



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

DOI WILDLAND FIRE PROGRAM POLICY MEMORANDUM No. 2024-007

To: Director, Bureau of Land Management
Director, National Park Service
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
Director, U.S. Geological Survey

From: Jeffery Rupert, Director, Office of Wildland Fire

Subject: Guidance for Full-Year Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Allocations and Execution for the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-42)

Due Dates: 14 days after the effective date (see below): For Fuels Management, to update information on programs of work in the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS) or Interior Fuels and Post-fire Reporting System (IFPRS) for full-year allocations

14 days after the effective date (see below): For Burned Area Rehabilitation, to update information on programs of work in NFPORS or the Vegetation Management Action Portal (VMAP) for full-year allocations

May 31, 2024: For Staffing, to submit to the Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) a national-level bureau strategic recruiting plan

May 31, 2024: For Unobligated Balances of funding from FY 2023 or earlier, to provide OWF an update on the status of the components of each unobligated balance and the plan to obligate the funding

August 30, 2024: For Unobligated Balances of funding from FY 2022 or earlier (excluding funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, or “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law,” and funding for Facilities Construction and Maintenance), OWF requests that bureaus/offices return to the WFM Parent account any remaining unobligated balances for reallocation to other bureaus

October 15, 2024: For Fuels Management and Burned Area Rehabilitation, to report annual accomplishments

Effective Date: May 8, 2024

Expiration Date: Remains in effect unless rescinded or modified.

Purpose: This Policy Memorandum (PM) provides direction regarding budget allocations and execution for the Department of the Interior's Wildland Fire Management (WFM) program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, based on the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, Public Law (P.L.) 118-42.

Background:

Appropriations: P.L. 118-42, which was enacted March 9, 2024, appropriates a total of \$1,463,471,000 for Interior's WFM program for FY 2024. All these funds are regular appropriations (i.e., not disaster relief emergency supplemental appropriations).

Title I of Division E (the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024) appropriates \$1,113,471,000 for Interior's WFM account and \$350,000,000 for Interior's Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund. The appropriations for the Reserve Fund are available for transfer to the WFM account for the purpose of Suppression Operations.

The appropriations for the WFM account are available for these activities in the following amounts:

- Preparedness: \$492,364,000;
- Suppression Operations: \$383,657,000;
- Fuels Management: \$214,450,000; and
- Other Operations: \$23,000,000.

The appropriations for Other Operations include the following amounts for the three subactivities:

- Burned Area Rehabilitation: \$10,000,000;
- Facilities Construction and Maintenance: \$10,000,000; and
- Joint Fire Science Program: \$3,000,000.

Coordination: OWF consulted bureaus and offices participating in Interior's WFM program in developing this PM.

Scope: This PM applies to budget allocations and execution for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the National Park Service (NPS), OWF, and any other bureaus or offices that receive funding under this PM.

Existing Policy Affected: DOI Wildland Fire Program PM No. [2024-001](#), [2024-003](#), and [2024-004](#)

Authority: [Departmental Manual \(DM\) Part 620 Wildland Fire Management](#)

Timeframe: This PM applies to funding made available by P.L. 118-42, which covers the period from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024. The funding is available until it is expended.

Policy:

Premium Pay Cap: Section 438 of Title IV in Division E waives the premium pay cap for the pay of certain wildland fire employees for services performed during 2024 for Interior and the Department of

Agriculture (USDA). OWF and the Office of Human Capital will provide additional information on this waiver later in 2024. (This provision relates to pay/calendar year 2024 rather than FY 2024.)

Good Neighbor Authority: Section 443 of Title IV in Division E adds NPS and FWS (National Wildlife Refuge Land) to the list of agencies with “Good Neighbor Authority” pursuant to Section 8206 of the Agriculture Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a), as amended by section 8624 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115–334) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117–328). Section 443 also extends the authority through 2024. Previously, the authority applied only to BLM and USDA Forest Service (FS).

Congressional Reporting and Briefing Requirements and Directives: The statements and reports associated with P.L. 118-42 include several briefing requirements, reporting requirements, and other directives for Interior’s and USDA’s WFM programs. A summary of these provisions is attached (see Attachment 1). This list is not exhaustive. Each of the linked documents has more detailed information. Some of the requirements may not apply directly to Interior’s WFM bureaus or offices but they have a nexus to Interior’s WFM program; we are providing these for your awareness.

Budget Allocations: See below for Table 1, which shows allocation amounts from P.L. 118-42 for the full fiscal year, by bureau or office.

OWF notifies bureaus of Department of the Treasury transaction numbers once transfers of approved allocations are completed. Funds that OWF is not transferring at this time will remain in the WFM “Parent” account. These amounts include a majority of appropriations for Suppression Operations. As in previous years, OWF will consult with bureaus about the need for such funding throughout the fiscal year and transfer this funding as needs are identified.

**Table 1:
Approved Allocations of
FY 2024 Funding for Interior Wildland Fire Management
from P.L. 118-42, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024
(Dollars in Thousands)**

Activity or Subactivity	BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	OWF	WFM Parent Account	TOTAL, WFM Program
Preparedness	94,806	275,598	43,401	59,586	13,442	5,531	492,364
Suppression Operations	24,769	103,127	6,292	19,275	2,515	227,679	383,657
Fuels Management	51,226	96,925	28,935	30,765	3,411	3,188	214,450
Burned Area Rehabilitation	4,037	4,057	974	880	52	0	10,000
Facilities Construction and Maintenance	0	5,001	1,559	3,440	0	0	10,000
Joint Fire Science Program	0	3,000	0	0	0	0	3,000
TOTAL, All Activities	174,838	487,708	81,161	113,946	19,420	236,397	1,113,471

Preparedness: P.L. 118-42 provides \$492,364,000 for Preparedness. This PM approves the allocation of all this funding.

- Fixed Costs: Of the total amount for Preparedness, \$19,363,000 is being allocated to BIA, BLM, FWS, NPS, and OWF for fixed cost increases. The amount for fixed cost increases is allocated proportionally based on each bureau’s or office’s share of the total FY 2023 federal Full-Time-Equivalent (FTE) personnel reported.
- Wildland Firefighter Pay Supplements: A total of \$46,000,000 is being allocated to BIA, BLM, FWS, NPS, and OWF to continue pay supplements for wildland firefighters—including \$40,000,000 for federal personnel and \$6,000,000 that BIA will provide to Tribal Nations to supplement the pay of tribal wildland firefighters (see also “Fuels Management,” below).
- Workforce Capacity: Another \$10,000,000 is being allocated to BIA, BLM, FWS, and NPS to increase workforce capacity, including new hires and conversions of temporary to permanent staff. This funding is allocated using the methodology for direct program (see below). See also “Strategic Recruiting Plan” below.
- Designated Funding, Service Level Agreements (SLA), and Departmentwide Activities (DA): The allocations include this Designated Funding: \$9,000,000 to BIA for tribal contract and

administrative support related to Preparedness; \$6,000,000 to BIA for tribal workforce development; \$1,500,000 to BLM for Alaska Fire Service utility costs; and a total \$2,800,000 to BIA, BLM, FWS, and NPS for rural fire readiness. The allocations also include increases totaling \$9,103,000 for SLAs and \$54,602,000 for DAs in Preparedness. This funding is going to BIA, BLM, FWS, NPS, and OWF.

Suppression Operations: P.L. 118-42 provides \$383,657,000 for Suppression Operations in the WFM account. This funding is provided pursuant to Division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-141).

- **Allocations to Date:** OWF has allocated a total \$155,978,000 of this funding to BIA, BLM, FWS, NPS, and OWF, including amounts transferred previously during FY 2024. The other \$227,679,000 will remain in the WFM Parent account until further notice. OWF will allocate the remaining funding based on seasonal activity and bureau funding requirements. Please request additional allocations as the need arises.
- **DA – Exclusive-Use Contracts for Single Engine Air Tankers (SEAT):** The funding allocated to BIA and BLM includes \$20,371,000 for the initial mandatory availability period (MAP) for exclusive-use aviation contracts for SEATs. Previously, the initial MAP for these contracts was funded through Preparedness.
- **Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund:** In addition to this funding for Suppression Operations in the WFM account, P.L. 118-42 provides \$350,000,000 in additional budget authority, to remain available until transferred, in the Reserve Fund account. Interior will request transfers of this funding from the Reserve Fund as the need arises. The unobligated balance in the Reserve Fund is currently \$1,020,000,000, which includes all FY 2022, FY 2023, and FY 2024 appropriations.

Emergency Stabilization and Severity: Emergency Stabilization (ES) and Severity authority levels are capped at ten percent of the ten-year rolling suppression expenditure average for Interior. See Table 2:

Table 2:
FY 2024 Funding Authority
Emergency Stabilization and Severity
 (Dollars in Thousands/ A)

Purpose	BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	WFM Parent Account	Total
Emergency Stabilization	15,629	29,872	3,627	4,215	0	53,343
Severity	5,635	18,640	3,443	4,282	21,343	53,343

A/ Allocations are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

The distribution of ES authority is based on the rolling ten-year average percentage of acres burned, by

bureau nationally, excluding Alaska. The percentages for FY 2024 are as follows:

- BIA: 29.30 percent;
- BLM: 56.00 percent;
- FWS: 6.80 percent; and
- NPS: 7.90 percent.

Severity authority is capped at \$32 million, with the balance held in reserve in the WFM Parent account. The distribution of Severity authority is based on each bureau's base percentage split of the annual Preparedness appropriation. The percentages, as adjusted for workforce transformation, are as follows:

- BIA: 17.61 percent;
- BLM: 58.25 percent;
- FWS: 10.76 percent; and
- NPS: 13.38 percent.

Regardless of the source of funding, obligations count against the funding authority caps. Recoveries of prior obligations do not increase the amount of obligation authority available in a given year. If one or more bureau(s) anticipates that it will exceed its ES or Severity authority, OWF may coordinate and approve the redistribution of ES and/or Severity authority among bureaus, as warranted and following consultation with the WFM bureau/office directors. Any recommended increases to the ES or Severity caps are subject to approval by the Director, OWF, in consultation with the WFM bureau directors.

Fuels Management: P.L. 118-42 provides \$214,450,000 for Fuels Management. This PM approves the allocation of all this funding.

- Fixed Costs: Of the total amount, \$10,290,000 is designated for fixed cost increases. It is being allocated to each bureau or office proportionally based on its share of the total FY 2023 federal FTE personnel reported.
- Wildland Firefighter Pay Supplements: Within the Fuels Management activity, \$6,000,000 is being allocated to BIA, which will provide it to Tribal Nations to supplement the pay of tribal wildland firefighters (see also "Preparedness," above).
- Designated Funding, SLAs, and DAs: Of the total for the Fuels Management activity, \$5,000,000 allocated to BIA is designated for tribal contract and administrative support in Fuels Management and \$4,000,000 allocated to BIA is for Reserved Treaty Rights Lands (RTRL) projects. (In addition, \$11,000,000 in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding is available to BIA for RTRL projects.) The approved allocations also include increases totaling \$838,000 for SLAs and \$11,941,000 for DAs in Fuels Management. This funding is going to BLM, NPS, and OWF.

The direct program allocations for Fuels Management are being allocated using the following percentages:

- BIA: 19.65 percent;
- BLM: 50.43 percent;
- FWS: 15.09 percent; and

- NPS: 14.83 percent.

Within 14 days of the effective date of this PM, please update information in NFPORS or IFPRS, to reflect your bureau's final full-year FY 2024 allocation under P.L. 118-42, as shown in Table 1 (see above).

Additionally, by October 15, 2024, please report or record in NFPORS or IFPRS your bureau's annual accomplishments with Fuels Management funds.

Burned Area Rehabilitation: P.L. 118-42 provides \$10,000,000 for Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR). This PM approves the allocation of all this funding.

- DAs – National Program Management: The approved allocations include \$1,323,000 for the DA for BAR national program management. This funding goes to BIA, BLM, FWS, and NPS.

Within 14 days of the effective date of this PM, please update information in NFPORS or VMAP to reflect your bureau's approved planned program of work up to the final full-year FY 2024 allocation level available under P.L. 118-42, as shown in Table 1 (see above). OWF will transfer each bureau's allocation of BAR funding as BAR projects needing funding are identified with bureau approvals in NFPORS or VMAP.

Additionally, by October 15, 2024, please report or record in NFPORS or VMAP your bureau's annual accomplishments completed with BAR funds.

Facilities Construction and Maintenance: P.L. 118-42 provides \$10,000,000 for Facilities Construction and Maintenance. This PM approves the allocation of all this funding to BLM, FWS, and NPS, consistent with the revised FY 2024 Wildland Fire Facilities Lifecycle Investment Plan submitted by the bureau Wildland Fire Facilities Coordinators March 27, 2024.

Joint Fire Science Program: P.L. 118-42 provides \$3,000,000 for the Joint Fire Science Program. This PM approves the allocation of all this funding to BLM.

Strategic Recruiting Plan: Funding allocated by this PM is available for bureaus to hire additional staff and continue the transformation to a more permanent workforce. Attachment 2 provides a template for strategic recruiting planning—including estimating and tracking hiring actions for each bureau.

Bureaus should use the template in Attachment 2 to develop strategic recruiting plans or, if such plans already exist, to report on them. Bureaus are urged to use the template at all levels of the organization, including at the state and regional levels.

By May 31, 2024, please submit to OWF a national-level strategic recruiting plan for your bureau using the template in Attachment 2.

Carryover and Recoveries: OWF encourages WFM bureaus to obligate prior-year funding, including carryover and recoveries, with priority focus on funds from before FY 2023. Bureaus are approved to execute carryover funds in FY 2024 in accordance with the carryover spend plans submitted to OWF at

the beginning of the fiscal year. Bureaus should target obligations of prior-year funding by the end of the third quarter of FY 2024 (i.e., June 30, 2024).

On May 1, 2024, OWF provided each bureau/office an updated list of unobligated balances of funding by fiscal year (see email “Account Cleanup Request” from Kimberly Salwasser to budget staff). By May 31, 2024, please submit to OWF a version of this document that includes comments or notes on the purpose of each unobligated balance from FY 2023 or earlier, its status, and the plan to obligate the funding, including a Month and Year for the planned obligation.

During the fourth quarter of FY 2024, which begins July 1, OWF will work with bureaus to assess carryover at that time and estimate end-of-fiscal year carryover. OWF requests that bureaus/offices return to the WFM Parent account any remaining unobligated balances from FY 2022 or earlier that have not been obligated by August 30, 2024. (This particular requirement does not apply to Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding or funding for Facilities Construction and Maintenance.) Further, in the first quarter of FY 2025 (which begins October 1, 2024), OWF may request that bureaus return any carryover amounts exceeding 2 percent, by program activity or sub-activity, or may adjust future funding allocations based on carryover exceeding 2 percent. Funds that bureaus return to the WFM Parent account will be reallocated within the program.

Contacts:

For more information, you may contact:

- Regarding the budget allocations: Stephen Elmore or Kimberly Salwasser
- Regarding the strategic recruiting plan: Joe Majewski or Ryan Wilkins
- Regarding Fuels Management or Burned Area Rehabilitation: Kristy Swartz
- Regarding carryover or recoveries: Kimberly Salwasser

Attachments:

1. List of Congressional Reporting and Briefing Requirements and Directives from P.L. 118-42
2. Strategic Recruiting Plan Template

CC: Interior WFM Executives
Interior WFM Directors
Interior WFM Budget Staff

Attachment 1
List of Reporting Requirements,
Briefing Requirements,
Directives
and other Provisions of Special Note
Public Law 118-42
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024

This list provides highlighted reporting and briefing requirements, directives, and other provisions of special note for the Wildland Fire Management (WFM) program. However, the list is not exhaustive, and it does not reflect land management directives that may be of interest to the WFM program but not directly involve the WFM program. In addition, the list summarizes and paraphrases language from these documents, including characterizations of policies, programs, and strategies. For more and definitive information, examine the original documents (web hyperlinks are included, below). References below to a House or Senate Committee are to be interpreted, pursuant to the Joint Explanatory Statement, as references to the Interior Appropriations Subcommittees of both the House and Senate.

[Joint Explanatory Statement \(JES\) for Division E of P.L. 118-42](#) (or 2024 JES-Division E)

- Procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – Briefing due by June 7, 2024 (90 days post-enactment) (Interior/OWF and USDA FS): Directs the Department of the Interior (Interior) Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (FS) to evaluate the provision of supplies during this fire season and provide a briefing to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on any issues related to cost trends, supply chain or other challenges to providing the appropriate materials, the standard list of PPE, any trends of regions with higher than average replacement needs, regions with current higher than average outstanding replacement needs, and how replacement of such is managed by the two agencies. (See also the House and Senate requirements for reports on PPE, below.)
- Oregon/Washington State Office (BLM): Reminds the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to follow and implement the directives included in the House and Senate Reports (see below), including on the Western Oregon Operating Plan fire protection agreement.
- Park Protection (NPS): Notes that the appropriation for National Park Service (NPS) park protection includes \$950,000 for veterans' fire corps.
- Aviation Resources (Interior): Directs Interior to consider including Container Aerial Fire Fighting Systems as well as other innovative wildfire technologies now available in the United States. (See also a related House directive, below.)
- Lake Tahoe Basin (USDA FS only): Directs USDA FS to support the implementation of Public Law 106-506, as amended, and restoration efforts in the greater Lake Tahoe fireshed, at no less than the FY 2023 enacted levels for hazardous fuels, vegetation and watershed, and forest cooperative health

efforts.

- Research Funding Directives (USDA FS only): Provides USDA FS the following amounts to support research priorities:
 - \$4,000,000 for cooperative research to develop new understandings and innovative solutions to address wildfire impacts on forested source water, downstream clean water, and water treatability;
 - \$3,000,000 for university-led research and partnerships to better understand fires in the wildland-urban interface, improve workforce development for wildfire management professionals, and improve the safety and efficiency of wildland firefighting techniques; and
 - \$1,500,000 to continue Forest Products Laboratory university partnerships to optimize biomass commercialization, including lumber standards, mass timber construction, and durability.

- Fuels Management (USDA FS only): Provides USDA FS the following amounts for specific purposes within the fuels management appropriation:
 - \$15,000,000 for the Community Wood Energy Program;
 - \$30,000,000 for Wood Innovation Grants; and
 - \$6,600,000 for the Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes.

- Firefighting Techniques (USDA FS): Directs USDA FS to update its procedures and deployment protocols and to consider including Container Aerial Fire Fighting Systems (see also the related Interior provision, above, and the House directive, below) as well as other innovative wildfire technologies now available in the United States.

- Wildland Fire Suppression Operations (USDA FS only): Directs USDA FS to continue to perform a post-fire season audit of the fire suppression program and to complete the Annual Report and Large Fire Review timely.

[House Report \(H. Rept.\) 118-155](#)

According to 2024 JES-Division E, H. Rept. 118-155 carries the same weight as 2024 JES-Division E unless the JES expressly indicates otherwise. H. Rept. 118-155 contains several provisions and requirements of either direct or indirect relevance to Interior's WFM program. Among them are the following:

- Wildfire Prevention Testing and Technology (BLM and USDA FS): Encourages BLM and USDA FS to conduct more frequent fuel content and soil moisture testing in consultation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration toward developing more accurate wildfire modeling and artificial intelligence solutions.

- Sequoias Protection – Report due by September 5, 2024 (180 days post-enactment) (NPS and USDA FS): Directs NPS and USDA FS to expedite projects to reduce the risk of wildfire-related mortality of giant sequoias. Also directs the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, the Giant Sequoia Lands

Coalition, and local stakeholders, to provide the Committee with a report no later than 180 days after enactment that includes: current hazardous fuels reduction projects in the groves and estimated acres treated; hazardous fuels reduction projects planned for fiscal years 2025, 2026, and 2027 and estimated treated acres; other high priority groves in need of hazardous fuels reduction work; and, funding needed to complete current and planned projects, delineated by fiscal year.

- PPE – Report due date not specified (annual report) (USDA in coordination with Interior): Directs USDA FS, in coordination with Interior, to submit an annual report that outlines the specific costs, by FS Region, for fully equipping individual firefighters on Type 1 Interagency Hotshot Crews, Smokejumpers, Helicopter Rappelers, Type 2 Initial Attack Handcrews, and other initial attack resources, such as fire engine modules and initial attack modules, with the necessary PPE needed to safely engage in wildfire suppression. The report must detail the criteria or standards for determining what constitutes firefighters being fully equipped, the types of personal protective equipment and unit level equipment required for the duration of fire assignments, and any relevant regulations or guidelines to which USDA FS must adhere. (See also the JES requirement for a briefing (above) and the Senate requirement for a report on PPE (below). Because this is a USDA FS directive, USDA will determine the due date.)
- Vacant Grazing Allotments (BLM and USDA FS): Directs BLM and USDA FS to make vacant grazing allotments available to a holder of a grazing permit or lease when lands covered by the holder of the permit or lease are unusable because of drought or wildfire. (See also a related Senate directive, below.)
- Forestry Management (BLM): Expresses concern that BLM’s focus on old-growth forests encourages a strategy that prioritizes well-known pinyon and juniper forests and neglects active management across fire-prone, overgrown federal lands and backcountry. Strongly encourages BLM and USDA FS to continue prescribed burning, grazing on forest lands, and other active management strategies.
- Housing Needs – Report due by September 5, 2024 (180 days post-enactment) (BLM): Directs BLM to provide a report on the housing needs of BLM employees living and working in rural communities. The report must include information on barriers and provide recommendations, as needed.
- National Seed Strategy/Plant Conservation Program (BLM): Encourages BLM to address the research agenda identified in the Seed Strategy, support interagency Native Plant Materials Development Program, the Seeds of Success, the Plant Conservation Alliance, and several regional native plant materials development programs.
- Western Oregon Fire Protection (BLM): Directs BLM to maintain or enhance the current level of fire protection for western Oregon forestlands through its agreement with the State of Oregon and make a timely and full payment to the State of Oregon for costs incurred pursuant to the agreement. Encourages BLM to utilize available funding provided by Congress in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to increase treatments in dry, fire-prone forests in southwest Oregon, consistent with the direction for reserve forests in the 2016 Resource Management Plan. (See also a related Senate report

requirement, below.)

- Tribal Firefighter Compensation – Report due by July 7, 2024 (120 days post-enactment) (BIA): Directs BIA to examine firefighter pay and provide a report to the Committee, after consultation with Tribes, on potential solutions and costs. (Also requires a similar report for Tribal law enforcement personnel.)
- Joint Fire Science Program (Interior and USDA FS): Urges the prioritization of research related to workforce health and wellbeing of wildland firefighters. (See also related Senate directives, below.)
- Wildfire Recovery and Mudslides (Interior and FEMA): Directs Interior’s Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support function, in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to provide technical assistance, resources, and coordination to States, local, Tribal, and territorial governments when responding to wildfire recovery. Directs the Department to include feedback for preventative solutions addressing mudslides after wildfires.
- Container Aerial Fire Fighting Systems (Interior and USDA): Directs Interior to use \$3.5 million of Wildland Fire Management funding to support the deployment of Container Aerial Fire Fighting Systems for maximum fire-retardant air support for firefighter safety and full deployment of aerial support. Provides similar direction to USDA FS.
- Wildfire Smoke – Briefing due by June 7, 2024 (90 days post-enactment) (EPA only): Requests a briefing from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on wildfire smoke monitoring and standards, and what resources may be required to integrate smoke and health data with existing wildfire data at the National Interagency Fire Center.
- Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) – Report due by December 4, 2024 (270 days post-enactment) (USDA FS and interagency partners): Includes \$1,000,000 for USDA FS and its interagency partners (unnamed) to conduct a coverage analysis including factors such as recent National Fire Danger Rating System upgrades and proposals to determine a more appropriate network coverage. The analysis is to include how newer remote sensing technologies could augment or replace the fixed RAWS network and provide a 10-year budget plan. Directs USDA FS to report the findings of the analysis to the Committee.
- Wildfire Forecasting and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Modeling Research (USDA FS only): Strongly encourages USDA FS to work with an existing partnership with a public university in a “western state with proximity to the National Interagency Fire Center” to develop AI-based wildfire activity forecasting and modeling tools.

[Senate Report \(S. Rept.\) 118-83](#)

According to 2024 JES-Division E, S. Rept. 118-83 carries the same weight as 2024 JES-Division E unless the JES expressly indicates otherwise. S. Rept. 118-83 contains several provisions and requirements of either direct or indirect relevance to Interior's WFM program. Among them are the following:

- Facilities (Interior and USDA FS): Encourages Interior and USDA FS to leverage the Legacy Restoration Fund (established by the Great American Outdoors Act, or "GAOA") to meet identified housing and fire facility needs. (BLM is allocating GAOA funding during FY 2024 for some wildland fire facilities, including a barracks replacement. See also a related USDA FS directive and briefing requirement, below.)
- PPE – Report due by September 30, 2024 (Interior/OWF and USDA FS): Directs Interior/OWF and USDA FS to evaluate the provision of supplies during this fire season and report on any issues related to cost trends, supply chain, or other challenges to providing the appropriate materials. (Does not provide a due date for the report. The Department's Office of Budget interprets such language to mean by the end of the fiscal year.)
- Western Oregon Fire Protection/Oregon and California Grant Lands – Report due by September 30, 2024 (BLM): Directs BLM to develop a new agreement with the State of Oregon addressing financial oversight and accountability that maintains or enhances the current level of fire protection for western Oregon forestlands through the Western Oregon Operating Plan agreement. Further directs BLM to aggressively target hazardous fuels treatments and report annually on the amount spent, as well as the scope of hazardous fuels management required across BLM-managed lands, including Oregon and California Grant Lands. (Does not provide a due date for the report. The Department's Office of Budget interprets such language to mean by the end of the fiscal year. See also a related House directive, above.)
- Range Management (BLM): Directs BLM, to the greatest extent practicable, to make vacant grazing allotments available to a holder of a grazing permit or lease when lands covered by the holder of the permit or lease are unusable because of drought or wildfire. (See also a related House directive, above, and a related Senate directive, below.)
- Grazing Allotments (BLM): Directs BLM to prioritize management of active allotments that are not meeting land health standards or do not have current assessments and reduce the backlog of active grazing permits that require analysis and new management decisions under the National Environmental Policy Act. (See also related House and Senate directives, above.)
- Strategic Workforce Planning – Briefing due by May 8, 2024 (60 days post-enactment) (BLM): Directs BLM to brief the Committee on its strategic workforce planning effort.
- Landslide Hazards – Briefing due by May 8, 2024 (60 days post-enactment) (USGS): Encourages the

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to prioritize efforts to predict and reduce the risk of post-wildfire landslides. States that no less than \$500,000 for the Landslide Hazards Program is for collaborating with local and regional entities in Alaska. Directs USGS to brief the Committee on what resources are needed to aid the development and deployment of early warning technologies to affected communities.

- Tribal Forestry – Report due by September 30, 2024 (BIA and OWF): Directs BIA to continue to coordinate with OWF to submit a report describing how Interior determines the use of wildfire suppression and rehabilitation resources and prioritizes Indian forest land. The Committee reminds BIA of the directive in the explanatory statement accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117–103) to provide a report within one year summarizing the fire detection deficits across Tribal lands and their efforts to prioritize early detection strategies and fire mitigation as part of the Natural Resources Management Program. (Does not provide a due date for the report. The Department’s Office of Budget interprets such language to mean by the end of the fiscal year. The original directive requested a report in 2023.)
- Hazardous Fuels Funding Distribution – Briefing due by May 8, 2024 (60 days post-enactment) (Interior): Directs Interior to brief the Committee on the proposed distribution of hazardous fuels funding to its component bureaus, the allocation methodology, and how it takes into account areas with special designations, such as the Oregon and California Grant Lands.
- Wildfire Smoke Research and Communications (EPA only): Encourages EPA to expand its efforts to identify methods to reduce smoke exposure during wildfire episodes and improve wildfire smoke monitoring and prediction; to expand its support for wildfire smoke monitoring, including improving instrumentation, technical assistance, and outreach, using the resources provided in this bill with a focus on traditionally underserved or under-monitored communities.
- Cross-Boundary Collaboration in Fuels Management (quarterly reporting) (USDA FS only): Directs USDA FS to report to the Committee quarterly on implementation of any memoranda of understanding and new or expanded cross-boundary agreements intended to address initial attack or expand wildland fire suppression capacity.
- Civilian Conservation Corps (USDA FS only): Directs USDA FS to continue to expand advanced wildfire training offerings at Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers.
- Fire Research (USDA FS only): Supports continued research on post-fire restoration and reforestation on multiple fires, including the 2021 Bootleg Fire, to develop principles and decision support systems to aid in the effective evaluation and selection of postfire restoration alternatives. Directs USDA FS to utilize existing funding to continue to support external opportunities with academic institutions in current projects developing remote sensing capabilities that deploy acoustic technologies for wildfire monitoring. Supports short-term and long-term research through the Pacific Northwest Research Station focused on mountain birds and for ongoing study of the impact of reduced snowpack on the Northern Waterthrush.

- Joint Fire Science Program (Interior and USDA FS): States that the Committee expects the program to focus on understanding smoke impacts, identifying drivers of fire costs, analyzing fire behavior, and quantifying fire's effects on resources and communities. (See also a related House directive, above.)
- Community Wildfire Defense Grants – Report due by May 8, 2024 (60 days post-enactment) (USDA FS only): The Committee is concerned that the current eligibility requirements for these grants does not allow critical water infrastructure for wildfire suppression. Directs USDA FS to report to the Committee on updates to this program.
- Legacy Restoration Fund – Briefing due by June 7, 2024 (90 days post-enactment) (USDA FS): Directs USDA FS to ensure that the most critical projects are prioritized, including fire facilities and housing for firefighters and other staff. Directs USDA FS to brief the Committee on a plan to delineate between funding for new construction and funding for maintenance and repair of existing facilities in future budget submissions. (See also a similar Senate directive for Interior, above.)
- Wildland Firefighter Housing – Report (due date unspecified) (USDA FS only): Directs USDA FS to report to the Committee on the housing needs necessary to support a professional firefighting capacity with a predominantly permanent workforce. Based on this analysis, the report is to detail maintenance and reconstruction needs for existing housing and new housing needed to recruit and retain firefighters in areas where it is difficult to find housing, including the estimated associated maintenance and construction costs and highlighting any current barriers in law, regulation, or policy, such as requirements to offer housing at market rates or the current process for determining prices for federal housing.

ATTACHMENT 2

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC RECRUITING PLAN WORKSHEET

Worksheet is based on Partnership for Public Service Strategic Recruitment Plan - Template, dated June 2021. For information about these steps, please visit:
[Partnership for Public Service - Strategic Recruitment Plan Template \(External Link\)](#)

Bureau/Program Office

Region/State

STEP 1: PLAN

ACTION #1.1 - Define the Strategic Goals

HIRING MILESTONES				
	FY2024-Q1	FY2024-Q2	FY2024-Q3	FY2024-Q4
Target Number of Hires				
Actual Number Of Hires				
Targeted Cumulative Number of Hires				
Actual Cumulative Number of Hires				
Conversions from temporary-seasonal to permanent				

WORKFORCE MILESTONES		
	FY23 Actuals	FY24 Target
Permanent Full-Time WFM Employees		
Permanent Seasonal WFM Employees		
Temporary WFM Employees		
Total WFM Employees		

ACTION #1.2 - Develop and Finalize the Recruitment Budget

ACTIVITY
Total Budget

BUDGET	
\$	
\$	
\$	
\$	
\$	
\$	
\$	0.00

ACTION #1.3 - Identify Government-Wide and DOI-Specific Hiring Authorities

[DOI Hiring Authorities at a Glance](#)

HIRING AUTHORITIES	

ACTION #1.4 - Identify Eligible Incentives for Use in Critical/Hard to Fill Positions

[Departmental Policy on Recruitment, Relocation & Retention Incentives](#)

INCENTIVES	

STEP 2: SOURCE

ACTION #2.1 - Identify talent sources based on desired knowledge, skills and abilities

TALENT SOURCES	

ACTION #2.2 - Select the right sourcing technique
(May Include: DOI Outreach Hub, In-person/Virtual Events, OPM-Agency Talent Portal, Social Media, and Referrals).

SOURCING TECHNIQUES	

ACTION #2.3 - Continuously monitor sourcing channel effectiveness

PROGRESS MONITORING					Notes:
KEY STRATEGIC METRIC	FY2023-Q2	FY2023-Q3	FY2023-Q4	FY2024-Q1	
Applicant Pool Depth (n,%)					
Hires per Source (n,%)					
Offers per Source (n,%)					

STEP 3: ATTRACT

ACTION #3.1 - Generate calendar of recruitment events

TOP RECRUITMENT EVENTS	ESTIMATED FISCAL YEAR-QTR