



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

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Regional Policy Memorandum

Bureau of Indian Affairs Midwest Region Office of the Regional Director

Number: RPM-MW-TRUS-1A 1

Effective: 04/01/06

Expires: 03/31/07

Title: Forestry Policy

Limited Delegation of Authority – Interagency Fire Management Coordination Functions within the Region

1. Purpose

In accordance with 90 IAM 1.7D, 3 IAM 4 and 3 IAM 4A (Delegation of Authority Midwest Region), the Midwest Regional Office Fire Management Officer (FMO) is hereby authorized to represent the Midwest Regional Director, as a functioning member of all wildland fire interagency coordination groups within the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Midwest Region. This includes the Eastern Area Coordination Group (EACG), Multi-Agency Coordination Group (EA MAC), Statewide Interagency Coordination Groups, and any other similar groups.

2. Scope

The FMO is authorized to coordinate with partners to set priorities for emergency incidents, allocate resources and direct Area Command Teams in order to meet protection objectives, coordinate interagency budget requests, negotiate with interagency partners on the allocation of funding or resources derived from the Fire Planning Analysis (FPA), develop interagency wildfire and emergency incident management policy to meet the protection and interagency coordination goals of the Midwest Region and national fire management policy. The Director shall retain signature authority for charters and interagency agreements and may at any time, reassume authority upon notice.

Geographic Area Coordination Groups provide an interagency approach to emergency management by:

- a. Providing leadership and coordinated direction to fire management programs;
- b. Providing a forum for exchange of ideas and development of consistent policies;

#50 RPM-MW-TRUS-1 04/01/06

1
AMEND 1

c. Fostering cooperation, avoiding wasteful duplication, and facilitating maximum efficiency in fire and emergency management programs through coordinated planning and utilization of closest forces and shared resources concepts;

d. Providing oversight, direction and investigation of interagency incident management teams, caches, dispatch centers, training, safety, policy, operational support.

e. Establishing and maintaining an interagency approach to wildland fire management programs by developing full interagency association, and facilitating of a high degree of professionalism, trust and mutual assistance among wildland fire management agencies; and

f. Identifying issues, establishing priorities, developing alternatives, and recommending a unified course of action to agency administrators.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

As the Bureau representative to the interagency coordination effort, the Midwest Regional FMO will develop and coordinate interagency wildland fire management policy and actions and ensure that agency policy and procedures are maintained, that agency administrators are informed of actions, and that decisions are implemented with consideration of the Bureau and tribal interests protected.

Decisions may include prioritization of wildland fire or other emergency incidents for the allocation of firefighting or other resources to meet wildland severity or suppression needs; determination of emergency incident priorities; negotiation of the allocation of interagency funding allocations assigned to the interagency partners through the FPA process; assignment of resources and or positions, generated by the FPA process, to the appropriate interagency group participant in accordance with national policy and local needs.

Statewide Wildland Fire Coordination Groups provide an interagency approach to emergency and land management issues similar to the geographic area interagency groups but for limited jurisdictions as indicated within their charters.

This delegation does not include authority over Agency Superintendents that may choose to serve on an interagency coordination organization or Executive Board with authority within their jurisdiction.

4. Approvals

s/terrance L. Virden

2/28/06

Terrance Virden
Midwest Regional Director

Date