

CHAPTER 40
COOPERATION
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40.1 NON FEDERAL AGENCIES

40.11 STATE OF ALASKA - DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

A. Synopsis

The BLM-AFS and the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources Reciprocal Fire Protection Agreement, LAA-04-0005 and its Annual Operating Agreement identify lands each will protect for the other.

The state will protect its own lands and federal responsibility lands that fall within the boundaries of its Regions and Areas. The AFS will protect all lands within the boundaries of the Galena, Tanana, and Upper Yukon zones.

AFS has responsibility for protecting military lands in Alaska under separate agreement.

AFS will provide a copy to the State of each fire report for fires occurring on State, Borough, and Private lands that are under the protection of AFS. The State will provide a copy to AFS of its fire report for fires occurring on BLM-responsibility lands within their protection areas.

B. Operations

AFS and the State will jointly staff the AICC. This center will be an integrated operation rather than a co-located operation.

Each agency will share its fire fighting resources with the other when available.

Specific agreements about the shared use of resources are contained in the Annual Operating Agreement to the Reciprocal Fire Protection Agreement.

C. Reimbursements

Upon receiving the annual fire costs from the Denver Service Center, BLM-AFS will prepare a final cost billing for the State Forester. The State will prepare a final cost billing for presentation to BLM-AFS. Each bill will include all costs incurred by one agency in providing assistance to the other for the suppression of wildfires.

40.12 LOCAL SERVICE AREAS

40.13 STATE OF ALASKA - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

40.14 (Reserved)

40.2 OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES

40.21 OFFICE OF AIRCRAFT SERVICES

A. Synopsis

The Aviation Management Directorate, formerly Office of Aircraft Services (OAS) provides to Bureaus of the DOI all aircraft services needed to support Bureau missions in a safe, efficient, and economical manner. Requests for services are fulfilled by AMD-owned aircraft operated by AMD or BLM, by Bureau-owned aircraft operated by Aviation Management or BLM, by assignment of aircraft to Bureaus for mission-oriented work, or by contract or charter aircraft, as appropriate. This operation provides for the utilization of the best type of aircraft needed for the job; elimination of duplicate flights by various agencies when practical; better utilization of Interior-owned aircraft, and increased safety.

The AICC is accorded status as a flight dispatching center by the Alaska Region Aviation Management.

B. Policy and Procedures

Aviation Management has delegated to AFS the authority to charter any aircraft in Alaska that is covered by a basic ordering agreement through the AMD continuing offer system. AFS may charter these aircraft either for point-to-point missions or for exclusive use greater than 24 hours. Aviation Management must charter aircraft greater than 12,500 pounds gross weight, or those operated by certain large corporations. In addition, AFS aircraft procurement authority is limited to \$25,000 for any non-emergency mission.

AICC will charter aircraft for any BLM Field Office or other agency requesting the service, as long as the agency has been assigned an Aviation Management billee code or BLM cost code. The Northern Alaska Field Office must request all aircraft through AICC.

C. Reimbursement

Aviation Management will process all paperwork and make payments for aircraft services directly to aircraft vendors. AMD will in turn bill BLM for all services obligated by BLM.

D. AFS- Aviation Management Agreement

AFS has entered into a Cooperative Agreement with AMD which outlines the relationship between the two offices. Agreement #1422L953LA199-0010.

40.22 U.S. FOREST SERVICE - REGION 10

A. Synopsis

The BLM and the USFS, Region 10, operate under an Interagency Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement which gives the USFS, R-10, responsibility for fire protection of BLM and native allotment lands within the following area:

East of the 150th meridian, south of the Chugach National Forest's northern boundary, but also including those lands east of Bird Point and south of the ridge top as far north as Ragged Top Mountain. Thence, from the eastern boundary of the Chugach National Forest but south of Mount Steller, Mount Miller, and Mount Huxley to the 141st meridian. Thence, east from the 141st meridian all National Forest and Bureau responsibility lands south of the Canadian, U.S. border to the point where the border meets Hecate Strait at approximately the 130th meridian with the exception that this agreement does not include public domain lands in the area commonly known as the Haines Triangle, more specifically defined as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the Canadian Border at the northern boundary of the greater Juneau Borough, thence west along the Borough boundary to Eldred Rock, thence west to the east boundary of Glacier Bay National Monument, including all of Sullivan Island, thence north and west along the Glacier Bay National Monument boundary to its intersection with the Canadian Border, thence in an easterly direction along the Canadian Border to the point-of-beginning.

Those lands selected by or conveyed to corporations formed pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) that lie within the boundaries of national forest lands shall receive forest fire protection services from the Forest Service.

Each agency will take charge of fire suppression work in its own territory.

B. Reimbursement

1. There will be no reimbursement or interagency billings between the BLM and USFS for suppression activity. As long as cooperative mutual assistance is in effect, fire suppression equipment may be transferred between agencies, if mutually agreeable, by completing a property transfer slip. Equipment so transferred becomes the property of the receiving agency.
2. Reimbursement for non-suppression support between agencies requires a reimbursable agreement be established.

40.23 U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Synopsis

DOI Departmental Manual, 620 DM 2 states that BLM will provide for wildland fire suppression on DOI-administered lands in Alaska and on those lands that require protection under ANCSA. BLM will execute this task within the framework of approved fire plans or within the mutually agreed-upon standards established by the respective land managers or owners.

40.24 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Synopsis

DOI Departmental Manual, 620 DM 2 states that BLM will provide for wildland fire suppression on DOI-administered lands and on those lands that require protection under ANCSA. BLM will execute this task within the framework of approved fire plans or within the mutually agreed upon standards established by the respective land managers or owners.

40.25 BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Synopsis

DOI Departmental Manual, 620 DM 2 states that BLM will provide for wildland fire suppression on DOI-administered lands and on those lands that require protection under the ANCSA. BLM will execute this task within the framework of approved fire plans or within the mutually agreed upon standards established by the respective land managers or owners.

40.26 FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA)

A. Synopsis

The FAA and the BLM-AFS have an interagency agreement (LAA000009) under which FAA will provide Temporary FAA Tower and other support to AFS for incident support. Incident requests for FAA resources will be placed through normal dispatch channels to AICC which will place the order with the FAA.

B. Reimbursement

BLM-AFS will reimburse the FAA for costs incurred through a reimbursable agreement.

40.27 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (NWS)

Synopsis

The NWS provides fire weather forecasting services to AFS as outlined in Chapter 20.5 of this document, under an Operating and Financial Plan, prepared each year as called for in a Master Agreement between the BLM-AFS, the State of Alaska, the USFS, and the NWS (AK-950-IAO-2).

The NWS has an Air Transportable Meteorological Unit (ATMU) available in the AFS warehouse for use where meteorological services are requested at remote fire locations. A NWS forecaster is required to operate the unit. The ATMU can be ordered through the warehouse using normal resource-ordering procedures.

40.28 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

A. Synopsis

Section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), PL 93-288, authorizes the President to provide assistance, including grants, equipment, supplies, and personnel, to any State for the suppression of any fire on publicly or privately owned forest or grassland, which threatens such destruction as would constitute a major disaster. Under Executive Order 12148 the President has delegated this authority to the Director, FEMA. Assistance is provided in accordance with a FEMA-State Agreement for Fire Suppression Assistance. In administering the program, the Regional Director of FEMA obtains technical advice, assistance and declaration recommendations from the federal agency designated Principal Advisor in AFS.

B. Policy and Procedure

Federal assistance to States will not relieve them of their reasonable fire suppression obligations, nor will it be provided when assistance can be provided on a non-reimbursable basis by federal agencies under other statutes. Assistance will be provided when it is determined to be necessary to suppress any fire on publicly or privately owned forest or grassland which threatens such destruction as would constitute a major disaster. Factors to be considered in this determination include the following:

1. The location of the fire and its probable continuing threat to life and property, other than federal lands.
2. The existence of high fire-danger conditions as represented by the Fire Severity Index (METAFIRE) or localized fire-danger ratings (ratings based upon the National Fire Danger Rating System [NFDRS]).
3. The degree of commitment of State and local resources to a situation which requires federal, other State, or interstate forest fire protection compact assistance.
4. The actual existence of two or more uncontrolled fires which, in combination, could constitute a conflagration.

When the Governor determines that fire suppression assistance is warranted, a request for assistance may be initiated. Such a request shall specify in detail the factors supporting the request for assistance. The BLM-AFS will serve as the Principal Advisor and will provide an assessment and declaration recommendation to the Regional Director of FEMA. The Regional Director, after consultation with the State and the Principal Advisor will determine when to terminate fire suppression assistance.

C. Reimbursement

The State will make accounting for eligible costs directly to FEMA.

40.29 U.S. CUSTOMS

Synopsis

The U.S. Customs Service and the BLM-AFS have an interagency agreement (AK-950-IA-19) under which BLM will provide installation and maintenance support for Customs-owned radio equipment cooperatively used by U.S. Customs and BLM at various locations along the U.S./Canada border. U.S. Customs reimburses BLM for this service.

40.3 INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT - CANADA

A. Synopsis

There are three agreements in effect concerning operations between Alaska and Canada's Yukon Territory. A meeting will be held between AFS, the State of Alaska, and the Yukon Territory's Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, each year prior to the field season. Canadian aircraft responding to missions in Alaska for the AFS must be inspected and their pilots carded by the AMD or the USFS. Canadian aircraft transporting U.S. personnel on assignment in Canada operate under Canadian standards and regulations. However, DOI employees must still adhere to the DOI standards for personal protective equipment while a passenger in aircraft conducting special use activities. The State of Alaska accepts Canadian pilot and aircraft standards and qualifications.

Tactical and operational control will be managed by the country and agency maintaining suppression responsibility for the fire. All medium and heavy helicopters will have a qualified helicopter manager assigned by the sending agency.

B. AFS/Yukon 10 Mile Border Corridor Initial Attack Agreement

This agreement allows either country to commence initial attack activity on a fire within 10 miles of either side of the border. Action may be taken if the fire is determined to be a potential threat to lands under the protection of the agency taking action. The party commencing the action will notify the other party. All costs incurred by the agency taking action will be borne by that agency. An annual meeting will be held between U.S. Customs, Canadian Customs, the AFS, and the State of Alaska to establish working policy on customs related matters.

C. State of Alaska/Yukon Territory Reimbursable Agreement

This agreement allows the State of Alaska and the Yukon Territory to exchange resources, on a reimbursable basis, at any time when critical fire situations prevent either party from responding with its own resources within critical time frames. Requests are made through the AICC and the Yukon Fire Coordination Center. An annual meeting will be held between U.S. Customs, Canadian Customs, the AFS and the State of Alaska to establish working policy on customs related matters.

D. Canada/United States Reciprocal Forest Fire Fighting Resources Agreement

This agreement will be activated when AFS requests resources from the Yukon Territories, or when the Yukon requests resources from Alaska, and those resources are supplied from federal forces. These resources are arranged by normal logistics channels through the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) and the Canada Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC). Reimbursable fire numbers will be assigned by NICC.

40.4 MILITARY SUPPORT AGREEMENTS

40.41 U.S. ARMY

40.411 United States Army Alaska (USARAK)

A. Synopsis

Ft. Wainwright Inter Service Support Agreement. BLM-AFS has a support agreement for use of the Ft. Wainwright airfield, aircraft parking, building use of specified barracks, specified storage warehouses, offices and utilities (steam, water, garbage and electricity). BLM-AFS will conform to Army regulations for use of all facilities at Ft. Wainwright as specified in the agreement. BLM-AFS will provide fire suppression and management of wild land fires on USARAK administered land in Alaska. Fires on land within garrison areas (cantonment) will have action taken on them at the request of the respective garrison fire department.

Reimbursement.

There will be no reimbursement.

40.412 United States Army Alaska (USARAK)

A. BLM AFS Support to USARAK

Synopsis.

This agreement provides for BLM-AFS to support the USARAK fire departments on fires within their respective garrison areas (cantonments). BLM-AFS will provide resources and support as requested if available.

Reimbursement.

There will be no reimbursement.

B. USARAK Support to BLM-AFS

Synopsis.

This agreement provides for USARAK support of BLM-AFS fire operations on Army land. USARAK will provide support such as helicopters or miscellaneous support as requested if available. USARAK fire departments will provide engine support as requested if available.

Reimbursement.

There will be no reimbursement.