APPENDIX C – FIRE USE

CONTENTS

SAFETY FIRST—NO EXCEPTIONS

INTRODUCTION

Fire use is the use of wildland fire to achieve resource benefits irrespective of whether the ignition source is planned (prescribed fire) or unplanned (wildland fire use). The management decision to manage a planned or unplanned ignition for resource benefits is documented in an approved Fire Management Plan. The operational management of that fire is directed by a Prescribed Fire Plan (prescribed fire) or Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (wildland fire use). Successful implementation of either a Prescribed Fire or Wildland Fire Implementation Plan is dependent of the appropriate use and organization of fire use and other ICS skill positions.

FIRE USE SKILL POSITIONS

Fire use skill positions are needed for successful use of wildland fire to achieve land management objectives. They require a level of specific skill and knowledge. Personnel shall be assigned only to positions in which they are certified. The following is a listing of all National Interagency Incident Management System fire use skill positions:

Ignition Specialist

An Ignition Specialist is responsible for supervising and direction ground and/or aerial ignition operations according to establish standards in the prescribed fire plan.

- Review the burn plan and burn unit prior to implementation.

- Conduct pre-burn readiness assessment and briefing.

- Instruct crew on ignition operations.

- Conduct ignition operations in a safe manner.

- Complete test fire according to ignition plan.

- Ignite project area according to ignition plan.

- Identify impacts of ignition on control and desired fire effects.

Prescribed Fire Burn Boss

A Prescribed Fire Burn Boss is responsible to the agency administrator or Prescribed Fire Manager for implementing a prescribed fire plan.

- Review prescribed fire plan prior to implementation and ensures plan requirements are met.

- Act as liaison/coordinator between interdisciplinary managers and specialists.

- Recon the site.

- Obtain weather forecast, updates, and advisories from a meteorologist.

- Make go/no-go decision.

- Conduct the personnel/safety briefing to ensure a safe operation.

- Conduct the test burn.

- Supervise assigned personnel.

- Direct the ignition, holding, and monitoring operation.

- Declare the prescribed fire out.

- Determine when the prescribed fire exceeds prescription parameters or burn objectives.

- Evaluate and document objective accomplishment, operational procedures, assigned personnel, and costs.

- Ensure reports are completed.

Prescribed Fire Manager

A Prescribed Fire Manager is responsible for the implementation and coordination of assigned prescribed fire activities. A Prescribed Fire Manager may be assigned during periods when multiple simultaneous prescribed fires are being conducted, multiple prescribed fires will be conducted within a short time frame, or there is a complex interagency involvement.

- Obtain briefings from ordering official and/or prior Prescribed Fire Manager.

- Review prescribed fire plans prior to implementation and assess situation.

- Act as liaison/coordinator between the Prescribed Fire Burn Bosses, other offices, agencies, air quality authorities, news media, transportation agencies, and safety officials.

- Obtain and interpret long-term weather information.

- Conduct strategy meetings and/or briefings as needed.

- Set priorities for allocation of resources.

- Brief Prescribed Fire Burn Bosses and direct operational assignments according to agency specific policies and standards identified in prescribed fire plans.

- Monitor prescribed fire operations.

- Ensure all operations are conducted in a safe manner and in accordance with the prescribed fire plans.

- Ensure the completion of all required documentation including the evaluation and documentation of accomplishments, immediate fire behavior and fire effects, operational procedures and costs summaries.

Fire Effects Monitor

The Fire Effects Monitor is responsible for collecting the on site weather, fire behavior, and fire effects information needed to assess whether the fire is achieving established resource management objectives.

- Review the monitoring plan prior to implementation.

- Monitor, obtain, and record weather data.

- Monitor and record fire behavior data throughout the fire management operation.

- Recon the burn unit/area assigned.

- Plot the burn area and perimeter on a map.

- Monitor and record smoke management information.

- Monitor first order fire effects.

- Collect and record environmental data.

- Provide monitoring summary of the fire.

Long Term Fire Analyst

A Long Term Fire Analyst is responsible for acquisition and analysis of environmental and fire behavior information to develop recommendations and issue forecasts with short and long-range projections.

- Obtain briefing from supervisor.

- Coordinate weather data collection systems and resources, including Incident Meteorologist, Weather Observers, and Fire Effects Monitors.

- Acquire, manipulate, and interpret historical weather data.

- Collect, review, and compile fire history, fuel data and information about topography and fire barriers.

- Participate in planning meetings.

- Evaluates, display, and interpret the risks and uncertainty that a fire will reach a point of concern or cause critical events.

- Support fire use decision-making and fire use implementation actions for strategic planning and implementation plan development.

- Use the "Rare Event Risk Assessment Process" (RERAP) for long range fire planning and interpret the results.

- Input data into FARSITE (Fire Area Growth Simulator), run the fire growth model, and interpret and refine the results.

- Develop and prepare written tactical fire behavior forecasts.

- Attend operational briefings and provide site-specific fire behavior predictions, as requested.

- Establish weather security watch and monitor actual fire behavior to validate predictions, documents fire behavior, and anticipates potential safety problems.

- Inform personnel of changes in predicted conditions.

Fire Use Manager

A Fire Use Manager is responsible for incident activities involving managing wildland fires use to achieve resource management objectives including developing and implementing strategic plans and allocating resources.

- Prepare the initial Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP); evaluate an existing WFIP to determine if agency policy and identified resource objectives can be met through operations plan implementation, and/or make necessary revisions/amendments to a WFIP.

- Complete Initial Fire Assessment (WFIP Stage I).

- Obtain weather forecasts, updates and special advisories.

- Direct implementation of a Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP Stage II and III).

- Ensure that all required documentation including periodic fire assessment, is completed, maintained and properly filed.

- Evaluate the impacts of multiple fires (including wildland and prescribed) on natural resources, local economy, social demographics, political institutions and local unit management capability and advise agency administrator.

- Anticipate and evaluate impacts resulting from smoke.

- Provide information to agency administrator for periodic assessment of the WFIP decision.

- Monitor implementation costs and make the appropriate notifications.

- Identify appropriate measures to coordinate the termination of fire(s) if smoke, resource, and/or fire management objectives are not being met.

- Coordinate the declaration of the fire(s) out per agency policy unless dictated by season-ending event later in the year.

- Ensure rehabilitation actions are planned/accomplished in accordance with operations plans.

ORGANIZATION CHARTS

Prescribed Fire

Prescribed Fire Manager

─ Prescribed Fire Burn Boss
    ─ Ignition Specialist
    ─ Fire Effects Monitor
    ─ Appropriate ICS Resources

Wildland Fire Use

Fire Use Manager

─ Long Term Fire Analyst
─ Fire Effects Monitor
─ Appropriate ICS Resources

NWCG PRESCRIBED FIRE
GO/NO-GO CHECKLIST

Yes	No	Questions
		Are ALL fire prescription elements met?
		Are ALL smoke management specifications met?
		Has ALL required current and projected fire weather forecast been obtained and are they favorable?
		Are ALL planned operations personnel and equipment on-site, available, and operational?
		Has the availability of ALL contingency resources been checked, and are they available?
		Have ALL personnel been briefed on the project objectives, their assignment, safety hazards, escape routes, and safety zones?
		Have all the pre-burn considerations identified in the prescribed fire plan been completed or addressed?
		Have ALL the required notifications been made?
		Are ALL permits and clearances obtained?
		In your opinion, can the burn be carried out according to the prescribed fire plan and will it meet the planned objective?

If all the questions were answered "YES" proceed with a test fire. Document the current conditions, location, and results.