



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wyoming State Office

P.O. Box 1828

Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009-1828

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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EMS TRANSMISSION: April 12, 2011  
Instruction Memorandum No. WY-2011-028  
Expires 09/30/2012

To: District Managers

From: Deputy State Director, Resources Policy and Management

Subject: Weather Information Management System/Remote Automated Weather Station (WIMS/RAWS) Guide

**Purpose:** This Instruction Memorandum (IM) establishes policy on roles and responsibilities for the WIMS/RAWS programs and provides operating guidelines for each to ensure that the most accurate and representative National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) outputs are generated daily so as to be able to base fire and aviation management decisions.

**Applicability:** All Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wyoming Fire and Aviation Management programs are subject to the policy set forth in this IM.

The goal of the Wyoming BLM Fire and Aviation Management Branch is to operate a fire danger rating system that produces an accurate assessment of the wildland fire potential across all Districts to support planning and implementation of the local fire and aviation management programs.

This guide to the WIMS/RAWS programs provides the foundation for the operation of the NFDRS at the District level. Deficiencies in either program will result in misleading or erroneous NFDRS outputs which may affect suppression and prevention effectiveness and could jeopardize firefighter safety.

In 2010, the national BLM Fire Leadership Team tasked a committee to study three general areas of fire suppression resources. One of these was to identify and recommend potential areas for savings and/or increased efficiencies in program areas not associated with direct suppression assets. An area of consideration for potential savings is within the Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) program. State Fire Management Officer's (FMO) were directed to work in cooperation with Predictive Services, to evaluate RAWS sites and identify unneeded or unnecessary stations, looking at potentially reducing the program costs by 40 percent nationwide

District FMO's are required to review their RAWS programs and determine if they can reduce their number of stations by working in cooperation with other agencies' RAWS like BIA, NPS, FS, and to provide reasonable and accurate local indices, and development of National Fire Danger Rating Plans (NFDR Plans).

**Timeframe:** This policy is effective immediately. The response to the 40 percent reduction must be completed by May 1, 2011.

**Coordination:** This policy was coordinated with the Rocky Mountain Coordination Center's Predictive Services and the Wyoming BLM Fire and Aviation Branch.

Please refer questions to Jeff Fedrizzi, State Fire Management Office, at (307) 775-6234.

Signed by:  
Bill Hill  
Deputy State Director,  
Resources Policy and Management

Authenticated by:  
Sherry Dixon  
Secretary

1 Attachment:

1 - WIM/RAWS Operations Guide (38 pp)