



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

DOI WILDLAND FIRE PROGRAM POLICY MEMORANDUM No. 2025-002

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 Implementing the Cross Boundary Prescribed Fire Pilot:
DOI Assist

Due Date: Does not apply

Effective Date: Immediately on approval

Expiration Date: Remains in effect unless rescinded or modified.

Purpose: This Policy Memorandum (PM) provides information and direction regarding implementation of fuels management actions across jurisdictional boundaries, specifically IIIA prescribed fire projects during the pilot phase of the Department of the Interior (DOI) wide effort. The intent of this preliminary effort is to expand implementation capacity for the field, while reducing administrative workload.

Background: DOI has a long history of implementing cross boundary treatments on lands administered by each DOI Bureau. Many local agreements have been established to facilitate cross boundary projects, creating a substantial workload at the local and regional unit level. Typically, these agreements are Bureau-specific and limited to local resources, further complicating the use of assistance beyond the local area. Bureaus transfer funds into a reimbursable account to pay for the exchange of resources. These limitations hinder successful interagency support of fuels work, particularly considering the increased funding available to increase fuel treatment accomplishments through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). To address these issues, DOI committed to facilitate development of a streamlined process and ensure accountability, while developing a better process for utilizing

fire resources across administrative boundaries.

The direction in this PM supports the Department of the Interior's (Interior) continued implementation of IIJA Wildland Fire Management (WFM) provisions.

Coordination: The Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) consulted bureaus and offices participating in Interior's WFM program in developing the pilot process covered by this PM.

Scope: This PM applies to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Park Service (NPS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and OWF.

Existing Policy Affected:

None

Authority: Departmental Manual Part 620 Wildland Fire Management, as amended by DOI Wildland Fire Program PM 2023-007, and IIJA (P.L. 117-58)

Timeframe: This PM applies to requirements of, and funding made available by, [P.L. 117-58](#). The guidance detailed in this PM are from appropriations made available beginning in FY 2025. The funds are available until expended.

Policy:

Budget Allocations:

BIA, BLM, NPS, and FWS will begin utilization of the cross-boundary assistance pilot (DOI assist) with a planned amount of \$1M per Bureau in IIJA RX. These funds will be held in the parent. Assisting bureaus will run a deficit in these accounts as they assist other DOI bureaus with prescribed fire and associated fuels treatment actions. OWF notifies bureaus of Treasury transaction numbers once transfers are completed to compensate expenditures made assisting other DOI Bureaus. Tribes will receive a transfer of \$250K from BIA for prescribed fire assistance utilizing existing compacts.

Fiscal Accountability

FBMS will be used to track expenditures. OWF will coordinate with Bureau budget leads on the amount spent by each Bureau compared to their allocation held in parent.

- Time must be documented on an approved time keeping document by the authorizing Bureau such as a OF-288 or Certified Time Report.
- Resource orders must be placed with the corresponding Incident Name provided on the planned assistance request to OWF.

- Assisting Bureau supervisors are responsible for ensuring expenses are approved by the authorizing Bureau and documentation is available for future auditory purposes.
- Actions are to be completed under the authority of IIJA Section 40803(c)—subsections 13 (prescribed fire).

Bureau Submission:

Bureaus will work with OWF to build a list of IFPRS approved projects prior to implementation to assist Bureau in managing costs within approved amounts. Prescribed fire is a dynamic action, changes in prioritization and opportunity is expected. OWF will assist Bureaus in planning and tracking their use to maximize efficiency and leverage capacity amongst Bureaus.

What is covered by prescribed fire and associated fuel treatment actions:

- Salary: base 8s and overtime. In addition to fire staff, dispatchers, cache staff and others directly supporting the fuels action are included as utilized.
- Vehicle and equipment costs (mileage/hours/FOR)
- Equipment replacement damaged during assistance activities.
- Aircraft (helicopter, fixed wing and UAS) if planned and approved by authorizing Bureau.
- Supplies for implementation such as fuel, firing devices, chainsaw parts, cache items, etc.
- Travel and per diem for visiting resources.
- Line prep or fuels mitigation required as preparation for a prescribed fire. Projects should have an approved IFPRS entry with an intended implementation of the prescribed fire within the foreseeable future.
- Salary or other costs for NEPA interdisciplinary team needs.
- Salary and costs as described on field work directly associated with preparation and monitoring for a prescribed fire, such as measuring fuel loading by field surveys or technology (e.g., Lidar), scouting control locations and other field work.

What is not covered:

- Replacement of items not damaged during assistance actions, routine wear and tear.
- Suppression emergency stabilization, rehabilitation, burn area rehabilitation cost, and Declared Wildfires.
- Contracted NEPA work.
- ESA Section 7 consultation costs.
- Fuels mitigation work not associated with a planned (e.g., IFPRS entry) prescribed fire.
- Acquisition of new equipment.
- Long term detailers.

- Back-fill of resources at the sending unit. Authorizing Bureau ordering of its own resources. All costs, including travel, overtime, etc., for resources of your own Bureau should already be included in the final program-of-work for the project.

Contacts:

For more information about this PM, you may contact the following people regarding:

- Budget allocations: Stephen Elmore or Kimberly Salwasser
- Fuels Management or BAR: Bradley Shoemaker
- DOI Assistance: Ian Barrett

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

Attachment A: Ordering Financial Codes for DOI Assist*

Resource Order Financial Information For Each Assisting Bureau				
BIA				
	LL XXXXX0000	LF312D000.JW0000	LFHF. BIAA .0000	Bureau of Land Management
	PP XXXXX00000	PF312WFD1.Y00000	PF.FF BIA 0000	National Park Service
	FF XXXXX000	FF3120000.000000	FFF3120000D IA XX	Fish and Wildlife Service
			XX* State/Region Specific	
FWS				
	LL XXXXX0000	LF312D000.JW0000	LFHF. FWSA .0000	Bureau of Land Management
	PP XXXXX00000	PF312WFD1.Y00000	PF.FF FWS 0000	National Park Service
	AA XXXXX00000	AIF3100RX.999900	AF.HF XX0BILXX . FWSA O	Bureau of Indian Affairs
			XX* State/Region Specific	
BLM				
	FF XXXXX000	FF3120000.000000	FFF31200080D BLXX	Fish and Wildlife Service
	PP XXXXX00000	PF312WFD1.Y00000	PF.FF BLM 0000	National Park Service Assist
	AA XXXXX00000	AIF3100RX.999900	AF.HF XX0BILXX . BLMA O	Bureau of Indian Affairs
			XX* State/Region Specific	
NPS				
	LL XXXXX0000	LF312D000.JW0000	LFHF. NPSA .0000	Bureau of Land Management
	FF XXXXX000	FF3120000.000000	FFF3120000D NPXX	Fish and Wildlife Service
	AA XXXXX00000	AIF3100RX.999900	AF.HF XX0BILXX . NPSA O	Bureau of Indian Affairs
			XX* State/Region Specific	

*Subject to change. Bureau budget leads will provide updated guidance as needed.