

Bureau of Land Management Memorandum of Understanding
Forest Service Interagency Agreement
Between the
U.S. FOREST SERVICE, Northern Region
And the
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, Alaska Fire Service,
Relative to:
Sharing Wildland Fire-related Resources

I. INTRODUCTION

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be executed as a *master interagency agreement*. This agreement is hereby entered into by and between the U.S. Forest Service, Northern Region (hereinafter referred to as the Northern Region) and the Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Fire Service. Both agencies enter into agreement under the "Service First" authority Section 330 of *Public Law 106-291*, as amended, and *Public Law 109-54, Title IV, Section 428*.

II. PURPOSE

- A. The Northern Region and Alaska Fire Service have recognized that partnering on a formal basis will afford opportunities to markedly improve wild land fire management efficiency for both parties. There is a rich history in wild land fires and cooperation between the Northern Region and the Alaska Fire Service.
- B. The parties' mutual interests in sharing wild land fire-related resources has been a successful partnership due to the need for technical expertise or the capability one organization lacked and the other possessed; non-conflicting fire seasons; and the mutual recognition of benefits received. The fact is that the Fire and Aviation programs of both agencies have similar visions of how wildland fires should be managed in the future; how to organize and train; how to implement fire management strategies; and the tactics required to accomplish this vision.
- C. The overall goal of this MOU (agreement) is to maintain or increase each organization's individual wild land fire management capability in a flat or declining budget situation. Since the fire seasons in the two areas are offset and complimentary, resource sharing outside of large fire support is easily facilitated. It is anticipated that in the absence of such opportunities, each region's fire-fighting production capability will decrease. The focus will be on sharing knowledge and the most efficient use of government resources.

III. BENEFITS

- A. Benefits realized by both agencies include the following:
 - 1. An increase of each organization's capability, as well as fuels treatment accomplishments.
 - 2. Enhanced training, leadership and increased effectiveness of fire and aviation programs.
 - 3. More rapid development of workforce experience and expertise.
 - 4. Increased efficiencies gained by working together on national issues and issues common to both organizations.
- B. Increased opportunities to recruit and retain a high performing and diverse workforce.

IV. PROCEDURES and RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Both agencies (parties) have mutually agreed to and it is understood by both parties that by March 1 of each year, the parties will execute an Annual Operating Plan under this Master Agreement which

details the program of work including, but not limited to, personnel, transportation, and any associated funding.

B. Sharing may include, but is not limited to: smokejumpers, aviation assets, crews, fire line leadership and support, and workforce recruiters as identified and agreed to by both organizations.

1. Each party will track their costs for the collaborative projects. If an inequity in cost is identified, adjustments may be made between the parties.

2. Sharing among interagency teams or modules must be approved by all agencies providing the resources.

This agreement is not intended to affect prior agreements between the parties or with other organizations.

V. ADMINISTRATION

A. REVIEW. This agreement will be in effect, formally, beginning at the time it is fully executed and is subject to annual review and evaluation.

B. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS. The principal contacts for this agreement are:

Northern Region Contact Patti Koppennol Director, FAA P.O. Box 7669 Missoula, MT 59807 Phone:(406) 329-3296 FAX: (406) 329-3132 E-Mail: pkoppennol@fs.fed.us	Alaska Fire Service Contact John Gould Manager, Alaska Fire Service P.O. Box 35005 Fort Wainwright, AK 99703 Phone: (907) 356-5506 FAX: E-Mail: John_Gould@ak.blm.gov
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C. MODIFICATION. Modifications within the scope of this agreement shall be made by mutual consent of the parties, by the issuance of a written modification, signed and dated by all parties, prior to any changes being performed.

D. TERMINATION. Either party, in writing, may terminate this agreement in whole, or in part, at any time.

E. ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION. The parties to this agreement shall settle any disputes that may arise under this agreement by following direction in the Treasury Financial Manual, Volume 1, Bulletin 2007-03, Section VII ("Resolving Intra-governmental Disputes and Major Differences").

F. COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION DATE. This agreement is executed as of the date of the last signature and is effective until **December 31, 2013** at which time it will expire.

The authority and format of this agreement has been reviewed and approved for signature.

Elaine Hilliard
Grants and Agreements Specialist
Northern Region

6/22/09
Date

Ella Wright
Memorandum of Understanding
Coordinator, BLM Alaska

Date

APPROVED:

THE PARTIES HERETO have executed this instrument.

Tom Tidwell
THOMAS L. TIDWELL, Regional Forester
Northern Region

8/10/09
Date

John Gould
John Gould, Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Alaska Fire Service

5/27/09
Date