

Decision Memo – Use of Government Passenger Carriers

DECISION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

DATE: April 3, 2024 **JOAN MOONEY** Digitally signed by JOAN MOONEY
Date: 2024.04.16 14:12:09 -04'00'

THROUGH: Joan M. Mooney, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Exercising the Delegated Authority of Assistant Secretary –
Management, Policy and Budget **JEFFERY RUPERT** Digitally signed by JEFFERY RUPERT
Date: 2024.04.12 11:24:45 -04'00'

FROM: Jeffery Rupert, Director – Office of Wildland Fire

SUBJECT: Authorization for Use of Government Passenger Carriers for Home-to-Work Transportation for Wildland Fire Management

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Renew the Authorization for Use of Government Passenger Carriers (Fieldwork) for Home-To-Work Transportation Pursuant to 31 U.S. Code § 1344 for the Wildland Fire Management (WFM) programs in the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Fish and Wildland Service (FWS), and National Park Service (NPS).

BACKGROUND

The Office of Wildland Fire coordinated with the Bureau Fire Directors in updating the Wildland Fire Management Program’s Home-to-Work Transportation Authorization – FY 2022 Request Record.

The total number of positions eligible for home-to-work transportation by bureau is as follows: Bureau of Indian Affairs – 78; Bureau of Land Management – 171; Fish and Wildlife Service – 98, and the National Park Service – 122. The following documents provide a detailed justification for the recommended authorization, including a detailed list of the recommended positions and duties.

Approval of this request will substantially increase the efficiency and economy of the Government, in addition to providing for firefighter and public safety.

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ANALYSIS

The Office of Wildland Fire is requesting the Secretary to approve the Authorization for Use of Government Passenger Carrier(s) for Home-to-Work Transportation for four wildland fire management positions that are essential for the safe and efficient performance of emergency response duties under the following limited conditions:

- (a) Extreme fire danger and/or high potential for above normal fire growth exists where an immediate response can directly reduce the damage to property and resources as well as limit the complexity of an emerging wildfire which results in lower threats to public and firefighter safety.
- (b) Response to wildland fire emergencies, or other circumstances, where there is an immediate, unforeseeable, temporary need to provide home-to-work transportation for the uninterrupted performance of the DOI's mission, such as during periods of extreme fire danger.
- (c) Establishing command and control and/or providing fireline leadership in an emerging incident that results in minimizing wildfire exposure to firefighters and the public. The need for competent, qualified oversight on all wildfires is a key factor in reducing wildfire risk to critical infrastructure, natural and cultural resources, and meeting DOI and Bureau mission goals.

RECOMMENDATION

The Office of Wildland Fire recommends approval to authorize four essential positions for home-to-work use during extreme environmental conditions and fire danger to provide qualified fireline oversight for wildfires. For 2024 – 2026, 469 authorizations are being requested.

Decision Memo – Short Name Subject

DECISION

APPROVE

APPROVE AS AMENDED

REJECT

DISCUSS

COMMENT:



Deb Haaland

APR 22 2024

_____ Date