

## Chapter 17 Fuels Management

### Introduction

The purpose of the Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR) programs within the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Forest Service (FS) is to reduce hazardous fuels (HF) and risks to human communities and improve the health of the land.

The DOI and FS, along with other federal, state, tribal, and local partners, will work to ensure effective HFR treatment efforts are collectively planned and implemented. These efforts will be consistent with the direction provided in:

- *Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (January 2001)*
- *Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (February 13, 2009)*

### Policy

The federal fire agencies use the *Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide* (2008) to manage prescribed fire activities. This guide provides standardized procedures specifically associated with the planning and implementation of prescribed fire.

Policy, project planning and implementation priorities, and standards common to all agencies:

- The safety of firefighters and the public is the number one priority when planning and implementing HFR treatment projects;
- All HFR treatment projects will support resource management objectives as identified in their agency specific Land/Resource Management Plans;
- All HFR treatment projects will have plans that contain measurable objectives;
- All HFR treatment projects will comply with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and all other regulatory requirements;
- All HFR management projects will be tracked and progress will be reported within required timeframes; and
- All HFR projects will be monitored to determine if treatment objectives were met and to document weather, fire behavior, fuels information, and smoke dispersion. Evaluation reports are to be completed and maintained in the project file.

Some programmatic differences are identified in the following agency specific documentation and serve as agency specific direction.

- **BLM** - Refer to IM No. OF&A 2012-005

- 1 • *FWS - Refer to Fire Management Handbook, Chapter 17*
- 2 • *NPS - Refer to RM 18*
- 3 • *FS - Refer to FSM 5140*

#### 5 **Reporting HFR Accomplishment**

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7 The HF module of the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System  
8 (NFPORS) is the national system for submitting proposed projects for approval,  
9 tracking accomplishments of the program, reporting performance, measuring  
10 accomplishments, and accountability.

#### 12 **Policy Regarding Planned HF Treatments Burned in a Wildfire**

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14 For DOI agencies, acres burned in a wildfire may only be reported in the  
15 NFPORS HFR Module as “Fire Use” if all the following conditions are met:

- 16 • The area burned was in a pre-existing NFPORS treatment unit;
- 17 • NEPA is complete;
- 18 • The planned objectives were met; and
- 19 • The accomplishment is approved by a Regional Fuels Specialist.

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21 The USFS provides direction for reporting accomplishment from unplanned  
22 ignitions in the annual budget advice and by Washington Office interim  
23 direction letters.

#### 25 **Prescribed Fire during Preparedness Levels 4 and 5**

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27 Approval is required for implementation of prescribed fires at national  
28 preparedness Levels 4 and 5 (Refer to the *National Mobilization Guide*).

- 29 • *FWS- National Preparedness Level 5 concurrence from Headquarters,*  
30 *Branch of Fire Management must be obtained utilizing Preparedness Level*  
31 *5 Prescribed Fire Concurrence Form.*

#### 33 **Federal Agencies Assistance**

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35 Reference Section VI of the *Interagency Agreement For Wildland Fire*  
36 *Management among the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs,*  
37 *National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States*  
38 *Department Of The Interior, and the Forest Service of the United States*  
39 *Department Of Agriculture, effective May, 2010.*

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41 Agencies will enter into separate agreements for personnel and other resources  
42 provided for planning and implementation of (hazardous fuels management  
43 program) treatments and activities. This may or may not result in an exchange  
44 of funds subject to the applicable statutory authority used.

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1 **Hazard Pay/Environmental Differential for Prescribed Fire**  
2 **Implementation**

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4 Current policy is that hazard pay will not be paid for any prescribed fire. Under  
5 certain circumstances, hazard pay or environmental differential may be  
6 warranted. Offices should contact their servicing personnel office with specific  
7 questions.

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9 **Non-NWCG Agency Personnel Use on Prescribed Fire**

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11 For information regarding use of non-NWCG agency personnel on prescribed  
12 fires, see Chapter 13.

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14 **Use of Contractors for Prescribed Fire Implementation**

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16 Agencies can contract to conduct all or part of the planning and implementation  
17 of prescribed fire operations and/or all or part of mechanical treatments for HFR  
18 projects.

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20 If a contractor is actively involved in igniting, holding, or mopping up an agency  
21 prescribed fire, a Contracting Officer's Authorized Representative (COR) or  
22 Project Inspector (PI) will be on site (exceptions can be made for late stage mop  
23 up and patrol) to ensure that the burn objectives are being met and that the terms  
24 of the contract are adhered to. The Agency Administrator and/or FMO will  
25 determine the qualifications required for the agency representative (COR or PI).

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27 **Use of AD Pay Plan for the Hazardous Fuels Program**

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29 Refer to the DOI Administratively Determined (AD) Pay Plan for Emergency  
30 Workers (Casuals) for information regarding the use of emergency workers for  
31 HFR projects.

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33 Forest Service does not have this authority.

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35 **Activation of Contingency Resources**

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37 In the event an agency activates the contingency resources in their prescribed  
38 fire plan, sending units should respond and support the requesting agency  
39 immediately to ensure that the public and firefighter safety are not  
40 compromised.

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42 **Non-Prescribed Fire HFR Activities**

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44 For policy, guidance, and standards for implementation of non-prescribed fire  
45 hazard fuel reduction treatments (e.g. mechanical, biological, chemical), refer to  
46 agency specific policy and direction.