

## GLOSSARY

**Air Quality:** The composition of air with respect to quantities of pollution; used most frequently in connection with "standards" of maximum acceptable pollutant concentrations.

**Alaska Fire Service (AFS):** An organization within the Bureau of Land Management designated as fire suppression organization for Interior Department-managed lands, ANCSA corporate lands, and military lands (through contract).

**Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan 1998 (AIWFMP):** The interagency document that provides Alaska land manager/owner(s) and fire suppression organizations a single reference for interagency fire management operational information.

**Alaska Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (MAC):** The voting members of the AWFCG activated as a decision-making group to prioritize incidents within Alaska and/or the allocation of critical resources within Alaska when statewide or national fire activity warrants.

**Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act 1980 (ANILCA):** The act that transferred approximately 100 million acres from BLM-management to National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

**Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act 1971 (ANCSA):** The act provided Alaska Natives \$962.5 million and 44 million acres of land. It also set up a system of regional corporations to administer the settlement.

**Alaska Statehood Act 1959:** The act that made Alaska the 49<sup>th</sup> state and conveyed 104 million acres of public domain land to state ownership.

**Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AWFCG):** . The group's purpose is to facilitate coordination and effectiveness of wildland fire activities and provide a forum to discuss and recommend action, or resolve issues and problems of substantive nature. Membership is comprised of representatives of the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Native organizations, and local Fire Chiefs (*AWFCG MOU 1994*)

**Appropriate Management Response:** Specific actions taken in response to a wildland fire to implement protection and fire use objectives.

**Attainment Area:** An area considered to have air quality as good as, or better than, the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) as defined in the Clean Air Act.

**Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System (CFFDRS):** The model used to systematically evaluate burning conditions in Alaska.

**Cooperators:** Federal, state, and local agencies and Alaska Native groups that participate in planning and conducting fire management projects and activities.

**Designated Site:** An site which has been assigned a protection level: Critical, Full, Avoid or Non-Sensitive.

**Division of Forestry (DOF):** The organizational section of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources responsible for wildland fire suppression on state, municipal and private lands.

**Emergency Firefighter (EFF) Crew:** Type 2 crew hired as needed. Alaska has 72 designated EFF crews in 55 towns and villages.

**Environmental Assessment (EA):** Authorized by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, they are concise, analytical documents prepared with public participation that determine if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is needed for a particular project or action. If an EA determines an EIS is not needed, the EA fulfills the NEPA compliance requirements.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** A detailed written analysis that meets the requirements of NEPA Section 102(2).

**Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA):** The act that establishes the Bureau of Land Management's multiple-use mandate to serve present and future generations. It establishes public land policy, guidelines for its administration, and provides for the management, protection, development, and enhancement of the public lands.

**Fire Management Activities:** Include fire planning, fire management strategies, tactics, and alternatives, prevention; preparedness, education, and addresses the role of mitigation, post-fire rehabilitation, fuels reduction, and restoration activities in fire management

**Hazardous fuels:** A fuel complex defined by kind, arrangement, volume, condition, and location that creates a special threat of ignition and resistance to control.

**Initial Attack:** The actions taken by the first resources to arrive at a wildfire to protect lives and property, and prevent further extension of the fire. (*NWCG Glossary*) Action where an initial response is taken to suppress wildland fires, consistent with firefighter and public safety and values to be protected. (*Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations 2004*)

**Interagency:** Coordination, collaboration, communication among cooperating agencies.

**Invasive species:** Species that are not native to the ecosystem being examined, and whose introduction threatens the integrity and productivity of native landscapes.

**Management Framework Plan (MFP):** System of land use plans used before FLPMA.

**Management Option:** A fire management suppression classification assigned by the land manager that designates the appropriate management response. The range of available management responses to wildland fires is outlined in the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan (AIWFMP). Responses range from full fire suppression to managing fires for resource benefits (fire use).

**National Environmental Policy Act 1969 (NEPA):** The act that established a national policy to encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation; and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality.

**National Fire Plan (NFP):** The collective term used to describe the long-term commitment based on cooperation and communication among federal agencies, states, local governments, tribes and interested publics, that will help protect communities and natural resources, and most importantly, the lives of firefighters and the public.

**Native Corporation:**

- a. **Regional:** An Alaska Native Regional Corporation, established under the laws of the State of Alaska in accordance with the provisions of ANCSA. The State of Alaska has been divided into 12 Native Regional Corporations with a thirteenth formed for Alaska Natives who live outside of Alaska. Regional Corporations receive all subsurface rights of lands acquired by Village Corporations within their region. They also receive the surface and subsurface rights of lands conveyed to the region.

b. **Village:** An Alaskan Native Village Corporation, organized under the laws of the State of Alaska as a business for profit or nonprofit corporation to hold, invest, manage and/or distribute lands, property, funds and other rights and assets for and on behalf of a native village in accordance with the terms of ANCSA. Village Corporations receive ownership of the surface estate on the land conveyed to them. The Village Corporation entitlement varies from three to seven townships, depending on their population as of 1970.

**Prescribed Fire Plan:** A stand alone document that provides the Prescribed Fire Burn Boss all the information needed to implement the project

**Prescribed Fire:** A management ignited wildland fire that burns under specified conditions documented in an approved plan where the fire is confined to a predetermined area and produce the fire behavior and fire characteristics required to attain planned fire treatment and resource management objectives.

**Prescription:** A written statement defining the objectives to be attained as well as the conditions of temperature, humidity, wind direction and speed, fuel moisture, and soil moisture, under which a fire will be allowed to burn. A prescription is generally expressed as acceptable ranges of the prescription elements, and the limit of the geographic area to be covered.

**Prevention:** The activities directed at reducing the incident of fires, including public education, law enforcement, personal contact, and reduction of fuel hazards.

**Resource Management Plan (RMP):** The standard land use plan format under FLPMA

**Retardant:** A substance or chemical agent which reduces the flammability of combustibles.

**Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E):** Federally listed species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 for special protection.

**Watershed:** Geographic area that drains into a common water course.

**Wildfires:** A fire occurring on wildland that is not meeting management objectives and thus requires a suppression response.

**Wildland:** An area in which development is essentially non-existent, except for roads, railroads, powerlines, and similar transportation facilities. Structures, if any, are widely scattered.

**Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP):** A progressively developed assessment and operational management plan that documents the analysis and selection of strategies and describe the appropriate management response for a wildland fire being managed for resource benefits.

**Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA):** The WFSA is a decision making process in which the agency administrator or representative describes the situation, compares multiple strategic wildland fire management alternatives, evaluates the expected effects of the alternatives, establishes objectives and constraints for the management of the fire, selects the preferred alternative, and documents the decision. The format and level of detail required depends on the specific incident and its complexity.

**Wildland Fire:** Any fire occurring on the wildlands, regardless of ignition source, damages or benefits.

**Wildland Fire Use:** The management of a naturally ignited wildland fire to accomplish specific pre-stated resource objectives in predefined geographic areas. (*Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy Implementation Procedures Reference Guide*).

**Wildland Urban Interface (WUI):** The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.