

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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February 6, 2003

EMS  
Instruction Memorandum No. ID-2003-030  
Expires: 09/30/2004

To: Idaho Corporate Team  
From: State Director  
Subject: National Fire Plan in Idaho

**Program Areas:** Fire Management/Fire Planning.

**Purpose:** In February, I attended the National Fire Plan (NFP) meeting in New Orleans and heard Secretary Norton reaffirm our commitment to the NFP. To date, the accomplishments of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Idaho in the arena of fire planning and management are impressive. My intent with this directive is to reemphasize the commitment we need to make as we move into this next year and to update you on our statewide priorities.

**Policy/Action:** The emphasis of the NFP was and is on a collaborative approach at the local and state level, with at least 50 percent of our funded projects to be implemented by contracts. Idaho has already met that goal with 59 percent of our implementation done under contract. We must continue to strengthen our relationships with our local partners as neighbors in our efforts to reduce the threat from wildfire.

Our commitment to this process is furthered by our joint effort with Idaho Department of Lands and the Forest Service in finalizing the Idaho Communities and Ecosystems at Risk product which will provide decision support toward understanding where to invest first to diminish risk on a statewide interagency basis. We are stepping forward to pilot the new streamlined National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning process from the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) on our Portneuf Project in Eastern Idaho. We are now bringing the President's Healthy Forests Initiative into play by combining forestry priorities with the NFP.

As Idaho's Managers we must ensure that we are coordinating and incorporating the NFP into all our planning efforts and processes. Idaho is currently amending 12 Land Use Plans and assessing the remainder in the state for the next round of updates. These amendments are critical for us to then revise our Fire Management Plans to incorporate the goals and objectives of the NFP in our action plans. Our on-the-ground resource management programs and activities

should incorporate and build on the principles of the NFP. Collaboration must occur between our managers, staff specialists, our cooperators, and the public to fully take advantage of opportunities as projects are planned, designed, and implemented to meet resource and fuels management objectives. We must have close working relationships with the various regulatory agencies to facilitate project implementation over the landscape. Timely identification of problems or conflicts is a key to this strategy.

I expect Idaho BLM to keep leading the Bureau and our partners in NFP implementation. I expect District and Field Managers to be personally involved in our efforts to try new methods, develop new projects, and expand our capability to protect the resources entrusted to our care.

**Timeframe:** This directive is effective immediately upon receipt.

**Background:** The NFP was approved in September of 2000. In the two years since that date, Idaho has assumed a lead role in the implementation of the NFP nationally. Within Idaho, the BLM is a prominent member of the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group, a coalition of the state and federal agencies tasked with implementing the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy, which was signed by the Western Governors in August of 2001.

In the last three years, Idaho BLM has treated 218,236 acres under this strategy and is targeted to complete 112,000 more acres this year. Along with this Bureau leading effort in hazard fuels reduction, we have assisted 131 fire departments with direct financial support (1.7 million dollars) to improve their capabilities. We are working directly with 39 communities and 21 counties in developing mitigation and education programs to reduce their risk to wildfire. Under the joint guidance of the Working Group we will have all 44 county mitigation plans for Idaho completed by 2005.

**Manual/Handbook Sections Affected:** None

**Coordination:** This directive has been coordinated with the Branch of Fire and Aviation, the Branch of Resources and Sciences, and the Deputy State Director for Resource Services.

**Contact:** William Clark (ID-932) at (208) 373-3851, Jon Foster (ID-931) at (208) 373-3813.

**Lower Snake River District with Union:** No Union notification or negotiation is required.

Signed  
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State Director

Authenticated  
Sharon Olendorff  
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cc:  
Jack Sept (ID-917)