

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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To: State Directors

From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: Wildland Fire Management Planning Requirements and Workload for Fiscal Years 2003, 2004, and 2005

The purpose of this memorandum is to summarize the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wildland Fire Management planning requirements and workload in fiscal years 2003, 2004, and 2005.

In order to comply with the Federal Wildland Fire Policy and fire budget development requirements, the BLM has a major land use and fire management planning workload effort in fiscal years 2003, 2004, and 2005. These requirements include:

1. All burnable acres of public lands must be covered under a federal fire policy compliant Fire Management Plan (FMP) by September 30, 2004. To be compliant they must incorporate the guiding principles and policy statements from the 2001 Wildland Fire Management Policy and not contain contradictions to that policy. The FMPs must follow the Interagency Fire Management Plan Template format (July 11, 2002).
2. In addition, for FMPs to be in compliance with the Department of the Interior 2003 Performance Measures, they must incorporate direction from amended or revised land use plans. Currently, 27 percent of the BLM administered lands are covered under an FMP that has incorporated fire management direction determined in a land use plan amendment or revision.

3. BLM must be prepared to implement the initial deployment of the Fire Planning Analysis (FPA) system in October 2004. Mandated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Congress, and the Federal Wildland Fire Policy, FPA will replace the current fire program budget analysis system. To successfully implement the preparedness module of FPA, significant interagency coordination will be required. The BLM is committed to analyzing 60-80 percent of its land base using the FPA system in fiscal year 2005 for development of the fiscal year 2007 Budget Justification Request. Information required for the analysis will be determined during the FMP revisions due September 30, 2004. The FPA system analysis will then be used to update the budget and fire organization component of the fire management plans.

In order to meet the land use plan, FMP and FPA requirements by late fiscal year 2004 and for 2005, BLM's Executive Leadership Team guidance and support of fire and resource staff is required. State Directors must ensure that appropriate management and staff are aware of these requirements and are making plans to accomplish the following.

1. Wildland fire management land use plan amendments or revisions must be completed for 73 percent of BLM's land base. Some of the land use plan updates are being done through BLM time sensitive plans and may not meet the 2004 due date. The remaining updates are being done through stand alone wildland fire management amendments, most are expected to meet the 2004 due date. Fire management plans will use new guidance from updated land use plans where possible and existing land use plan guidance will be used when revised guidance is not available in order to meet the September 2004 fire management plan and FPA needs.
2. FMPs must incorporate the 2001 Wildland Fire Policy and use the Interagency Template by September 30, 2004.
3. FMPs must include quantifiable suppression objectives in order to be prepared for the October 2004 deployment of FPA.

Updated BLM specific land use plan and FMP direction will be issued in July 2003 to assist in clarifying planning requirements. Additional information related to FPA development and deployment will also be provided.

The Office of Fire and Aviation developed this memorandum in coordination with the Washington Office Planning, Assessment and Community Support Group, the Budget Group and the FPA core team.

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