



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

JAN 18 2001

Mr. Mike Dombeck
Chief
USDA Forest
2014th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mike:

I have received the Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy. I concur with the recommendations of the Review Report, and specifically concur with the 2001 Federal Fire Policy and the Implementation Actions.

Begin implementation of the 2001 Federal Fire Policy by taking the following actions as soon as feasible:

1. Update manuals, directives, handbooks, and other appropriate documents to reflect the 2001 Federal Fire Policy.
2. Take appropriate and timely steps to address the Implementation Actions, especially the completion of appropriate fire management plans.
3. Work with other departments and agencies to include them in the full range of policy, planning, and operation aspects of fire management programs, as appropriate and consistent with their programs and activities.
4. Work with state, tribal and other non-Federal organizations to implement the 2001 Federal Fire Policy on an intergovernmental basis.

A key finding of the Review Report was that the 1995 Policy was generally sound but that its implementation was incomplete, particularly in the quality of planning and in interagency and interdisciplinary matters. Oversight and leadership at senior levels is critical for successful implementation of the 2001 Policy.

The Review Report recommends establishing an interagency mechanism for coordinated interagency and interdisciplinary oversight of implementation of the 2001 Federal Fire Policy.

Mr. Mike Dombek

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Consistent with this recommendation, you are directed to work with your counterpart agencies in the Department of the Interior to develop such an oversight mechanism. The Secretary of the Interior is sending a similar letter to agency heads in that Department.

Sincerely,



DAN GLICKMAN
Secretary