



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



DIRECTOR'S ORDER NO.: 195

Subject: Delegation of Authority to Conduct Large Fire Cost Reviews

Sec. 1 What is the purpose of this Order? This Order delegates the Service Director's authority to manage Large Fire Cost Reviews (LFCR) to the Chief of the Fire Management Branch (FMB) for:

- a. Fires on Service lands that exceed 10 million dollars in Federal combined costs, and
- b. For other fires that meet the additional criteria in the *LFCR Guidebook* (see sections 3 and 4).

Sec. 2 What is the legal authority for this Order? The authority for this Order is 620 DM 1.

Sec. 3 What is a Large Fire Cost Review? An LFCR is a process to identify lessons learned while managing large fires so that they can be applied to improve and reduce the cost of future large fire operations. The National Wildfire Coordinating Group, an interagency group including the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior, developed the *LFCR Guidebook* for all Federal wildland fire management agencies to use to ensure consistency in the review process across the Federal Government.

Sec. 4 When does the Service conduct an LFCR? We conduct an LFCR:

- a. For all fires (single or complex) on Service lands that meet or exceed Federal combined expenditures of \$10 million; and
- b. On fires that meet or that we expect to meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - (1) The predicted time to achieve the fire management objective exceeds 21 days;
 - (2) There are significant political, social, natural resource, or policy concerns; or
 - (3) There are significant and complicated cost-share or multi-jurisdictional issues.

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Sec. 5 Why is the Director delegating this responsibility to the Chief, Fire Management Branch?

- a. The *LFCR Guidebook* requires the Bureau's delegating official (the Director) to prepare a delegation of authority to conduct reviews. The Guidebook also requires us to plan for corrective action and provide the recommendations from the plan to the Director.
- b. This procedure requires direct oversight of the review process and, depending on the fire conditions each year, may require multiple reviews.
- c. This process will incorporate a 30-day period after draft completion, for Regional review, comment submission and review, and document finalization.
- d. The Fire Management Branch conducts Regional fire program reviews and has the subject matter experts to manage LFCRs in an efficient and effective manner. The Chief, Fire Management Branch will be the most effective manager of these reviews.

Sec. 6 When is this Order effective? This Order is effective immediately. It remains in effect until we incorporate it into new Part 96 of the Service Manual or until we amend, supersede, or revoke it, whichever comes first. If we do not incorporate it into the Service Manual, amend, supersede, or revoke it, the Order will expire 18 months from the date of signature.



ACTING DIRECTOR

Date: October 17, 2008