

# WFDSS DECISION JOB AID

## Using this Job Aid

This Job aid is intended to assist in organizing thoughts and content for the development of decisions in the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS). Content can be copied from the Job Aid and pasted into the appropriate WFDSS location.

The Sections in the Job Aid are organized as they will appear in the published WFDSS Decision. This format fosters an understanding of how the inputs contribute to a comprehensive risk-based decision.

The job aid includes bordered boxes, as shown below, which contain information that relates to the subject matter in that section of the Decision. The boxes are classified by color to assist the reader in identifying the source and location for input for Decision Content

**Auto-Populated from WFDSS** - Content automatically populated from WFDSS (basic incident inputs required)

**INPUT - TAB or LEFT SIDE MENU OPTION** – Content to be added to WFDSS that will be auto-populated to the decision after input in the identified **TAB** or **LEFT SIDE MENU** option (Relative Risk/Organizational Needs Assessment).

The majority of these entries are **Requirements** that must be completed before a pending decision can be Reviewed / Approved

**DECISION EDITOR – SECTION** - Content to add to a specific section of the Decision in the Decision Editor

The majority of these entries are optional content and are not required to be completed before a pending decision can be Reviewed / Approved. Exceptions are noted where applicable.

Although optional, adding additional content to the decision provides the opportunity to accurately frame the current situation and decision space.

The **Job Aid** contains explanatory notes to aid in the development of decision content and examples of content for each of the sections

The **Appendix** contains a Job Aid Template without the explanatory notes or examples.

## WFDSS References

See [http://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/pdfs/wfdss\\_publish\\_decisions.pdf](http://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/pdfs/wfdss_publish_decisions.pdf) for support on how to publish WFDSS Decisions and [http://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/WFDSS\\_Training.shtml](http://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/WFDSS_Training.shtml) for documentation and training material on specific task in WFDSS.

## **Additional Reference Materials to Support the Decision**

### ***Decision making for wildfires: A guide for applying a risk management process at the incident level***

This publication focuses on the thought processes and considerations surrounding a risk management process for decision making on wildfires. The publication introduces a six element risk management cycle designed to encourage sound risk-informed decision making in accordance with Federal wildland fire policy. The identified risk management process describes and illustrates the following:

- How to assess and control identified risks,
- The process and analysis of identifying benefits and costs, and
- Conducting risk decisions at multiple scales.

It is available as a General Technical Report (GTR) from the Rocky Mountain Research Station at <http://treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/43638>

### ***USFS Fire Response Protocol's 7 Standards for Managing Incident Risk & Wildland Fire Decision Support System***

This document is designed to assist in understanding the processes that exist and how they cross-walk to the Seven Standards for Managing Incident Risk (Chief's 2013 FS Wildland Fire Response Protocol) and WFDSS. It is available at [https://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/pdfs/USFS\\_Protocol\\_WFDSS.pdf](https://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/pdfs/USFS_Protocol_WFDSS.pdf)

# WFDSS Decision Job Aid

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## 1. Decision

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### 1.1. Decision Summary

**Decision Information**    Auto-Populated from WFDSS

**Decision History**        Auto-Populated from WFDSS

**1.2. Assessment** – *Establishes the Internal and External context for the Decision and provides information to support inputs to the Relative Risk Assessment contained in **Section 1.5 - Validation***

#### 1.2.1. Incident Information

**Incident Information**    Auto-Populated from WFDSS information tab along with a fire perimeter map

**DECISION EDITOR – INCIDENT INFORMATION - Narrative to provide additional context for the incident**

*Example –*

*The fire resulted from a lightning strike in steep inaccessible terrain which firefighters couldn't safely engage. Communications in the fire area are poor to non-existent in the East Fork. Lack of escape routes and safety zones resulted in a confinement strategy with daily monitoring. Following two rain events and sleet, the fire was not seen for two days and monitoring indicated the fire may be out. After two days of dry weather and strong winds the fire became active again.*

**Content -**

**DECISION EDITOR – INCIDENT INFORMATION - Photos or other Images to upload to WFDSS to provide additional context for the Incident. List the images and the caption to be added**

**Example –**

*Photos showing terrain or other prominent features/hazards.  
Map of Firefighter Evacuation Times,  
Google Earth Image Captures*

**Content -**

## 1.2.2. Weather

**Weather** Auto-Populated from WFDSS with the zone fire weather forecast for the day the decision is published

**DECISION EDITOR – WEATHER - Other Relevant Weather or Seasonal Severity Related items**

**Example –**

*Predictive Service Significant Fire Potential,  
ERC Chart(s)  
Live Fuel Moisture Sampling*

**Content -**

**1.2.3. Values** - Identify values and analyze the probability of the values being impacted

**Values Inventory** Auto-Populated from WFDSS with values as identified by the planning area.

**DECISION EDITOR – VALUES - Summary of Values on the vicinity of the Fire and of concern to the unit and interagency cooperators. Add information about priorities, probability of the fire affecting the value, modeled values at risk. Articulate those values that are not identified in the values inventory**

*Example –*

*There are several values in the vicinity of the fire that are of concern to the unit and interagency cooperators. These values include the Silver Jack Reservoir and the various associated recreation sites, USFS campgrounds and guard stations, power lines and the Johnson and High Mesa developed areas. Additionally the fire is burning within threatened and endangered species habitat for Canada Lynx, goshawk, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. If progression continues to the north critical sage grouse habitat will also be threatened. Management action points have been developed around most of the values within the planning area.*

**Content -**

**DECISION EDITOR – VALUES - Extended Values Inventory and/or FSPRO Analysis**  
*Example – Maps of Critical Values at Risk – Infrastructure, habitat etc. FSPRO Maps and FSPRO Values Inventory. Extended Values Inventory Table*

<b>Value Identifier</b>	<b>Value Type (Units)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Probability / Date</b>	<b>Response to Fire</b>
Lazy Acres Ranch	Structures (11); 3 historic	47 13 06 x 114 50 03	Private	40-60% by 8/3/12	Historic structures susceptible to fire damage; newer structures well-protected by landscaping and resistant building materials
XY Harvest Unit	Commercial Timber (96 acres)	47 26 56 x 114 36 30	Forest Service	20-40% by 8/3/12	Flame lengths less than 2 ft acceptable

**Content -**

**DECISION EDITOR – VALUES - Photos or Images to upload to WFDSS to provide additional context for the values at risk. WFDSS situation tab map Images showing values at Risk List the images and the caption to be added.**

**Example –**

*Maps of Critical Values at Risk – Infrastructure, habitat etc.*

**Content -**

### 1.2.4. Situation

**DECISION EDITOR – SITUATION Add additional information not capture in other sections about the current situation. Potential content Includes information on the Social Context, Partners, Current and Predicted Fire Behavior:**

**Example –**

*Current Fire Behavior Analysis,  
Short and Long Term Fire Assessment,  
Mid and Long Term Projections,  
Season Ending/Slowing Event Probabilities etc*

**Content -**

**1.3 Objectives** - Define incident objectives and requirements commensurate with L/RMP. FMP and the current situation as defined **Section 1.2**. Objectives are usually related to desired outcomes and avoiding undesirable consequences, whereas requirements typically define limitations (sideboards) or specifications in achieving those objectives. Incident Objectives are different than the tactical objectives that appear on the Incident Command System (ICS) 202 form (IAP) under “Control Objectives” in the daily Incident Action Plan, and form the basis for daily work assignments on an incident

**Incident FMU/Strategic Code List** Auto-Populated from WFDSS with the Fire Management Unit List and Acres, strategic objectives & requirements

**Strategic Objective List** Auto-Populated from WFDSS with the strategic objectives from the Forest Plan/LRMP. Requires data entry through the Data Management Tab prior to the Incident

**Management Requirement List** Auto-Populated from WFDSS with the management requirements from the Forest Plan/LRMP (Standards and Guidelines). Requires data entry through the Data Management Tab prior to the Incident

**Incident Objectives – INPUT- OBJECTIVES TAB –Articulate the incident objectives that reflect the agency administrator’s intent in achieving desired outcomes and avoiding undesirable consequences.**

**This is a Requirement that must be completed before a pending decision can be Reviewed / Approved**

The incident objectives represent the primary method of directing subsequent actions on a wildfire incident, and greatly influence the costs, duration, and outcomes of the incident. Effective incident objectives begin with the Land/Resource Management Plan. Incident objectives are derived from the land management goals and must be achievable and measurable, yet flexible enough to allow for strategic and tactical alternatives.

There are two general categories of incident objectives:

Protection Objectives: Incident objectives derived from land-management direction to achieve protection of sensitive natural and cultural resources, facilities, and values from negative effects of unwanted fire. These objectives often begin with the phrase, “Protect [insert value] from damage...”

Resource Benefit Objectives: Incident objectives derived from land-management direction to achieve positive benefits from the presence of fire in a specific area. These objectives often begin with the phrase “Use fire to [enhance/maintain/promote] [insert resource and desired condition]...”

In distinguishing between objectives and requirements, it is helpful to remember that objectives are usually related to desired future conditions, whereas requirements typically define limitations (sideboards) or specifications in achieving those objectives. Finally Incident Objectives are different than the tactical objectives that appear on the Incident Command System (ICS) 202 form (IAP) under “Control Objectives” in the daily Incident Action Plan, and form the basis for daily work assignments on an incident

**Example –**

*Protect private inholdings and subdivisions from impacts and hazards associated with this incident.*

*Minimize fire spread onto the BLM lands that could impact Gunnison Sage Grouse habitat.*

*Manage the fire to allow its natural ecological role within the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness and the Deer and Elk Winter Range Management Area.*

Content -

Inputs will auto-populate to the Decision

**Incident Requirements - INPUT- OBJECTIVES TAB — Define Incident-specific directives, standards, specifications, or constraints that need to be complied with when implementing management actions on the incident.**

Incident requirements derive from the Land Management Requirements, legal authorities, or other local influences (for example, county commissioners, air quality boards) that pertain to the incident or its associated actions; they often define the limitations or “sideboards” when implementing the Course of Action or define specifications in implementing actions

If it’s something that limits or defines the methods to be employed in meeting the objectives, it’s a requirement. Requirements may also be tied to external influences such as environmental laws or local constraints.

**Example –**

*Utilize a resource advisor for development of plans and actions to minimize environmental damage. A resource advisor must pre-approve use of water sources.*

*Comply with agency smoke registration and reporting regulations.*

*Manage for spread of weeds. All equipment will be washed before working fire area.*

*Utilize MIST Techniques in the Wilderness and line officer must approve mechanical equipment in wilderness*

Content -

Inputs will auto-populate to the Decision

**1.4 Course Of Action** - *The Course of Action is comprised of selected strategies and specific actions to achieve the incident objectives while complying with incident requirements. The purpose of the Course of Action is to adequately mitigate or control the risk to values to be protected, and identify where fire may contribute to meeting land management objectives in those areas where risk can be mitigated to an acceptable level*

**Estimated Cost - INPUT- COURSE OF ACTION TAB —** The Estimated Cost is a required component of any decision and should be determined when you develop the course of action (COA). To estimate a cost for your COA you can use:

**This is a Requirement that must be completed before a pending decision can be Reviewed / Approved**

The cost estimate spreadsheet (available for download on the COA tab and from WFDSS Home > Related Resources > Tools)

### Stratified Cost Index (Left Side Menu)

Historic costs for incidents of similar size and complexity

ICARS Projections

Spreadsheets

Other methods

You can publish a decision without selecting a cost estimation method. If you choose a method not listed on the COA tab, select OTHER and use the Decision Editor to document the method and your reasoning.

**Course of Action - INPUT- COURSE OF ACTION TAB** — Develop one or more Action Items that are the means/strategy to achieve the Incident Objects within the constraints of the Management and Incident Requirements. These strategies are the direction from the decision maker to the incident management organization to develop tactics or plans for these actions, rather than the specific tactics to be implemented.

#### **This is a Requirement that must be completed before a pending decision can be Reviewed / Approved**

A Course of Action is an overall plan describing the selected strategies and management actions intended to meet incident objectives and requirements based on current and expected conditions. In incident-level decision making, the course of action is comprised of selected strategies and specific actions to achieve the incident objectives while complying with incident requirements. The purpose of the course of action is to adequately mitigate or control the risk to values to be protected, and identify where fire may contribute to meeting land management objectives in those areas where risk can be mitigated to an acceptable level. The components of the course of action are:

- Strategies
- Management Action Points (M.A.P.s)

The course of action should clearly reflect the decision maker's intent, be consistent with the incident objectives and requirements, be cost effective and logistically supportable, and have a reasonable probability of success given the fire environment and resource availability.

Strategies may also include non-fire tasks such as closures, evacuations, management actions to reduce impacts from smoke, or the development of plans to protect specific values such as a structure protection plan for a backcountry patrol cabin, or a public information plan to maintain public support for management direction on the incident.

#### **Example –**

*The actions described below are designed to protect private property and natural resources and are in order of priority based on likelihood of threat and severity of potential consequences.*

- *Eastern Fire Perimeter – Construct or utilize existing features to minimize expansion of the eastern flank onto private lands.*
- *Southern Fire Perimeter – Contain Fire North of WY230*
- *Western Fire Perimeter – Construct or utilize existing features to contain Fire East of a line from Cow Creek Mountain to Eagle Mountain to Rock Mountain*
- *Northern Fire Perimeter – Contain Fire South of a line from Rock Mountain to Harris Park to Point of Rocks to Crow Creek.:*

*Suppress the fire via direct line where feasible, indirect line and burnout where needed, point protection as appropriate with support of aircraft as required using strategies and tactics based on risk management and hazard mitigation weighing the tactic versus exposure to responders (the right tool for the job),*

*Employ natural barriers and recent fire scars where available for use as control features where fire behavior is moderated,*

*The current course of action selected is based upon the capacity and availability of resources to complete objectives effectively. The actions that are being implemented clearly prioritize public and firefighter safety and protection of private property. Suppress the fire via direct line where feasible, indirect line & burnout where required, and support with aircraft as needed. Contain the fire East of Dakota Point Road (63E, south of Sheridan Lake Road), North-West of Spring Creek and the Sheridan Spillway Road.*

**Content -**

**Inputs will auto-populate to the Decision**

**Management Action Points - INPUT- MANAGEMENT ACTION POINTS (LEFT SIDE MENU)** — Develop as needed depending on incident complexity and needs.

Management Action Points (M.A.P.s) are clearly specified incident conditions that, if reached, prompt a predefined modification to existing fire management actions, or trigger the implementation of new strategies and/or tactics. M.A.P.s are usually spatial, but can also be temporal or otherwise tied to conditions that cannot be conveyed geographically using points, lines, or polygons. Incident conditions defined by M.A.P.s can be related to fire activity, smoke, weather, fuels, calendar dates, resource availability or an combination of any of these (and other) elements. If the incident conditions defined by the M.A.P. are met, timely implementation is generally critical for successful accomplishment of the incident objectives

M.A.P.s should also focus on strategic direction rather than specific tactical direction. The primary purpose of M.A.P.s is to anticipate conditions that would lead to a reevaluation of strategies; the useful lifespan of the approved decision can be extended by anticipating likely incident scenarios and preplanning the approved response. M.A.P.s may also be useful in reducing uncertainties in long-range planning. A M.A.P. that preplans the response to fire approaching a historic cabin can alleviate administrator and public concerns and allow incident management organizations ample time to take effective actions. M.A.P.s may also be of use in preplanning contingency actions

**Example:**

**Strategy (COA Action Item):** *Keep the fire south of the Sweet Lake Botanical Area.*

MAP# - 1

**CONDITION** – *Fire crosses north of Flat Creek and becomes established in the Sweet Lake Botanical Area*

**ACTION** – *Use point protection to protect Sweet Lake Patrol Cabin*

ASSOCIATED MAP SHAPE –Sweet Lake 1

**Content -**

MAP# -

CONDITION –

ACTION –

ASSOCIATED MAP SHAPE –

**Inputs will auto-populate to the Decision**

**1.5 Validation** - Confirm that the course of action is achievable based on the analysis that occurred. This may also be used to document scenarios considered and rejected, or to document analysis completed to support the decision.

**Validation History**

Auto-Populated from WFDSS with validation history for the Incident

**Validation Comments - INPUT- VALIDATION TAB** — Confirm and documents that the course of action is achievable based on the analysis that occurred. Explain why the proposed actions are likely to achieve strategic land management objectives and the fire-specific incident objectives. This may also be used to document scenarios considered and rejected, or to document analysis completed to support the decision.

**This is a Requirement that must be completed before a pending decision can be Reviewed / Approved**

**Example -**

*The course of action will meet the objectives for this fire. Evacuation and contingency planning for the community of Sawyers Bar is in place. Firefighters are having success implementing the full suppression strategy for the fires and keeping the fire north of the North Fork of the Salmon River and west of Jackass Creek, the highest priorities for this incident.*

**Content -**

**Inputs will auto-populate to the Decision**

**Relative Risk** - The relative risk rating is intended to characterize the general magnitude of risks associated with the fire itself at a specific point in time. The process uses the three risk elements: values, hazard, and probability. Each of these components is assessed independently. Then the three outputs are evaluated in a final step to provide the relative risk rating for the fire. Information contained in **Section 1.2 Assessment** provides information about the current incident situation that informs the Relative Risk Assessment.

**Relative Risk – Hazard Notes- INPUT- RELATIVE RISK (LEFT SIDE MENU)**- The hazard in wildland fire is made up of the conditions under which it occurs and exists, its ability to spread and circulate, the intensity and severity it may present, and its spatial extent

**This is a Requirement that must be completed before a pending decision can be Reviewed / Approved**

**Example -**

*Fire behavior: Burning in steep rocky terrain and chutes with spruce/fir cover and few natural barriers.*

*Historic conditions: Long term fire return interval for vegetation type.*

*Fire size: The fire is currently relatively small but shows potential for growth to a medium sized fire before a season ending event occurs.*

**Content -**

**Inputs will auto-populate to the Decision**

**Relative Risk – Values Notes- INPUT- RELATIVE RISK (LEFT SIDE MENU)**- Values are those ecologic, social, and economic resources that could be lost or damaged because of a fire. Ecologic values consist of vegetation, wildlife species and their habitat, air and water quality, soil productivity, and other ecologic functions. Social effects can include life, cultural and historical resources, natural resources, artifacts, and sacred sites. Economic values make up things like property and infrastructure, economically valuable natural and cultural resources, recreation, and tourism opportunities

**This is a Requirement that must be completed before a pending decision can be Reviewed / Approved**

**Example -**

*Resources & infrastructure: Big Cimarron, Beaver Lake and Silver Jack campgrounds, Silver Jack administrative site, Jackson Guard Station, dispersed recreation sanitary facilities. Structures are within 2 miles of the current perimeter. T,E &S habitat is a concern through the fire area which includes Canada lynx habitat, RM bighorn sheep, Gunnison sage grouse and goshawk.*

*Location of fire: Nothing in the immediate area. It would likely take more than one burning period to reach.*

*Social/Political concerns: With fires and evacuations in the state, the public has a heightened awareness. Regional Resource drawn down.*

**Content -**

**Inputs will auto-populate to the Decision**

**Relative Risk – Probability Notes- INPUT- RELATIVE RISK (LEFT SIDE MENU)-** Probability refers to the likelihood of a fire becoming an active event with potential to adversely affect values.

**This is a Requirement that must be completed before a pending decision can be Reviewed / Approved**

**Example -**

*Time of season: It is late June and monsoon moisture isn't expected for several weeks.*

*Barriers to fire spread: Meadows, rocky slopes, aspen stands.*

*Seasonal severity: Conditions are continuing to dry out because of high winds and high temperatures. ERCs are in the 90th percentile.*

**Content -**

**Inputs will auto-populate to the Decision**

**Relative Risk – Relative Risk Notes- INPUT- RELATIVE RISK (LEFT SIDE MENU)-** Probability refers to the likelihood of a fire becoming an active event with potential to adversely affect values.

**This is a Requirement that must be completed before a pending decision can be Reviewed / Approved**

**Example -**

*Hazards include the steep terrain, fuel conditions are extremely dry due to extended drought, regular red flag warnings for high winds and temperatures are forecasted for the area. Values at risk are first and foremost firefighter and public safety, some agency structures and lynx habitat. The probability of the values listed being impacted by the fire are high if direction action is not taken on the fire. Over time, the likelihood of the fire impacting developments increases if the fire continues to grow.*

**Content -**

**Inputs will auto-populate to the Decision**

**1.6 Rationale** - Intent - Risk-informed decisions must tie the course of action to incident objectives and requirements by explaining why the proposed actions are likely to achieve strategic land management objectives and the fire-specific incident objectives. Decision rationale should illustrate the tradeoffs being made; for example, firefighter exposure against potential change in fire size, given the planned tactical actions. Identify stakeholders, cooperators, and neighbors who have a vested interest in the fire decision, their values at risk, and their support or lack thereof for the course of action.

**DECISION EDITOR – RATIONALE - Add narrative to clearly communicate what decision is being made and why to others such as agency personnel and the public.**

**This is a Requirement that must be completed before a pending decision can be Reviewed / Approved**

There are three components to a good Rationale:

- 1. Risk Assessment** – What is the current situation and the influences to the decisions
- 2. Risk Sharing/Risk Communication** - Document the communication that has taken place and the decisions agreed upon. The risk management framework should guide what needs to be documented. Discussion what if any influence they had on the final decision. Identify stakeholders, cooperators, and neighbors who have a vested interest in the fire. Although much of the dialogue for communication should take place pre-season to ensure all cooperators and partners understand the unit’s intentions in managing fires that season, additional conversation must take place during the incident.
- 3. Decision** - Risk-informed decisions must tie the course of action to incident objectives and requirements by explaining why the proposed actions are likely to achieve strategic land management objectives/requirements and the fire-specific incident objectives/requirements. Illustrate the tradeoffs being made; for example, firefighter exposure against potential change in fire size, given the planned tactical actions.

**Units may find it useful to include a discussion of the considerations related to the organizational needs for the incident as part of the Rationale**

**Example -**

**Risk Assessment:** *Fire activity is expected to be within the range of this vegetation type and fire regime. Moderate fire activity is expected with occasional single tree or small group torching and some short range spotting.*

*The Ox-Cart fire is burning in mixed conifer fuels. Terrain is steep and rugged creating a landscape that is physically remote and difficult, however it is very visible for the public due to its location. Variable terrain conditions create opportunities to restrict rapid fire growth. Decker Creek lies to the NW of the fire location and is flowing water. The aspens are in the process of leafing out and the grasses are green. The seven day FSPro run shows minimal risk for fire advancement to the NW towards the communication site. Additional FSPro runs will be used to help identify potential threats to any values at risk, and appropriate mitigations applied. This is a unique opportunity to allow a lightning caused fire play its natural role within wilderness, meeting wilderness management objectives as defined in the RGNF LMP/FMP, and FS Manual within identified protection objectives.*

**Risk Sharing/Risk Communication:** *- The Saguache RD has completed preseason value and risk assessments through GIS analysis in an interdisciplinary format. The Forest has cooperated in preseason Annual Operating Plan meetings with our partners where different fire scenarios have been discussed including opportunities for Desired Long Duration events. Annually there is an interagency Sangre de Cristo Wilderness Operations meeting for coordination of the management and opportunities for collaboration within the wilderness. During this past Spring meeting, a presentation was given on the fire history of the wilderness and discussions were had about the need for maintaining fire as a restoration tool.*

*There was consensus within the group and widespread support. Within hours of detection of the Ox-Cart Fire, it was recommended to the District Ranger and the Forest Supervisor that this incident be considered for management as the observed fire effects were meeting land management goals. The FS made contact with the Regional Forester and discussed options; through this coordination it was determined that this fire could be managed as a desired event meeting ecological goals. From that determination subsequent coordination has occurred with the County Sheriff, the County Commissioners, Interagency partners and the neighboring Forest. Communications will continue throughout the duration of this incident.*

**Decision** - *Based on the general Risk Assessment, Relative Risk process, Management Requirements and Strategic Objectives the monitor/confine strategy best meets the desired outcomes and allow the Ox Cart Fire to play its natural role within the planning area and to protect the values at risk.*

*The Forest will follow Wilderness management direction and LMP objectives by allowing the Ox-Cart Fire play its natural role within the planning area. The fire will be monitored on a daily basis and tactical options as contained in the Management Action Points will be implemented as needed.*

**Organizational Needs Considerations** – *The incident organization assessment indicates a short type 2 organization to manage the fire, but near the borderline for a type 3. The potential long duration of the fire appears to be one of the elements influencing the organizational assessment as a type 2 incident. Based on the initial number of resources that were needed to carry out the original planned operations (a type 3 helicopter and less than 25 firefighters and support personnel), the low fire activity on the Forest, and the capacity of the Forest to manage the fire, it was determined that a type 3 organization would be appropriate.*

*The appropriate organization to manage the fire is likely to continue to fluctuate as MAPs and other tactical actions are implemented. As the need for increased operational activities occurs, the organizational needs will be reassessed. Changes in the Management Organization assigned to this fire will not automatically trigger a new decision.*

**Content -**

**Risk Assessment:**

**Risk Sharing/Risk Communication:**

**Decision -**

**Organizational Needs Considerations –**

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# APPENDIX – WFDSS Decision Job Aid Template

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## 1. Decision

### 1.1. Decision Summary

**Decision Information** Auto-Populated from WFDSS

**Decision History** Auto-Populated from WFDSS

**1.2. Assessment** – *Establishes the Internal and External context for the Decision and provides information to support inputs to the Relative Risk Assessment contained in **Section 1.5 - Validation***

#### 1.2.1. Incident Information

**Incident Information** Auto-Populated from WFDSS information tab along with a fire perimeter map

**DECISION EDITOR – INCIDENT INFORMATION - Narrative to provide additional context for the incident**

**DECISION EDITOR – INCIDENT INFORMATION - Photos or other Images to upload to WFDSS to provide additional context for the Incident. List the images and the caption to be added**

#### 1.2.2. Weather

**Weather** Auto-Populated from WFDSS with the zone fire weather forecast for the day the decision is published

**DECISION EDITOR – WEATHER - Other Relevant Weather or Seasonal Severity Related items**

### 1.2.3. Values - Identify values and analyze the probability of the values being impacted

**Values Inventory** Auto-Populated from WFDSS with values as identified by the planning area.

**DECISION EDITOR – VALUES - Summary of Values on the vicinity of the Fire and of concern to the unit and interagency cooperators. Add information about priorities, probability of the fire affecting the value, modeled values at risk. Articulate those values that are not identified in the values inventory**

**DECISION EDITOR – VALUES - Extended Values Inventory and/or FSPRO Analysis**

**DECISION EDITOR – VALUES - Photos or Images to upload to WFDSS to provide additional context for the values at risk. WFDSS situation tab map Images showing values at Risk. List the images and the caption to be added.**

### 1.2.4. Situation

**DECISION EDITOR – SITUATION - Add additional information not captured in other sections about the current situation. Potential content includes information on the Social Context, Partners, Current and Predicted Fire Behavior:**

**1.3 Objectives** - Define incident objectives and requirements commensurate with L/RMP. FMP and the current situation as defined **Section 1.2**. Objectives are usually related to desired outcomes and avoiding undesirable consequences, whereas requirements typically define limitations (sideboards) or specifications in achieving those objectives. Incident Objectives are different than the tactical objectives that appear on the Incident Command System (ICS) 202 form (IAP) under “Control Objectives” in the daily Incident Action Plan, and form the basis for daily work assignments on an incident

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**Incident Objectives – INPUT- OBJECTIVES TAB –Articulate the incident objectives that reflect the agency administrator’s intent in achieving desired outcomes and avoiding undesirable consequences.**

**Inputs will auto-populate to the Decision**

**Incident Requirements - INPUT- OBJECTIVES TAB — Define Incident-specific directives, standards, specifications, or constraints that need to be complied with when implementing management actions on the incident.**

**Inputs will auto-populate to the Decision**

**1.4 Course Of Action –** *The Course of Action is comprised of selected strategies and specific actions to achieve the incident objectives while complying with incident requirements. The purpose of the Course of Action is to adequately mitigate or control the risk to values to be protected, and identify where fire may contribute to meeting land management objectives in those areas where risk can be mitigated to an acceptable level*

**Estimated Cost - INPUT- COURSE OF ACTION TAB —** The Estimated Cost is a required component of any decision and should be determined when you develop the course of action (COA).

**Results will auto-populate to the Decision**

**Course of Action - INPUT- COURSE OF ACTION TAB —** Develop one or more Action Items that are the means/strategy to achieve the Incident Objects (**Section 1.3**) within the constraints of the Management and Incident Requirements. These strategies are the direction from the decision maker to the incident management organization to develop tactics or plans for these actions, rather than the specific tactics to be implemented.

**Inputs will auto-populate to the Decision**

**Management Action Points - INPUT- MANAGEMENT ACTION POINTS (LEFT SIDE MENU)** — Develop as needed depending on incident complexity and needs.

MAP# -

CONDITION –

ACTION –

ASSOCIATED MAP SHAPE –

**Inputs will auto-populate to the Decision**

**1.5 Validation** - *Confirm that the course of action is achievable based on the analysis that occurred. This may also be used to document scenarios considered and rejected, or to document analysis completed to support the decision.*

**Validation History**

Auto-Populated from WFDSS with validation history for the Incident

**Validation Comments - INPUT- VALIDATION TAB** — Confirm and document that the course of action is achievable. Explain why the proposed actions are likely to achieve strategic land management objectives and the fire-specific incident objectives. This may also be used to document scenarios considered and rejected, or to document analysis completed to support the decision.

**Inputs will auto-populate to the Decision**

**Relative Risk** - The relative risk rating is intended to characterize the general magnitude of risks associated with the fire itself at a specific point in time. The process uses the three risk elements: values, hazard, and probability. Each of these components is assessed independently. Then the three outputs are evaluated in a final step to provide the relative risk rating for the fire. Information contained in **Section 1.2 Assessment** provides information about the current incident situation that informs the Relative Risk Assessment

**Relative Risk – Hazard Notes- INPUT- RELATIVE RISK (LEFT SIDE MENU)** - The hazard in wildland fire is made up of the conditions under which it occurs and exists, its ability to spread and circulate, the intensity and severity it may present, and its spatial extent

**Inputs will auto-populate to the Decision**

**Relative Risk – Values Notes- INPUT- RELATIVE RISK (LEFT SIDE MENU)** - Values are those ecologic, social, and economic resources that could be lost or damaged because of a fire. Ecologic values consist of vegetation, wildlife species and their habitat, air and water quality, soil productivity, and other ecologic functions. Social effects can include life, cultural and historical resources, natural resources, artifacts, and sacred sites. Economic values make up things like property and infrastructure, economically valuable natural and cultural resources, recreation, and tourism opportunities

**Inputs will auto-populate to the Decision**

**Relative Risk – Probability Notes- INPUT- RELATIVE RISK (LEFT SIDE MENU)** - Probability refers to the likelihood of a fire becoming an active event with potential to adversely affect values.

**Inputs will auto-populate to the Decision**

**Relative Risk – Relative Risk Notes- INPUT- RELATIVE RISK (LEFT SIDE MENU)** - Probability refers to the likelihood of a fire becoming an active event with potential to adversely affect values.

**Inputs will auto-populate to the Decision**

**1.6 Rationale** -*Decisions must tie the course of action to incident objectives and requirements by explaining why the proposed actions are likely to achieve strategic land management objectives and the fire-specific incident objectives. Decision rationale should illustrate the tradeoffs being made; for example, firefighter exposure against potential change in fire size, given the planned tactical actions. Identify stakeholders, cooperators, and neighbors who have a vested interest in the fire decision, their values at risk, and their support or lack thereof for the course of action.*

**DECISION EDITOR – RATIONALE** - Add narrative to clearly communicate what decision is being made and why to others such as agency personnel and the public.

**Risk Assessment –**

**Risk Sharing/Risk Communication:**

**Decision -**

**Organizational Needs Considerations -**

