restriction and Closure Signs will be used to notify the public. Signs will be posted at pre-determined locations around the forest.

Sign #	Message	Size	Amount
P51-02	Extreme Fire Danger	44x16	24
P51-78	Fire Restriction Now in Effect	12x14	12
P51-62	Closed, Fire Hazard	14x12	50
P51-62c	Closed, Fire Hazard	44x16	24

When official orders for closures are received from the Forest Supervisor, it is the responsibility of the District Ranger, in coordination with forest law enforcement, to initiate actions to meet the planned closure objective. These actions include, but are not limited to the following:

- District Ranger(s) and/or the Forest Public Affairs Staff Officer will distribute news releases to newspapers, television, and radio stations and coordinate with and/or notify the state of planned releases.
- Appropriate signs will be posted in campgrounds, locations where information boards are located and contacts made with all campers within the affected area(s).
- All timber sale operators will be contacted and operations suspended or notified if activity is restricted.
- Road patrols will begin.

(3) Industrial Operations and Fire Precautions

Timber Sale Contracts and Special Use Permits will contain fire prevention and restriction clauses. Administrators will insure that all such contract/permit requirements are adhered to.

b. Annual Fire Training Activities

All forest personnel qualified in positions that may require fireline duties such as firefighters, security specialists, EMTs, etc., are expected to have a working knowledge of fire behavior and fire fighting tactics.

All red-carded personnel will attend an **(8)** -hour annual refresher training prior to issuance of the PMS-310-3, Incident Qualification Command System (IQCS) card. This refresher will be one eight-hour session, prior to spring fire season. This refresher will at a minimum consist of fire shelter purpose and use, practice deployments, entrapment avoidance, and deployment survival, and any pertinent fire safety topics, such as 10 Standard Firefighting Orders and 18 Watch Out Situations, Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones (LCES), Look Up, Look Down, Look around, Lessons Learned, Safenet, etc. The following website provides up-to-date information concerning annual fire safety refreshers: http://www.nifc.gov/safety_study/annual-refresh/topics.html

In addition, other positions require annual, biannual, or triennial refreshers to maintain currency as well.

- Annual refresher for HECMs
- Annual refresher for SEC2s
- Biennial refresher for Helicopter Managers

(1) Qualifications and Needs Assessment

Qualifications

The Forest Supervisor will ensure that an IQCS review committee (Incident Qualification and Certification System Committee) composed of individuals with sufficient managerial, suppression, aviation, financial, and other related experience to assess fire experience, performance, formal training and qualifications of personnel being rated for certification. The committee will meet as needed to review qualifications. (Reference FSH 5109.17, 22.2)

Needs Assessment

Personnel who have specific training needs or interests should discuss this with their immediate supervisor and the DFMO, Forest AFMO, or Forest FMO to arrange enrollment in the appropriate classes.

Employee training needs, wildland fire and prescribed fire positions by ICS position (refer to FSH 5109.17) will be projected. These training needs may need to be tiered from the IQCS Review Committee's recommended priorities to sustain the Forest's fire program needs. Results will be discussed by the Forest IQCS Review Committee to determine current and future needs.

c. Fire Season Readiness

(1) Annual Preparedness Reviews

Individual reviews will be held annually. Line officer involvement is critical to support these reviews. The reviews will be scheduled so that Line Officer participation is possible. Results will be incorporated into a fire operating plan. This plan will help direct the current and out year program of work.

(2) Season start and stop criteria with typical dates

The fire season start and stop dates represent the period of time during which approximately 90% of the fires will occur. The Seasonal Analysis of Fires utility in the Personal Computer Historical Analysis (PCHA), Climatological Assessments, and Family Fire Plus software was used to determine these dates for initial attack planning purposes and calculation of the Fire Fighting Production Capability (FFPC) target.

The start and stop dates for initial attack planning on the Allegheny National Forest are **October 20** through **November 15** and **April 1** through **May 30**.

These dates are used as guidance for staffing initial attack resources on the forest. However, it must be noted that fires can occur any time of year and it is possible for large fires to happen outside of the established fire seasons. In

these instances, permanent employees with proper fire line qualifications and local cooperator units will be used to fight fires on the Allegheny National Forest.

(3) Forest or District-level fire cache considerations, including appropriate stocking levels and management

The Forest does not have a current fire cache inventory. The existing 1997 Fire Management Action Plan does not adequately address the need to maintain cache inventories. However, some district cache inventories were done in prior years but documentation is poor and accountability was not built into the local cache system. The Forest will begin the process, during CY 2005, to accurately inventory and maintain adequate cache supplies and equipment. A complete cache inventory will be incorporated into future FMP's.

d. Detection

The forest participates with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Bureau of Forestry (BOF) in a cooperative fire detection program using fixed wing aircraft. Aerial reconnaissance is conducted during extremely dry forest conditions in a flight pattern established by the Forest that covers the entire forest.

Wildfire detection by fixed wing aircraft is utilized during periods following severe lightning activity when fire starts can be anticipated, under Class 6 conditions or in the event of unusual incendiary occurrences.

Detection routes and checkpoints are pre-established on the Allegheny National Forest and are to be utilized whenever the need should exist. The Allegheny National Forest, with its' interspersed ownership pattern, is considered an urban forest. Prevention activity, coupled with sporadic fire activity, has developed an acute sense of fire awareness from the public sector. Fire starts are generally reported promptly, usually coincidentally, to both the Federal and State agencies. Therefore, no additional detection activities are planned. Detection will be accomplished efficiently through citizen participation and Forest Service patrols.

Each ranger district will contact their suppression cooperators and area dispatchers to assure prompt Forest Service notification. Most calls for fire are first received by local area dispatchers and are then forwarded to appropriate response units such as the local volunteer fire department. As the Allegheny National Forest develops its relationships with local fire departments, it is expected that reported fire occurrence on federally administered lands will increase through better notification processes. Unless appropriate contacts are on a continuing basis, some fires are totally suppressed with total lack of Forest Service notification.

Aerial Detection over Wilderness - Routine aerial detection flights over designated wilderness areas shall be at altitudes no less than 2000 feet above the ground level. Exceptions are made for emergencies (FSM 2326.02). If an aerial observer detects significant smoke, it will be considered an emergency so that the smoke can be more closely observed, accurately diagnosed and precisely located for possible ground personnel. The intent of this description is to discourage lower level flights for each small campfire smoke but to allow closer observation when, in the judgment of the aerial observer, the smoke source is significant, suspicious or relays other concerns related to fire protection.

e. Fire Weather and Fire Danger

(1) Weather Stations

The Allegheny National Forest maintains one Remote Automated Weather Station (station number 361002) that is located at the Marienville Ranger District workcenter. Information from this station is transmitted to the GOES satellite platform and collected by the ASCADS system. Weather observations are manually transferred and input into the local NFDRS system by the Forest AFMO, Forest FMO, or collateral duty dispatcher located on the Marienville Ranger District. This occurs between 1300 and 1400 daily. These observations are used to calculate a predicted fire danger based on the burning index.

Spot fire weather forecasts are available from National Weather Service (NWS), State College (814-237-1152) and Pittsburgh (412-262-1485). Dispatchers may obtain a spot forecast for each fire in anticipation of the request from the Incident Commander. NOTE: the NWS needs to be provided with the sky/weather, on-site temperature, relative humidity, dew point, wind speed and direction, elevation, aspect, slope, fuels and shading, and canopy coverage observations in order to provide a better spot forecast.

Weather Station Catalog Information

Allegheny Station Catalog

✖ Display/Edit General Station Information ESTA [Back to Menu](#)

Station ID:
Station Info | [NFDR Param](#) | [Extra Data Channels](#)

Station ID: 361002	FIPS: 42 PENNSYLVANIA / 053 Forest	Associated Manual Station: <input type="text"/>	Lightning Scaling Factor: <input type="text" value="1"/>
Nesdis ID: <input type="text" value="361002"/>	Average Annual Precipitation: <input type="text" value="42"/>	Regular Scheduled Obs. Time: <input type="text" value="13"/>	
Last Modified Date: 07-Dec-04	Station Name: ALLEGHENY	Previous Station: <input type="text"/>	
Station Type: <input type="text" value="6:PAWS (non-SAT NFDRS)"/>	Region Number: <input type="text" value="9"/>	Latitude: <input type="text" value="41"/> Deg <input type="text" value="29"/> Min <input type="text" value="11"/> Sec or <input type="text" value="41.4863888"/> Degree	
Elevation: <input type="text" value="1770"/> ft.	Longitude: <input type="text" value="79"/> Deg <input type="text" value="6"/> Min <input type="text" value="9"/> Sec or <input type="text" value="79.1024999"/> Degree		
Local Time Zone: <input type="text" value="EST"/>	Aspect: <input type="text" value="8: North (N/360)"/>	Site: <input type="text" value="3: Ridge or peak top"/>	
Mnemonic: <input type="text"/>	Owner: FS12147	Access Control List: <input type="text" value="MARNVILLE"/>	
Observing Agency: <input type="text" value="1 USDA FS"/>	----- Unit Conversion Codes -----		
Unit Name: <input type="text" value="MARN"/>	Humidity Code: <input type="text" value="2:Relative Humidity (percent)"/>	Temperature Code: <input type="text" value="1:English (IN/MPH/Deg F)"/>	
Forecast Zone: <input type="text" value="List"/>	Rainfall Code: <input type="text" value="1:English (IN/MPH/Deg F)"/>	Wind Speed Code: <input type="text" value="1:English (IN/MPH/Deg F)"/>	

User Comment:

----- Display/Edit Default NFDRS Parameters -----

Station ID: 361002 Effective Date:
Station Info | [NFDR Param](#) | [Extra Data Channels](#)

78 & 88 NFDRS	100-hr: <input type="text" value="25"/>	Measured Woody FM: <input type="text"/>	Fuel Stick Date: <input type="text" value="27-Sep-04"/>
	1000-hr: <input type="text" value="30"/>	Woody Measured Date: <input type="text"/>	Stick Age (Days): <input type="text" value="1"/>
88 NFDRS	1hr=10hr: <input type="checkbox"/>	KBDI: <input type="text" value="0"/>	Greenness Factor
	Season Code: <input type="text"/>		Herb: <input type="text"/>
			Shrub: <input type="text"/>

D	P	I	** 78 NFDRS Only **				88	S	G	C	Herb	Woody	X-	Staffing Idx Breakpoints				
			H	Herb Date	Greenup Date	b								SI	DC	Low	High	
		ID	S							FM	FM	1000	SI	DC	SP%	Val	SP%	Val
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="7E"/>	<input type="text" value="F"/>	<input type="text" value="03-Dec-04"/>	<input type="text" value="15-May-04"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="P"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="20"/>	<input type="text" value="70"/>	<input type="text" value="30"/>	<input type="text" value="BI"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="90"/>	<input type="text" value="30"/>	<input type="text" value="97"/>	<input type="text" value="39"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="7R"/>	<input type="text" value="F"/>	<input type="text" value="03-Dec-04"/>	<input type="text" value="15-May-04"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="P"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="20"/>	<input type="text" value="70"/>	<input type="text" value="30"/>	<input type="text" value="BI"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="90"/>	<input type="text" value="12"/>	<input type="text" value="97"/>	<input type="text" value="16"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>																		
<input type="checkbox"/>																		

(2) NFDRS - Burning Index and Staffing Guidelines

Burning Index (BI) is presently the basis of determining fire danger on the forest. Since NFDRS does not yield precise predictions of fire danger in any given situation, specific actions will be based upon the broad descriptive level corresponding to a BI range.

30

The following descriptive levels will be used:

<i>BURNING INDEX</i>	<i>FIRE DANGER LEVEL</i>
4-8	LOW
9-17	MODERATE
18-29	HIGH (1st level)
30-35	HIGH (2nd level)
36-43	VERY HIGH
44+	EXTREME

Severity Guide

Severity planning is done for both short and long duration situations. Short duration includes a period from 1 day to a couple of weeks when conditions are expected to subside. Long duration contingency planning is for an extended time period. Staffing Guides contains information to be considered for contingency planning (Appendix C).

Short duration planning can be an appropriate strategy for conditions when adjective-rating class is high or greater. Typical planning would include increased staffing, pre-positioning of local forces, close coordination with fire management partners, escalated interagency prevention efforts, etc. The objective is to sustain a short duration critical period within existing budgets. Reprogramming forest dollars may be considered as part of the strategy.

Long duration severity planning for the forest will be done by requesting severity funding. This request is made as far in advance as is reasonable. Under usual situations this would be at least 10 days in advance of the pay period for which the funding is requested. The forest and districts will anticipate needs based on the following conditions:

1. Fire Severity Index and preparedness level
2. Long range weather forecasts
3. Actual fire behavior, occurrence, and fuel conditions
4. Abnormal/unforeseen escalated human-cause risk of fire complicated by extreme fire weather or re-structured fuel arrangement.

Funding requests to the Regional Office are based on anticipated needs and are only used if predicted conditions are realized. Severity funds do not make up the difference between the Forest funding level and the Most Efficient Level (MEL), but rather provide for capability beyond the MEL value and MEL capability as defined in the most current NFMAS analysis after MEL funds have been expended.

Severity Index

The Severity Index uses Energy Release Component values (ERC), 1,000-hour fuel moisture, current KBDI and local drought conditions represented by percent of normal precipitation as monitored at Forest weather stations.

The following chart describes Severity Indices and is to be used as a guide for severity planning.

SEVERITY INDEX LEVELS

LEVEL	CRITERIA
LOW	ERC is within the 0-24 percentile range for the weather stations within the geographical area. 1000 HR. FUEL MOISTURES > 20%. YEARLY PRECIPITATION of weather stations at normal or above. KBDI- 0 to 100.
MODERATE	ERC is within the 25-50 percentile range for the weather stations within the geographical area. 1000 HR. FUEL MOISTURES 16-20%. YEARLY PRECIPITATION at weather stations averages no more than 10% below normal. KBDI- 100 to 300.
HIGH	ERC is within the 51-80 percentile range for the weather stations within the geographical area. 1000 HR. FUEL MOISTURES 13-15%. YEARLY PRECIPITATION at weather stations averages 10 to 25% below normal. KBDI- 300 to 400.
VERY HIGH	ERC is within the 81-95 percentile range for the weather stations within the geographical area. 1000 HR. FUEL MOISTURES 8-12%. YEARLY PRECIPITATION at weather stations averages 25 to 45% below normal. KBDI- 400 to 500.
EXTREME	ERC is greater than the 95 percentile range for the weather stations within the geographical area. 1000 HR. FUEL MOISTURES < 8%. YEARLY PRECIPITATION at weather stations averages more than 45% below normal KBDI > 500.

f. Policy and Forest Service Manual and Handbook direction

Direction for work/rest, days off and incident operations driving guidelines are found in the *Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook*, NWCG Handbook 2 (NFES 2160) April 2004.

Further guidance is found in FSM 5100, *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations 2004* (NFES 2724) and *Fireline Handbook* March 2004 (NFES 0065).

g. Aviation Management

General Authorities and Direction - The Forest Aviation Officer (FAO) duties are currently assigned to the North Zone Green Mountain National Forest FAO, Brad Bernardy (802-767-4261 or 802-353-7520). Aviation activities will follow the standards of FSM 5700, the *Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide*, and the Forest Aviation Plan. All deviations from accepted practices or any incidents would be reported to the FAO immediately using the "Safecom" form, FS-5700-14.

All official flights for the forest will be requested through Allegheny Dispatch.

Forest Approved Aircraft - The RO is in the process of developing Internet access to this information. Please refer to the Forest Aviation Plan (currently in revision) for details on how to access this information until the Internet access is established.

Forest Aviation Plan - The purpose of this plan is to establish direction for the procurement and use of aircraft services on the Allegheny National Forest and to establish operational policy and management guidelines for safe and efficient air operations. Included are procedures for air search and rescue. The plan also establishes responsibility and authority for aviation management on the forest.

For further information, refer to the Forest Aviation Plan. **Only certified aircraft and pilots will be used by and to transport federal employees** and only federal employees or persons under Forest Service volunteer agreement may fly federal missions.

Aviation Resources Used for Wildland Fire Suppression and Fire Use – Aviation resources requested for initial attack will be ordered through Allegheny Dispatch.

3. Initial Attack

Initial attack is an aggressive suppression action consistent with firefighter and public safety and with values to be protected.

Initial attack forces are made up of the first suppression personnel to arrive at a fire plus reinforcements arriving during the first burning period. The most qualified individual on scene will undertake control of the incident and identify himself or herself as the Incident Commander (IC). This will be communicated over the radio to dispatch as well as to the remaining initial attack personnel on scene.

Should the fire complexity increase to a level exceeding the qualifications and capability of the Initial Attack IC, that individual will advise Dispatch via the radio that a more qualified Incident Commander is required along with recommendations for additional resources and overhead positions.

a. Information Used to Set initial Attack Priorities

The Allegheny NFMAS analysis projected that Forest Service firefighters could control the typical wildland fire on the Forest using hand tool resources strategically positioned. The Staffing Guide, Appendix C, contains the forces projected to be needed at various staffing levels and their locations. The Guide assumes that forces that are located throughout the Forest can be made available to the Ranger District with the fire. Districts may increase or decrease staffing levels as local conditions dictate. Any change to staffing levels needs to be coordinated with Allegheny Dispatch.

Volunteer Fire Departments (VFD's) continue to provide initial attack on most fires. Districts will need to provide training and annual fire safety refreshers with VFD's and the Bureau of Forestry before considering them part of the organization. VFD's are structure fire oriented and need additional training in wildland firefighting.

Districts should strive to handle local fires with their available resources. Fires are to be reported to Allegheny Dispatch or the Fire Management Officer as they occur. Whenever the District resources are not sufficient to handle the incident then the Allegheny Dispatch

system is activated and Allegheny Dispatch assumes responsibility. Fires occurring after hours are to be reported to the designated dispatcher or duty officer.

b. Criteria for the Appropriate Initial Attack Response

Suppression strategies appropriate to meet management direction range from direct control, minimizing acreage burned, to more indirect methods of containment and confinement. Surveillance can be appropriate when the fire is expected to be contained within a defined area.

c. Confinement as an Initial Attack Strategy

This strategy is appropriate in situations where the control strategy would expose firefighters to unnecessary safety risks, or is the preferred strategy using the least cost plus loss method.

d. Response Times

The Allegheny National Forest continues to rely heavily on the militia concept. All firefighters have an obligation to redeem their responsibility concerning timely availability for local fire suppression. Employee responsibility is found in FSM 5130.3 and states:

Expectations of Employees in Reporting Fires and Participating in Suppression Actions.

All employees are expected to promptly report wildland fires to the nearest unit. Employees who discover wildland fires are expected to take initial action consistent with their wildland fire qualifications. Employees without wildland fire qualifications are not expected to take initial action.

a. Every Forest Service employee has a responsibility to support and participate in wildland fire suppression activities as the situation demands. Wildland fire suppression is not limited to those employees with skills in wildland fire suppression operations; rather, it also requires the skills of employees in fiscal, human resources, telecommunications, communications, and other areas.

b. Employees who are not sent to provide direct support of a wildland fire suppression action are expected to fill in as directed to ensure that critical work at the home unit is performed in the absence of other employees who are deployed to provide direct support in wildland fire suppression emergencies.

All employees with fire suppression qualifications are expected to keep themselves and their fire gear ready for immediate dispatch during fire season. Employees identified as being preparedness resources (i.e. funded with Preparedness funds) are used to meet staffing requirements during the fire season.

e. Restrictions and Special Concerns

The primary objective for fire suppression in Wilderness areas on the Allegheny National Forest will be to control all wildfires using Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) which is in compliance with the current LRMP and 1997 Fire Management Action Plan. Wildland Fire Use, to achieve prescribed burn objectives, is not an option in wilderness areas on the Allegheny National Forest at the present time. In general, wilderness fire suppression will be guided by using light hand tactics. The **Forest Supervisor** will consider, on a case-by-case basis, the use of motorized equipment when the situation

involves an inescapable urgency and temporary need for speed beyond that available by primitive means. Approval for the use of motorized equipment, for such emergencies, will be based on the fire danger and the safety of firefighters. These conditions are covered in FSM 2326.1. NOTE: Only the **Regional Forester** approves the use of tractors, plows, tracked, or mechanized equipment; there is no delegation of this authority to Forest Supervisors or District Rangers.

Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) will be the primary suppression response in wilderness areas keeping firefighter and public safety as the first priority. The intent of MIST is to suppress a wildfire with the least impact on the land. Fire conditions and good judgment dictate the actions taken. Consider what is necessary to halt fire spread and contain it within the fireline or designated perimeter boundary. MIST Guidelines that will be followed are found in Appendix 11-5 of the publication "*Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations 2004*" (NFES 2724)

f. Social and Political Concerns

- Provide for public safety.
- Contribute to the social and economic well being of local and regional communities by providing a potential opportunity for temporary employment of emergency firefighters.
- Contribute to a social sustainability, cultural integrity and social cohesion by providing non-commodities in an environmentally and socially acceptable manner.
- Continue to emphasize interagency and public involvement by maintaining communication with a broad range of partners and cooperators.
- A Cooperative Agreement will be maintained with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that defines prevention, detection and suppression actions.

4. Extended Attack and Large Fire Suppression

a. Determining Extended Attack Needs

(Reference FSM 5131 and *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations 2004* (NFES 2724))

This section addresses the procedure to take whenever the fire complexity approaches the limits of local resources. This condition could be expected to occur after several days of Very High to Extreme fire danger or whenever more than one fire is active at the same time on the Forest.

While the criteria for incident complexity will vary by local conditions, a fire that has escaped initial attack and is considered in extended attack when:

- The fire has not been contained by the initial attack resources dispatched to the fire during the first burning period.
- The fire will not have been contained within management objectives established for that zone or area.
- The fire has not been contained within the first operational period and there is no estimate of containment or control.

When complexity levels exceed initial attack capabilities, the appropriate Incident Command System (ICS) positions should be added commensurate with the complexity of

the incident. A unified command structure will be a consideration in all multi-jurisdictional incidents.

The following documents will be completed:

- Complexity Analysis
- Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) – See Appendix H

Type I, Type II, or Type III Incident Management Teams

When a situation is beyond the Forest capabilities, an Incident Management Team is brought in at the request of the Forest Supervisor to manage the incident, generally for an extended duration fire. The type ordered depends on the complexity and severity of the situation. (Chapter 3 of FSH 5109.32a, *Fireline Handbook*, for determining which type of team to order).

The Forest Dispatcher should do the following prior to the arrival of the incoming team:

1. Determine the fire camp location.
2. Order fire camp supplies, as directed by the Logistics Section Chief.
3. Make an ample supply of topographic maps, base maps, etc.
4. Determine transportation needs, if any, of incoming fire teams (from ordering unit mobilization point to fire, and on the fire).
5. Determine line officer briefing time and location.
6. Obtain necessary information for the line officer briefing.
7. Order communication equipment for the fire.

There should be TWO briefings of the incoming fire team. The first briefing should be by the Line Officer at a site away from the fire. The Line Officer briefing should be as soon as possible after the arrival of the team's Incident Commander and Command Staff. It is impossible to list everything a team needs to know; however, as a minimum, the Wildland Fire Situation Analysis and Line Officer Briefing Checklist should be completed.

The second briefing will be done by the local Incident Commander and shall take place when the incoming team arrives at the fire. The incoming team will not assume responsibility for the fire until they are thoroughly briefed and comfortable with the situation. Both Incident Commanders shall determine the exact time for the transfer of command. After the briefing, the team should start phasing into their areas of responsibility, but shall not assume control until the predetermined time.

b. Implementation Plan Requirements – WFSA Development

A Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) is required when,

1. Wildland fire escapes initial action or is expected to exceed initial action.
2. A wildland fire being managed for resource benefits exceeds prescription parameters in the Fire Management Plan.
3. A prescribed fire exceeds its prescription and is declared a wildfire.

A WFSA is a decision making process. Directions for completing a WFSA are clearly outlined in FSM 5131.13 and on page 10-13 of the *"Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations 2004"* (NFES 2724). The WFSA may be developed through use of existing WFSA software. See Appendix H.

c. Complexity Decision Process for Incident Management Transition

The WFSA process, FSM 5109.17 descriptions and a Complexity Analysis will be used to determine incident complexity.

A Type III Incident Commander will manage incidents that reach a Type III complexity level and associated command and general staff positions as appropriate for the incident. Individuals qualified and current at the Section Chief or Unit Leader level are included on the Type III cadre.

An incident complexity analysis is used to document the rationale of the fire management staff and responsible Line Officer in determining whether an extended attack incident is expected to, or has increased in complexity to warrant ordering a Type II or Type I Incident Management Team. A guide for completing a complexity analysis can be found in the publication *“Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations 2004”* (NFES 2724), Appendix 10-4.

The following elements will be completed prior to the arrival of a Type II or Type I Incident Management Team on the unit:

- Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) complete with applicable incident objectives and a selected alternative to guide tactical suppression actions. The Forest Supervisor (or acting) will select the preferred alternative and sign the WFSA.
- Agency Administrator Briefing guide completed.
- Delegation of Authority completed and signed by the Forest Supervisor.

The Forest FMO and Forest Supervisor will conduct a formal briefing covering the above items for the incoming Incident Management Team.

The extended attack Incident Commander will conduct an operations briefing for incoming operations staff onsite at the incident.

d. Example Delegation of Authority to Incident Commander

In all cases, prior to a line officer transferring management of a wildfire to an Incident Commander, other than Initial Attack IC, they will be provided with a letter of “Delegation of Authority”. This letter of authority will be formally rescinded at the close out meeting following completion of the fire assignment.

An example of a delegation of authority letter can be found on the EACC (Eastern Area Coordination Center) web site under forms.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/eacc/library/forms/index.shtml>

5. Exceeding Existing WFIP – Selecting a New Strategy

An existing WFIP may be exceeded when wildland fires cannot be controlled during the initial suppression response action or where the appropriate management response has not been successful. These may also be prescribed fires where the implemented prescribed fire is unsuccessful. The Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) is initiated at this stage.

6. Other Fire Suppression Considerations

Safety

THE ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST IS COMMITTED TO SAFE OPERATIONS IN ALL ACTIVITIES REGARDLESS OF THE RESOURCE FUNCTIONAL AREA. FOR THIS REASON SAFETY WILL BE THE NUMBER ONE FOCUS OF ALL PERSONNEL AT ALL TIMES ON ALL FIRE ACTIVITIES.

Fire management work is one of the most hazardous jobs encountered by Forest Service personnel. The Incident Commander and all supervisors will always put the safety of his/her personnel first. **There is no fire situation so serious that the life of anyone should be risked in order to get to the fire sooner, get the fire out quicker, or to keep the burned areas smaller.**

- All fire personnel shall regularly review and follow the '10 Standard Fire Fighting Orders' and the '18 Watch-Out Situations' and shall practice the principles of "Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones (LCES)." These basics of fire fighting survival will be utilized as a checklist for supervisory personnel on the fire, and as a source for other fire line personnel to pose questions to supervisory personnel whenever they have concerns about their personal safety. The Allegheny National Forest Supervisor will not tolerate any deviation from these basics of firefighting survival.
- Seat belts shall be used at all times while traveling in any vehicle.
- Hardhats, protective clothing, gloves and other protection as appropriate, (e.g. eye protection for chain saw/nozzle work) shall be worn by all firefighters at all times while on the fire line.
- Fire shelters will be carried by all firefighters at all times on all fires.
- Speed limits and other traffic laws will be obeyed at all times.
- Safety rules and standards will be adhered to at all times and emphasized when training personnel.

The Allegheny National Forest will continue to support interagency assignments by providing overhead and firefighters. The forest will continue to work with and develop a cadre of firefighters that could be used to fill out crews. Members of an off-forest crew will be selected based on their desire and ability to participate in an off-Forest assignment. As a minimum, candidates for an off-forest crew must be able and willing to accept and complete a fourteen-day assignment (excluding travel time). Crewmembers may declare themselves to be unavailable for any period of time, for any reason, by informing Allegheny Dispatch of their status. As necessary, Allegheny Dispatch will attempt to find a replacement crewmember from the list of qualified alternates.

C. Wildland Fire Use

The Allegheny National Forest LRMP does not currently authorize the management of naturally ignited wildland fires. If a revised LRMP allows for naturally ignited fires then this section will be filled out with basic information, if not, then it will remain blank.

D. Prescribed Fire

The forest's fuel treatment objective is to develop a cost effective fuel management program through an interagency process resulting in protection and enhancement of area resources. This

objective is supported by a variety of fuel management techniques that result in fuel profiles which incorporate the ecological role of fire in support of programs and direction as contained in the LRMP (1986).

1. Planning and Documentation

a. Annual activities to implement the program

Prescribed burn proposals will be assessed through the NEPA process. The assessment will clearly state the objectives to be achieved by the prescribed burn. Based upon this assessment, a burn plan will be prepared.

The application of prescribed fire as a resource treatment provides the manager with another tool to meet ecosystem-based land management objectives. The decision to use prescribed fire must come from current approved land management documents for the area in which the burn is located. All requirements associated with disturbance project activities including NEPA documentation are required for prescribed burning. A Prescribed Burn Plan will be developed for each project and must include assessments of cost versus benefits and values at risk. Planning will match the complexity level of the project.

b. Long-term prescribed fire strategy

Although occasional prescribed burns have been carried out on the Forest since 1998, the prescribed burn program on the Forest is in its infancy. The long term prescribed fire strategy is to use prescribed fire to maintain a vegetation profile that is consistent with the fire ecology of the fire adapted vegetation types. Prescribed fire will also be used long term to protect values at risk from unplanned wildland fire.

The Forest plans to use prescribed fire for promoting oak regeneration and other woody vegetation, promoting warm season grasses and forbs, maintaining wildlife openings, and reducing fuel loadings where feasible.

c. Personnel necessary

To achieve the desired growth in the prescribed fire program, the Forest will have to have more personnel qualified in prescribed fire positions, particularly Burn Boss qualified personnel. It is the goal of the Allegheny National Forest to recruit, train, and develop employees in prescribed fire and wildland fire suppression, and increase NWCG prescribed fire qualifications for all Forest red-carded personnel. As the prescribed fire program grows, it is anticipated that helicopters may be used for aerial ignition, and will require development and support of helicopter operations on the Forest.

d. Weather, fire behavior, and fire effect monitoring

Weather, fire behavior and prescribed fire effects monitoring are described in project specific NEPA decisions, the vegetation prescription and the individual burn plan.

e. Format for project critiques

All prescribed burns should have a review following the completion of the burn and will be documented in the burn plan. This review will document the effectiveness of the burn relative to the vegetation management objectives and alternative methods. The review will also specifically address safety, cost and other environmental effects. This onsite post-burn debriefing will assess how implementation went each day and any suggestions for improvement. This evaluation is a requirement of each burn plan.

f. Reporting and documentation requirements

- Prescribed burn plan
- Daily situation report to EACC
- WFSA if prescribed burn escapes and is declared a wildfire.

g. Historic fuel treatment map

The Forest does not currently have an historic fuel treatment map on file. Data from past treatments will be gathered and inputted into GIS to generate the historic map. These maps will be maintained in the Fire Management section of the Supervisor's Office.

h. Prescribed fire burn plan format

All burn plans will be written using the required format as directed in the R-9 supplement to FSM 5140.

2. Exceeding Existing Prescribed Fire Burn Plan

Implementation procedures for this process are found in the publication "*Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy, Implementation Procedures Reference Guide, 8/1998.*"

As described in the Fire Suppression section of this Fire Management Plan (sec. IV), the WFSA is initiated if the implementation of a Prescribed Burn Fire Plan is unsuccessful. Develop the WFSA using the elements listed in the Contingency Plan section of the Prescribed Fire Burn Plan. Report escape fires consistent with direction provided in FSM 5140.

3. Air Quality and Smoke Management

a. Air quality issues

Land managers are required by law and policy to limit the emission of air pollutants from prescribed fire and to minimize their impact on society. Prescribed fires are an important source of air pollution where particulates (visibility) and, possibly, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons are a concern. In general, managers must have the ability to predict how much smoke will be created, and where it will go in order to discharge their responsibility.

Use best available smoke management practices to assure that prescribed fires will not result in adverse effects on public health, public safety or visibility. SASEM and FOFEM runs are required as part of each prescribed fire plan.

Minimize the impact of smoke for each prescribed fire by identifying smoke sensitive areas using "best available control measures", monitoring smoke impacts, and following applicable guidance.

(1) Location of Class I Air sheds

There is no Class I air shed in the Allegheny National Forest. The entire forest area is considered a Class II air shed.

(2) Smoke sensitive areas

Smoke sensitive areas are defined as schools, hospitals, nursing homes, major roads such as interstates and major state highways, and communities. Given the interspersed nature of Forest ownership, these areas are found throughout the Forest. Individual Fire Management Units descriptions will define smoke sensitive areas in a general way. Individual implementation plans such as prescribed fire burn plans and WFIPs contain specific smoke receptor information and mitigation measures.

(3) Local and regional smoke management restrictions and procedures

The burn prescription will attempt to eliminate or mitigate adverse impacts from smoke by focusing on factors that determine both the quantity of particulate produced and its transport.

E. Non-fire fuel applications

1. Mechanical Treatment and Other Applications

At the present time, the Allegheny National Forest does not have a sustained mechanical treatment fuels program. Like the prescribed fire program, this program is also in its infancy. One 13-acre mechanical fuels project was completed in FY 2004. This project entailed lopping and scattering of storm damaged vegetation debris 50 feet either side of a heavily traveled township road.

Plans are to increase the number and types of mechanical fuel treatments on the Forest, including the use of lop-and-scatter, piling, pile and burn, and mastication. It is the intent of the Forest to propose these type projects in multi-resource NEPA documents.

F. Emergency Rehabilitation and Restoration

Site-specific burned area rehabilitation plans will be completed as needed.

A Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAER) Team may be requested for project size fires, generally Class E and greater and all other fires where rehabilitation is needed. The purpose of this team is to evaluate the impact of the fire on resources and determine if special funding is needed to rehabilitate the burned area. The team does not evaluate impacts caused by the fire suppression effort. The district or Incident Management Team is required to rehabilitate impacts caused by the suppression effort using fire suppression funds prior to calling the fire out.

SECTION V: Organizational and Budgetary Parameters

A. Current fiscal year budget and the ability to support planned and unplanned actions

WFPR

The initial WFPR operating budget allocation for fiscal year 2004 was \$390,000. An additional \$72,000 was contributed to cost pool accounts. The \$390,000 represented a 40 percent increase over funding levels in recent fiscal years. With this budget increase, and the ever increasing demand to comply with a variety of National and Regional initiatives, the Allegheny advertised for, and filled, a permanent, full-time Forest Fire Management Officer (FFMO) position. Major duties of the FFMO were to move the forest toward full compliance with the National Fire Plan and Thirty-Mile Hazard Abatement Plan; strengthen existing relationships with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and State and Private; develop and manage a training program in compliance with FSH 5109.17 for employees interested in participating in the Incident Command System; develop a hazardous fuels treatment program in concert with the Healthy Forests Initiative and Healthy Forests Restoration Act; develop a meaningful fire prevention program; represent wildfire suppression and hazardous fuels program needs in the Forest Plan Revision process; update Fire Management and Aviation Plans; and, develop and write operating guides for the forest.

In February 2004, the final operating budget allocation was reduced to \$233,000, in line with what the forest received in the two previous fiscal years. Cost pools remained at \$72,000. The budget reduction from the initial to final budget allocation did not have a negative affect on "spring fire staffing needs". However, for the remainder of the year planned fire training was cancelled, needed cache supplies and support materials were not purchased, a new GOES weather station purchased in fiscal year 2003 was not installed, and the number of days key fire personnel were financed was reduced significantly. The net result was that the intentions of the Forest to improve and comply with National and Regional initiatives related to fire programs would not be met.

A Regional Office Preparedness Review of the Allegheny was conducted in June 2004. The Review Team recognized and commended the forest for being proactive in filling a full-time FFMO position. However, the Review Team also recognized the difficulties in moving forward with a fire program given the WFPR budget situation. The Forest responded by requesting supplemental funds in the amount of \$70,000 from the Regional Office. The requested funds were approved on August 3rd. At this time, the Forest is working to reschedule some critical training, purchase cache and support supplies and materials, and work on needed 'operations guides' for the forest.

WFHF

The initial forest target in WFHF was 38 acres of prescribed burning with an operating budget of \$32,000 and cost pool contributions totaling \$12,000. This amount was to fund NEPA preparation, purchase prescribed fire equipment, send personnel to the Prescribed Fire Training Center, maintain the NFPORS database, and execute the prescribed burns. Because the Allegheny had no qualified RXB2 personnel, the forest had to recruit qualified RXB2 detailers to oversee the prescribed burns.

The acreage target was increased to 127 acres in the final budget package and the program operating budget increased to \$66,000. This resulted in the immediate need to identify areas for prescribed burning and/or mechanical treatment of fuels and complete NEPA in an accelerated fashion.

The Allegheny completed one prescribed burn for the benefit of warm season grasses and wildlife habitat improvement and fuels reduction totaling 115 acres. A second prescribed burn, totaling 39 acres, for the betterment of oak regeneration was not completed due to the onset of a prolonged wet

period prior to spring green-up. A 13 acre fuels reduction, mechanical treatment, roadside lop and scatter, was substituted for the oak regeneration burn in order to meet target acres.

5100-2's for MEL and current year funding are found in Appendix A and B.

B. Organization chart supported by the current fiscal year budget

A CY 2000 review of the Allegheny's 1997 NFMAS analysis determined that the analysis was not calibrated. Due to the low fire occurrence and low fire severity it was decided that the Allegheny National Forest would have an administratively determined MEL budget. This process is on-going to meet the ever-changing requirements of fire management and the future needs under the Fire Program Analysis (FPA).

With the exception of the Forest FMO, the Allegheny National Forest has no other exclusively fire funded positions. The Forest AFMO is also the Forest Safety and Health Officer and is funded 60% out of the fire budgets. Two collateral duty District FMO's are funded approximately 20% each out of fire budgets. The forest continues to request additional funding to cover the cost of a full time dispatcher.

Organization Chart

FOREST UNIT	ORGANIZATION	NUMBER	REMARKS
Supervisor's Office	Forest Dispatcher	1	Currently an unfunded position
	Militia Firefighters	10	
	FMO	1	
	Fire Staff	1	
	AFMO	1	
Bradford District	DFMO	1	25% funded
	Militia Firefighters	9	
Marienville District	DFMO	1	20% funded
	Militia Firefighters	15	

C. Cooperative agreements and interagency contacts

A Cooperative Agreement will be maintained with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that defines prevention, training, detection and suppression actions.

D. Equipment rental agreements

No agreements exist at the present time.

E. Contract suppression and prescribed fire resources

No agreements exist at the present time.

SECTION VI: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

A. Annual monitoring requirements

Chapter 5 of the LRMP lists and describes the monitoring requirements.

Monitoring requirements for prescribed burns are found in R9 supplement to FSM 5142.2.

B. Reporting requirements

Individual Fire Reports (5100-29)

Individual fire reports are the record of an incident occurring on National Forest lands. All wildland fires will be reported on form FS-5100-29 by the Incident Commander within 10 days of the fire being declared out (FSM 5182.1). Fire reports should be complete and accurate prior to submission to the Forest AFMO. Each FS-5100-29 must have a shape file attached to it created by a GPS unit. Other required attachments are the Incident Organizer, Complexity Analysis, unit logs of field units (especially the IC), dispatch logs, any photos taken, and any other pertinent incident documentation.

Fire Situation Reports

The Fire Situation Reports required by the Regional Office and sent to the Eastern Area Coordination Center (EACC) will be the responsibility of the Forest FMO or Forest AFMO in consultation with District FMO's. Copies of the reports will be sent to the Staff Officer and Forest Supervisor, as situations warrant.

Potential Assessment Reports

The Potential Assessment reports required by the Regional Office are due at EACC by the 27th of each month from February to October.

Annual Fire Reports

The Annual Fire Report required by the Regional Office will be the responsibility of the Forest FMO and will be processed by January 15. The Annual Fire Report will contain a summary of all Fire and Aviation Management activities, including fire training, and other required statistics and information. It will serve as the Forest Plan Monitoring document and, as such, will have District, Forest and Regional distribution.

Fuel Treatment

All planned activities and accomplishments will be reported through the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS).

All prescribed fires will be reported daily in the National Situation Report (SIT).

The Forest completes the following reporting requirements:

MAR FP- FFPC

Fire Fighting Production Capability (FFPC) at the annual budget.

MAR FP-FUELS-APP

Acres of hazardous fuels treated by prescribed fire and mechanical treatment.

SECTION VII. Appendix

Appendix A FS 5100-2 Current Funding

08-24-2004 5100-2 Allegheny National Forest (PA19)
 File: C:\fsapps\fam\mfmas\rr5100-2\ALF1

FIRE SEASON: 01/02/2004-01/01/2004 (365 days, 100% of Year). DOLLAR YEAR: 2004. REPORT FOR FY: 2004
 DETAIL: Lineltem

PROGRAM OPTION m06, ALL FUNDING SOURCES

FINANCIAL REPORT

Description	Dist	Contracts	Equip	Grants	Misc	Personnel	Comm,rent	Supplies	Trvl/Trg	Total

ENG7: Engine Company Type 7										
WL190101 Engine 03			851		2,773			1,064		4,688
WL190201 Engine 02			851		7,582			1,596		10,029
WL190202 Engine 02			532		3,188			1,596		5,316
WL190302 Engine 03			3,113		8,815					11,928
WL190402 Engin 3 O4			851		7,572					8,423
WLFS401 Engine 2 O4			2,661		16,109			1,064		19,834
WMFS202 Engin 3 02			1,596		30,393			1,596		33,585
WMFS301 Engine 3 03			6,386		30,547			1,596		38,529
WMFS302 Engin 3 03			6,386		29,694			1,064		37,144
ENGP: Engine Brush Patrol										
WO190202 Pickup 02			745		22,689					23,434
WO190301 Pickup 03					14,480					14,480
WO190401 Pickup O4					19,070					19,070
FBOT2: Fire Boat, Type 2										
WB190301 Boat 3 03					4,096			532		4,628
FCACH: Fire Cache										
ASU1900 Cache su 00					1,047			9,579		10,626
ASU1902 Cache Su 02					473			9,579		10,052
ASU1903 Cache Su 03					451			9,579		10,030
FECO: Fire Ecologist										
ZFECO Zone Fire 00					7,146					7,146
FMO: Fire Management Officer										
ADFMO1902 Distri 02					2,692			1,064		3,756
ADFMO1903 Distri 03					2,912			1,064		3,976
FSTF: Fire Staff										
WCTEST Work Capa 00					29,112			2,129		31,241
HC3P: Handcrew 3 Person										
CC190101 Crew 3 03					756			1,596		2,352
CC190201 Crew 3 02					949			1,596		2,545
CC190401 Crew 3 O4					949					949
IDP1: Cost Pool, General Mgt										
AIBM1900 IBM Sup 00				5,694	5,322					11,016
AOFS1900 Off For 00			851					10,643		11,494
PREV: Prevention Technician										
APREV1900 Preven 00					2,629			3,832		6,461
WESC: Weather Service Support										
AWS1902 Weather 02				3,193	1,279			745	1,064	7,345
Sub-Total PJ		6,918	53,560	0	8,887	289,154	0	43,425	36,767	438,711
RP: Facilities										
CORD: Coordination, Dispatch Center										
ZNDISP dispatch 00										12,772
Sub-Total RP		12,772	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12,772

Report Totals:		19,690	55,955	0	86,096	362,245	18,839	43,691	45,867	632,383

Allegheny National Forest Fire Management Plan 2004

08-24-2004 5100-2 Allegheny National Forest (PA19)
 File: C:\fsapps\fam\mfmas\rr5100-2\ALF11

FIRE SEASON: 01/02/2004-01/01/2004 (365 days, 100% of Year). DOLLAR YEAR: 2004. REPORT FOR FY: 2004
 DETAIL: Lineltem

F F P C R E P O R T (Option m06)

LineID	Description	Days	Forest	Coop
CC190101	Crew 3 Person	62	2.55	
CC190201	Crew 3 Person.....	62	2.55	
CC190401	Crew 3 Person	62	2.55	
DM190201	Dozer Med.....	62	3.40	
OPPUMP01	Off Forest Pumper 01.....	0	0.00	
OPPUMP02	Off Forest Pumper 02.....	.0	0.00	
WB190301	Boat 3 Person Crew.....	93	2.55	
WL190101	Engine 2 Person Crew.....	93	3.82	
WL190201	Engine 3 Person Crew.....	93	3.82	
WL190202	Engine 3 Person Crew.....	93	3.82	
WL190302	Engine 3 Person Crew.....	93	3.82	
WL190402	Engin 3 Person Crew.....	93	3.82	
WLFS401	Engine 2 Person.....	93	3.82	
WMFS202	Engin 3 Person.....	93	7.64	
WMFS301	Engine 3 Person.....	93	7.64	
WMFS302	Engin 3 Person.....	93	7.64	
WO190202	Pickup 3 Person Crew.....	93	2.55	
WO190301	Pickup 2 Person Crew.....	93	2.55	
WO190401	Pickup 2 Person Crew.....	93	2.55	
Fire Season (365 days) Totals.....		67.09	0.00	

Appendix B FS 5100-2 Most Efficient Level (MEL)

08-24-2004 5100-2 Allegheny National Forest (PA19)
 File: C:\fsapps\fam\mfmas\rr5100-2\ALF1

FIRE SEASON: 01/02/2004-01/01/2004 (365 days, 100% of Year). DOLLAR YEAR: 2004. REPORT FOR FY: 2004 DETAIL:
 Lineltem

PROGRAM OPTION m06 FY06 @mel, ALL FUNDING SOURCES

FINANCIAL REPORT

Description	Dist	Contracts	Equip	Grants	Misc	Personnel	Comm,rent	Supplies	Trvl/Trg	Total

IDP1: CP General Mgt										
IDP1: Cost Pool, General Mgt										
ADB1900 Database 00					10,689	2,991				13,680
FIRECOSTPOOL For 00					58,538					58,538
LAWS: Law Enforcement										
ALE1900 Law Enfo 00			266			2,161			319	2,746
Sub-Total IDP1	0		266	0	69,227	5,152	0	0	319	74,964
IDP2: CP Plan & Analysis										
IDP2: Cost Pool, Strategic Plan										
AGIS1900 GIS Sup 00						4,225		106		4,331
Sub-Total IDP2	0		0	0	0	4,225	0	106	0	4,331
IDP4: Ongoing Bus Mgmt										
IDP4: Ongoing Business Mgt										
A2T1900 Admin Su 00						4,257				4,257
AADP1900 WCF-ADP 00					7,450					7,450
ACL1900 Clerical 00						1,163		160		1,323
ADG1900 DG/IBM M 00					532					532
Sub-Total IDP4	0		0	0	7,982	5,420	0	160	0	13,562
IDP5: Fiscal Plan & Mgmt										
RENT: Rent										
ART1900 SO Rent- 00							6,024			6,024
UTIL: Utilities										
AUT1900 Utilitie 00							9,941			9,941
Sub-Total IDP5	0		0	0	0	0	15,965	0	0	15,965
IDP7: Unemployment										
UNEMP: Unemployment										
AUNEMP1900 Unemp 00							2,874			2,874
Sub-Total IDP7	0		0	0	0	0	2,874	0	0	2,874
MC: Ecosystem Mgmt										
LMP: Land Management Planning										
AFP1900 Forest P 00			2,129			15,965			1,863	19,957
Sub-Total MC	0		2,129	0	0	15,965	0	0	1,863	19,957
PA: Program Leadership										
FMO: Fire Management Officer										
AFMO1900 FMO---- 00						15,982			1,596	17,578
FMOA: Fire Mgmt. Officer Assistant										
AFMO1900A Assita 00						6,240			3,193	9,433
FPLR: Fire Planner										
ZFPLAN Zone Fir 00						20,107			2,129	22,236
Sub-Total PA	0		0	0	0	42,329	0	0	6,918	49,247
PJ: Production										
AVO: Aviation Officer										
ZFAVO Zone Avia 00						2,032			1,596	3,628
BDZR2: Bulldozer Type 2										
DM190201 Dozer M 02			2,661			498				3,159
CORD: Coordination, Dispatch Center										
ADIS1902 Forest 02			2,129			3,199			798	6,126

Allegheny National Forest Fire Management Plan 2004

ADIS1902A Assita 02	1,322		532	1,854
ADIS1903 Distric 03	336			336
DTECT: Detection, Aerial				
ADET1900 Aerial 3,193	915			4,108
ENG6: Engine Company Type 6				
OPPSUPPORT off f 26,608	4,257	5,322	1,916	38,103
OPPUMP01 Off For 03	11,935	1,064	2,661	15,660
OPPUMP02 Off For 02	11,935	1,064	2,661	15,660

Appendix C Staffing Guide

Marienville Ranger District – Prevention

Staffing and Specific Action Preparedness Guide	Activity	Forest	District				Fuel Model	Year
	Prevention	Allegheny	Marienville				E	2004
Action	Established Season	Spring				Fall		Planned Fire Days
		March 17 to May 19				Oct 6 to Oct 31		
Prevention Patrol	Burning Index (BI)	4-8	9-17	18-29 Low-High	30-35 High	36-43 V-H	44+ Ext	
	Staffing Class	Low	Mod	High	V-H	Ext		
Personnel and Equipment	Average # of Days	19	14	22	9	5	2	
Pickup & hand tools (Marienville) 1300-1700		0	0	0	0	1	1	7
Pickup & hand tools (Marienville) 1300-1700		0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Pickup & hand tools (Ridgeway) 1300-1700		0	0	0	0	1	1	7
Pickup & hand tools (Ridgeway) 1300-1700		0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Planned staffing days								18

Marienville Ranger District – Initial Attack

Staffing and Specific Action Preparedness Guide	Activity <i>Initial Attack</i>	Forest <i>Allegheny</i>	District <i>Marienville</i>				Fuel Model <i>E</i>	Year <i>2004</i>
Action	Initial Attack	Established Season	Spring March 17 to May 19			Fall Oct 6 to Oct 31		Planned Fire Days
		Burning Index (BI)	4-8	9-17	18-29 Low-High	30-35 High	36-43 V-H	
Personnel and Equipment	Average # of Days	19	14	22	9	5	2	
Forest Dispatcher – Marienville Office					1	1	1	16
200 gal S.O.T. Unit, 4x4, ¾ ton, Tornado Swath: Kelletville-Tionesta		0	0	0	3	3	3	48
125 gal S.O.T. Unit, 4x2, ¾ ton, Seldom Seen – Beaver Meadows		0	0	0	0	3	3	21
D6 Dozer with operator, stand by, within ½ hour of Starr		0	0	0	0	0	1	2
100 gal S.O.T. Unit, 4x4, ¾ ton, Ridgeway Office		0	0	0	3	3	3	48
Standby fire crew w/chainsaws, hand tools, and 4x2 ½ ton truck, Ridgeway Office		0	0	0	0	3	3	21
Assistant Ranger		0	0	0	0	1	1	7
District Ranger		0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Planned staffing days								165

Bradford Ranger District – Prevention

Staffing and Specific Action Preparedness Guide	Activity	Forest	District				Fuel Model	Year
	Prevention	Allegheny	Bradford				E	2004
Action	Prevention Patrol	Established Season	Spring March 17 to May 19			Fall Oct 6 to Oct 31		Planned Fire Days
		Burning Index (BI)	4-8	9-17	18-29 Low-High	30-35 High	36-43 V-H	
Personnel and Equipment	Average # of Days	19	14	22	9	5	2	
Pickup & hand tools 1300-1700 Patrolling N ½ of District		0	0	0	0	1	0	5
Pickup & hand tools 1300-1700 Patrolling S ½ of District		0	0	0	0	1	0	5
Pickup & hand tools 1300-1700 Patrolling N ½ of District		0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Pickup & hand tools 1300-1700 Patrolling S ½ of District		0	0	0	0	0	2	4
Planned staffing days								16

Bradford Ranger District – Initial Attack

Staffing and Specific Action Preparedness Guide	Activity	Forest	District				Fuel Model		Year
	<i>Initial Attack</i>	<i>Allegheny</i>	<i>Bradford</i>				<i>E</i>		<i>2004</i>
Action		Established Season	Spring			Fall			Planned Fire Days
Initial Attack		Burning Index (BI)	4-8	9-17	18-29 Low-High	30-35 High	36-43 V-H	44+ Ext	
		Staffing Class	Low	Mod	High	V-H	Ext		
Personnel and Equipment	Average # of Days	19	14	22	9	5	2		
125 gal S.O.T. Unit, 4x4 ¾ ton, Truck #129, Marshburg Station		0	0	0	3	0	0	27	
125 gal S.O.T. Unit, 4x4 ¾ ton, Truck #129, Marshburg Station, Patrol N ½ District		0	0	0	0	3	3	21	
Boat, Mark III and hand tools - Marina		0	0	0	0	3	3	21	
4x2 PU with hand tools at Meade Run		0	0	0	0	0	2	4	
200 gal S.O.T. Unit, 4x4 1 ton, Truck #91, at Sheffield Station		0	0	0	3	0	0	27	
200 gal S.O.T. Unit, 4x4 1 ton, Truck #91, at Sheffield Station, Patrol S ½ District		0	0	0	0	3	3	21	
District FMO		0	0	0	0	1	1	7	
District Ranger		0	0	0	0	0	1	2	
Dozer and Operator on alert		0	0	0	0	0	1	2	
Planned staffing days								132	

Warren Office – Initial Attack

Staffing and Specific Action Preparedness Guide	Activity	Forest	District				Fuel Model		Year
	<i>Initial Attack</i>	<i>Allegheny</i>	<i>Bradford</i>				<i>E</i>		<i>2004</i>
<u>Action</u>	Established Season	Spring				Fall			Planned Fire Days
		March 17 to May 19				Oct 6 to Oct 31			
Initial Attack	Burning Index (BI)	4-8	9-17	18-29 Low-High	30-35	36-43	44+	7	
	Staffing Class	Low	Mod	High	V-H	Ext			
Personnel and Equipment	Average # of Days	19	14	22	9	5	2	7	
Fire Staff or Fire Resource Specialist		0	0	0	3	5	2	7	
							Planned staffing days	7	

Warren Office – Detection

Staffing and Specific Action Preparedness Guide	Activity	Forest	District				Fuel Model		Year
	<i>Detection</i>	<i>Allegheny</i>	<i>Bradford</i>				<i>E</i>		<i>2004</i>
<u>Action</u>	Established Season	Spring				Fall			Planned Fire Days
		March 17 to May 19				Oct 6 to Oct 31			
Detection	Burning Index (BI)	4-8	9-17	18-29 Low-High	30-35	36-43	44+	7	
	Staffing Class	Low	Mod	High	V-H	Ext			
Personnel and Equipment	Average # of Days	19	14	22	9	5	2	7	
1. Flight – 1430 – 1600 hours EST		0	0	0	1	0	0	9	
2. Flight – 1330 – 1500 and 1530 - 1700hours EST		0	0	0	0	1	1	7	
*State of Pennsylvania, Bureau of Forestry, provides approved contracted aircraft for detection over the Allegheny National Forest.		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
							Planned staffing days	16	

C. Appendix D Source List of Job Aids

Job Aids may be obtained from the web site, <http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/resources/jobaids.htm> or by ordering from the National Fire Equipment System Catalog, Part 2, Publications.

Appendix E Implementation Plan Formats

Prescribed fire burn plan format is found in FSM 5140, R9 supplement 5140-2002-4.

Appendix F Cooperative Agreements

Cooperative agreements are maintained and located in the Forest Fire Management Office.

Appendix G Fuels Allocation Process

Fuels management projects are prioritized by the following criteria:

1. Benefit to wildland urban interface.
2. Fire regime and condition class restoration.
3. Ecosystem restoration.
4. Cost Benefit

Appendix H WFSA Format

The Wildland Fire Situation Analysis computer program can be downloaded from the following web site:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/wfsa>

Appendix I FS-5100-29 Individual Fire Report

USDA Forest Service

FS-51100-29
(Version 1998)

1. Fire Name					2. Local Fire Number (Local use only)												
3. Location			4. Township		Range		Section		Sub-section		Principal Meridian						
IDENTIFICATION																	
5. Region		6. Forest		7. District		8. Fire Number		9. Protecting Agency at Origin			10. Ownership at Origin		11. State at Origin		12. County at Origin		13. Fire Mgnt Zone
OCCURRENCE																	
14. Point of Origin					15. Time of Ignition					16. Time of Discovery							
Latitude			Longitude			Mo.	Day	Year		HHMM		Mo.	Day	Year		HHMM	
17. Detection Method				18. Statistical Cause			19. General Cause			20. Specific Cause			21. Class of People				
ACTION																	
22. Initial Strategy:		<input type="checkbox"/> Suppression		<input type="checkbox"/> Wildland fire used for resource benefits.		23. Escaped Fire:		<input type="checkbox"/>									
24. Time of Initial Action					25. Time Final Suppression Strategy Attained					26. Time Fire Out							
Mo.	Day	Year		HHMM		Mo.	Day	Year		HHMM		Mo.	Day	Year		HHMM	
27. Forces Used:		Resource Type	Agency Group (F or C)	Quantity		Resource Type	Agency Group (F or C)	Quantity		Resource Type	Agency Group (F or C)	Quantity					
Up to Time of		/	/	/		/	/	/		/	/	/					
Attainment of		/	/	/		/	/	/		/	/	/					
Initial Strategy		/	/	/		/	/	/		/	/	/					
or Escape		/	/	/		/	/	/		/	/	/					
DESCRIPTION																	
28. Estimated FS FFF Cost (whole dollars)			29. FS Acres (All Forests)		30. Non-FS Acres Protected by FS		31. Non-FS Acres Not Prot by FS		Total Acres		32. Acres Managed for Resource Benefit						
33. FMZ NVC/ Acre (\$)		34. Fire Intensity Level		35. Rep Weather Station		36. NFDRS Fuel Model		37. Cover Class		38. Slope Pct		39. Aspect		40. Elevation (feet)			
OPTIONS																	
41. Special Codes		/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/					
42. Remarks																	
43. Submitted by:				44. Date				45. Approved by:				46. Date					
SUPPLEMENT FOR LARGE FIRE ACRES BURNED																	
47. Prot Agency	48. FS Unit		49. Land Ownership		50. Acres		47. Prot Agency	48. FS Unit		49. Land Ownership		50. Acres					
/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/					
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Appendix J List of Qualified Personnel

Qualifications are maintained in the Incident Qualification and Certification System database (IQCS) and are on file in the Forest Fire Management Office.

Appendix K Equipment Rental Agreements

At the present time the forest does not have any Equipment Rental Agreements. If agreements are entered into in the future they will be maintained and kept on file in the Forest Fire Management Office.

Appendix L Contracts, Suppression & Rx Resources

None exist at the present time.

Appendix M Contract Operator Fire Plans

Standard timber sale contract and special use permit clauses regarding fire protection and responsibility of timber sale purchasers and special use permittees are followed.

Appendix N Other Plans

The following plans are maintained and located in the Forest Fire Management Office.

- Forest Aviation Plan
- Forest Operating Plan (under development)
- National Weather Service Operations Plan
- Forest Prevention Plan (under development)

Appendix O National/Regional Direction

- Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy, Implementation Procedures and Reference Guide, August 1998.
- Federal Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review, January 2001.
- Protecting People and Sustaining Resources in Fire-Adapted Ecosystems, A Cohesive Strategy, October 2000.
- A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment, 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy, August 2001.
- Land and Resource Management Plan, 1986, Allegheny National Forest.
- Forest Service Manual (FSM) 5100.
- Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 5109.19.
- Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations 2004.
- Fireline Handbook, March 2004.
- Allegheny National Forest, 1997 NFMAS Analysis.