Dillon Field Office

2004

Fire Management Plan

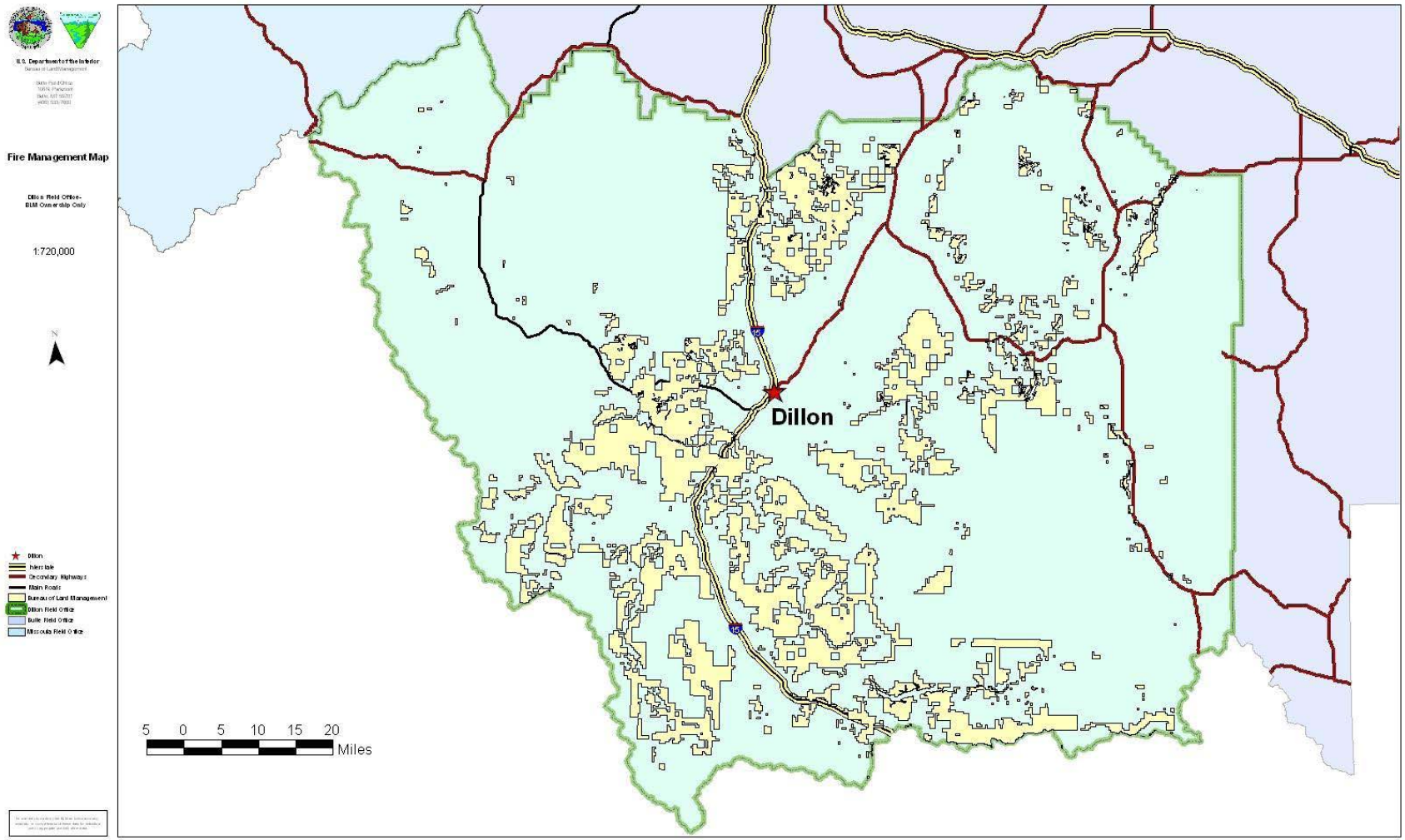
Developed By: _____ _____
Field Office Fire Management Officer Date

Recommended By: _____ _____
Field Office Manager Date

Approved By: _____ _____
State Director Date

At the time of development of this Fire Management Plan the Dillon Field Office was in the process of developing a Resource Management Plan (RMP). Once the RMP is completed direction in this fire management plan will be significantly altered to comply with direction set forth in the new RMP and the 1610-1 Planning Handbook. The Dillon Field Office RMP is scheduled for completion in September of 2005.

Table of Contents


U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Fire Management Map
Dillon Field Office-
BLM Ownership Only
1:720,000
N
Dillon
Dillon
Interstate
Secondary Highways
Main Roads
Bureau of Land Management
Dillon Field Office
Butte Field Office
Missoula Field Office
5 0 5 10 15 20
Miles

I Introduction

A. Purpose

The purpose of the Dillon Field Office Fire Management Plan (FMP) is to identify and integrate all wildland fire management guidance, direction, and activities required to implement national fire policy and fire management direction from the following: Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review-1995 and 2001; The Interagency Fire Management Plan Template; and A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment: 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan.

The FMP was developed around a Field Office fire management program and addresses all aspects of it, including wildland urban interface (WUI), rural fire assistance, prescribed fire, fuels management, prevention, and suppression. The FMP identifies a fire program that meets identified fire management objectives.

B. Relationship to environment Compliance

All fire management objectives, constraints, and activities contained within this plan are consistent with the following source documents: Dillon Management Framework Plan (MFP) 1979 and 1984 Dillon Resource Area Fire Management Plan and Environmental Assessment. The FMP meets the national requirement that all BLM administered lands subject to wildland fires are managed under a current FMP. The FMP also meets regulatory compliance requirements with the National Environmental Policy Act as it is a strategic document that does not make resource management decisions or project specific implementation decisions and therefore is categorically excluded from further NEPA analysis (Categorical Exclusion 516 DM2, Appendix 1, Chapter 2, 1.10).

C. Collaboration

The FMP is a strategic document identifying approved fire management direction determined by the MFP and analyzed in the final environmental impact statement for that plan. This MFP was developed with input from and consultation with representatives from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Forest Service (FS), the State of Montana, and interested citizens. Prior to implementing fire management projects on-the-ground, additional environmental analysis and compliance with other federal and state regulatory requirements such as the National Historic Preservation Act and the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act will be required.

D. Authorities

- Protection Act of September 20, 1922 (42 Stat. 857; U.S.C. 594).
- Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934 (48 Stat. 1269; U.S.C. 315).
- Reciprocal Fire Protection Act of May 27, 1955(69 Stat. 66; 42 U.S.C. 1856, 1856a).
- Economy Act of June 30, 1932 (47 Stat. 417; 31 U.S.C. 686).
- The Federal Land Management and Policy Act of 1976 (FLPMA) (Public Law 94-579; 43 U.S.C. 1701).
- Disaster Relief Act, Section 417 (Public Law 93-288).
- 2001 Annual Appropriations Acts for the Department of the Interior.
- United States Department of the Interior Manual (910 DM 1.3).
- 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy.
- 2001 Updated Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy Update).
- 1998 Departmental Manual 620 Chapter 1, Wildland Fire Management General Policy and Procedures.

II. Relationship to Land Management Planning and Fire Policy

The Fire Management Plan has been tiered to decisions contained within the Dillon Management Framework Plan, the Interim Wilderness Guidance, Dillon Resource Area Fire Management Plan, and the Federal Wildland Fire Policy. These plans provide the basis for the development of fire management goals and objectives.

The FMP derives overall program guidance from the following:

- 1998 BLM Handbook 9214, "Prescribed Fire Management" describes authority and policy for prescribed fire use on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.
- September 2000, "Managing the Impacts of Wildfires on Communities and the Environment."

- October 2000, National Cohesive Strategy goal is to coordinate an aggressive, collaborative approach to reduce the threat of wildland fire to communities and to restore and maintain land health.

- August 2001, "Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment -10 Year Comprehensive Strategy" provides a foundation for wildland agencies to work closely with all levels of government, tribes, conservation, and commodity groups and community-based restoration groups to reduce wildland fire risk to communities and the environment,

- May 2002, "Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment, 10 Year Comprehensive Strategy – Implementation Plan"

- August 2002, "Healthy Forests - An Initiative for Wildfire Prevention and Stronger Communities."

III. Wildland Fire Management Strategies

A. General Management Considerations

1) Fire Suppression Responsibilities

Under terms of an agreement entered into by the Montana State Director and Regional Forester, Northern Region United States Forest Service on February 18, 1982, wildfire suppression agencies agreed to aid/cooperate in the suppression of wildfires. This agreement is referred to as the BLM/FS Master Agreement. On December 1, 1986, the State Director and Regional Forester also agreed to implement Phase II of the BLM/USFS Protection Adjustment. At that time the Butte District was directed by Instruction Memorandum No. MT-87-68 to proceed with developing operating plans with adjoining National Forests to implement Phase II.

On February 3, 1987, an operating plan for fire protection exchange adjustments was agreed to by District Managers for Butte and Lewistown. Also concurring with the fire protection exchange adjustment were the Forest Supervisors of the Beaverhead, Deerlodge, Gallatin, Helena, and Lolo National Forests. Effective that date, the Butte District's public lands of approximately 1.4

million acres became the wildfire protection responsibility of the Forest Service. The Forest Service then entered into an agreement with the Montana Department Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), to have the DNRC assume protection responsibility on a portion of the public lands. All parties to this agreement currently work under the Cooperative Fire Management Agreement (Six Party Agreement), dated March 1998.

2) Wildland Urban Interface

The operational roles of the BLM in the wildland urban interface are wildland firefighting, hazardous fuels reduction, cooperative prevention and education, and technical assistance. Structural fire suppression is the responsibility of tribal, State, or local governments, as described in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations.

3) Agency Administrator and Employee Roles

Agency Administrators will ensure employees are trained, certified and available to participate in the wildland fire program locally, regionally, and nationally as the situation demands, as described in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations.

4) Fire Management Program Evaluation

As required in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations the Dillon Field Office will evaluate its program annually to ensure accountability, facilitate resolution of conflict, and identify resource shortages and priorities. This process will be facilitated through the annual review of interagency operating agreements, the completion of readiness reviews, formal program reviews, the FPA process, and by performing after action reviews of fuels management projects by the fuels interdisciplinary (ID) team.

B. Wildland Fire Management Goals

Goals Related to Fire and Fuels Management

- Human Life: Protect human life, both the public and firefighters. This is the single, overriding priority in fire management.

- Property and Resources: Protect human communities, their infrastructure, and the natural resources on which they depend. Other property and improvements will be protected.

- Identify appropriate management response (AMR) goals, objectives, and

constraints by specific Fire Management Units (FMU) within the Fire Planning Units. All wildland fire management activities will be managed as described in the FMU guidance outlined in Chapter III, section D.

- Work collaboratively with communities at risk within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) to develop plans for risk reduction.
- Allow wildland fire to protect, maintain and enhance public resources, and as nearly as possible, be allowed to function in its ecological role when appropriate for the site and situation.
- Create an integrated approach to fire and resource management across the landscape and agency boundaries. This approach will be designed to meet the desired outcomes of Land and Resource Management Plans.
- To provide a program that fosters interagency interaction, cooperation and effectiveness for all fire management activities. The program should be evident within all levels of the agencies, cooperators, and other public entities.

Setting priorities among human communities, other property, and natural resources will be based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection. The risk of wildfire to communities and property will be reduced using the full range of options available to fire managers, including prescribed fire, wildland fire use for resource benefit, and mechanical fuels reduction.

- Wildlife components, including Special Status Species (Federally Threatened and Endangered species and designated critical habitat, Federally Proposed species and proposed critical habitat, Candidate Species, BLM Sensitive Species and State Species of Concern): Protect, maintain, preserve, and/or restore habitats necessary for the conservation of species, and the ecosystems upon which they depend, to maintain viable and diverse populations of native terrestrial and aquatic species including special status species.

- Vegetation components: Improve ecosystem health and maintain or restore the range of ecological conditions in which native floral and herbaceous components thrived and evolved.

- Cultural, Historical and Paleontological: Protect high value cultural, historical and paleontological resources.

- Designated Special Areas: Protect the characteristics that warranted designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs), Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), National Monuments and National Conservation Areas.

Natural and Biological Resource Objectives

- Air: Meet federal and state air quality standards through proper management of emissions.

- Flora and Fauna– Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species: Ensure that BLM actions will not reduce the likelihood of survival or recovery of any listed species or destroy or adversely affect or modify designated critical habitat to those species.

- Water: Meet Federal and State water quality standards and prevent degradation through Best Management Practices during and after fires and vegetative treatments.

- Visual: Meet established Visual Resource Management (VRM) class objectives through appropriately planning fuel reduction treatments. VRM will be a consideration for any post-fire erosion control and other burned area rehabilitation and restoration needs.

- Public Lands Health: Meet Standards for Public Lands Health through appropriately planning fuel reduction treatment projects. These standards will be considered for all phases of treatment irregardless of the environment the treatment is taking place in (grasslands, brushlands, woodland and forest).

Resource Use Objectives

Vegetation: Fire and fuels management and related actions will reduce the amount of forest, shrub, and grass lands that are characterized as Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) II and III.

- where fire regimes have been moderately to significantly altered from their historical ranges
- where there is a moderate to high risk of losing key ecosystem components
- where vegetative attributes have been significantly altered from their historical range
- where fire return frequencies have departed from their historical frequencies by more than one return interval

Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas: Fire and fuels management actions will meet the wilderness non-impairment mandate for Wilderness Areas. For Wilderness Study Areas fire and fuels management will strive to avoid unnecessary impairment that would affect the suitability toward wilderness designation of these areas. The ultimate goal would be to return fire to its natural role in these ecosystems.

C. Wildland Fire Management Options

Fire Suppression

Fire management specialists in concert with resource specialists from other disciplines determined fire management categories, management objectives and the appropriate management response for each FMU. The fire management categories are as follows:

- Control Areas - Fire plays natural role in the function of the ecosystem; however these are areas where unplanned ignitions could cause negative effects because of current conditions.

  Suppression Strategy- Use the full range of fire suppression strategies and tactics to suppress all fires within the first burning period. Implement the full range of wildland fire and fuels management practices, including prescribed fire, mechanical, chemical, and biological treatments that will move all affected landscapes toward desired future condition as described in the MFP. Fire suppression strategies and tactics would be tailored to address areas where plant communities are at risk due to current conditions/time of year or other ecological constraints. Multiple fire day priority is high.

  Rationale for Categorization- Unplanned ignitions would have negative effects on ecosystems unless mitigated and have potential negative impacts on private property values.

  Fire/fuels Management Activities- Suppression required; fire and non-fire fuels treatments may be used.

- Confinement Area B- Areas actions will be taken that uses natural and/or preconstructed barriers or environmental conditions to confine a fire to a predetermined area with maximum burn acreage limitations.

  Suppression Strategy-Use AMR to implement protection objectives in accordance with management objectives based on current conditions and fire location. Implement the full range of wildland fire and fuels management practices, including prescribed fire, fire use, mechanical, chemical, and biological treatments that will enhance or maintain desired conditions as described in the MFP. AMR strategies would be tailored to address areas of significant constraints including Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), critical habitat for T&E species, areas of soil

instability, and areas of other critical resource constraints. Multiple fire day priority is medium.

Rationale for Categorization- Significant ecological, social, or political constraints exist.

Fire/fuels Management Activities- Suppression required; fire and non-fire fuels treatments may be used.

- Confinement Area A - Areas where wildland fire is desired and there are few or no constraints for its use.

  Suppression Strategy-Use AMR to implement fire use objectives in accordance with management objectives based on current conditions and fire location. Wildland Fire Implementation Plans (WFIP) will be prepared to meet management objectives for fires managed for resource benefits. Multiple fire priority would be lowest.

  Rationale for Categorization- Few ecological, social, or political constraints exist. There is less need for fuels treatments.

For all FMU's suppression objectives including the target acreages were defined by the following criteria: the fire intensity level fire (FIL) that would be expected within the FMU, the size of the public land and its proximity to private in holdings, the FMU's level of use by the public, the FMU's proximity to private residences and communities, the FMU's wilderness values, the FMU's historic fire regime, and the unique biological, cultural, historical or archeological resources within the FMU.

Wildland Fire Use

The use of wildland fire for resource benefit can be an appropriate management response, the Dillon Field Office currently is party to the Wildland Fire Use plan for the Lee Metcalf Wilderness.

D. Descriptions of the Wildland Fire Management Strategies by Fire Management Unit

The Fire Management Plan establishes geographic areas as Fire Management Units (FMUs). In this section, the Fire Management Plan establishes prescriptive criteria and other guidance, which provide additional direction to allow managers to implement the objectives of the Management Framework Plan and activity-level plans for each FMU.

Common to All FMUs:

Fire regime/condition class

Historically, fire was the dominant disturbance agent within the vegetative communities the Dillon Field Office. The fire regimes within these vegetative communities are complicated and diverse. Fire can benefit several conifer species by aiding in reproduction, maintaining stand density within a site's specific carrying capacity, reducing insect and disease epidemics and cycling nutrients on the site. A variety of shrub, grass and forb species, important components of wildlife habitat, also depend on fire to varying degrees. Conversely, fire can adversely affect communities through high intensity fires which result in high mortality of conifers in forest communities and which can cause widespread severe erosion, mass wasting, and other undesired environmental effects.

An understanding of fire frequency and severity prior to fire suppression efforts and how it relates to vegetative cover types is important in order to manage wildfire and prescribed fire within the Field Office. Table 1 describes the broad fire frequency and fire severity for fire and fuels management which occurs in the Field Office. The table illustrates the important and complex role fire historically played across landscapes in west central Montana. It also provides insight into how fire functions as a disturbance force and what affects fire has on plant communities in the area. Fire's historical role will be an important consideration when prescribing and managing fire in the Field Office.

Table 1 Natural Fire Frequency and Severity

Fire Group*	Cover Type Description	Frequency	Severity**
1	0-35 year frequency and low (surface fires most common) to mixed severity (less than 75% of the dominant overstory vegetation replaced	0-35 yrs	NL
2	0-35 year frequency and high (stand replacement) severity (greater than 75% of the dominant overstory vegetation replaced	0-35 yrs	L-M
3	35-100+ year frequency and mixed severity (less than 75% of the dominant overstory vegetation replaced	35-100 yrs	M-L
4	35-100+ year frequency and high (stand replacement) severity (greater than 75% of the dominant overstory vegetation replaced	35-100 yrs	L-M
5	200+ year frequency and high (stand replacement) severity	200 + yrs	L-M

* Coarse-scale definitions for natural (historical) fire regimes have been developed by Hardy et al. (2001) and Schmidt et al. (2002) and interpreted for fire and fuels management by Hann and Bunnell (2001)
** NL-Non-lethal, L-Lethal, & M-Mixed Severity Fire Regimes

For a given vegetation type, the fire regime condition class (FRCC) concept describes the degree of departure in: (1) vegetation structure, and (2) fire frequency/severity. This measure describes both the health of the fire regime, and also the appropriateness of the vegetation community for the site. Condition Class 1 corresponds to landscapes where these variables are intact, while Condition Class 3 landscapes have highly altered ecological integrity. Condition

Class 2 includes lands having moderate departure in fire regime health and structural integrity.

Fire regime condition class mapping for the Dillon Field Office is complete and is currently being integrated into the revision of the RMP and project level decisions for vegetation management.

Fire Management Objectives

Goal: Hazard fuel reduction around the urban interface.

Objectives
Reduce hazardous fuels by the use of mechanical and prescribed fire where applicable around communities at risk from wildfire.

Goal: Suppress all unwanted wildland fires with minimum cost, using an appropriate suppression response, while protecting values at risk.

Objectives
Suppress all fires in accordance with management objectives based on current conditions and locations.

Goal: Establish or update cooperative agreements to maximize coordination with agencies' cooperators.

Objectives
Review all existing agreements annually, updating or changing them as necessary to promote full cooperation in mutual fire management.

Fire Management Strategies

Fire Suppression: The Dillon MFP guidance for fire suppression is to develop a response plan that recognizes fire as a natural part of the range and forest ecosystem. Under the concept of Appropriate Management Response the range of responses available to implement protection objectives for unplanned ignitions are:

Confinement
Monitoring plus contingency actions
Monitoring plus mitigation actions
Initial attack
Monitoring and holding actions to check or confine spread
Control and extinguishment with an emphasis on Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST)

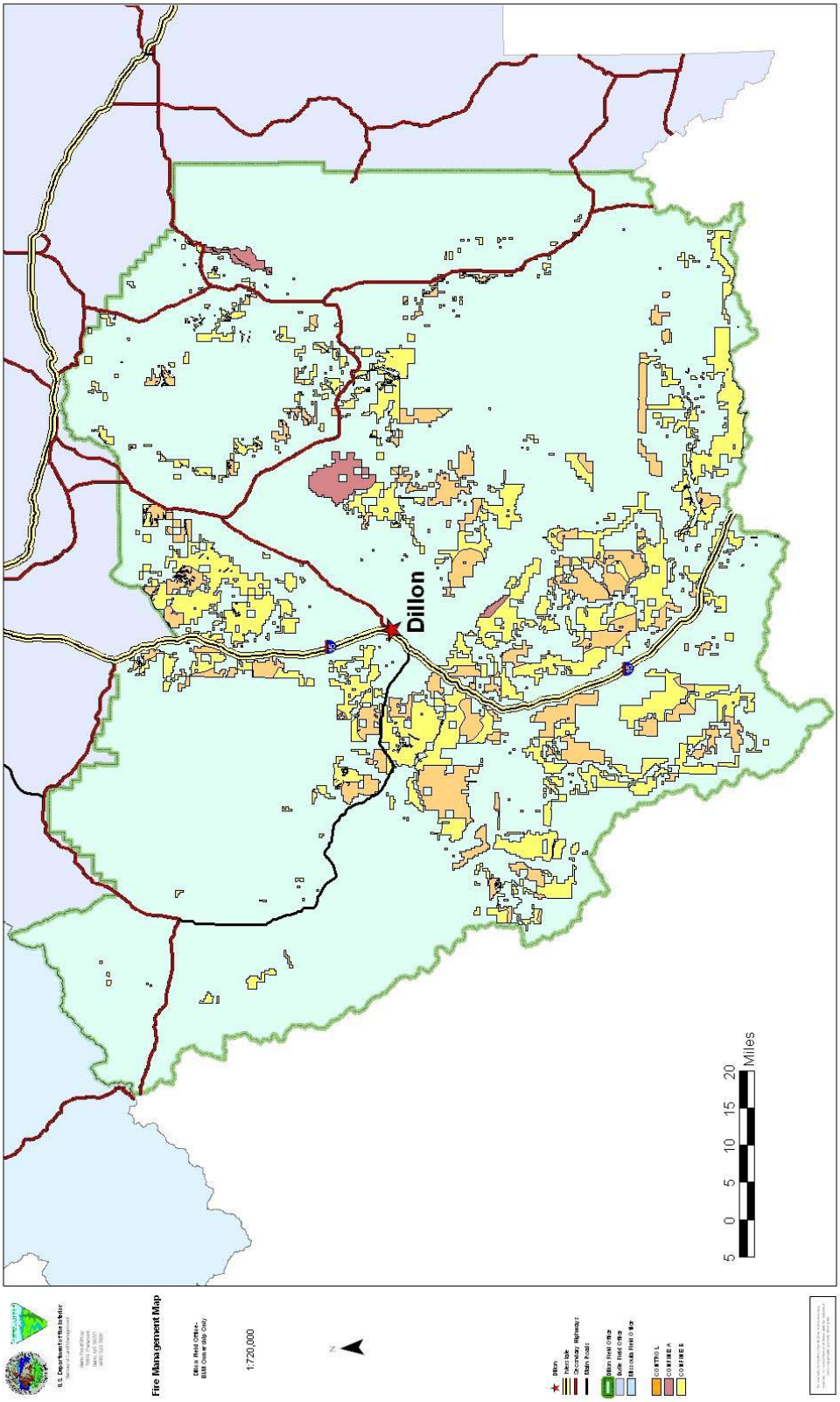
Criteria to use for developing a management response:
Risk to firefighters and public health and safety
Land and Resource Management Objectives
Weather
Fuel Conditions
Threats and values to be protected
Cost efficiencies
Resource Availability

Management strategies and action points will be based on fire activity and location. Normally, specific actions or combinations of actions will be determined on site by the incident commander.

Fuel Management Treatment Target Acreage

The Dillon Field Office is currently completing a Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies (RAMS) assessment for the Field Office. Once the RAMS assessment is completed it will outline the fuels management program of work for the next decade. This program of work will include a description of areas to be treated on a priority basis and acres to be treated by year by treatment type.

Fire Management Unit Map



Fire Management Unit (FMU) Description

Control Areas

1. Area description: The Control Areas are scattered throughout the Field Office. See attached map specific locations.

2. Characteristics: The Dillon Field Office is highly variable and complex topographically as well as from a vegetative standpoint. To characterize the control areas in a simple manner is not easy, but in general these areas are grassland or sagebrush vegetative communities.

3. Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints: The control strategy areas were designated due to the potential damage in which can cause to resource values and/or threaten life and property.

   This area also contains portions of the Bell-Limekiln Canyon WSA and Hidden Pasture WSA. This area has high resource values including cultural, relic vegetation, and high visual and scenic values. A Resource Advisor should assist the Incident Commander in making suppression decisions. This area should normally involve an alternate suppression strategy due to limited access. Intensive fire suppression techniques should not be used.

4. Communities at Risk: None

5. Fire Management Objectives:

   Goal: Minimize unwanted fire impacts through planned fire use and fuels treatments.

   Goal: Minimize impacts of unwanted fires by safely and aggressively suppressing 95% of all ignitions in the first burning period.

   Goal: Use planned fire use and surrogate fire treatments to restore and maintain primary natural resources and their processes where applicable in order to move FRCC III and II to FRCC I.

   Objectives:

   Forest Ecosystems
   Establish and maintain a vegetative structure and mosaic within the natural range of variability for forest ecosystems.

   Grasslands
   Restore fire as a key natural process that encourages native grassland ecosystems.

All types
Reduce established noxious and non-native plant cover.

6. Fire Management Strategy

Suppression - Wildland fire is not desired in this area due to resource values and threat to private and agricultural land. The appropriate management response to wildland fire within the Control Area would be aggressive fire suppression. Confine or contain unplanned ignitions to smallest feasible size.

All fires occurring at a Fire Intensity Level (FIL) 1-3 will be suppressed at less than 10 acres 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at FIL 4-6 will be suppressed at less than 100 acres 75 percent of the time.

Wildland Fire Use – Wildland fire use for resource benefit is not planned for this FMU.

Prescribed Fire - Fire/other methods may be used to open the closed timber stands to promote a diversity of age structure and return sites to a more open savannah type. Fire may be used to reduce conifer encroachment into willow, aspen, and grass/shrub communities. Big game winter range may be maintained or improved by using fire to improve winter forage by rejuvenating grasses, big sagebrush, mountain mahogany and bitterbrush and limiting conifer encroachment. Prescribed fire would used to treat 15,000 acres per decade.

Non-Fire Treatments- Mechanical fuels management strategies should be used when prescribed fire not appropriate to reduce fuels buildup and to avoid or mitigate the effects of potential wildland fires. Mechanical fuels can be used to treat 10,000 acres per decade.

Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or actions needed for Restoration – an inter-disciplinary team will develop plans for post fire rehabilitation. Post fire rehabilitation and restoration will be used to facilitate reestablishment of the potential natural community of the site. All rehabilitation actions will be commensurate with resource values using the minimum tool concept. The following rehabilitation concerns should be addressed:

- Slopes of 15% or greater where surface erosion is likely
- Weed free plant material will be used and preference will be given to seeding appropriate native plant species.
- Road obliteration or restoration where the road created by the suppression activity does not meet resource objectives for the area or may cause erosion.

- Areas to be rehabilitated will be inventoried for cultural resources at a Class III level prior to rehabilitation.
- Rehabilitation will be based on careful consideration of resource objectives, area concerns, and constraints.
- Potential for noxious weed infestations.

7. Fire Suppression Responsibility: Fire suppression is the responsibility of the Montana DNRC and the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

Confinement Area B

1. Area description: The Confinement Area are scattered throughout the Field Office. See attached map specific locations.

2. Characteristics: The Dillon Field Office is highly variable and complex topographically as well as from a vegetative standpoint. To characterize the confinement areas by vegetative community is difficult due to the diversity of vegetative communities throughout the Field Office.

3. Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints: The confinement areas were designated to take advantage of the positive benefits of fire to vegetative communities. However the areas designated as a B confinement area do have limitations on the acres to be treated with unplanned ignitions. A maximum of 250 acres of grass and sage fuel models and 10 acres timber fuel models would be allowed to burn per incident.

   This area also contains portions of the Axolotl Lakes WSA, Bell-Limekiln Canyon WSA, Blacktail Mountains WSA, Centennial Mountains WSA, East Fork of Blacktail WSA, Farlin Creek WSA, Henneberry Ridge WSA, Hidden Pasture WSA, and Tobacco Root Tack On WSA. These areas have high resource values including cultural, relic vegetation, and high visual and scenic values. A Resource Advisor should assist the Incident Commander in making suppression decisions. These areas should normally involve an alternate suppression strategy due to limited access. Intensive fire suppression techniques should not be used.

4. Communities at Risk: Lakeview, Nevada City, Polaris, and Virginia City

5. Fire Management Objectives:

Goal: Reduce wildland fire hazard around identified cultural sites.

Objectives: Apply mechanical fuel reduction and prescribed fire where applicable around vulnerable historic resources to minimize damage from wildland fire.

Goal: Reduce wildland fire hazard around identified communities at risk.

Objectives: Apply mechanical fuel reduction and prescribed fire where applicable around vulnerable communities to minimize damage from wildland fire. Use community education and outreach on prudent Firewise practices.

Goal: Use prescribed fire and surrogate fire treatments to enhance wildlife habitat and create vegetative diversity.

Objectives: Reduce conifer encroachment into sagebrush/grass parklands and foothills to maintain/enhance winter range for elk and mule deer and maintain/enhance sagebrush communities for sagebrush dependent species.

Goal: Use planned fire use and surrogate fire treatments to restore and maintain primary natural resources and their processes where applicable in order to move FRCC III and II to FRCC I.

Objectives:

Forest Ecosystems
Establish and maintain a vegetative structure and mosaic within the natural range of variability for forest ecosystems.

Grasslands
Restore fire as a key natural process that encourages native grassland ecosystems.

All types
Reduce established noxious and non-native plant cover.

6. Fire Management Strategies:

Suppression - Wildland fire is desired but is constrained to an acreage limit of 250 in grass and sage fuel models and 10 acres in timber fuel models. The appropriate management response to wildland fire within the Confinement Area B would be a suppression action that uses natural or preconstructed barriers or environmental conditions to confine a fire to a predetermined area and the maximum acreage limitation.

All fires occurring at a Fire Intensity Level (FIL) 1-3 will be suppressed at the target acreage limitation 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at FIL 4-6 will be suppressed at less than 100 acres 75 percent of the time.

Wildland Fire Use- Wildland Fire Use for Resource benefits is not planned for this FMU.

Prescribed Fire- Fire/other methods may be used to open the closed timber stands to promote a diversity of age structure and return sites to a more open savannah type. Fire may be used to reduce conifer encroachment into willow, aspen, and grass/shrub communities. Big game winter range may be maintained or improved by using fire to improve winter forage by rejuvenating grasses, big sagebrush, mountain mahogany and bitterbrush and limiting conifer encroachment. Prescribed fire would used to treat 15,000 acres per decade.

Non-Fire Treatments- Mechanical fuels management strategies should be used when prescribed fire not appropriate to reduce fuels buildup and to avoid or mitigate the effects of potential wildland fires. Mechanical fuels can be used to treat 10,000 acres per decade.

Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or actions needed for Restoration – an interdisciplinary team will develop plans for post fire rehabilitation. Post fire rehabilitation and restoration will be used to facilitate reestablishment of the potential natural community of the site. All rehabilitation actions will be commensurate with resource values using the minimum tool concept. The following rehabilitation concerns should be addressed:

- Slopes of 15% or greater where surface erosion is likely
- Weed free plant material will be used and preference will be given to seeding appropriate native plant species.
- Road obliteration or restoration where the road created by the suppression activity does not meet resource objectives for the area or may cause erosion.
- Areas to be rehabilitated will be inventoried for cultural resources at a Class III level prior to rehabilitation.
- Rehabilitation will be based on careful consideration of resource objectives, area concerns, and constraints.
- Potential for noxious weed infestations.

7. Fire Suppression Responsibility: Fire suppression is the responsibility of Montana DNRC and the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

Confinement Area A

1. Area description: These areas are primarily located in the Ruby Mountains WSA, Blacktail Mountains WSA, and the Bear Trap Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness.

2. Characteristics: In general the areas within this fire management unit are composed of forest ecosystems.

3. Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints: Since these areas are located in the Ruby Mountains WSA, Blacktail Mountains WSA, and the Bear Trap Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness it is critical that wilderness values be preserved.

   BLM resource advisors will be used to limit potential negative resource impacts.

4. Communities at Risk: None

5. Fire Management Objectives:

   Goal: Maintain the natural and visual qualities of the WSA's and Lee Metcalf Wilderness.

   Objectives: Suppression actions should be done in a manner that least impairs wilderness characteristics
   Goal: Use planned fire use and surrogate fire treatments to restore and maintain primary natural resources and their processes where applicable in order to move FRCC III and II to FRCC I.

   Objectives:

   Forest Ecosystems
   Establish and maintain a vegetative structure and mosaic within the natural range of variability for forest ecosystems.

   Grasslands
   Restore fire as a key natural process that encourages native grassland ecosystems.

   All types
   Reduce established noxious and non-native plant cover.

6. Fire Management Strategies:

Suppression - The appropriate management response to wildland fire within these confinement areas is to prevent wildland fire from spreading outside the confinement area boundary. Suppression actions should be done in a manner that least impairs wilderness characteristics in the wilderness and WSA. Use of mechanized equipment is limited due to the Wilderness and Wilderness Study Area designation.

All fires occurring at a Fire Intensity Level (FIL) 1-3 will be confined to the boundary of the Confinement Area A polygon involved 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at FIL 4-6 will be suppressed at less than 100 acres 75 percent of the time.

Wildland Fire Use - Wildland Fire Use for Resource benefits is desired for this FMU however no plan is in place to allow the implementation of Wildland Fire Use except for the Bear Trap Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness.

Prescribed Fire- Management ignited methods may be used where allowed to open the closed timber stands to promote a diversity of age structure and/or return sites to a more open savannah type. Fire may be used to reduce conifer encroachment into willow, aspen, and grass/shrub communities. Big game winter range may be maintained or improved by using fire to improve winter forage by rejuvenating grasses, big sagebrush, mountain mahogany and bitterbrush and limiting conifer encroachment. Prescribed fire would used to treat 15,000 acres per decade.

Non-Fire Treatments- Mechanical fuels management strategies would limited due to the management designation of WSA and Wilderness.

Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or actions needed for Restoration – an inter-disciplinary team will develop plans for post fire rehabilitation. Post fire rehabilitation and restoration will be used to facilitate reestablishment of the potential natural community of the site. All rehabilitation actions will be commensurate with wilderness values using the minimum tool concept. The following rehabilitation concerns should be addressed:

- Slopes of 15% or greater where surface erosion is likely
- Weed free plant material will be used and preference will be given to seeding appropriate native plant species.
- Road obliteration or restoration where the road created by the suppression activity does not meet resource objectives for the area or may cause erosion.
- Areas to be rehabilitated will be inventoried for cultural resources at a Class III level prior to rehabilitation.

- Rehabilitation will be based on careful consideration of resource objectives, area concerns, and constraints.
- Potential for noxious weed infestations.

7. Fire Suppression Responsibility: Fire Suppression is the responsibility of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and the Montana DNRC.

IV. Wildland Fire Management Program Components

A. Wildland Fire Suppression

The FMP is based on the concept that all wildland fires will be subject to an initial response.

Fire History

Between 1980 and 2003 the Field Office experienced 174 fires, of these approximately 62 percent of fires in this field office were lightning caused and generally occur between the months of June and August. Human caused fires are usually associated with agricultural burning in the spring and hunting season in the fall.

The annual average for all fire causes is 7 fires per year burning an average of 1707 acres per year.

Multiple fires days consisting of 2 fires or more per day have occurred 14 times with 3 fires occurring on four days.

The number of fires varies from year to year and is dependent on the amount of moisture associated with the annual snowpack and late spring rains. The size of fires fluctuates from year to year depending on the availability of the primary fire carrier. Perennial grasses and sagebrush are the primary fire carriers in the lower to middle elevations, and their growth is dependent upon precipitation received during the late winter and spring months. At the higher elevations primary fire carriers are perennial grasses and timber litter.

Fire occurrence is most common in the Confinement B area. The probability of large fires (based on historical data) is also highest because of fuel continuity**,** and reduced access. The majority of this field office experiences primarily Class A, B and C, fires. However it should be noted that nearly 30 percent of the human fires fall in the D, E, or F size class. The Field Office has experienced 6 Class F and 2 Class G size class fires between 1980 and 2003.

Mobilization of a Type II Incident Management Team has occurred three times during this time period for fires on the Dillon Field Office.

Fire Behavior

The Field Office supports a variety of fuel types, including grass, sage, sage/grass, juniper, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and mixed-conifer.

The following table represents best available information on fuels complexes within the Field Office and expected fire behavior during the fire season.

Juniper Woodland (Timber/Litter Fuel Group)			
Fuel Model	**Rate of Spread (ch/hr)**	**Flame Length (ft)**	**Fire Characteristics**
8	2 – 5	0.9 – 1.9	Only under low wind conditions
6	28 – 83	4.7 – 10	Only closed-canopy conditions under high wind speeds of over 20 mph at 20 feet.
Grasslands/Sagebrush (Grass Fuel Group)			
1	0 – 311	0 – 8.4	Fires burn out quickly
2	0 – 103	0 – 11	Continuous and rapid spread under high wind conditions
Douglas-fir, Lodgepole Pine & Mixed Conifer (Timber/Litter Fuel Group)			
8	0-2	.5-1.0	Surface fire only; only under severe weather do they pose a problem
Douglas-fir, Lodgepole Pine & Mixed Conifer (Timber/Litter Fuel Group)			
10	8-30	8-15	Fires burn in the surface and ground fuels with greater intensities than models; high potential for crown fire.

Suppression and Preparedness Actions

Since fire suppression is not a responsibility of the Dillon Field Office the agencies providing protection will use the following as their guidance for fire suppression.

Use AMR to suppress all fires in accordance with management objectives for the FMU based on current conditions and fire location. An appropriate response could vary from limiting a fire to the smallest size possible to

monitoring based upon safety concerns or resource management objectives.

The priority for a quick suppression response for the Field Office is to prevent wildland fires from spreading into the urban interface, onto private land, and improvements on BLM lands. For any type of response, minimizing cost must be considered.

The Field Office has a small fire cache to support fuels management activities and personnel dispatches to large fires.

Requirements for fire operations can be found in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations.

The Field Office does not have a Fire Danger Operating Plan as it relies on the plans of the agencies providing fire protection.

Prevention

Under the terms of the exchange of fire protection responsibilities between the BLM Montana State Office and the Northern Region of the Forest Service fire prevention services are to be provided by the protecting agency. At the time of the development of this document it is being determined whether or not fire prevention is still a service to be provided. Until that determination is provided fire prevention activities are being performed jointly with the protecting agencies.

The full spectrum of the fire prevention program will be determined as part of the RAMS assessment being conducted for the Field Office. Following the completion of this assessment a Field Office fire prevention plan will be developed and implemented.

Special Orders and Closures

The Field Office manager or delegated acting's have authority to issue restrictions and closures. Fire restrictions and closures are normally put into place after conferring with other agencies with in the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group NRCG sub zone where the Dillon Field Office sets. Generally, restrictions are instituted during times of high fire danger, fire occurrence or both, and in time when available fire personnel are limited due to high fire activity in the area (Region). All restrictions are in conformance with and use the language specified in the NRCG Restrictions and Closures Plan.

Fire Training

Training and fitness requirements for all personal involved in

fire/suppression support can be found in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations. Attendance at the refresher training along with successful competition on the appropriate level of work capacity testing is a prerequisite for the issuance of a red card prior to May 1st annually. Training files for all red carded personnel are held by the Fire Management Officer. The Western Zone Red Card Committee is responsible for issuance of position task books as well as certification of task books and qualifications. Specific guidance for the red card committee is in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations and the Montana BLM Western Fire Zone Fire Qualification Review and Certification Committee Operating Plan.

Detection

Detection of fires within the Dillon Field Office is generally dependent upon reports from other agency lookouts, Field Office employees and the public. Post-high lightning activity patrols in high probability areas within the Field Office are routinely conducted on the ground, with some fire detection flights at dry times of the year. Both these types of patrols are performed by the protecting agencies.

Fire Weather and Fire Danger

The Field Office has no permanent weather stations and relies on its interagency partners for Remote Automatic Weather Station (RAWS) data. The Field Office has two portable RAWS stations for zone prescribed fire operations. National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) fire danger determinations are the responsibility of the protecting agencies.

Aviation Management

The Fire Management Officer (FMO) has been designated as the Unit Aviation Officer. All flight involving Field Office employees need to be coordinated through the FMO. Local vendors are available and are ordered through Dillon Dispatch.

The unit aviation plan can be found in Appendix B.

Initial Attack

All fires within the Field Office will be managed with suppression actions consistent with preplanned dispatch protocols in conformance with resource management objectives identified in this plan. Tactics and strategies will be based on the current and predicted weather and fire behavior. Firefighter and public safety is always the first priority. Use the following information for determining initial attack priorities.

The highest priority FMU's within the Field Office for initial attack are ranked as:

1. Control Area
2. Confinement Area B
3. Confinement Area A

Extended Attack

Incident Command System (ICS) provides for a management/organizational structure on incidents that evolve in complexity or increase in size, whether within a few hours or over several days. While the criteria for incident complexity vary by local conditions, a fire that has escaped initial attack and is considered in extended attack when:

a. Has not been contained by the initial attack resources dispatched to the fire.
b. Will not have been contained within the management objectives established for the FMU.
c. Has not been contained within the first operational period and there is no estimate of containment or control.

When complexity levels exceed initial attack capabilities, the appropriate ICS positions should be added commensurate with the complexity of the incident. The Incident Complexity Analysis and the Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) will assist in determining the appropriate management structure to provide for safe and efficient fire suppression operations.

The protecting agency and the BLM will jointly participate in development of the WFSA and delegation of authority for fires on BLM land. BLM and the protecting agency will provide information relevant to the initial stages of the WFSA and provide the situational briefing for the incoming management organization. If other jurisdictions are involved all affected Line Officers or their designees will sign the delegation of authority and a Unified Command will be established to deal with the incident.

Delegations of Authority will clearly spell out Line Officer expectations and roles and responsibilities for the incoming Incident Commander as identified in the WFSA including cost containment measures.

B. Wildland Fire Use

Wildland Fire Use is identified as a beneficial resource management tool in the Dillon MFP; however fire use can only occur in the Bear Trap Unit

of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. The Lee Metcalf Fire Use Guidebook provides specific direction on the implementation of fire use within the wilderness.

C. Prescribed Fire

The Dillon Field Office prescribed fire program is an interdisciplinary activity with a basis to treat natural and activity fuel accumulations to meet resource objectives, standards, and guidelines as outlined in the MFP, watershed assessments, and area specific planning documents. These documents permit the use of management ignited fire on BLM lands in the Dillon Field Office. Treatments have historically included hazardous fuels reduction, wildlife improvement, range habitat improvement, and reduction of activity fuels.

The development of prescribed fire treatments is typically accomplished one to three years in advance of planned treatments. Field reconnaissance and interdisciplinary analysis is completed one to two years in advance of project implementation.

The Field Office develops out-year program planning and budgeting information for prescribed fire treatments in accordance with the MFP and project level EAs. Projects will be identified in the Risk Assessment Mitigation Strategy (RAMS).

Project implementation is prioritized as follows:

1. Wildland/Urban interface area.
2. Forest Health and Restoration (areas that are currently in condition class 2 and 3.
3. Watershed Structure and Integrity
4. Maintain areas that are currently in condition class 1.

The 1998 BLM Handbook 9214 "Prescribed Fire Manual" provides specific guidance for the prescribed fire program. It covers guidance, planning, prescribed fire plan requirements, determination complexity, safety and qualifications, project finance, cooperation and assistance, escape fires, and reporting.

The Field Office fire program maintains various types of ignition devices (drip torches) and support for use on prescribed fire.

Only qualified personnel will participate in the implementation of prescribed fire and fuels implementation projects. A list of qualified personnel is available from the FMO.

All prescribed fire treatments are monitored to determine if treatments are meeting the objectives as outlined in the project plan. Prescribed fire treatment monitoring can be defined as a systematic process for collecting and recording information to provide a basis for evaluating, adjusting resource and treatment objectives, methods, and implementation practices. Monitoring and evaluation will follow the guidance stated in the "Prescribed Fire Manual" 9214 (pg.19), MFP, area-specific planning documents, and project burn plans.

Smoke Management/ Air Quality

In 1978, federal, state and local government agencies and the forest products industry formed the Montana State Airshed Group. Their purpose was to manage and limit the impacts of smoke generated from necessary prescribed burning. In 1990, agencies and companies in North Idaho joined the Montana group on an operational basis to accomplish the same purposes. South Idaho agencies and companies joined the group in 1999.

Accumulation of smoke from controlled burning is limited through scientific monitoring of weather conditions and formal coordination of burns. Members submit a list of planned burns to the Monitoring Unit in Missoula, Montana. For each planned burn, information is provided describing the type of burn to be conducted, the number of acres, as well as the location and elevation at each site. Burns are reported by "Airshed" which are geographical areas with similar topography and weather patterns. The program coordinator and a meteorologist provide timely restriction messages for airsheds with planned burning. Weather balloons may be launched and tracked to identify specific atmospheric conditions to aid in decision-making. The Missoula Monitoring Unit issues daily decisions which can restrict burning when atmospheric conditions are not conducive to adequate smoke dispersion. Restrictions may be directed by airshed, elevation or by special impact zones around populated areas. The Monitoring Unit announces burning restrictions through 17 airshed coordinators located throughout Idaho and Montana.

The Dillon Field Office is located in Airshed 7. Within the Field Office boundary is the Big Sky Impact Zone.

Implementation of the RAZU Online Burn Reporting System began in spring of 2002. Pre-season burn lists will be entered by individual burners, giving the responsibility for submitting and proposing daily burns back to the members.

It is the responsibility of the Airshed coordinator to be the first point of contact between the members and the Monitoring Unit regarding operational smoke issues, reporting problems, or in a crisis situation such

as a smoke intrusion. The coordinator will also provide assistance to burners by entering burns in the event of system problems, providing training in using the new online program, and being the point of contact for smoke related concerns.

D. Non-Fire Fuel Applications

Non-fire fuels treatments comprise a substantial portion of the fuels management program in the Field Office. The strategy of using non-fire treatments is primarily related to the presence of large urban interface areas within the Field Office boundary. Wildland urban interface communities on the Federal Register have received priority planning and treatment. Future projects will usually be identified in the Risk Assessment Mitigation Strategy (RAMS). Project planning and treatment objectives are in accordance with MFP and area-specific planning documents.

The development of treatment proposals is typically accomplished one to three years in advance of planned treatments. Field reconnaissance and interdisciplinary analysis are completed one to two years in advance of project implementation.

All specific non-fire fuels treatment project plans include pre/post project criteria or silvicultural prescriptions. For specific action items refer to area-specific planning documents and individual project plans.

Implementation of non-fire fuels projects is generally accomplished through the following formats: service contracts, force account labor (Fuels Crew), and labor provided IGO with Forest Service.

The fuels program will monitor to determine if treatments are meeting project objectives. Monitoring for non-fire fuels treatments is based on site specific planning documents, project objectives, and silvicultural prescriptions. Monitoring will ideally provide a basis for adjusting future management decisions, and can provide information for education and public meetings in WUI areas.

Project level reporting requirements have been established and include submissions in National Fire Plan Operations Reporting System (NFPORS) and the Management Information System (MIS). Resource specialists associated with fuels projects report in the Rangeland Improvement Project System (RIPS) and the Budget Planning System (BPS).

Service contracts require documentation as specified by the Montana BLM state office or the National Business Center. The Contracting Officer Representative maintains a service contract folder that is associated with a project folder.

Documentation requirements including maps, agreements, monitoring, and project notes are compiled in project folders. The folders are maintained in hard copy formats, and in electronic formats. The BLM Prescribed Fire Management Handbook 9214 specifies project file documentation requirements for fuels treatment projects.

E. Emergency Rehabilitation and Restoration

The Field Office does not have a Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan. If emergency rehabilitation or restoration is needed, the Montana BLM Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) team will utilized, an interdisciplinary-burned area rehabilitation team will be formed, and plans will be developed at that time. Emergency fire rehabilitation based on FMU requirements most likely would be focused on:

- Slopes of 40% where surface erosion from water is likely
- Temporary fences should be considered in areas where grazing pressure may inhibit re-establishment of native plants following wildfire.
- Re-seeding of natural vegetation to restore plant communities.
- Road obliteration or restoration.

F. Community Protection/Community Assistance

One of the five key points of the National Fire Plan, the Community Assistance program is based on cooperation and communication among federal agencies, states, local governments, tribes and interested parties. The program strives to build capacity to develop and implement citizen-driven solutions that will lessen local vulnerability to the risks of wildland fires. Specific objectives of the program include: 1) promotion of community assistance for planning, mitigation and education; 2) hazardous fuels reduction activities, training and maintenance; and 3) enhancement of local and small business employment opportunities for rural areas.

Community Assistance funds are utilized by communities for fire planning, fuels reduction projects and educational workshops. The first step for communities is to develop a community wildfire protection plan (CWPP), assessing their risks, hazards, values and protection preparedness. The CWPP must also contain mitigation strategies, based on the findings of the

assessment. Components of the CWPP meet requirements established by the National Fire Plan and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act; plans are also encouraged to meet the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation planning process, allowing communities to apply for all-risk mitigation grants.

The hazardous fuel reduction aspect focuses on the wildland-urban interface areas, reducing the risk to people and privately owned property. Fuels projects include both wildland fuels reduction (by chemical, mechanical, biological and prescribed fire means) and structural landscape fuel modification (promoting Firewise landscaping and structures and creating defensible/survivable space).

The education component includes the development and implementation of wildfire education, training and community action/involvement programs. Education may also focus on the planning and adopting of zoning regulations and ordinances to advance wildfire safety in the urban interface. A major educational strategy involves the use of the Firewise workshop for communities, where workshop activities promote combustible vegetation management, structural ignition prevention and defensible/survivable space.

Benefits of the Community Assistance program are tri-fold. The program serves to reduce the risk and consequences of wildland fire, expand the capacity for local communities to help themselves, and to enhance the economic stability of rural communities.

Both counties in the Dillon Field Office, Beaverhead County and Madison County, have received funds from the Community Assistance program. Beaverhead County is in the process of completing a county-wide CWPP. They have established a cost-share program for fuels hazard reduction projects for private landowners. Work has begun on such projects, and the program sports its own chipper. Madison County has completed their county-wide CWPP; officials have started work on a fuels hazard reduction pilot program in a subdivision identified in the assessment process. Community Assistance funds are aiding with the educational aspect of the project. Both counties will require future funding to complete fuels projects and educational events identified in the CWPP analysis process.

Rural Fire Assistance Program

The Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) and Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) programs provide federal funding, administered through the State Forester, to assist rural and volunteer fire departments. RFA provides funding to enhance firefighter safety and strengthen the wildland fire protection capabilities of rural fire departments that provide support on federal ground. The RFA program offers assistance with training, equipment and prevention efforts.

The VFA program provides funding to volunteer fire departments for training, firefighting equipment and organization of new departments.

The RFA/VFA programs are designed to help departments meet and/or exceed accepted standards of fire qualifications, training and performance; thus, increasing firefighter safety.

Predictions for future RFA funds include a 50% reduction in the next year and the complete phasing out of the program by the following year.

V. – Budget and Organization

A. Budget and Organization

The table below is the organization and equipment required to meet 100 percent of program objectives.

Bureau of Land Management Implemented Fire Resources
Office: Dillon Field Office

Resources	Quantity	Number of Personnel	Total Work Months
Number of Engines:	0		
Number of Water tenders:	0		
Number of Dozers:	0		
Number of Tractors / plows:	0		
Number of Fire Boats:	0		
Number of Type 1 Crews:	0		
Number of Helitack Crews:	0		
Number of Fuels Crews:	0		
Number of Type 2 Crews sponsored:	0		
Number of Smokejumpers (AK & NIFC only):	0		
Number of Fire Management Officers:	0		
Number of Assistant FMOs / FCOs:	0		
Number of Fire Operations Specialists:	0		
Number of Dispatchers:	0		
Number of Other Aviation Staff (Aviation Mgr., Seat Mgr, etc.):	0		
Number of Mitigation/Education/Prevention Specialists / Techs:	0		
Number of Resource Specialists:	1		2
Number of Fuels Specialists:	2		24
Number of Other Fire Staff:	0		
Number of PFT funded by Preparedness:	0		
Number of Career Seasonals funded by Preparedness:	0		
Number of Temporaries funded by Preparedness:	0		
Number of PFT funded by Fuels:	2		
Number of Career Seasonals funded by Fuels:	0		
Number of Temporaries funded by Fuels:	0		

B. Assistance Agreements and Intra/Interagency Agreements

The following is a list of agreements that pertain to fire management activities for the Field Office:

Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement between United States Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management Montana and Dakotas, National Park Service Intermountain Region, Bureau of Indian Affairs Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain Regions, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Mountain-Prairie Region, United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Northern Region and The State of Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation – this plan is the master agreement that exchanges fire protection responsibilities.

Annual Operating Plan for the Bureau of Land Management, Butte and Dillon Field Offices, Dillon Unit, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest – this plan covers the operational procedures for initial attack and other incident support activities for a portion of the Field Office.

Dillon Dispatch Annual Operating Plan – this plan covers the operations of the Dillon Interagency Dispatch Center.

Community Assistance Agreement with Headwaters RC&D covers Madison County – this agreement is for mitigation work and education.

Agreement with Beaverhead Development Corporation covers Beaverhead County – this agreement is for development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, mitigation work and education.

VI. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluating of the fire program will occur to determine if the program and associated projects are meeting the various resource plans directions and to determine if the costs of implementing the fire program and management effects are occurring as predicted.

Monitoring related to wildland fire or fire related projects falls under the general monitoring and evaluation guidelines outlined in the Management Framework Plan. Site specific monitoring needs are identified in analysis for individual fire related projects.

As required in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations the Dillon Field Office will evaluate its program annually to ensure accountability, facilitate resolution of conflict, and identify resource shortages and priorities. This process will be facilitated through the annual review of interagency operating agreements, the completion of readiness reviews, formal program reviews, the FPA process, and by performing after action reviews of fuels management projects by the fuels ID team.