



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Oregon State Office

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In Reply Refer to:

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Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2006-037

Expires: 9/30/2007

To: DMs, DSDs, Staff and Branch Chiefs

From: State Director, Oregon/Washington

Subject: Fire Management Decisions in Resource Management Plans

Program Areas: Resource Management Planning and Fire Management.

Purpose: This guidance was developed to ensure that specific fire management decisions are made at the appropriate scales of planning, consistent with legal requirements, national fire policy, and pertinent guidance in Appendix C of Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Planning Handbook (H-1601-1, March 2005).

Policy/Action: The attached documents provide guidance for addressing fire management issues in Resource Management Plans (RMPs). Much of this guidance provides suggested plan development approaches or plan content. However items required by law or national policy, or items where statewide consistency is deemed important, are identified as mandatory direction.

Key elements of this guidance include the following:

RMP Desired Outcomes

- Goals will include the desired role of fire as an ecosystem process and the desired fire regime condition class
- Objectives will be developed to move toward the desired role of fire and toward the desired fire regime condition class

RMP Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- Allowable Uses/Restrictions will identify needed limitations on fuel treatment methods, use of unplanned fire, suppression of unplanned fire, and post-fire restoration and rehabilitation. The specific content of the guidelines will be developed for each RMP
- Suitability determinations will be made on wildland fire use and four general suppression responses
- Monitoring of RMP Implementation will track changes in fire regime condition class and the GO vs. NO GO decisions in wildland fire use

General

- This guidance also includes a suggested process for developing each plan component and an explanation of the tie between the RMP and the Implementation-level Fire Management Plan

Timeframe: This guidance is effective immediately.

Budget Impact: The guidance primarily clarifies what types of fire management decisions are made at each level of planning. Analysis of the type of data needed to comply with the direction (attachment 3) indicates that existing data should suffice; therefore no additional data collection costs are anticipated.

Background: Questions have been raised in individual planning efforts about the kind and level of fire management decisions to be made in the RMP versus subsequent Fire Management Plans and project plans. The attached documents were developed to provide consistent guidance about fire management decisions to be made in RMPs.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: This guidance supplements the Wildland Fire Management section of Appendix C of the BLM Planning Handbook (H-1601-1, March 2005).

Coordination: This guidance was developed with close collaboration between the Branches of Fire & Aviation Management and Planning, Science & Resource Information. It also incorporates comments from Oregon/Washington District Managers, their Planning and Environmental Coordinators, Fire Management Officers and Fuels Specialists, State Office program specialists, the National Interagency Fire Center and the Washington Office Planning, Assessment and Community Support Group.

Contact: If you have any questions about the attached guidance documents, please contact Louisa Evers (503-808-6377) or Jerry Magee (503-808-6086).

Districts with Unions are reminded to notify their unions of this Instruction Memorandum and satisfy any bargaining obligations before implementation. Your servicing Human Resources Office or Labor Relations Specialist can provide you assistance in this matter.

Signed by
James G. Kenna
Associate State Director

Authenticated by
Mary O'Leary
Management Assistant

3 Attachment(s)

- 1 – [Fire Management Decisions in Resource Management Plans](#) (21pp)
- 2 – [Land Use Plan Decision Hierarchy & Fire Management Examples](#) (1p)
- 3 – [Analysis of Data Needs to Support Fire Management Decisions in RMPs](#) (4pp)

Distribution

WO-210 (107LS)
FA-630 (NIFC)