THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

ORDER NO. 3372

Subject: Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management

Sec. 1 **Purpose.** This Order is intended to enhance the Department of the Interior's (Department) management of Federal lands to: (1) better protect people, communities, wildlife habitat, and watersheds by actively managing lands to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire; and (2) promote the sustainable recovery of damaged lands. Further, it is intended to ensure that the American people receive the maximum benefits from new and existing regulatory mechanisms designed to reduce the impacts of catastrophic wildfire.

Sec. 2 **Authorities.** This Order is issued under the authority of section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262), as amended, the Department's statutory authority for land management, and other relevant statutes.

Sec. 3 **Background.** On December 21, 2018, President Donald J. Trump issued an Executive Order, titled "Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Rangelands, and Other Federal Land to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk," declaring it to be the "policy of the United States to protect people, communities, and watersheds, and to promote health and resilient forests, rangelands, and other federal lands by actively managing them through partnerships with States, Tribes, localities, non-profit organizations, and the private sector."

As a Federal land manager, the Department is critical to promoting the policy goals within this E.O. During the past three years, wildfires have covered an average of 3.49 million acres of Department-managed land per year. The serious health risks, safety concerns, tragic loss of life, and economic losses resulting from catastrophic wildfire demonstrate the need for increased attention to active forestland, rangeland, watershed, and wildfire management policies and techniques that reduce irreparable harm to landscapes and the citizens who live and work in neighboring communities.

The E.O. titled, "Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Rangelands, and Other Federal Land to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk," and this Order build upon the principles and priorities that the Administration and I have established for Federal land management, including safe and effective responses to wildfire, promoting fire-adapted communities, and creating fire resilient landscapes and watersheds through direct program activities and through strong Federal, State, Territorial, Tribal, and local collaboration.

Sec. 4 **Directives.** Consistent with applicable laws, regulations, sound principles of wildfire management, and the E.O. titled, "Promoting Active Management of America's Forests,

Rangelands, and Other Federal Land to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk," I direct the following actions:

a. Include Fire Management Best Practices in All Land Management Plans.

(1) To achieve the goals of E.O. titled, "Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Rangelands, and Other Federal Land to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk," all Department land use plans, resource management plans, comprehensive conservation plans, national park plans, national wildlife refuge plans, and management plans for trust lands (collectively, "Land Management Plans") that are currently under revision, and all future Land Management Plans, shall incorporate, as appropriate, the principles of active management to facilitate wildfire prevention, suppression, and recovery planning measures designed to protect people, communities, landscapes, and water quality, and to mitigate the severe flooding and erosion caused by wildfire.

(2) To proactively address the anticipated detrimental impacts of the 2019 and other near-term fire seasons, Heads of Bureaus and appropriate Offices shall collaborate with the Department and the Deputy Assistant Secretary – Public Safety, Resource Protection, and Emergency Services will represent the Department and collaborate with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to identify Federal lands with the highest catastrophic wildfire risks. Bureaus and appropriate offices shall submit a plan to revise or amend their underlying Land Management Plans to the Deputy Secretary within 60 days of the date of this Order. The plan should include actions to facilitate wildfire prevention, suppression, and recovery planning, in addition to protective measures that address water quality, flooding, and erosion.

b. Coordinate and Collaborate with Land-Managing Partners and Stakeholders. Managing wildfire is not unique to the Department. The Department shares this responsibility with other Federal land-managing Agencies, States, Territories, Tribes, localities, and stakeholder groups.

(1) To maximize wildfire management efforts and benefits the Department and Heads of Bureaus and appropriate Offices shall take the following actions in collaboration and consultation with USDA:

(i) No later than March 31, 2019, identify salvage and log recovery options from lands damaged by the 2017 and 2018 fire seasons, insects, or disease.

(ii) Within 90 days of the date of this Order, develop performance metrics that better capture the risk reduction benefits of the fire management tools enumerated in E.O. titled, "Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Rangelands, and Other Federal Land to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk," and this Order.

(iii) Within 120 days of the date of this Order, implement a cooperative strategy to utilize unmanned aerial systems and technical operators in order to prevent, suppress, and rehabilitate landscapes impacted by wildfire.

(iv) Within 30 days of the date of this Order, identify and catalog all National Environmental Policy Act categorical exclusions that address wildfire management in order to maximize their use and to commence the development of new useful categorical exclusions.

(2) Within 90 days of the date of this Order, the Department will consult with USDA and the U.S. Department of Commerce to identify and deploy additional resources that streamline Endangered Species Act compliance timelines for wildfire management activities.

(3) Within 60 days of the date of this Order, the Department will consult with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to identify and remove fuels management barriers implemented under the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act and report progress to the Deputy Secretary.

(4) Heads of Bureaus and appropriate offices shall:

(i) Within 45 days of the date of this Order, conduct an examination and report to the Deputy Secretary the costs and challenges of managing wildfire risks through land management activities, including but not limited to, prevention, suppression, recovery, implementation of applicable statutory requirements, and litigation.

(ii) Within 90 days of the date of this Order, inventory local units where Good Neighbor Authority could help reduce wildfire risks. Within 120 days, utilize the inventory to develop and begin executing a plan to coordinate with Federal Agencies, States, Territories, Tribes, localities, and stakeholders to support infrastructure necessary to maintain healthy forestland, rangeland, and watersheds. The plan should be designed to mitigate wildfire risks by expanding or utilizing existing Good Neighbor Authority agreements and pursuing long-term (20-year) land stewardship contracts.

(iii) Within 90 days of the date of this Order, inventory and assess the condition and maintenance needs of roads that are potentially beneficial to wildfire, fuels, and vegetation management planning; develop a strategy for maintaining the roads needed for emergency services and wildfire prevention, suppression, and landscape restoration; and report the developed strategy to the Deputy Secretary.

c. Utilize Active Land, Vegetation, and Wildfire Management Techniques that are Supported by Best Practices and Best Available Science. Active land and vegetation management reduces the intensity and impact of wildfires. As Bureaus and appropriate offices incorporate wildfire management best practices into their Land Management Plans, they shall incorporate the use of any land and vegetation management techniques that are appropriate for the landscape, produce the desired results of reducing fuel loads, and are supported by the best available science. Such practices include, but are not limited to:

1) mowing;

2) pre-commercial and commercial thinning;

3) manual and mechanical cutting;

4) linear fuel breaks;

5) biological and chemical treatment;

6) access road maintenance;

7) prescribed fire or controlled burns;

8) timber salvage;

9) timber and biomass sales;

10) piling;

11) yarding;

12) removing vegetative material;

13) selling of vegetation products (including, but not limited to: firewood; biomass; timber; and fence posts);

14) issuing grazing permits;

15) targeted grazing;

16) application of pesticides;

17) bio-pesticides and herbicides;

18) seeding of native, non-invasive, and non-native species;

19) invasive species management; and

20) jackpot and pile burning.

d. Maximize the Wildfire Management Benefits of Physical Features within Landscapes. Physical features within forestlands, rangelands, and watersheds serve as fuel breaks that contribute to aggressive wildfire management. When used in conjunction with the vegetation management techniques described in this Order, physical features covered by Land Management Plans serve as fuel breaks that stop or prevent the spread of catastrophic wildfire. Features that provide wildfire management benefits may include rivers and streams, geological formations, and various rights-of-way (ROW), such as roadways, railways, and utility corridors. To maximize the wildfire prevention benefits provided by physical features, Heads of Bureaus

and appropriate offices shall:

1) Address the utilization of physical features as a tool for wildfire management in Land Management Plans.

2) Within 60 days of the date of this Order, review their respective ROW regulations, policies, rules, and guidance and provide a report to the Deputy Secretary. The report should include recommendations to revise or modify ROW policies to ensure that ROW holders can actively manage their ROWs in a way that contributes to preventing and halting the spread of wildfire.

e) Seek and Implement Expert Guidance. Many of the Department's employees and land-managing partners possess specialized qualifications that should be utilized as the Department seeks to protect people, communities, and watersheds from the detrimental effects of wildfire. To ensure that the Department and its partners' expertise is fully utilized:

1) Within 90 days of the date of this Order, assemble a Departmental team comprised of planning specialists from each Bureau to lead planning efforts and resource deployment across the Department. The team will facilitate the coordination and review of vegetation management actions at landscape scales.

2) Within 120 days of the date of this Order, establish a Federal Advisory Committee Act board to advise the Secretary on the implementation of E.O. titled, "Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Rangelands, and Other Federal Land to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk," and this Order. Board membership should include Federal, State, Territorial, Tribal, county, and local stakeholders and experts.

Sec. 6 **Effect of the Order**. This Order is intended to draw upon administrative mechanisms that protect people, communities, and watersheds from the catastrophic risks of wildfire by actively managing lands to reduce wildfire intensity, size, and duration that supports efficient suppression efforts and promotes the sustainable recovery of damaged lands. This Order and any resulting reports, recommendations, policy documents, or regulations are not intended to and do not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its Departments, Agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person. To the extent that there is any inconsistency between the provisions of this Order and any Federal laws or regulations, the existing laws or regulations will control.

Sec. 7 **Expiration Date**. This Order is effective immediately. It remains in effect until the appropriate provisions are incorporated into Land Management Plans, regulations, or Bureau and Office handbooks, policy documents, or other such document, or until the requirements of the Order are implemented and completed, amended, superseded, or revoked.

Secretary of the Interior

Date: 2 JAN 2019