

Appendix D
El Malpais Wildland Fire Use
Implementation Guide

The West Malpais Wilderness Area (FMU D2) the Chain of Craters Wilderness Study Area (FMU C3) and portions of the North Malpais (FMU C1) have been approved for Wildland Fire Use (see Map 1). In addition, adjacent lands on the El Malpais National Monument administered by the National Park Service (NPS) are also designated as Wildland Fire Use. Close coordination between the BLM and the NPS are required for any planned Wildland Fire Use. History has shown fires in this area burn across agency boundaries.

Wildland Fire Implementation Plan Completion Time Frames

Specific completion time frames have been established for each stage of the WFIP (Table 1). The Rio Puerco Field Office may accelerate planning time frames to facilitate implementation of management actions.

Table 1. WFIP completion timeframes

WFIP Stage	Maximum Completion Timeframe
WFIP Stage I	8 hours after confirmed fire detection and Strategic Fire Size-Up
WFIP Stage II	48 hours after need indicated by Planning Needs Assessment
WFIP Stage III	7 days after need indicated by Planning Needs Assessment
Periodic Fire Assessment	As part of all stages and on assigned frequency thereafter

Initial Action Procedures

Implementation procedures for Wildland Fire Use are defined in the attached Wildland Fire Use Implementation Procedures Reference Guide, May 2005 (2006 revision). The implementation procedures described in section A are additional implementation procedures identified by the Rio Puerco Field Office.

A WFIP will be completed for all naturally ignited wildland fires that are managed for resource benefit. It will be utilized to assess, analyze, and select strategies for wildland fire use. It will be progressively developed and document the appropriate management response. The WFIP will be completed in compliance with the guidance found in the Wildland Fire Use Implementation Procedures Reference Guide, May 2005 (2006 revision).

A. Rio Puerco Field Office, Initial Assessment

1. An Initial Go/No-Go Decision Matrix (See section B) will be filled out by the FMO or acting. If fire is a No-Go the IC makes the appropriate selection of strategy to suppress the fire immediately suppression to confinement.

2. Initial Actions for a go situation may include:
 - a) If a qualified IC is not on scene, assign a qualified IC to make a field inspection of the fire to confirm the Strategy and develop an initial Incident Action Plan.
 - b) Assign a Resource Advisor for the duration of the Incident. The Resource Advisor and Ecologist will take responsibility for predictions, documentation, and advise the Agency Administrator on the strategy.
 - c) Determine the need for and assign a Public Information Officer to handle public notifications.
 - d) If warranted begin stage II implementation.
 - e) Run fire behavior predictions based on current and expected weather.
 - f) Obtain spot weather forecast.
3. The time Frame for completion of the Go/no-go Decision Matrix is two hours after on scene size up. If a decision cannot be made in that time frame a suppression-oriented action will be taken.

B. El Malpais Wildland Fire Use Decision Matrix

1) Is the fire a human caused fire?

NO



Yes – Appropriate Management Response (AMR)

2) Is the fire in the West Malpais Wilderness, the Hoya Flow, the Eastside McCarty Flow, the Chain of Craters WSA, or the North Malpais FMU?

Yes



No – AMR

3) Is the fire an immediate threat to private land?

Yes – AMR

No



4) Is the Energy Release Component (ERC) from the Malpais Lava Flow weather station #293301 for fuel model 7C2P2 above 24?

Yes – AMR

No



5) Are there more than 5 fires burning with in the wildland fire use area that require active monitoring?

Yes –AMR

No - Monitor

C. Map 1

Rio Puerco Field Office Approved Wildland Fire Use Areas

