



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Washington, DC 20240

Memorandum

To: All Regional Directors
Attention: Agency Superintendents
Regional and Unit Fire Management Officers

Through: Deputy Bureau Director, Field Operations

From: Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Subject: Guidance for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Wildland Fire Management Appropriations

This memorandum is to inform all Line Officers and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Wildland Fire Program Managers of business rules and timelines to execute the wildland fire management appropriations for FY 2024.

The Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) Policy Memorandum (PM) 2024-007 outlines P.L. 118-42 enacted March 9, 2024. This includes appropriations and guidance for Preparedness, Suppression Operations, Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund, Emergency Stabilization and Severity, Fuels Management, Burned Area Rehabilitation, Facilities Construction and Maintenance, and Joint Fire Science Program as well as guidance for Carryover and Recoveries.

Preparedness

Preparedness carryover (unobligated funds) may be withdrawn from regional offices and reallocated nationally to create a sustainable wildland fire management workforce. Emphasis will be placed on the monitoring and allocation of prior year funds two or more years old, during May of each year. Carryover funds will be monitored and when supplemental preparedness funding requests are submitted, carryover funds will be considered throughout the approval process.

Wildfire Prevention

Prior FY unobligated funds may remain allocated at the regional level for no longer than two (2) years; carryover amounts that extend beyond a second fiscal year will be reallocated from the Region by the Division of Wildland Fire Management (DWFM).

Fuels Management

The Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) issued PM 2021-002 on January 26, 2021, that directs reporting and Fuels funding obligation to within 2% of a bureau's fiscal allocations. The Director of BIA on April 6, 2021, established policy for Fuels Management that minimum fiscal year obligation target will be 98% for each region. Regional Directors are responsible to

ensure regional Fuels annual allocations are efficiently and effectively obligated and that fiscal year carryover does not exceed 2% by September 30 and that prior fiscal year carryover is obligated by March 31 of the following year. Carryover of no-year Wildland Fire Management funds may pay for current year labor expenditures, fuels projects and related expenses.

Reserved Treaty Rights Lands (RTRL)

- Regional Fuels programs are responsible for the coordination with applicable programs to ensure program related planning and accomplishments are recorded in the Interior Fuels and Post-fire Reporting System (IFPRS) and the data is entered by the date requested.
- All annual reporting requirements must be complete before additional funding is distributed to an ongoing project or new project proposal.
- RTRL project managers must enter the proposals in IFPRS prior to receiving funding. It is the responsibility of the region to ensure that RTRL Base or BIL projects are properly accounted for and to respond to OIG requests promptly.

Burned Area Rehabilitation

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. The approved allocations include \$1,323,000 for BAR national program management. Post Wildfire Recovery staff will request transfer of BAR funding to regions as BAR projects needing funding are identified with bureau approvals in IFPRS. Additionally, by October 15, 2024, please report or record in IFPRS annual accomplishments completed with BAR funds for the region. The regional BAER Coordinators are responsible for inputting accomplishments and planning into IFPRS.

Suppression, Severity and Stabilization Funding

Funding to support the above activities has returned to the regular transfer appropriation. Please use fund 24XA1125TR. Regarding Suppression, Severity and Emergency Stabilization funding, the following codes should be used.

Suppression:

AA* / 24XA1125TR / AF2001010.999900 / WBS (FIRE CODE)

Severity:

AA* / 24XA1125TR / AF2105050.999900 / WBS (FIRE CODE)

Emergency Stabilization (ES):

AA* / 24XA1125TR / AF2202020.999900 / WBS (FIRE CODE)

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding

BIA continues to receive BIL funding in 22XA1125BI and 23XA1125BI. The attached PM outlines requirements for BIL funding in both Preparedness and Fuels Management.

BIL-Fuels Management: The OWF issued PM 2024-002 on November 17, 2024 (attached) reaffirming the purpose, guidance, use and distribution of BIL funding. BIL funding is unique in its designation and directing the use to specific lines of accounting (LOA) that are related to prescribed fire, fuel breaks/locations, general fuels management, employment of laborers, and mechanical treatments. These LOA's are to be used to implement these specific treatment types.

Regions must plan, implement, and monitor and report fuels management activities and treatments in accordance with the approved fuels management program of work (POW) in IFPRS. Regions must reach a 75% obligation rate of their prior fiscal years (FY22 and FY23) BIL funding to be eligible to receive current year BIL funding.

In addition, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is specifically reviewing the planning and use of BIL funding. As with all funding, Regions should ensure proper documentation of the planning and use of all BIL funding and be prepared for an OIG review of their planning and use of BIL funding.

For your reference, the Department's OWF Policy Memorandum 2024-007 and the DOI Allocation Spreadsheet are attached which releases the Department of the Interior Wildland Fire Budget Allocation for FY 2024.

This policy memorandum is effective immediately and will remain in effect until rescinded or modified. For additional information, please contact Michael Nutter, Budget Director, DWFM at (208) 914-8324; email michael.nutter@bia.gov.

Attachments:

- OWF Policy Memorandum 2024-007; Guidance for Full-Year Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Allocations and Execution for the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-42)
- 2024 DOI Allocation Spreadsheet v13.Mini
- Policy Memo 2024-005; Additional Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Allocations for Implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Public Law 117-58)

cc: Directorate, Environment and Natural Resources