

CALIFORNIA WILDLAND FIRE COORDINATING GROUP



Date: January 28, 2011
To: Agency Administrators, Fire Management Officers, and Unit Chiefs
From: Doug Waggoner
Chair, California Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (CWCG)
Subject: DPA Update for 2011

The Cooperative Fire Management Agreement (CFMA) between the federal agencies and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is the primary mechanism that provides the framework for wildland fire protection responsibilities state-wide. Through this agreement, the state has been divided into practical "Direct Protection Areas" (DPAs) corresponding with each agency's responsibility. In addition to annual updates, periodic statewide reviews of this protection scheme are required.

We are asking that each of you perform a thorough review of your Agency's DPA and send your recommendations for changes (with supporting documentation) to your agency DPA representative, listed below. The process for recommending modification is one of consensus with your local partner agencies. We expect each of you to work in a collaborative process with local agencies to produce a single recommendation. **Recommendations that have not gone through this process will not be considered for implementation.** Below are several requirements which will provide guidance in your review:

- The Federal Wildland Fire Policy – The 1995 and the 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Policy outlines responsibilities of the Local, Tribal, State and Federal Agencies applicable to the CFMA. Where practical, protection schemes should be in alignment with these policies and responsibilities.
- Special Resource Management Considerations – Special resource values such as Wilderness, Late Successional Reserves, Research Natural Areas, and Structure density are not in and among themselves sufficient reason for recommending changes. The agreement is clear in that each agency will provide a level of wildland fire protection "equivalent" to similar lands protected directly by the State or the Federal Agencies as allowed by agency policy. Special management considerations are recognized in the agreement and are outlined in Annual Operating Plans.
- Local Geographic Units – Avoid "checker board" or numerous isolated parcels of differing DPAs. Block areas of direct protection of a single area. This will avoid onerous and unnecessary "cost share" efforts on those parcels.
- Easily Identifiable DPA Lines – Where practical, utilize identifiable geographic features such as roads, ridges, drainages, and trails. Avoid section lines if possible.

Specific procedures for making recommended changes are outlined in Attachment A. Due to the short timeframe for making changes this year, the dates have been changed from the CFMA Exhibit I deadlines. It is important to note that the deadline for adjacent units to coordinate together to identify DPA changes is **February 21, 2011**. It will be necessary to collect and generate the appropriate documentation to support the proposal for each change. Coordination between agencies will be extremely important.

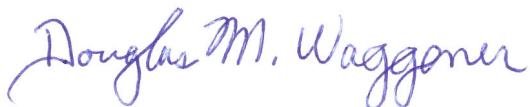
The recommended changes can be manually drawn on the maps provided from the web site below, or on some other base map (i.e., Forest Visitor map). For the best results, print the provided maps from the following web site: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/oscc/cwcg/gis/index.html>

The hard copy maps with DPA changes, and the appropriate documentation, needs to be sent to the agency collection point by the **February 21, 2011 deadline**. Agency collection points of contact are as identified in Attachment A.

Although Exhibit I outlines the annual changed process and dates for implementation, the 2011 process dates were changed. The 2011 dates are:

Date	Action
2/21/2011	Proposed DPA changes due to agency representatives
3/11/2011	Forest Service GIS Unit forward DPA layer to CWCG Agreements Committee
4/4/2011	Agencies submit data to Forest Service GIS Unit
4/18/2011	CWCG Agreements Committee review completed
5/1/2011	Agency Directors review and concurrence of changes
5/15/2011	CWCG notification to agencies of acceptance or denial of proposed changes
6/2/2011	Forest Service GIS Unit to post finalized DPA layer on web site

If you have any questions regarding this process, please direct them to your DPA agency contact or your agency CWCG representative.



Doug Waggoner
Chair, CWCG

Attachments-

- A. 2011 Procedures for Proposing DPA Changes (3 pp)
- B. California Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management & Stafford Act Response Agreement, Exhibit I (2 pp)

Attachment A

2011 Procedures for Proposing Direct Protection Area (DPA) Changes

Individual Units will need to follow these steps in order to submit proposals to change Direct Protection Areas per Appendix I of the CFMA:

1) Adjacent units, from agencies identified in the CFMA, will coordinate together to identify DPA changes by **February 21, 2011**. It will be necessary to collect and generate the appropriate documentation to support the proposal for each change. **It will be the responsibility of individual units to determine which agency submits the proposal for each change.** This will prevent the submission of duplicate proposals. Coordination between agencies will be important.

Hard copy maps will help identify changes during this point of the process. You can download current DPA maps by National Forest or Cal Fire Unit below. Other agencies will have to download the appropriate map(s) that include their area of interest. Changes can be manually drawn on the maps provided, or on some other base map (i.e., Forest Visitor map). For the best results, print the provided maps on a large-format plotter. See your local GIS personnel or agency collection point for assistance.

This DPA update process **does not** include changes from State to Local protection as the result of an annexation. These changes will be part of the SRA review process. A change from SRA to LRA in the Cal Fire State Responsibility Area (SRA) layer will trigger an automatic change in the DPA layer. These areas will be changed to LOCAL protection.

Annexations that involve lands that are currently under Federal protection **WILL** be considered during this process. These particular areas either will remain as Federal DPA, or changed Local DPA, depending on the outcome of this process.

2) The hard copy maps with DPA changes, electronic GIS shapefiles, and the appropriate documentation, will be sent to each agency collection point by the **February 21, 2011 deadline**. The agency collection points are as follows:

USDA Forest Service

ATTN: Lori Peltz-Lewis

USDA Forest Service

Fire and Aviation Management

3237 Peacekeeper Way

McClellan, CA 95652

(916) 640-1049

lpeltz-lewis@fs.fed.us

USDI Bureau of Land Management

ATTN: James Newman
BLM California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, W-1928
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 978-4635
james_newman@blm.gov

USDI National Park Service

ATTN: Mark Grupe
National Park Service
Pacific West Region
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA. 94607
(510) 817-1504
Mark_grupe@nps.gov

USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs

ATTN: Yvonne Jones
Bureau of Indian Affairs
2800 Cottage Way, W-2822
Sacramento, CA
(916) 978-6066
yvonne.jones@bia.gov

USDI Fish and Wildlife Service

ATTN: Jessica Wade
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Region 8 – Fire Management
2800 Cottage Way, W-2606
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 978-6181
jessica_wade@fws.gov

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

ATTN: Robin Marose
CAL FIRE - FRAP
1300 U St.
Sacramento, CA 95818
(916) 324-1646
Robin.Marose@fire.ca.gov

3) The agency collection points will digitize the proposed changes using the hard copy maps and electronic GIS shapefiles from their individual units **and** the GIS format provided here: DPA Geodatabase. The updates will be entered into the GIS format

provided and sent to the USDA Forest Service by **March 11, 2011** (see address above). The data can be sent by e-mail, regular mail (CD), or can even be posted on a FTP site. If you have any questions about sending or compiling the data contact Lori Peltz-Lewis at lpeltz-lewis@fs.fed.us or (916) 640-1049.

The Data Dictionary (DD) for Direct Protection Areas may be useful. You can download the DD from the following link:

4) The Forest Service Fire and Aviation GIS Lab will combine all the proposed changes into a single GIS layer by May 4, 2011 for review by the California Wildfire Coordinating Group (CWCG).

5) The review process will continue with the CWCG and Agency Directors until May 1, 2011.

6) The Forest Service Fire and Aviation GIS Lab will finalize the statewide DPA layer by June 2, 2011, and the GIS data will be posted on the following websites:

Forest Service Clearinghouse

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/rs1/clearinghouse/gis-download.shtml>

FRAP website

<http://frap.fire.ca.gov/data/frapgisdata/select.asp>

CWCG Website

<http://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/administrative/cwcg.htm>

Attachment B

CALIFORNIA MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT

Exhibit I CHANGES TO DIRECT PROTECTION AREA (DPA)

Changes to DPA boundaries can be divided into two groups referred to as automatic changes and proposed changes. Automatic Changes may be the result of:

1. Incorporations/annexations of SRA
2. Land acquisitions by Federal Agencies
3. Land exchanges
4. Removal of lands from SRA by California Board of Forestry
5. Classification of lands to SRA by California Board of Forestry

Proposed Changes may result from:

1. Change in protection system
2. Need to move DPA boundary to line of convenience.

Process for Automatic Changes

The processes for reporting and initiating the above changes are as follows:

1. Local protection unit documents change and forwards through agency channels.
2. Local protection unit advises other agencies directly affected.
 - a. Affected agencies forward through channels in accordance with agency policy.
 - b. Automatic change may trigger a proposed change agreed to by the affected local protection units that would then go through the process for proposed changes.

Process for Proposed Annual Changes

1. CWCG will send letter requesting DPA updates annually by September 1st. The letter will stipulate the GIS format requirements for submission and identify each agencies collection point.
2. Local agencies will work together to identify DPA changes and recommend their proposed changes. All agencies gather proposed DPA changes by October 1st.
3. Proposed changes are submitted through involved agencies' channels for agency review and approval and forwarding of their proposed changes to their individual agency central collection point by October 1.
4. Agency central collection points will coordinate with other agencies signatory to this agreement.
5. Agency central collection point submits data to the Regional Forest Service GIS Unit by November 1st. The USFS GIS Unit will create the complete statewide draft DPA data layer by December 1st and forward to CWCG Agreements Committee. (The USFS GIS Unit will oversee and maintain the DPA data layer information.)
6. The CWCG Agreements Committee will review and analyze results and potential impacts. Non-controversial changes made by local units will be reviewed and approved by the CWCG Agreements Committee. Changes of a controversial nature will be forwarded to CWCG for review and concurrence. Review will be completed by January 15 and recommendations will be forwarded to Agency Directors/Representatives.
7. Agency Directors/Representatives will review and accept or deny changes by January 30th. Results will go back to the CWCG Agreements Committee. CWCG Agreements Committee will forward the results to CWCG by February 5th.
8. CWCG will notify the respective agencies of acceptance or denial of proposed changes by February 15th.
9. FS GIS Unit will post finalized DPA data layer by March 1st.