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Chapter 08

Fire Management Planning

Policy

Every area with burnable vegetation must have an approved Fire Management Plan (FMP). FMPs are strategic plans that define a program to manage wildland and prescribed fires based on the area's approved Resource Management Plan. FMPs must provide for firefighter and public safety; include fire management strategies, tactics, and alternatives; address values to be protected and public health issues; and identify strategies to minimize suppression costs consistent with resource management objectives, activities of the area, and environmental laws and regulations.

Fire Management Plans must identify and integrate all wildland fire management and related activities within the context of approved Resource Management Plans. Wildland fire management goals and components must be coordinated across administrative boundaries on a landscape basis. FMPs must follow the interagency template approved by all agency directors on July 11, 2002.

FMPs should be reviewed annually and updated, as needed, to reflect current conditions, fire organizations, and planned fire management activities. The FMP is supplemented by operational plans, including but not limited to preparedness plans, preplanned dispatch plans, prescribed fire burn plans and prevention plans.

Operational Use of Fire Management Plans

Fire organizations responding to wildland fires must utilize the direction in FMPs to guide the fire management response. The Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) and Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP), when prepared, must be based on the objectives, constraints and strategies identified in the FMP.

FMPs outline Fire Management Units (FMUs) which are the cornerstone for wildland fire planning. The FMU section of the FMP identifies for a specific geographic area the desired future conditions, objectives, standards, and guidelines, and the wildland fire management strategies that will be used to accomplish them. Fire management strategies include suppression strategies, opportunities for wildland fire use, needed fuels treatments, and any operational constraints (e.g., restrictions on the use of dozers or retardant).

FMPs also describe the various components of the fire management program and agency policies and procedures for addressing them irrespective of a specific FMU. These components include such items as safety, education and prevention, training, suppression strategies, wildland fire use, fuels management and rehabilitation.

1 **Organization and Budget Formulation: Fire Program Analysis (FPA)**
2 Fire Program Analysis is a performance-based, landscape scale interagency fire
3 program planning and budgeting system. FPA is driven by land management
4 objectives and will display the most cost-effective organization for any budget
5 allocation. FPA is being developed in two phases. Phase 1, which covers the
6 initial response to unplanned ignitions and wildland fire use, is currently being
7 implemented. Phase 2, which covers extended response, large fire support,
8 prevention, fuels management and rehabilitation is scheduled for
9 implementation in 2008. Further information on FPA can be found at the
10 following web site: <http://www.fpa.nifc.gov>.