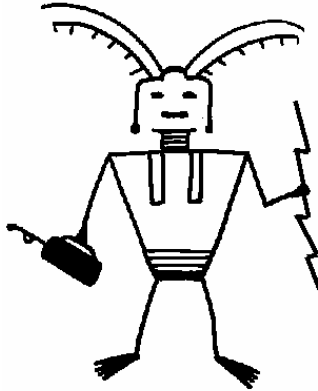




WILDLAND FIRE USE MANAGEMENT GUIDE



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
COLORADO STATE OFFICE
BRANCH OF FIRE AND AVIATION
MAY 2004

A. Policy

Wildland Fire Use (WFU) is one of several Appropriate Management Response (AMR) methods utilized by land management agencies to manage wildland fires. Wildland Fire Use as well as the AMR does not include management ignited fire which is more commonly referred to as prescribed fire.

Bureau policy allows for the management of wildland fires initiated by natural ignitions to meet specific land management objectives. The management of natural ignitions to meet specific land management objectives is referred to as “Wildland Fire Use.”

The “Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy, Implementation Procedures Reference Guide” is the document that will be followed for all wildland fire use implementation activities. The definitions of fire terminology contained within this document are the accepted definitions for all fire use terminology.

As specified under the Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire Management Policy; Implementation Procedures Reference Guide of August 1998: “No human caused wildland fires will be managed under the wildland fire use concept.”

Wildland fire use is used to implement land management objectives that are identified in the appropriate land use plans and are supported by approved fire management plans.

B. Planning

There are three tiers of planning necessary to develop and implement wildland fire use.

1. Land Management Plan (LMP). This is the overall document that sets resource management goals and objectives for a geographically defined area.
2. Fire Management Plan (FMP). This identifies the appropriate strategies to achieve resource objectives.
 - a. Fire Planning Unit (FPU) is the basic planning component of the FMP.
 - b. A Fire Management Unit (FMU) is a sub-geographic area of an FPU. This was previously referred to as the Fire Management Zone (FMZ). FMUs may have multiple objectives/constraints and share like objectives/constraints with other FMUs.
 - c. An FPU usually includes multiple FMUs, or may only include a single FMU, dependent on management objectives and/or specific localized situations.

- d. FMP's must be consistent with firefighter/public safety, values to be protected, land and resource management plans and must address public health issues.
3. Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP). This is the site-specific implementation plan for a wildland fire use incident and consists of three distinct stages. It includes, at a minimum the Stage I and Stage II phases. A long-lasting or complex incident will generally require the completion and implementation of Stage III. The "triggers" for initiating the final stage of the WFIP (Stage III) is found in the "Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy, Implementation Procedures Reference Guide".

Minimum planning criteria that must be met to establish wildland fire use are as follows:

1. Wildland fire use is supported in the unit's land use planning document and in the corresponding fire management plan.
2. Wildland fire use areas are pre-defined geographic areas in the FMP.
3. Resource management objectives are pre-stated in the LUP and FMP.
4. Any prescriptive fire behavior criteria must be consistent with the resource management objectives. The unit(s) implementing wildland fire use should consider in their planning, such items as long-term drought, generalized seasonal fire dynamics and other localized factors which will provide the agency administrator with accurate and realistic data to make educated and sensible decisions regarding fire use management.
5. Additional pre-planning documentation may include pre-identified Maximum Manageable Area (MMA) boundaries, Rare Event Risk Assessment (RERAP) assessments and historic weather analysis from Fire Family Plus. This and other documentation is largely dependent on local expertise, need and fuel types.

C. Implementation Roles and Responsibilities

In Colorado a Fire Use Manager will be assigned to every Bureau wildland fire use incident.

Fire Use Managers may manage multiple incidents, depending upon the specific situation.

The qualifications and responsibilities of the Fire Use Manager are as follows: Fire Use Manager Type 2 (RXB2 or ICT3), Fire Use Manager 1 (RXB1 or ICT2). In either case, in order to be fully qualified, the person must have completed Advanced Fire Use Applications (S-580) and successfully completed their assigned task book levels for FUM1 or FUM2.

Typically, a Fire Use Manager Type 2 (FUM2) will manage those incidents that are of low to moderate complexity or in some cases, higher complexity incidents where local personnel have the sufficient depth and skill to manage the incident(s) with little impact to local and regional resources. In some situations, especially where fire use management skills are limited, or where the incident(s) are highly complex and have the potential for long term existence, a Fire Use Manager (FUM1) may be required to manage these types of events. Upon occasion, when this type of situation is encountered, a formal fire use management team, including 5-10 specialists is warranted, in addition to the FUM1. The determination of the FUM2 or FUM1 depends upon the results developed in the completion of the Wildland Fire Relative Risk Rating and the Fire Use Manager Needs Assessment. Subsequently, the Agency Administrator or his/her delegated acting may choose to complete a Fire Use Management Team Needs Assessment to assist in the determination of the need for a formal Fire Use Management Team. All three of these forms are attached in Appendix A.

The Fire Use Manager (I or II) is responsible for the development of the WFIP, the organization and expertise necessary to successfully manage wildland fires to meet resource objectives.

The Fire Use Manager will be given a formal “delegation of authority” signed by the Agency Administrator to manage each WFU incident.

D. Operational Procedures

The Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy, Implementation Procedures Reference Guide (August 1998) is the Bureau’s operational direction for managing wildland fire use incidents. This document provides detailed guidance for development of the; Stage I (Initial Fire Assessment), Stage II (Short Term Implementation Actions) and the Stage III (Long Term Assessment and Implementation Actions and Periodic Fire Assessments). The actions under each stage are completed as required and become the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP). All of the appropriate forms and documents needed to initiate, complete, and validate the WFIP are included within the Implementation Procedures Reference Guide. In addition, the electronic software program that assists in the development of the WFIP as well as the WFSA (Wildland Fire Situation Analysis) may be downloaded from the following website:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/wfsa/index.htm>.

1. Stage I. The initial assessment and the Go/No Go decision made at Stage I may be delegated to the Field Office Manager and/or the designated “Acting”. Once the “GO” decision is made, a qualified Fire Use Manager must be assigned to the incident. The required timeframe is 2 hours for completion of Stage I. Note: If a local FUMA is not available, one should be ordered for the incident(s) through standard interagency dispatch protocols and have an arrival time to the unit within 24 hours of the completion of Stage I.

2. Stage II. The Implementation Procedures Reference Guide requires that the Stage II Short Term Implementation Actions assessment be completed within 24 hours of the approval of Stage I. In fuel types where the primary carrier of the fire is grass and or brush the Stage II action plan **should be completed prior to the next burning period**. Although the designation of a Maximum Manageable Area (MMA) is not required at Stage II, because of fuel situations within Bureau administered lands and the potential for rapid growth under certain circumstances, it may be advisable to develop an MMA during Stage II. At a minimum, a defined set of trigger points should be identified to aid in the decision process for escalation to Stage III in the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) process. The development of the MMA or any predetermined trigger points may be based upon actual growth calculations, by pre-planned methods or by utilizing the boundaries that provide the best feature to enable successful management, where the identified fire use event is located. In any case, the “official” declaration of the MMA is not required until Stage III of the WFIP unless it is otherwise **documented in writing** by the Agency Administrator responsible for the overall management of the fire use event.

Within the varied locations administered by the Bureau, there are often opportunities to enter into cooperative agreements with private landowners, as well as local, state and other federal agencies for various facets of wildland fire use management. It is important for the Agency Administrator and the local fire management staff to prepare and finalize these agreements prior to or including the period that the respective incident is being managed under the guidelines of Stage II. Waiting until Stage III to enter into these agreements may often be too late for proper preparation and potential mitigation actions to be considered. Copies of sample agreements are located in Appendix B.

3. Stage III. The Stage III actions supplement the FMP by providing the full long-term implementation actions necessary to manage the fire to accomplish the identified objectives. During Stage III it is desirable for the fire use team or individuals managing the fire to develop firefighter pocket cards for that particular incident. These pocket cards are an invaluable safety tool for incoming resources that may be assigned periodically throughout the life of the incident and who are not familiar with local climate, fuel and fire behavior conditions.

4. Periodic Fire Assessment. The Implementation Procedures Reference Guide requires that for each WFU fire the Agency Administrator (or delegated individual) will periodically affirm the capability to continue management of the fire. Bureau policy requires that active fires in grass and/or shrub fuel types which exhibit potential for rapid movement (spread), be reassessed on a daily basis. The “Implementation Guide” further describes the criteria for assessment time frames based upon fuel types. At the same frequency of assessment, it is recommended that the Agency Administrator assess the management level of the incident to make the determination to either increase or decrease the level of management expertise assigned.

5. If a Wildland Fire Use fire exceeds the established MMA, or is no longer meeting the resource objectives, a Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) will be completed to evaluate the and select a new strategic alternative and appropriate management response. There are two exceptions listed in the Implementation Procedures Reference Guide for small or non-threatening scale. They are:

a. Constraining the fire spread to the small or non threatening overrun of the original acceptable area using available holding forces currently in use and Identified in WFIP Stage II or III.

b. In the case of relatively long range spotting, treating the spot generated by this natural process as a separate fire. Determine the appropriate management action for this new ignition separately from the original wildland fire, based on criteria specific to this fire.

Note: In either case above: These actions must be accomplished within 48 hours of the over run or discovery of the “new” start. Failure to do so will result in the WFU event being re-classified as an escaped fire and a WFSA will be initiated.

Regardless of the stage in the process that the local field unit is implementing, the standard, agency-adopted work rest guidelines apply to all wildland fire use incidents.

E. Complexity

Complexity for Wildland Fire Use incidents **will only** be determined using the Wildland and Prescribed Fire Complexity Rating found in the Implementation Procedures Reference Guide.

The NWCG has established two levels of Fire Use Manager (FUM1 and FUM2) for varying levels of complexity. Only a qualified Fire Use Manager may manage a Wildland Fire Use incident.

As the incident complexity increases, consideration may be given to assigning additional qualified personnel or a formal team. Indicators of increasing complexity include, but are not limited to; lack of key skill positions available to manage the incident, safety management issues, the number of fires being managed, substantial increases in acreage, anticipated severe weather, increasing coordination needs, smoke management issues, threatened or at-risk resources, and logistical support needs. There are complexity guidelines and procedures listed in the Implementation Procedures Reference Guide. In addition, the Agency Administrator may choose to use the optional Fire Use Management Team Needs Assessment Chart (see Appendix A), to assist in the determination of Fire Use Management Team needs.

Each unit-specific fire management organization should develop localized and specific policies and guidelines or “triggers” that initiate changes in personnel to be ordered and assigned. This is extremely important for the determination of the qualification level for the Fire Use Manager and associated Fire Use Team configurations for fire use events since throughout the “life-span” of a fire use event, complexities and associated management options may change several times

Because of the limited number of Type II Fire Use Teams, the Colorado State Office – Branch of Fire & Aviation, in concert with the respective Geographic Area Coordination Center, will assist local units in the development of specific guidelines for formation of localized Type III teams with fire use capabilities to manage fire use incidents that are typically less complex than what normally requires the commitment and utilization of a FUM1 or one of the Type II Fire Use Teams. Each one of these local Type III teams should include a fully qualified FUM2 as a member of the cadre.

When the given fire analysis moves into the Stage III level, it is usually standard procedure to also order and fill additional positions such as Long-Term Analyst (LTAN), Technical Specialist – Geographic Information Systems (TESP-GIS), Technical Specialist – RERAP (TESP-RERAP) and Technical Specialist – FARSITE (TESP-FARSITE). These additional positions are needed to sufficiently analyze long-term weather, fire behavior and fire growth. Additional positions in safety, operations, logistics, finance, information and plans should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

F. Financial

Wildland fire use incidents use the 2821 (suppression) sub-activity, and the fire number assigned by the responsible office. The regulations applying to hazard pay and the AD pay plan apply to wildland fire use incidents. Additional information can be found in the Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook.

Wildland fire use incidents, on occasion, may require Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation depending upon the individual situation and ecosystem condition following

a fire. In those cases, the unit where the fire was located must follow established Bureau policies and guidelines regarding Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation funding.

G. Documentation and Reports

The Implementation Procedures Reference Guide identifies the documentation required at each implementation stage. These documents and other documentation normally completed as part of the incident management activities are required to be retained in the final fire package.

Wildland Fire Use incidents are reported in the Bureau's fire reporting system (DI-1202's). Wildland Fire Use incidents are recorded as "Fire Type 1" and "Protection Type 9." Should a Wildland Fire Use incident transition to a WSFA and appropriate management strategy are required. The acreage burned while the incident was managed as a Wildland Fire Use incident would be reported as discussed above. The acreage burned after the transition would be reported as "Fire Type 1" and "Protection Type 1" using a new fire number.

H. Implementation Restrictions

Implementation of WFU is restricted at National Preparedness Levels IV and V. (See the Rocky Mountain Area & National Mobilization Guides.)

At National Preparedness Level IV, Wildland Fire Use application may be continued or be initiated if the proposed action is approved by an agency at the Regional or State Office level. This approval must be based on an assessment of risk, impacts of the proposed actions on area resources, and include feedback from the Geographic Area Multi Agency Coordination (MAC) Group. The Geographic Area MAC Group provides information or perspectives to agencies wishing to proceed with or implement a Wildland Fire Use event. The final decision to implement resides with the implementing agency's administrator.

At National Preparedness Level V, Wildland Fire Use applications can be continued or be initiated if the proposed action is recommended by the Regional or State Office levels. The National agency representative will assess risk impacts of the proposed actions and discuss the proposal with the National MAC group. This group will have an opportunity to provide information or perspectives to agencies wishing to proceed with or implement a Wildland Fire Use event. The final decision to implement resides with the implementing agency's administrator.

I. Fire Use Modules

Whenever possible or feasible, local units and fire use management teams should utilize fire use modules to assist in the management of fire use events. These modules were

originally formed to handle the myriad of specialized tasks that are often unique to fire use fires. There are several National Fire Use Modules (FUM) located throughout the United States and are ordered through standard dispatch protocols. Beginning in 2004, the BLM in Colorado will be hosting the Unawep Fire Use Module, based in Grand Junction under the operational jurisdiction of the Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit (UCR). The specific operating plan and associated information for the Unawep Fire Use Module is attached in Appendix C.

J. Appendices:

Appendix A:

- Relative Risk Rating Chart
- Fire Use Manager (FUMA) Needs Assessment
- Fire Use Management Team (FUMT) Needs Assessment

Appendix B:

- Fire Management Memorandum of Understanding with County Agency
- Fire Management Memorandum of Understanding with Private Landowners

Appendix C:

- Unawep Fire Use Module – Information Briefing Paper
- Unawep Fire Use Module – Project/Incident Work Request Form
- Unawep Fire Use Module – Operations Plan

Appendix A:

Relative Risk Rating Chart

Fire Use Manager (FUMA) Needs Assessment

Fire Use Management Team (FUMT) Needs Assessment

Appendix B:

Fire Management Memorandum of Understanding with County Agency

Fire Management Memorandum of Understanding with Private Landowners

Fire Management Memorandum of Understanding

General

This Memorandum of Understanding entered into by and between the _____ Field Office Manager and (property owner, address) and _____ County. This agreement provides for the management of wildland fire as described in the (1) _____ Field Office Fire Management Plan on the Bureau of Land Management, (2) _____ County Fire Management Plan and (3) privately owned lands described below.

Authority

Federal Land Planning and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 (43USC 1737-1738) House Bill 00-1283(CRS 23-30-204, CRS 23-30-301, CRS 23-30-304, CRS 23-30-305, CRS 30-10-513, CRS 30-10-513.5 (1) (a), Part 1 of article 11 of title 30; 30-11-124.

Purpose

The Bureau of Land Management has designated lands in the _____ Field Office Fire Management Plan (FMP) for a wide range of fire management response for naturally ignited wildland fires and the use of prescribed fire. These can vary from aggressive and full suppression to management of the fire for resource benefit. Protection of life and property is the first priority for a fire for resource benefit. Management of these fires, under a defined prescription, takes advantage of natural fuel barriers and topography. The objectives for management are clearly based on resource objectives. These fire management responses collectively will be known as the “appropriate management response” or AMR, and

_____ County has the authority to cooperate with other governing bodies and with the state forester in the management of fires and

(Property owners’ name) owns several tracts of land totaling approximately (X) acres described as follows:

(Legal Description)

which are either surrounded by or adjacent to Bureau of Land Management lands included in _____ Field Office Fire Management Plan (FMP).

It is mutually agreed as follows:

1. The Bureau of Land Management will continue fire management practices as described in the FMP for (property owners’ name). The FMP requires appropriate management response (AMR) from naturally ignited (lightning) wildland fires which may occur in the area and which may, as a

consequence of such decision as not to suppress, spread to said adjacent private lands.

2. _____ County supports such management actions on private land based on the framework provided in the County Fire Management Plan.
3. (Property owners' name) has reviewed and agrees with the _____ Field Office Fire Management and recognizes the environmental benefits from a wildland fire to said property. They will not hold the United States responsible for any damage or injury to said property that may result from the implementation of the Fire Management Plan. This would include fire rehabilitation on private property.
4. The Bureau of Land Management agrees not to hold (Property owners name) harmless for damages, which may result from a naturally ignited (lightning) fire originating on this private land and spreading onto adjacent _____ Field Office lands.
5. When such an ignition occurs, notification to respective parties will be made as soon as possible.

Duration/Renewal

This agreement will be in effect after the date of the last signature and will remain in effect for five years (or 5 years from current date here) or until canceled on sixty days written notice by either party. The landowner will immediately contact the BLM, if ownership of said property changes. On an annual basis, _____ Field Office will review the Fire Management Plan and make contact with private landholder. At this time if there are any changes in the Planning Objectives for the area adjacent to this private land or new concerns have arisen from the property owner, these items will be mutually discussed and documented.

Special Provision

Officials not to Benefit

No member of or delegate to Congress, or resident commissioner, shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement, or to any benefit that may arise there from; but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this agreement if made with a corporation for its general benefit.

The parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the last date written below.

Date

Field Office Manager

Date

(Property owners' name)

Date

(_____ County Commissioner)

Fire Management Memorandum of Understanding

General

This Memorandum of Understanding entered into by and between the _____ Field Office Manager and (property owner, address). This agreement provides for the management of wildland fire as described in the _____ Field Office Fire Management Plan on the Bureau of Land Management and privately owned lands described below.

Authority

Federal Land Planning and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 (43USC 1737-1738)

Purpose

The Bureau of Land Management has designated lands in the _____ Field Office Fire Management Plan (FMP) for a wide range of fire management response for naturally ignited wildland fires. These can vary from aggressive and full suppression to management of the fire for resource benefit. Protection of life and property is the first priority for a fire for resource benefit. Management of these fires, under a defined prescription, takes advantage of natural fuel barriers and topography. The objectives for management are clearly based on resource objectives. These fire management responses collectively will be known as the “appropriate management response” or AMR, and

(Property owners’ name) owns several tracts of land totaling approximately (X) acres described as follows:

(Legal Description)

which are either surrounded by or adjacent to Bureau of Land Management lands included in _____ Field Office Fire Management Plan (FMP).

It is mutually agreed as follows:

6. The Bureau of Land Management will continue fire management practices as described in the FMP for (property owners’ name). The FMP requires appropriate management response (AMR) from naturally ignited (lightning) wildland fires which may occur in the area and which may, as a consequence of such decision as not to suppress, spread to said adjacent private lands.
7. (Property owners’ name) has reviewed and agrees with the _____ Fire Management Plan and recognizes the environmental benefits from a wildland fire to said property. They will not hold the United States responsible for any damage or injury to said property that may result from

the implementation of the Fire Management Plan. This would include fire rehabilitation on private property.

8. The Bureau of Land Management agrees not to hold (Property owners name) harmless for damages, which may result from a naturally ignited (lightning) fire originating on this private land and spreading onto adjacent _____Field Office lands.
9. When such an ignition occurs, notification to respective party will be made as soon as possible.

Duration/Renewal

This agreement will be in effect after the date of the last signature and will remain in effect for five years (or 5 years from current date here) or until canceled on sixty days written notice by either party. The landowner will immediately contact the BLM, if ownership of said property changes. On an annual basis, _____Field Office will review the Fire Management Plan and make contact with private landholder. At this time if there are any changes in the Planning Objectives for the area adjacent to this private land or new concerns have arisen from the property owner, these items will be mutually discussed and documented.

Special Provision

Officials not to Benefit

No member of or delegate to Congress, or resident commissioner, shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement, or to any benefit that may arise there from; but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this agreement if made with a corporation for its general benefit.

The parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the last date written below.

Date

Field Office Manager

Date

(Property owners' name)

Appendix C:

Unawep Fire Use Module – Information Briefing Paper

Unawep Fire Use Module – Project/Incident Work Request Form

Unawep Fire Use Module – Operations Plan



UPPER COLORADO RIVER INTERAGENCY FIRE MANAGEMENT

USFS - White River National Forest
BLM - Grand Junction
USFS - Grand Mesa National Forest



UNAWEEP FIRE USE MODULE

The UnawEEP FUM will be available approximately mid-April to mid-October and consist of a core group of 5 personnel. The FUM mission is to provide an Inter-agency resource for fire use, prescribed fire, and wildland fire incidents.

When requesting the module, the tentative scheduling will be addressed by the module coordinator and requesting units based on the information provided on the module request form or by phone/fax. Once the project is scheduled the module will need to be ordered through appropriate dispatch procedures. It is best request the module at least two weeks in advance or earlier for projects to help with prioritization.

Module Coordinator: Winslow Robertson [970-244-3112 phone]
e-mail: winslow_robertson@co.blm.gov [970-244-3124 fax]

Module Leader: Ross Oxford [970-244-3119 phone]
e-mail: ross_oxford@co.blm.gov [970-244-3124 fax]

Qualifications: ICT3, TFLD, STEN, CRWB, ENGB, HCWN, RXB2, RXI2, & HEB2 (t)

Assistant Module Leader: Lathan Johnson [970-244-3119 phone]
e-mail: lathan_johnson@co.blm.gov [970-244-3124 fax]
Qualifications: ICT4, ENGB, CRWB, HECM, RXI2, FALB, FLNV, STCR (t), TFLD (t), & FEMO (t)

Module crewmembers: 3 seasonals (unknown) and 0-3 additional detailers
Qualifications: Various (FFT2+)

Module equipment:

4 x 4 truck with trailer	1
4 x 4 crew carrier	1
046 stihl chainsaws	2
036 stihl chainsaws	4
ATV's	2
Drip torches	4
Laptop computer/fire software	2
Portable printer	1
Digital camera	1
Garmin GPS	2
Protimeter	1
Duff meter	1
DBH tapes	3
Clinometers	3
Kestrel 3000	2
Belt weather kits	5
Handtools	10
Fuel sampling supplies (saw, bags, etc.)	yes
Portable weather station (may be available upon request)	1
Radios	5
Cell phones	2
Satelite/cell phone	1

The module arrives supplied for the first 2 operational periods.
The module also has 2 purchase cards.

Module costs:

1-GS 9

1-GS 7

2-GS 5

1-GS 4

1 or more detailers (unknown GS)

Truck: FOR \$9/day and .21/mile

Carrier: \$1.22/hobbs hour

The modules base 8 hours are covered. The requesting unit will cover overtime, travel, mileage, and other project associated costs.

Detailer Requests: Personnel or supervisors requesting detailer assignments must contact the Module Coordinator, Winslow Robertson.



UPPER COLORADO RIVER INTERAGENCY FIRE MANAGEMENT

USFS - White River National Forest
BLM - Grand Junction
USFS - Grand Mesa National Forest



UNAWEEP FIRE USE MODULE

PROJECT/INCIDENT WORK REQUEST FORM

1. Requesting Unit:
2. Project Name(s):
3. Type of Project(s):
4. Project Contact(s):
5. Tentative Dates and Reporting Location:
6. Special Requirements:

Requesting Official:
Title:
Date:

Charge Code(s):



UPPER COLORADO RIVER INTERAGENCY FIRE MANAGEMENT

USFS - White River National Forest
BLM - Grand Junction
LSFS - Grand Mesa National Forest



UNAWEEP

FIRE USE MODULE

OPERATIONS PLAN

1. Mission Statement

The mission of the Fire Use Module (FUM) program is to develop and maintain an Inter-agency resource for fire use, prescribed fire, and wildland fire suppression. The FUM will consist of multi-skilled fire professionals dedicated to implementing the National Fire Plan while providing a career pathway for employees.

2. Introduction

The Unaweep Fire Use Module (FUM) will consist of approximately five core personnel. The purpose of the FUM is to provide land management agencies with a skilled, mobile, and mission specific workforce that is principally assigned to fire use incidents, prescribed fire projects, and wildland fire suppression incidents.

The primary mission and priority of the FUM is the implementation of fire use related skills. The FUM will be a key resource in the implementation of fire use incidents, hazardous fuels reduction and prescribed fire projects that may include but not limited to project design, site preparation, project implementation, and project monitoring. Typically, the FUM will primarily be available for assignment in the local geographic area, but may be assigned elsewhere in the Rocky Mountain Region or nationally, on an as needed basis.

The FUM may be made available to any land management agency throughout the Rocky Mountain Area during the field season with support emphasis placed on those administrative units that have a limited quantity of fire management resources.

3. Personnel Management

3.1 Staffing of the FUM will consist of a core of five fully qualified module members. There will be an additional 1 to 3 slots open for detailers, trainees, and fill-ins to maintain a minimum module number of 7 members. The staffing dates, module positions, minimum and target qualifications are listed below.

A. The FUM will also be referenced by its home, local, or geographic name. The module will be fully staffed during the dates listed below:

- Unawweep FUM: April 1st to October 1st

B. Module Positions:

- One PFT Module Leader
- One PPT Assistant Module Leader
- Three Seasonal crew member positions
- One to three other positions

C. Minimum Qualifications:

- Module Leader – Single Resource
- Assistant – FFT1
- All others – FFT2

D. In addition to the minimum qualifications, other qualifications that will be present on the FUM will include:

- 1 RXI2
- 1 FALB
- 1 FEMO
- 1 FALA

E. Target qualifications include but are not limited to:

- FUMA 2
- RXB1 & 2
- ICT3, 4, & 5
- RXI1 & 2
- FEMO
- LTAN
- FIRB

Additional fire qualifications may be pursued at the discretion of each module=s and their home unit=s.

3.2 The home unit fire program leader has the responsibility to ensure that module personnel are fully qualified to fill specific positions on the module. Those persons who

are not either fully qualified or trainee rated to perform a particular task **will not** be available for assignment.

3.3 All module personnel **will be** red carded and **must be** able to pass the arduous level of the pack test. This is a requirement for all positions including trainees on the module. All training and experience records will be maintained and updated by the module=s home unit.

4. Financial Management

4.1 The home unit=s will be responsible for providing all necessary start up costs such as equipment, personal protective equipment, tools, and vehicles for their assigned modules and members.

4.2 At the time of mobilization, until return to the home unit, the module members will charge all time, travel, per diem, vehicle use, mileage, support costs, and overtime to the receiving unit=s project or fire charge/management code=s. Under existing national agreement, cross billing does not normally occur. Only under rare circumstances would the field unit requesting assistance from a FUM, develop agency specific financial agreements and accounts to facilitate a timely reimbursement.

4.3 Module members are expected to spend all funds in a cost effective and responsible manner.

4.4 The module leader is responsible for all timekeeping and travel documentation throughout the duration of assignment. In addition, the module leader is responsible for all aspects of crew management including accident reporting, daily unit logs, monitoring documentation, and other pertinent items that are generally the assigned duties of any crew supervisor on fire management related project or incident. The module leader will also be expected to provide all trainees with an evaluation at the end of that particular assignment.

5. Operational Management

5.1 The scheduling of assignments for the module=s will be the responsibility of the respective home unit fire managers. In the event of scheduling conflicts, the projects will be prioritized within the respective fire management units. If the workload within a given fire management unit requires the use of additional modules, the requesting unit will place a request through normal dispatch channels for one or more modules. In the event requests for modules exceed the number of available modules, the Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group will convene the operations committee to prioritize the critical needs for the modules. Project priorities will be decided on a case by a case basis and follow the general criteria of:

- Pre-established priorities at the state or regional level.
- Limitations in prescribed fire prescription windows.
- High resource benefits or critical values to be protected.
- First come, first serve basis if all other factors are equal.

Each fire management unit is expected to actively identify, coordinate, and obtain line officer approval for prescribed fire projects that may need assistance for one or more modules.

5.2 Modules must be ordered for out of area assignments as a core, with a core consisting as a minimum of 5 individuals. Modules will not need to maintain their core personnel outside of the core season as defined in Section 3.1(A). Either the module leader or the assistant module leader must remain with the module at all times during an assignment.

5.3 Modules have the option of making members available for single resource assignments, especially for training assignments, provided that this practice does not compromise the operational capability and availability of the module. Request to make members available for single resource assignments must go through the fire program manager and the appropriate dispatch center. Once a module is down to the core number of 5, single resource assignments will not be an option unless positions can be back filled with fully qualified members.

5.4 Individuals who are unable to maintain availability or miss an assignment may be replaced with another individual. How, or if, a member rejoins the module will be at the discretion of the home unit fire program manager. It is the responsibility of every module member to keep their supervisor, dispatch, and the fire program manager informed of any changes to their availability.

5.5 The home unit fire program manager must be aware of and confirm all personnel movements within the module under his/her jurisdiction.

5.6 All module assignments will conform to the standard agency work/rest guidelines.

5.7 Modules committed to prescribed fire projects, wildland fire use incidents, or wildfire suppression assignments will remain assigned and unavailable for re-assignment until released by the appropriate fire officer=s. Modules may be released from a project or incident to a higher priority incident as long as re-assignment follows standard dispatch procedures.

6. Wildland Fire Use Guidelines

6.1 The primary role of the modules is to implement fire use tactical operations under the direction of a Fire Use Manager (FUMA). In the case of a low complexity fire that is in Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) stage I or II, the module may

independently manage the incident provided that a module member is a full qualified FUMA and another module member is qualified to run operations, Task Force or Strike Team qualified. If these conditions do not exist, then a fully qualified FUMA would need to direct the module=s. The module will provide technical information to the agency responsible for the incident to assist in assessing needs for national fire use teams or type 3 fire use teams.

6.2 The module may be assigned to multiple low complexity incidents while under the direction of a fully qualified FUMA. The module leader or assistant leader will have the final call on if the module can do multiple incidents or split into smaller groups. The factor affecting this decision the most will be qualifications and experience levels of everyone on the module.

7. Wildfire Suppression Guidelines

7.1 A secondary role of the FUM is to provide assistance when needed on wildfire suppression assignments. This could occur locally, regionally, or nationally in any position=s listed on red cards as trainee or fully qualified. The home fire program manager will evaluate and determine what role the module would be best utilized regarding suppression assignments.

8. Logistical Management

8.1 The home unit will provide the following for the modules

- Office space, phone and fax access
- Computer access with electronic communication
- Administrative support
- Cache space for equipment
- Quarters if possible

8.2 When ordering modules by ground transportation they will come equipped with the following equipment as a minimum:

- Assigned crew vehicles
- Two or more chainsaws with fuel
- Firing equipment
- Hand tools
- Five or more programmable radios
- Fire line gear and camping equipment
- Water and food for two days
- First aid kits

8.3 When ordering modules by air transportation they will come equipped with the following equipment as a minimum:

- Fire line gear and camping equipment
- Five or more programmable radios
- First aid kits

Any other gear, equipment, or project oversight must be provided by the requesting unit.

9. Dispatching and Ordering Procedures

9.1 For all assignments, the modules will be ordered and moved in accordance with standard and established dispatch channels and procedures.

10. Training and Certification

10.1 The home unit is responsible for arranging all training and refresher courses that are required to meet current red card qualifications while working towards target qualifications.

10.2 The home unit is responsible for initiating, tracking, and certifying position task books and ensure that all requirements met.

11. Safety

11.1 The module and all its members will utilize all standard safety practices and techniques to identify, evaluate, mitigate, and constantly re-evaluate incident and project situations to provide a safe working environment for everyone.

12. Performance and Accountability

12.1 The home unit fire program manager will, at a minimum, review module performance annually. If, at any time, unsatisfactory performance may occur the module will be review as needed until performance returns to a satisfactory level or above.