



Memorandum of Understanding Wildland Fire Leadership Council

This Memorandum of Understanding by the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Homeland Security authorizes the Wildland Fire Leadership Council, an intergovernmental committee supporting the implementation and coordination of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy.

Mission

The Wildland Fire Leadership Council (Council) is an intergovernmental committee of Federal, state, tribal, county, and municipal government officials convened by the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, and Homeland Security dedicated to consistent implementation of wildland fire policies, goals, and management activities. The Council provides strategic oversight to ensure policy coordination, accountability, and effective implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and related long-term strategies to address wildfire preparedness and suppression, hazardous fuels reduction, landscape restoration and rehabilitation of the Nation's wildlands, and assistance to communities.

Goals

The Council, through its members and pursuant to relevant statutory authority, works strategically to develop, review, update, and monitor implementation of:

- Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy;
- Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Act of 2009 (FLAME Act);
- A Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy (2009 Quadrennial Fire Review);
- 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy (August 2001) & Implementation Plan (December 2006); and
- Other policies, procedures, and program management activities designed to protect communities and natural resources from wildfires, reduce hazardous fuels, restore fire-adapted ecosystems, and assist communities in their efforts to reduce loss from wildfires.

Organization and Operations

Membership on the Council includes the following Federal officials:

- **U.S. Department of Agriculture** – the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, the Deputy Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment, and the Chief of the Forest Service.
- **U.S. Department of the Interior** – the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget and the Directors of the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S. Geological Survey.
- **U.S. Department of Homeland Security** – the Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration.

In addition to the Federal officials, the Council includes seven non-Federal members comprised primarily of senior elected officials of state, tribal, county, and municipal governments, including a state governor who is a member of the National Governors' Association, a state governor who is a member of the Western Governors' Association, the President of the Intertribal Timber Council, a county commissioner who is a member of the National Association of Counties, and a mayor who is a member of the National League of Cities. These elected officers, along with a state forester and a fire chief, at the request of the Senior Elected Official to whom they report, are invited to participate in the Wildland Fire Leadership Council because of their interest in and statutory responsibility for wildland fire management. The elected officials making designations may delegate alternatives in writing to attend in their absence.

Governance

Responsibility for chairing the Council will alternate between the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture annually. The Council will meet regularly to monitor progress on implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and other stated goals. Additional business protocols may be adopted by the Council to facilitate its efficient operation.

The Council Chair will provide at least 30 days written notice to Council members of meeting dates, location, and preliminary agenda items. Council members are encouraged to bring strategic topics requiring intergovernmental coordination before the Council and to invite interested individuals to present information to help inform the Council's deliberations.

The actions and obligations of the Agencies and Bureaus under this Memorandum of Understanding are subject to the availability of appropriations. Each party will carry out its activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner. The Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Homeland Security will manage their own activities and utilize their own resources including the expenditure of their own funds, in pursuing these objectives.

This Memorandum of Understanding takes effect upon the signature of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, and the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, and shall remain in effect for 5 years from the date of execution. This Memorandum of Understanding may be extended or amended upon written request of any of the Secretaries and the subsequent written concurrence of the others. Any Secretary may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding with a 60-day written notice to the others.

Collaboration and Public Participation

The Administration and Congress have directed the Federal Agencies to work collaboratively with tribal, state, and local governments and with citizens to develop and implement strategies for dealing with wildfire preparedness and suppression, hazardous fuels reduction, landscape restoration, and rehabilitation of the Nation's wildlands (e.g. rangelands, forests, and wetlands) as well as assistance to communities. In the collaborative spirit of this direction, and pursuant to provisions of law, including the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act exemption to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Council is an intergovernmental committee established to exchange views, information, and advice relating to the management and implementation of Federal programs in wildland fire management, hazardous fuels reduction, and natural resource management, and to integrate these activities with other Federal, state, local, and tribal programs.

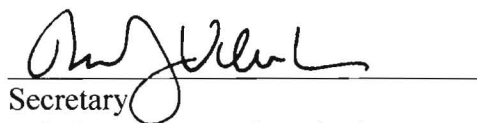
Meetings shall be open to the public and exchange with individual members of the public in attendance will be encouraged through designation of "public comment" time on the agenda or by other informal means. The Council Chair, with the consent of the members present, may declare a portion of the meeting as an "executive session." An executive session may include routine administrative duties, ministerial tasks, or discussion of highly sensitive or confidential matters. The Council will strive to keep its meeting open to the public to the fullest extent possible.

Approval

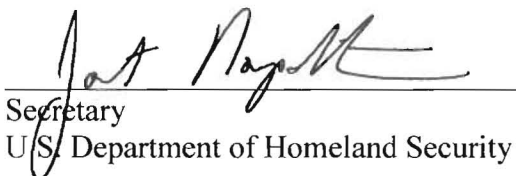
The undersigned approve this Memorandum of Understanding.



Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior



Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture



Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

DATE: APR 12 2010