

# Nabesna Slough Leader's Intent

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## Overview:

This Leader's Intent Document is one piece of many components of the entire Briefing Package provided to the Incident Management Team (IMT). In addition to this Leader's Intent Letter, the IMT will also receive the following documentation to support the management of this incident:

- Delegation of Authority
- Published Decision from the Wildland Fire Decision Support System
- Briefing Package

## Communications:

A text group including the IC and each of the Agency Administrators will be set up to allow for the rapid exchange of critical information.

It is our expectation we will meet daily or as needed. We want to be informed of significant accomplishments or issues. Daily discussion points include but aren't limited to the following:

- *Safety*
- *Values at Risk*
- *Risk trade-offs*
- *Relationships with partners and stakeholders*
- *External Communication*
- *Operational Effectiveness - Your assessment of likelihood of success of achieving all objectives*
- *Benchmarks based on team capabilities, span of control, daily progress*
- *Complexity*
- *Cost*
- *Ramp up and ramp down strategies*
- *Final Fire Package*

Expect to have a preliminary team evaluation at the incident closeout and a final evaluation at the end of fire season when all incident business transactions have been finalized.

Expanded Dispatch is in place, please coordinate and work through the Northern Forestry Expanded Dispatch Center for additional resources or support needs.

## Strategic Planning:

Successful management of this fire requires that we have a common understanding of the values that require protection, their priority for protection, the probability they will be impacted, under what circumstances they require protection, what protection might look like, and how we manage our response. Strategic direction is aligned with agency's Land and Resource Management Plans and detailed in the WFDSS Decision. It is our expectation that you

and your staffs read and follow the Decision (Incident Requirements, Incident Objectives, Course of Action, Rationale) in WFDSS. If you have questions or concerns, contact us directly to discuss or clarify. The team should assist with the following:

- Keep us informed of significant accomplishments/issues, which can be documented in the Periodic Assessment throughout the duration of the incident.
- Through your risk assessment process provide feedback to us regarding needed changes to the Incident Objectives and Course of Action to mitigate unnecessary risk to firefighters.
- Provide input to us regarding any other identified values to be addressed in planning operations and in the Decision.
- Provide input to the current Risk and Complexity Analysis (RCA) in WFDSS and the need for updates; RCA updates can be made to document changed conditions without publishing a new Decision.
- Provide support in updating and revising the Decision as necessary, and/or determining if an update to components of the Decision or documentation is needed (e.g. expectation that the Planning Area will be breached).
- Develop, update, and revise Management Action Points as necessary to protect identified values (e.g. structural inholdings, communication sites, culturally sensitive areas).

Throughout the life of the incident there may be a need to modify strategy and/or tactics or take management actions that do not align with the direction in this letter or the WFDSS Decision. Such deviations must be discussed with us so that we can come to agreement on the most appropriate approach and update the WFDSS Decision as needed.

### **Human Resources:**

- All personnel assigned shall be treated with dignity and respect. Manage the human resources assigned to the fire in a manner that promotes a positive and harassment-free work environment and creates a “no tolerance” atmosphere for harassment, alcohol, or illegal drug use.
- Evaluations should be provided for all personnel who either exceed or do not meet performance expectations and for all personnel who request them prior to leaving the incident. Encourage supervisors to provide meaningful feedback regarding performance and conduct.
- To build local capacity, the use of priority and local trainees is strongly suggested to be incorporated into team functions where available. Work with the Alaska GATR to incorporate trainees.

### **Safety:**

- Public safety is a concern.
  - Provide timely information to the community of Northway Village and other residents in the fire area.
  - Coordinate evacuation planning, outreach, and implementation with the Northway Village Council, the State EOC, and the Alaska State Troopers.

- Coordinate air traffic concerns with FAA and the U.S. Customs Port of Entry.
- Focusing without distractions is critical to the safety and health of firefighting resources and the public. Driving federal government vehicles (including rental vehicles and bicycles) while talking or texting on cell phones is prohibited.
- Monitor cumulative fatigue and smoke exposure to provide assigned personnel with adequate rest and/or relief from smoke. Document any operational period in excess of 16 hours and measures initiated to reduce fatigue.
- Coordinate and consult with the Division of Forestry Safety Officer, Tom Greiling, or his acting regarding any safety or hazardous materials issues. Tom will also be the primary contact for reporting any bear encounters on the incident.
- Adhere to the guidance provided for Injury Procedures and Medical Incident Report communication as outlined in the Incident Pocket Response Guide at a minimum or your own plan if more explicit. Utilize this guidance within the context of your IMT's "incident within an incident" plan.
- In the event of a Medical Emergency (a Medevac or a medical emergency that requires transport to a hospital or trauma center) you will implement your IMT Medical Plan and keep us informed through our established group text.

## Operations:

Attention to firefighter and aviation safety is an absolute necessity! Incident Action Plans should reflect our leader's intent for the incident. Tactical actions will be assessed and effective mitigation measures will be in place to avoid putting firefighting personnel at unnecessary risk; DO NOT implement tactical actions without effective risk mitigation measures. More importantly, consider not implementing tactical actions by assessing the value being protected versus the risk (even if mitigated) required to protect it.

- **Aviation**
  - Aviation safety is a high priority. An Aviation Risk Assessment will be completed on all aviation missions in support of fire management. Comply with Federal Aviation Policies on Federal lands.
  - An initial TFR has been established for the fire area, coordinate changes to the current TFR with the Northern Forestry Aviation Officer.
- **Initial Attack Operations**
  - You have been delegated initial attack responsibility within the WFDSS Planning Area. Coordinate all initial attack activities through Northern Forestry Dispatch Center.
- **Cultural and Resource Protection and/or Enhancement**
  - There are numerous cultural sites within the Planning Area. Some will require protection from fire impacts, others are more sensitive to suppression action impacts. Cultural site location information are sensitive data. Coordinate mapping and protection of cultural sites with the Northway Village Council and the USFWS Region 7 Cultural Resources Specialist through the assigned Resource Advisor.

- During the incident, provide updates to map products, including perimeter and suppression rehabilitation. Submit all perimeters to AICC for inclusion in the Active Fires dataset.
- Work with the Tok Area and Jurisdictions to develop a repair plan to mitigate the impacts associated with suppression actions. Coordinate suppression repair through the assigned Resource Advisor.
- Not all wildfire within the Planning Area is detrimental. Specific strategic direction is provided in the WFDSS Decision.

### **Public Information:**

- Develop a public information plan for the incident within 72 hours and work closely with the Joint Information Center and Division of Forestry Public Affairs Specialist to disseminate information to internal staff, external partners, and interested publics. Refer to the Briefing Package for names and contacts.
- Accuracy and timeliness of public information is important. Public meetings should be held as needed and on a routine basis.
- Share information with appropriate agencies, tribal representatives, business leaders and members of the public.

### **Finance:**

- Document decisions that have incident cost ramifications within the IC Daily log, provide clear rationale for the decisions.
- Work with the designated INBA for the incident.
- A Buying Team is being put into place at the Northern Forestry Expanded Dispatch Center.
- Validate the WFDSS final cost projection based on the strategic direction provided in the WFDSS Decision within 96 hours of being delegated authority. Provide updates as strategies change.
- Be reasonable with expenditures and inform Agency Administrators if costs approach \$5 million and/or \$10 million.

### **Logistics:**

- Internet connectivity may be limited outside of Northway.
- Invasive and noxious weeds may be an issue. Encourage firefighters to clean their clothing and equipment when moving from populated to remote areas to prevent the spread of seeds.

## Signatures:

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Shawn Bayless  
Tetlin NWR Refuge Manager

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Lesley DeWilde  
BIA, Fairbanks Agency Superintendent

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Justin Ray  
BLM-AFS, Military Zone FMO (ANCSA Representative)

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Kato Howard  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Tok Area Forester

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Edward Sanford  
Alaska Black Type 2 Incident Commander