



National Interagency Fire Center
3838 S. Development Avenue
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August 6, 2005

To: Geographic Area Coordinating Group Chairs

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

Subject: Agency Wildland Fire Situation Analysis Approval Levels and Signature Authority

It has been brought to the attention of the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) that current guidance in the Fire Operations Plan for 2005 and the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations Book, does not clearly articulate approval levels and signature authority for Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) on multiple jurisdiction fires. The interpretation of current guidance has lead some agencies to determine that funding approval levels for estimated total costs for the alternative selected for a WFSA are based on the total cost of each incident when multiple jurisdictions are involved. Others have decided that it is each individual agency's funding estimate that determines the level of signature authority.

The decision of NMAC is that funding approval levels for multiple jurisdictional incidents are determined based on each agency's funding commitment for a WFSA and **not** the total funding. For example, if a multi-jurisdictional incident has a selected WFSA alternative of \$50 million, but the USDA-FS share is only 10% (equals \$5 million), then approval authority would remain at the Forest Supervisor level. There will be written guidance inserted in the 2006 Fire Operations Plan that will clarify this issue. For the remainder of the 2005 Fire Season this letter should be used as direction on this issue.

/s/ Don Artley
Chair, NMAC