

**02/21/02 Version**

## **Rocky Mountain Fuels & Fire Use Committee Charter**

### **Mission Statement:**

The Rocky Mountain Area Fuels & Fire Use Standing Committee is established under the Rocky Mountain Area Coordinating Group. The mission of the Standing Committee is to foster interagency cooperation in the use of prescribed fire, wildland fire use and fuels treatments to achieve resource management objectives. This mission will be accomplished by providing the following: Program Direction and Implementation, and Interagency Coordination.

### **Membership:**

The Standing Committee will be comprised of one voting representative from each of the following agencies:

- Forest Service (Rocky Mountain Region)
- National Park Service (Intermountain & Midwest Regions)
- Bureau of Land Management (Colorado and Wyoming Offices)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (Aberdeen, Albuquerque, Billings Areas)
- Fish and Wildlife Service (Mountain and Prairie Region)
- State Forestry (Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota)

Agency representatives will be responsible to ensure that respective agency policy and procedures are maintained and agency administrators are informed. The members will coordinate recommendations and present them to the RMCG for agency acceptance and implementation.

### **Purpose:**

An integrated interagency effort is required to insure that fuels and fire use programs are implemented in a manner consistent with the National Fire Plan. This will be accomplished through the development of an Annual Action Plan. Items in the plan will deal with the following issues:

#### **➤ Program Direction and Implementation**

1. Develop a fully integrated program in prescribed fire planning and implementation.
2. Review and coordinate interagency equipment standards and development for regional and national recommendation.
3. Develop and recommend standard terminology for prescribed fire and wildland fire use.
4. Develop recommendations for resource ordering and tracking, qualifications tracking and dispatch procedures relating to prescribed fire and wildland fire use.
5. Provide input into the RMA Mob Guide.
6. Development and recommend Wildland Fire Use Team configuration and standards.

7. Develop and recommend Wildland Fire Use transition guidelines and criteria.

➤ **Coordination**

1. Coordinate activities with other RMCG Standing Committees.
2. Coordinate spot-weather and smoke management forecast issues from the field units.
3. Identify training needs and coordinate the development of three year training plans for prescribed fire and wildland fire use with the RMCG Training Committee.
4. Develop recommendations for coordinating smoke management issues within the Rocky Mountain Area.
5. Identify and seek resolution to administrative procedures and/or barriers relating to interagency implementation of prescribed fire.
6. Participate with the RMCG Operations Committee in the Wildland Fire Use Team nomination and selection process.
7. Identify and promote the use of various alternative tools and technologies to assist land managers in the treatment of fuels and vegetation.
8. Provide technical fire ecology and wildland fire use assistance to the various agency information and education programs.
9. Provide a forum for the formal and informal exchange of prescribed fire, wildland fire use, fuels management and fire effects information including newsletters and sponsoring workshops, training, symposia, etc.

**Chairperson:**

The Chairperson is responsible for: calling the meeting, setting the agenda, and running the meeting. The term of office is two years, on a calendar year basis (January 1 to December 31). The Chair will also attend one meeting of the Rocky Mountain Area Coordinating Group annually and present an annual report of the Committee's accomplishments.

**Vice-Chairperson:**

The Vice-Chairperson will assume the duties of the Chairperson during any absence of the Chairperson. The Vice-Chair will also ensure that: minutes of meetings are taken, edited, filed, and distributed to each member of the Standing Committee and each member of the Rocky Mountain Area Coordinating Group and that- products from the Standing Committee are reproduced and distributed to agencies. The term of office is two years, also on a calendar year basis.

The Vice-Chair and Chairperson will determine the extent of support needed at each meeting (e.g., note-taking, recorder, portable computer, visual aids, facilitator, etc.).

**Advisory Group:**

Many outside parties (including non-governmental entities) have an interest in and concern about the application of prescribed fire, fuels treatments and wildland fire use. Regular and open communication with these groups is important to the success of the fuels and fire use programs. Therefore: the Standing Committee may periodically form technical advisory group(s) with ad hoc membership from interested and affected parties.

**Task Groups:**

The Committee may also set up task groups and/or assign specialists to assist as needed. These groups will operate under the following guidance:

1. The Fuels & Fire Use Standing Committee may define task groups to assist in completing assigned duties.
2. The Fuels & Fire Use Standing Committee will provide direction and oversight to the task groups by clearly identifying the task to be completed, the scope of the task and the timeline for completion.
3. A task group, upon completion of its assignment shall sunset unless additional work is assigned.
4. Task group membership shall be selected by the individual agencies however the Fuels & Fire Use Standing Committee may recommend the involvement of subject matter experts or specialists as described above.

**Meetings:**

The Standing Committee will meet at least quarterly per year. One meeting will be an annual business meeting for standing members. The advisory group will meet annually, or as needed, with the Standing Committee to discuss common issues. Additional meetings may be held if deemed necessary by committee members. The Chairperson with consensus of the group will establish meeting dates and times. Meeting agendas will be provided in advance to the Committee, advisory group and the Liaison.

**Reports:**

The committee will provide an annual report to RMCG consisting of status from the Annual Action Plan items.

**Finances:**

Costs of the meetings will be borne by the sponsoring agencies.

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Chair: Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group

Date: