



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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In Reply Refer to:

1620/9210 (OR-934) P

July 21, 2008

EMS TRANSMISSION 07/28/2008

Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2008-079

Expires: 9/30/2009

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 and then updated to ensure that specific fire management decisions are made at the appropriate scales in planning, consistent with legal requirements, Federal fire policy, and pertinent guidance in Appendix C of the 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 (attachment 1).

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 classes.

RMP Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- Allowable Uses/Restrictions will identify needed limitations on fuel treatment methods, appropriate responses to wildfires, and post-fire restoration and rehabilitation. The specific content of the guidelines will be developed for each RMP.

- Suitability determinations will be made on where wildfires could be managed to achieve RMP goals and objectives and where wildfires must be suppressed under all burning conditions.
- Monitoring of RMP implementation will track changes in fire regime condition class and the number of wildfires that were managed in whole or in part to achieve RMP goals and objectives.

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 in 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 and Aviation Management and Planning, Science and Resource Information. It updates a similar Instruction Memorandum (IM) issued in 2006 (IM-OR-2006-037) to reflect changes in the implementation of Federal fire policy approved by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council in March 2008.

Contact: If you have any questions about the attached guidance documents, please contact Louisa Evers, Fire Ecologist at 503-808-6377 or Jerry Magee, Environmental Protection Specialist at 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
Paj Shua Cha
Records Section

3 Attachment(s)

- 1 – [Fire Management Decisions in Resource Management Plans](#) (22 pp)
- 2 – [Land Use Plan Decision Heirarchy and Fire Management Examples](#) (2 pp)
- 3 – [Analysis of Data Needs to Support Fire Management Decisions in RMPs](#) (3 pp)

Distribution

WO-210 (107LS)

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