



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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January 31, 2013

In Reply Refer To:
9210 (FA600) P

EMS Transmission 02/01/2013
Instruction Memorandum No. FA IM-2013-013
Expires: 09/30/2014

To: BLM State Directors

From: Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation

Subject: Interim Guidance for Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program of Work for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014
DD: March 4, 2013

Program Area: Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Healthy Lands, Renewable Resources, Fire Planning, Budget.

Purpose: This Instruction Memorandum (IM) transmits the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) interim guidance for developing the FY 2014 Program of Work (POW) for the hazardous fuels reduction (HFR) and community assistance (CA) programs until final POW guidance is issued by the Department of the Interior (DOI).

Policy/Action:

FY 2014

Unless revised, the Hazardous Fuels Prioritization and Allocation System (HFPAS) policy issued by the DOI, Office of the Secretary, on February 14, 2011, and the DOI HFR program priorities memo (dated June 1, 2011) will be employed by offices when developing, submitting, and prioritizing HFR projects for FY 2014. The DOI priorities memo can be found on the fire planning and fuels management intranet site at: <http://web.blm.gov/internal/fire/fpfm/fuels.html>. At the field/district and state levels, managers should ensure that projects included in the POW meet the Secretary's priorities.

Offices should be aware of several key points from the DOI regarding FY 2014 program changes:

- Preliminary budget information indicates the FY 2014 HFR program budget for the DOI will be reduced from FY 2013.
- The DOI continues to develop and update the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS). Business rules for inputting NFPORS data may be revised.

- The FY 2013 HFPAS process will likely be used to prioritize projects. Attributes used to score projects will be identified in NFPORS. The Ecosystem Management Decision Support (EMDS) results used in FY 2013, in combination with NFPORS attributes, will be used to determine the final rank of projects.
- Only those projects that will result in the mitigation of wildfire risk to communities and their values will be considered for funding.

In the short-term, when entering projects into NFPORS, offices should place priority on collaborative projects that have potential to receive funding from additional internal sources, such as other resource programs, and external sources, such as non-governmental organizations. Additionally, offices should focus their NFPORS effort on those priority projects which are ongoing or are designed to maintain a previous investment. For all projects, at a minimum, offices should focus on completing the NFPORS data fields that were used to rank projects in the FY 2013 HFPAS process.

Washington Office IM-2013-038 directs offices to enter jointly-funded HFR projects into the Budget Planning System (BPS). To avoid entry of HFR projects into both NFPORS and BPS, an allowable alternative for jointly-funded projects is for non-fire programs to reference the NFPORS treatment/activity identification number in their BPS submission, and ensure that the BPS number is provided to fuels personnel for input into NFPORS.

For BLM, interim guidance for developing and submitting HFR projects and CA funding requests can be found in the BLM's NFPORS User's Guide and in the BLM Program of Work Technical Guidance document, located on the fire planning and fuels management intranet site at: <http://web.blm.gov/internal/fire/fpfm/fuels.html>.

FY 2015 and Beyond

Offices should coordinate with other program leads and cooperators to develop an integrated program of work. Additionally, BLM offices should work with their Healthy Lands (HL) coordinators and other vegetation program management counterparts to identify HL focus areas. Field, district and state office personnel should ensure that fuels/fire planning personnel are providing input/expertise that will assist in developing focus areas where hazardous fuels are posing the greatest wildfire risk to communities and their values. Offices will be asked to map HL focus areas and provide preliminary information about FY 2015 through FY 2019 projects to the Washington Office/National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) for review (a forthcoming FA600/WO200 IM will provide further information).

At the Department level, as the HFPAS process continues to transition to a four-year POW, additional DOI guidance will be provided for developing projects and submitting fuels and community assistance funding requests. In the meantime, offices are encouraged to coordinate with internal and external collaborators/partners to leverage funds and develop a POW for out-years using NFPORS to identify projects that have the greatest potential for joint funding/collaboration in HL focus areas.

Timeframe: All preliminary FY 2014 HFR and CA funding requests from field/district offices must be entered into NFPORS and approved/validated by state offices no later than March 4, 2013.

Budget Impact: This IM establishes procedures for submitting HFR funding requests and has significant impacts on the formulation of budget and allocation of HFR funding to BLM nationally, and to the states.

Background: The DOI continues to revise the HFPAS process for FY 2014 and beyond. Therefore, this IM issues interim guidance to offices that request HFR project funding. Additionally, it provides guidance for collaborating with other BLM resource programs to ensure funding for vegetation management activities are effectively and efficiently integrated. The FA600 office, in collaboration with WO200, will use funding requests that are present in NFPORS to assist in developing BLM's FY 2014 Planning Target Allocation (PTA). Since several decision support tools rely on NFPORS data, it is important that offices input the required data, as it will affect funding allocations.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: None.

Coordination: The annual preparation of budget allocations and performance information necessitates a close and integrated working relationship among fire/fuels, budget and other vegetation management programs at all levels of the BLM. This IM was coordinated with WO200, WO880, and FA400.

Contact: For questions related to NFPORS inputs and development of the out-year POW, contact Krista Gollnick-Waid, BLM Fuels Specialist, 208-387-5165, or Ted Milesnick, Acting Division Chief, Fire Planning and Fuels Management, 208-387-5198.

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