



National Interagency Fuels Coordination Group Charter

I. BACKGROUND

The National Interagency Fuels Coordination Group is established under the guidance and direction of the Fire Directors of the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service; the Chief of the Forest Service, and the Directors of the afore named Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureaus and the Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The group is established to provide leadership and coordination in uniting the Departments' resources and fire management programs under a common purpose for reducing risks to communities while improving and maintaining ecosystem health.

III. PURPOSE

To assist and provide guidance in the development and implementation of an effective, interagency fuels management program to address risks from severe fires in wildland urban interface communities and to restore healthy ecological systems in other wildland areas.

III. OPERATING STANDARDS

The following concepts are based on the interests and needs of all stakeholders and are identified as fundamental to the success of this group.

- Provide leadership and guidance for the fuels management program.
- Facilitate a collaborative approach at the local, state, Tribal, and national level.
- Emphasize comprehensive fuels, vegetation, and wildland fire management programs that achieve protection of community assets and infrastructures at risk while enhancing and maintaining plant communities and habitats critical for endangered, threatened or sensitive plant and animal species at a landscape scale.
- Establish uniform, consistent, and cost-effective planning, documentation, and reporting processes in implementing a program that will fold into the Government Performance and Results Act process.
- Collaborate with procurement specialists to effectively use contracts to accomplish fuels management goals.
- Encourage the development of projects that will utilize small-diameter, woody materials.

IV. OBJECTIVES

- Establish and maintain criteria to set national priorities to direct the fuels treatment program.
- Develop strategies that safely and effectively mitigate threats to communities and resource values while maintaining the sustainability of these areas.
- Expand and improve the standards for, and coordination of, the hazardous fuels management program among the five agencies to reduce severe wildland fires and to protect communities and the environment.
- Incorporate public health and environmental quality considerations in hazardous fuels management program standards.

- Identify impediments to successful accomplishment of fuels treatment program components. Work to resolve the impediments on a national scale. These efforts will focus on ensuring timely decisions, greater efficiency, and better results.
- Maintain records of current budget year fuels accomplishments and out year planning status.
- Provide timely budget information required for the President's Budget, budget estimates and budget requests and respond to the Office of Management and Budget, DOI, USDA, and Congressional inquiries.
- Support research and development of effective fuels treatment strategies and methods.
- Utilize research results to support the reduction of hazardous fuels in wildland urban interface communities and environments.
- Provide advice, counsel, and recommendations for resolution on prescribed fire and fuels related issues.
- Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas relating to the issues and develop long and short-range initiatives; recommend priorities to the five Fire Directors, the DOI Wildland Fire Coordinator, and the USDA Forest Service NFP Coordinator.
- Provide input for development of a national interagency database of all fuels and community mitigation projects.

V. MEMBERSHIP

Primary members will include the National Fuels Management Program Leader from each of the following: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and USDA Forest Service. Advisors will include resource management specialists from the five agencies and pertinent subject matter experts.

VI. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Chair. The responsibilities of the Chair are to:

- Maintain communication and coordination with the five Fire Directors, the DOI Wildland Fire Coordinator, the USDA Forest Service NFP Coordinator, the NWCG Fire Use Working Team, group members, and others as needed.
- Set the dates and establish the agenda for meetings and conference calls.
- Establish workgroups for specific tasks. Establish purpose of the task, work to be accomplished, participants, and date for completion.
- Approve minutes within five days following a meeting.

Executive Secretary.

The Chair may appoint an Executive Secretary to perform various administrative duties, such as:

- Solicit input and prepare meeting agenda items.
- Provide agenda and advanced study materials to members.
- Record and track action items and accomplishments.
- Prepare minutes for Chair approval and distribute upon approval.
- Develop and maintain documentation and records system.

Primary Members.

The responsibilities of the primary members are to:

- Work collaboratively, provide agency insight on subject areas, make recommendations and resolve fuels management related issues.
- Provide timely agency input for the two departments' fuels portion of the budget; respond to OMB, DOI, USDA Forest Service, USDA and Congressional inquiries.

- Serve as a link between agency fire and resource directors and the DOI Wildland Fire Coordinator and USDA Forest Service NFP Coordinator.
- Work with others within their respective agencies to provide liaison with the State Foresters and their fire management staffs.
- Provide agenda items; attend established meetings and participate on conference calls.

Advisors.

The responsibilities of the advisors are to:

- Provide input, review, and feedback on group activities.
- Represent the agency/office position on group issues.
- Coordinate and communicate with the agency/office on group activities.

Workgroup.

The responsibilities of assigned workgroups are as follows:

- Meet with the workgroup chair, as appropriate, to research the assigned topic and provide recommendations to the overall group. Generally, assignments will be due at the next meeting.
- Participate in the workgroup meetings.

VII. APPROVAL and TERMINATION

This Charter is effective upon the date of recommendation by the five Fire Directors, and approval by the Chief of the Forest Service, and the Bureau Directors of the DOI Bureaus. The Charter may be revised upon the agreement of a majority of the group members with concurrence of the recommending and approving officials. The group will continue to function until the time it is no longer needed and will be terminated through a decision by the approving officials.

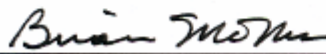
Recommended By:

 7.8.04
 Director Fire and Aviation Management, USDA Forest Service Date

 7/20/04
 Fire Director, National Park Service Date

 7/20/04
 Director, Office of Fire and Aviation, Bureau of Land Management Date

 7/20/04
 Fire Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs Date

 7/20/04
^{Acting} Chief, Branch of Fire Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service Date