

*ALASKA MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT  
AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT*

# 2021 ALASKA STATEWIDE OPERATING PLAN

This Alaska Statewide Operating Plan (Operating Plan) is hereby made and entered into by and between the Parties pursuant to the Alaska Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (Master Agreement) signed and dated August 6, 2020. This Operating Plan, inclusive of any referenced attachments or Exhibits, is tiered to the Agreement. A formal modification to the Master Agreement is unnecessary but shall not contradict the Master Agreement.

## **I. PURPOSE**

This is a Statewide Operating Plan applicable to all signatory Parties to the Alaska Master Agreement. The Parties include:

- U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska Region
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Interior Unified Region 11, Alaska
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior Unified Region 11, Alaska
- U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interior Unified Region 11, Alaska
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, United States Forest Service, Region 10
- State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources

The purpose of the Operating Plan is to address statewide issues affecting cooperation, interagency working relationships and protocols, financial arrangements, sharing of resources, and joint activities/projects. The Alaska Mobilization Guide and the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan are incorporated into this Operating Plan by reference.

## **II. RECITALS**

Stafford Act responses and related National Response Framework (NRF) activities will be accomplished using established dispatch coordination concepts. Situation and damage assessment information will be transmitted through established fire suppression intelligence channels. Jurisdictional Agencies (as identified in the Master Agreement) are responsible for all planning documents, i.e. land use, resource and fire management plans and decision support documents, for a unit's wildland fire and fuels management program.

Protecting Agencies (as identified in the Master Agreement) implement the actions documented and directed by the appropriate planning documents and decision support documents for initial and extended attack on wildfire incidents. They provide the supervision and support including operational oversight, direction and logistical support to incident management teams (IMTs).

## CONTENTS

<b>I. Purpose .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>II. Recitals.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>III. Interagency Cooperation .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1. Interagency Dispatch Centers .....	1
A. Purpose and Overview .....	1
B. Administrative Oversight/Structure .....	1
C. Dispatch Organization.....	2
D. Dispatch Center Roles and Responsibilities .....	2
E. Dispatch Services.....	3
F. Funding .....	4
2. Interagency Resources .....	5
A. Availability .....	5
B. Release of Initial Response Resources.....	5
C. Statewide Shared Tactical Resources .....	5
D. Strategic Allocation of Tactical Resources.....	5
E. Resource Allocation Priorities .....	6
F. Mutual Support .....	6
G. Extended Staffing Requests .....	6
H. Supplemental Resource Requests .....	7
I. Alaska IMTs.....	7
J. Fire Medic Program .....	7
K. Type 2 EFF Crew Mobilization .....	8
L. Interagency and Agency Crews .....	8
M. National Guard.....	8
N. Non-DNR State of Alaska Resources .....	8
O. Non-NWCG Federal Agency Resources .....	8
P. Alaska Orientation Briefing.....	8
R. Miscellaneous Assistance .....	9
3. Standards.....	10
4. Supplemental Fire Department Resources.....	10
5. Sub-Geographic Area Operating Plans.....	10
<b>IV. Preparedness .....</b>	<b>11</b>
1. Protection Planning.....	11
2. Protection Areas and Boundaries.....	12
A. Lands outside of the scope of this Operating Plan.....	13
3. Methods of Fire Protection and Suppression.....	14
A. Joint Jurisdictional-Protecting Responsibilities (All Parties) .....	14
C. Jurisdictional Responsibilities.....	16
D. Protecting Roles and Responsibilities.....	19

ALASKA MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT  
2021 ALASKA STATEWIDE OPERATING PLAN

4.	Joint Projects and Project Plans .....	20
5.	Fire Prevention.....	20
6.	Public Use Restrictions .....	21
A.	Federal Restrictions & Closures .....	21
B.	State Burn Permit Suspensions and Burn Closures.....	21
C.	Other Restrictions .....	22
7.	Burning Permits .....	22
A.	Burning on State, Municipal, and Private Lands .....	22
B.	Burning on Federal Lands.....	22
C.	Prescribed Burning.....	23
8.	Prescribed Fire and Fuels Treatments.....	23
9.	Smoke Management.....	24
10.	Science and Research.....	24
A.	Fire Research Development and Applications Committee (FRDAC) .....	24
B.	Fire Modeling and Analysis Committee (FMAC) .....	25
C.	Fire Danger Committee.....	25
<b>V.</b>	<b>Operations .....</b>	<b>25</b>
1.	Fire Notifications .....	25
A.	Notification Procedures.....	25
B.	Final Fire Reports .....	26
2.	Boundary Line Fires .....	27
3.	Independent Action on Lands Protected by Another Agency .....	27
4.	Response to Wildland Fire.....	27
A.	Special Management Considerations .....	28
5.	Decision Process .....	34
6.	Cooperation.....	36
7.	Communication.....	37
8.	Cost Efficiency.....	38
9.	Delegation of Authority .....	38
10.	Preservation of Evidence .....	39
A.	Origin and Cause Determination.....	39
B.	Fire Investigation .....	39
11.	Accident Investigations.....	40
12.	Public Information .....	40
A.	Alaska Fire Information Websites .....	41
B.	Protecting Agency and Incident Management Teams .....	42
C.	Jurisdictional Agencies .....	42

D.	Joint Information Center (JIC).....	42
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Use and Reimbursement of Interagency Fire Resources.....</b>	<b>42</b>
1.	Cost Share Agreement .....	42
A.	Fiscal Responsibility for Wildfires in Alaska .....	42
B.	Default Alaska Cost Apportionment Process.....	44
C.	Incident-specific Cost Share Agreements .....	44
D.	Incident Cost Apportionment Special Cases.....	45
2.	Training.....	46
A.	Emergency Fire Fighter (EFF/AD) Training .....	46
B.	Cooperator Training.....	46
C.	Field Deliverable Courses.....	46
3.	Communication Systems .....	47
A.	BLM Network Access.....	47
B.	GIS and Information Technology Applications.....	48
C.	Computer-aided Dispatch Systems (CADs).....	48
D.	Teletype.....	49
E.	AICC Website.....	49
F.	Radio Communications.....	49
G.	AICC and National Interagency Coordination Center Situation Reports .....	51
H.	Digital Atlas for Alaska Wildland Fire Management Geospatial Data.....	51
I.	Photographs.....	54
4.	Fire Weather Systems .....	54
A.	Fire Weather AOP.....	54
B.	Operational Guidelines .....	54
C.	National Fire Danger Rating System Remote Automated Weather Stations (NFDRS-RAWS) 54	
D.	Roles and Responsibilities .....	55
E.	Automatic Lightning Detection Network.....	56
5.	Incident Meteorological (IMET) Services.....	56
6.	Aviation Operations .....	56
A.	Aviation Site Management.....	56
B.	Pilot and Aircraft Certification .....	56
C.	Aviation Mission Standards.....	56
D.	Temporary Flight Restrictions Notifications .....	57
E.	Sanitizing Aircraft Water Delivery Systems.....	57
F.	Canadian Aviation Resources .....	57
G.	Airtanker Bases.....	57
H.	Ft. Wainwright Aircraft Operations.....	57
I.	Fire Scene Aviation Organization and Communications.....	58
J.	Non-Tactical Aviation Resources .....	58
K.	Unmanned Aerial Systems.....	58
L.	Aerial Mapping Services.....	59
M.	Forms for Aviation Payment Documentation .....	59
N.	Reimbursable Aviation Costs.....	59

7.	Incident Business Management .....	59
A.	Handbooks .....	60
B.	Incident Business Oversight.....	60
C.	Emergency Equipment Agreements.....	60
D.	Property Loss or Damage.....	60
E.	Medical Transport, Treatment, and Transfer to Home Unit .....	60
8.	Equipment, Supplies, Cache Items .....	61
B.	Warehouse Catalog .....	62
C.	Incident Support.....	62
D.	Property Loss or Damage.....	62
E.	Fresh Food Contracts .....	62
<b>VII.</b>	<b>Billing Procedures .....</b>	<b>62</b>
1.	Suppression Billing.....	62
A.	In-State Fires with FEMA Reimbursable Expenses.....	62
B.	Meals and Lodging for Resource Ordered and Subsisted Personnel .....	63
C.	Suppression and Non-Specific Suppression Support.....	63
D.	BIA, FWS, NPS Cost Recovery Process for DNR Incident Support.....	64
E.	Indirect Cost Rate .....	65
F.	Audits.....	65
G.	Billing Documentation.....	66
2.	Fee Based Services .....	67
3.	Non-suppression Billings.....	68
A.	Joint Projects and Project Assistance (Fuels).....	68
B.	Annual Fixed Costs.....	68
4.	Stafford Act Billings .....	68
5.	Trespass Cost Recovery.....	68
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>General Provisions .....</b>	<b>68</b>
1.	Principal Contacts .....	68
2.	Personnel Policy.....	69
3.	Modification.....	69
4.	Annual Review.....	69
5.	Duration of Operating Plan .....	69
6.	Previous Instruments Superseded .....	69
7.	Authorized Representatives .....	69
<b>IX.</b>	<b>Review and Signatures .....</b>	<b>70</b>

## TABLES

Table 1: Alaska Dispatch Centers.....	1
Table 2: AICC Staffing and Funding.....	4
Table 3: Interagency Preparedness Planning Schedule.....	11
Table 4: Jurisdictional Agencies based on Ownership/Land Status .....	17
Table 5: Alaska WFDSS Approval Authorities.....	36
Table 6: Wildfire Fiscal Responsibility by Jurisdiction.....	43
Table 7: Incident-specific Cost Share Agreement Signature Authorities .....	44
Table 8: Alaska Weather Data Collection and Archiving Process .....	55
Table 9: USFS Billing Addresses and Contact Information .....	66
Table 10: AFS-USFS-DNR Billing Due Dates and Tasks for In-State Suppression and Non-specific Suppression Support .....	67
Table 11: Annual Fixed Costs - DNR bills AFS.....	1-1
Table 12: Annual Fixed Costs - DNR bills USFS .....	1-1
Table 13: Annual Fixed Costs - AFS bills DNR.....	1-1
Table 14: Unbilled Interagency Services* .....	1-3
Table 15: Suppression and Non-specific Support Costs .....	2-1
Table 16: Alaska Fire Restriction Level Descriptions .....	8-2

## FIGURES

Figure 1: Alaska Fire Protection Areas.....	13
Figure 2: Alaska Jurisdictional Organization.....	4-1
Figure 3: Alaska Protecting Organization.....	4-2
Figure 4: Agency Fire Restrictions Points of Contact .....	8-1
Figure 5: Alaska Cross-billing Timeline.....	10-1

## ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Annual Fixed Costs.....	1-1
Attachment 2: Suppression and Non-specific Support Costs .....	2-1
Attachment 3: Principal Contacts.....	3-1
Attachment 4: Alaska Interagency Fire Management Organization .....	4-1
Attachment 5: Protection Area Boundary Changes.....	5-1
Attachment 6: Protection Area Boundary Change Form.....	6-1
Attachment 7: Haines Area Fire Management Roles and Responsibilities .....	7-1
Attachment 8: Alaska Fire Restriction Levels.....	8-1
Attachment 9: Alaska Native Organizations & Lands .....	9-3
Attachment 10: Cross-billing Timeline .....	10-1

### III. INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

#### 1. INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTERS

##### A. Purpose and Overview

Protecting Agencies in Alaska are responsible for managing a system of interagency dispatch centers across the State. These interagency dispatch centers provide support for both Protecting and Jurisdictional Agencies (**Table 1**).

Table 1: Alaska Dispatch Centers

<i>Dispatch Center</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Managing Agency</i>
Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC)	Fort Wainwright	BLM/AFS
Northern Forestry Dispatch Center (NFDC)	Fairbanks	DNR
Anchorage Interagency Dispatch Center*	Anchorage	BLM
Upper Yukon / Tanana / Military Zone Dispatch Center	Fort Wainwright	BLM/AFS
Galena Zone Dispatch	Galena	BLM/AFS
Kenai Interagency Dispatch Center	Soldotna	DNR
Mat-Su Area Dispatch	Palmer	DNR
Southwest (McGrath) Dispatch	McGrath	DNR
Valdez-Copper River Area Dispatch	Glennallen	DNR
Chugach National Forest Dispatch	Anchorage	USFS
Tongass National Forest Dispatch	Ketchikan	USFS

\*AICC serves as the dispatch center for AFS South Zone resources; Anchorage Interagency Dispatch Center (AIDC) (formerly a part of "AFS South Zone"), located in Anchorage, serves as the statewide dispatch center for DOI (except NPS) resource aviation operations and does not function as a fire dispatch. Alaska Region Communication Center (ARCC) serves as the statewide flight following center for non-fire (resource) for aviation operations for NPS and does not function as a fire dispatch center.

##### B. Administrative Oversight/Structure

The Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) serves as the Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) for all state and federal agencies involved in wildland fire management and suppression in Alaska. It is based at the BLM Alaska Fire Service facilities on Fort Wainwright and the Center Manager reports to the Alaska Fire Service Manager.

The Northern Forestry Dispatch Center (NFDC) is based at the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Northern Region office in Fairbanks. The Center Manager reports to the Alaska Division of Forestry (DOF) Statewide Operations Forester.

Local Dispatch Centers are located throughout the State in order to serve the Protecting Zones/Areas that they support. Center managers typically report to the Zone/Area Fire Management Officer (FMO).

State and Federal agencies in Alaska work under a three-tier dispatch system. Orders flow from local dispatch centers to the AICC, then to the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC).

### **C. Dispatch Organization**

AICC is staffed by multiple Jurisdictional and Protecting Agencies (See **Table 2**). NFDC is fully staffed by DNR. Local Interagency Dispatch Centers are generally staffed by the Protecting Agency for the Zone/Area that they serve.

From early May to mid-August most interagency fire dispatch centers operate from 08:00 to 18:00 hours, seven days per week. Galena and Southwest Area are exceptions to the aforementioned dates. Protecting Agencies may choose to staff interagency fire dispatch centers beyond these dates if needed. Center hours will be extended as necessary. All interagency fire dispatch centers will have an after-hours and off season contact protocol identified in their dispatch plan.

### **D. Dispatch Center Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **1) *Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC)***

As the Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC), Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) serves as the focal point for statewide tactical resource coordination, resource mobilization, logistics support, as well as statewide predictive services and intelligence functions for all state and federal agencies involved in wildland fire management and suppression in Alaska. AICC also provides local dispatch services for Federal and Federal AD employees not supported by a local dispatch center including DOI Regional Office staff.

AICC hosts statewide tactical resources including the Alaska Smokejumpers, Air Tankers, and Air Attack; crews including the Chena IHC, the Midnight Suns IHC, and the Northstar Type 2 Crew. AICC manages the statewide Alaska Type 2 crew rotation.

AICC establishes standard procedures, which guide the operations of multi-agency logistical support activity in the Alaska Area. These procedures will be described in the Alaska Interagency Mobilization Guide (AIMG) prepared annually by AICC and approved by the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Manager. This guide is intended to facilitate the interagency mobilization and coordination of resources, ensuring that the most timely and cost effective incident support services are provided. The *AIMG* is a component of this Statewide Operating Plan by reference. It is published annually by April 15 and is designed to be the Alaska Geographic Area supplement to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide and serves as the reference guide for interagency mobilization in Alaska. All changes should be submitted to AICC by March 15 using the Mobilization Guide Change Request Form at <https://fire.ak.blm.gov/logdisp/Dispatch-Operations.php>.

#### **2) *Northern Forestry Dispatch Center (NFDC)***

When the needs of an incident exceed the capabilities of local State dispatch centers NFDC provides logistical support. NFDC maintains contracts with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks (UAF) and University of Alaska-Anchorage (UAA) for establishing Mobilization Centers when statewide fire activity warrants.

#### **3) *Local Dispatch Centers***

Although local dispatch centers are generally operated through Protecting Agency Zones/Areas, they are responsible for providing dispatch services for Jurisdictional Agency personnel for units within their Protection Area as well as for their own agency personnel.

## **E. Dispatch Services**

### **1) *Initial and Extended Attack***

Local Dispatch Centers are responsible for dispatching their own local resources for initial and extended attack incidents. Requests for additional resources beyond those locally available will be placed with AICC.

Orders for all shared statewide tactical resources such as Air Attack, Air Tankers, and Smokejumpers are placed directly with AICC.

DNR exchanges resources directly with several Canadian provinces and northwestern states through an agreement known as the Northwest Compact. AICC is responsible for managing Northwest Compact resource orders.

### **2) *Mobilization, Demobilization, and Support***

All mobilization to and from other GACCs is coordinated by AICC except that internal Jurisdictional Agency mobilization of agency resources within Alaska and to other GACCs is at the discretion and cost of that agency. These internal movements may be accomplished without the use or notification of AICC. However, use of standard dispatching procedures is recommended to facilitate tracking of resource use and availability while in Alaska.

Resource orders for the Jurisdictional Agencies will be processed through their local Protecting Agency interagency fire dispatch center.

All Protecting and Jurisdictional Agencies in Alaska are responsible for:

- Maintaining accurate status of agency resources in the Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC).
- Advising the appropriate dispatch center(s) if restrictions must be placed on member resources due to policy.
- Providing appropriate funding codes for all requested resources.

Employees performing virtual (off-site i.e. Fire Behavior Analyst) incident assignments will be ordered through the standard dispatch ordering system. A charge code will be provided on the resource order. In the event that the employee is ordered to support multiple incidents or to work with a decision support center supporting multiple incidents, the employee will be provided multiple incident charge codes or a fire support code by the ordering unit or incident supervisor.

Any resources charging to a fire code must obtain a resource order and coordinate with the appropriate Protecting Agency FMO, with the exception of personnel on their home unit and acting within the scope of their authority. Charges included in cross billing must be supported by appropriate fiscal documentation (agency-approved timesheets, resource orders, and travel vouchers).

### **3) *Aviation***

Outside of statewide shared tactical aviation resources, agencies are responsible for managing their own aviation assets (see **Section VI.6**).

Anchorage Interagency Dispatch Center (AIDC) serves as the statewide dispatch center for DOI (except NPS) non-fire (resource) aviation operations and does not function as a fire dispatch.

Alaska Region Communication Center (ARCC) serves as the statewide flight following center for non-fire (resource) for aviation operations for NPS and does not function as a fire dispatch center.

4) ***Prescribed Fire***

See **Section IV.8** for information regarding the role of dispatch centers in prescribed fires.

5) ***All Hazard (law Enforcement, Natural Disaster, etc.)***

See **Special Management Considerations V.4.A.4)** and **V.4.A.5)** and the AIMG for additional information on All Hazard dispatch procedures.

**F. Funding**

1) ***AICC***

AICC positions are staffed and funded by the employing agency as shown in **Table 2**.

*Table 2: AICC Staffing and Funding*

<i>Position</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Funded By</i>
<b>Center Manager</b>	AFS	AFS
<b>Assistant Center Manager</b>	USFS	USFS/AFS
<b>Logistics Coordinator</b>	DNR	DNR
<b>Intelligence Coordinator</b>	DNR	DNR
<b>Fire Weather Program Manager (job shared position)</b>	NPS	NPS
<b>Fire Behavior Analyst</b>	AFS	AFS
<b>Emergency Operations Coordinator</b>	AFS	AFS
<b>Dispatchers</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Overhead (2)</b></li> <li>• <b>Aircraft (5)</b></li> <li>• <b>Equipment (1)</b></li> <li>• <b>Intelligence (1)</b></li> </ul>	AFS	AFS/DNR

AICC office space, furniture, office equipment and supplies, telecommunications, computers, and network access are provided by BLM AFS. AFS bills DNR for these office expenses associated with State employees in the GACC. In addition DNR provides annual funding for AICC tactical support. These costs are billed through the Annual Fixed Costs Bill for Collection. See **Attachment 1:** for details.

2) ***Northern Forestry Dispatch Center (NFDC)***

NFDC is staffed and funded by Alaska DNR.

### 3) *Local Dispatch Centers*

Local interagency fire dispatch centers are staffed, funded, and supported by the Protecting Agencies responsible for the Zone, Area, or Forest in which they are located (**Table 1**).

## 2. INTERAGENCY RESOURCES

Reference the AIMG for procedures and protocols for various resource types. All agencies' assigned personnel will function under the receiving agency's health, safety, and air operations procedural policies unless the sending agency's policies are more stringent, in which case the more stringent policies will be followed. When safety issues, concerns, or questions related to policy differences arise, agency subject matter experts will be contacted for resolution.

### A. Availability

During the fire season, each Jurisdictional Agency will determine what resources they have available for initial response and/or incident assignments and notify the respective Protecting Agency FMO and Dispatch office. Dispatch offices will status appropriately in IROC. Area/Zone/Forest resource availability will be managed within the local Area/Zone/Forest.

### B. Release of Initial Response Resources

Incident Commanders will release initial response resources, with the exception of smokejumpers, to their primary responsibilities as soon as priorities allow or unless otherwise agreed to by the home unit of the initial response resources. Days off policies are agency specific. Reference the AIMG at <https://fire.ak.blm.gov/logdisp/Dispatch-Operations.php>, the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide* (<https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/mobguide/index.html>), the *Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook* (<https://www.nwccg.gov/publications/902>) and the *DOF Alaska Incident Business Management Handbook* (<http://forestry.alaska.gov/fire/aibmh>).

Smokejumpers are a statewide tactical resource and their use on an incident beyond initial attack must be negotiated with the DNR Fire Operations Forester and the AFS Chief, Division of Fire Operations. Decisions will be based on incident need, potential for new starts, and current draw-down levels.

### C. Statewide Shared Tactical Resources

Statewide-shared tactical resources include smokejumpers, aerial supervision modules, air attack, lead planes, and airtankers. The protocols for requesting and use of these resources are identified in the *AIMG*.

Requests for extended and weekend staffing will be processed by AICC and costs will be allocated to the agency making the request. These costs and the resulting support costs are included in the Bill for Collection for Suppression and Non-specific Suppression Support.

### D. Strategic Allocation of Tactical Resources

The DNR Statewide Preposition Conference Call, the AFS Tactical Meeting, the Daily Statewide Tactical Meeting, the Statewide Weather Briefing, and Area/Zone/Forest briefings will be held daily or as the situation warrants during fire season. Each Protecting Agency will decide which resources will be made available for standby, pre-positioning, or commitment to an incident. The Forest Service (USFS) Regional Fire Specialist will be the focal point for

USFS resources. The initial distribution of resources will be made during the Daily Statewide Tactical Meeting (routinely attended by the DNR Fire Operations Forester; the AFS Chief, Division of Fire Operations; and the AICC Center Manager). The location and status of the statewide-shared tactical resources will be conveyed to the Agencies and Interagency Fire Dispatch Centers via the teletype, the Daily Statewide Tactical Meeting, and/or Integrated Fire Management (IFM).

Considerations for resource distribution include:

- Use of all available in-state resources
- Ordering of additional resources from other GACCs or Canada
- Alaska and National Preparedness Levels
- Severity funding requests both agency-specific and interagency
- Draw-down and Step-up plans

Once the distribution of resources has been established, the priority for dispatch of these statewide tactical resources will be based on protection priorities as established in the *AIWFMP*. Strategic resource decisions determined by the Daily Statewide Tactical Meeting will be communicated to the Agencies and the Interagency Fire Dispatch Centers via the teletype and/or IFM.

#### **E. Resource Allocation Priorities**

Under Alaska Preparedness Levels 1-3, the Protecting Agencies' fire operation leads set resource allocation priorities and preparedness levels; under Preparedness Levels 4 and 5, the Alaska Multi-agency Coordinating Group (AMAC) approves those priorities. Reference the *AMAC Handbook* (<https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/mac.php>) and Alaska Preparedness Levels in the AIMG at <https://fire.ak.blm.gov/logdisp/Dispatch-Operations.php>.

#### **F. Mutual Support**

The Protecting Agencies may request tactical resources from each other for initial response without processing a Resource Order. Approved fire time reports will be completed and signed before tactical and/or support resources are released.

Jurisdictional Agency resources may respond based on a verbal request from the Protecting Agency or as described in *Clause IX.4 (Independent Action) of the Master Agreement* but follow-up documentation including a Resource Order and approved Time Report is required for cost recovery purposes.

Any non-Stafford Act, non-fire response request requires a Reimbursable Agreement be in place prior to filling a request. For the Department of the Interior Agencies see the *2014 U.S. Department of the Interior Memorandum of Agreement for Intra-Agency Support during Emergency Incidents* (<https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/migrated/emergency/upload/DOI-MOA-post-surname-FINAL-14JAN14.pdf>).

#### **G. Extended Staffing Requests**

All requests for extended staffing must be approved and a charge/reimbursable code assigned by the Protecting Agency FMO. The use of local Jurisdictional or Protecting Agency resources

will be documented at the local dispatch level to support overtime authorizations and billing procedures and be provided to the regional fire management offices. A Resource Order is required for extended staffing by Jurisdictional Agency resources to support cost recovery billing by the Jurisdictional Agency (see **Clauses VI.1 and VII.1.C.1**).

## **H. Supplemental Resource Requests**

Supplemental resource requests for Statewide resources (e.g., sharing a booster load of Smokejumpers between DNR and AFS, GACC Support, MAC Support) will be discussed at the Daily Statewide Tactical Meeting. Apportionment of mobilization and prepositioning costs associated with these resources will be agreed upon by the Protecting Agencies and documented on Resource Orders by AICC. Supplemental Resource costs will be included as line items in the Bill for Collection for Suppression and Non-Specific Suppression Support.

Severity funding may be requested by individual agencies through their own internal processes. Severity requests should be coordinated in order to increase efficiency and minimize duplication.

Prepositioned resources requests will be coordinated at the Daily Statewide Tactical Meeting at PL1-3. The MAC group will coordinate prepositioned resources at PL4-5. See AIMG for additional Severity discussion.

## **I. Alaska IMTs**

The Alaska Interagency Type 1 and 2 Incident Management Teams (IMTs) are managed by the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AWFCG) through the Operations Committee at National Preparedness Levels 1 through 3. The National Multi-Agency Coordination Group may manage these resources at National Preparedness Levels 4 and 5. See the [AWFCG Standard Operating Procedures \(https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php\)](https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php) for details.

## **J. Fire Medic Program**

The Fire Medic Program is managed by the DNR Division of Forestry Safety Officer, and the AFS Safety and Occupational Health Specialist who serves as the program's Fire Medic Coordinator. The physician sponsor is the Medical Director of the program. The program's managing documents are the *Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Medic Policy* and its appendices, including the Program's *Standard Operating Guidelines*. See the AIMG for Fire Medic ordering procedures. DNR provides the administrative support to process all hiring, payroll, worker's compensation, travel and other miscellaneous expenses associated with Emergency Firefighter (EFF) Medics on fire assignments. AFS funds the Fire Medic Coordinator and is responsible for the program's management and operations.

The costs incurred for pre-season orientation training for Fire Medics (not including EFF wages) are divided equally between AFS and DNR. Pre-season replacement of expired kit items and restocking during the fire season are charged to individual incidents, when possible. When replacement costs are not charged to incidents, they are divided equally between AFS and DNR. Fire Medic expenses incurred on incident assignments are charged to that incident. The reimbursable costs for the Fire Medic Program are included in the Suppression and Non-Specific Support Bill for Collection. A complete cost accounting of the fire medic program including overhead, supplies, training, and non-incident related expenses will be provided to all

agencies by September 30. Accounting for incident related expenses should be reported by November 30.

#### **K. Type 2 EFF Crew Mobilization**

Type 2 EFF crews are managed as defined in the [Alaska Emergency Firefighter Type 2 Crew Management Guide](https://fire.ak.blm.gov/logdisp/crews.php) (<https://fire.ak.blm.gov/logdisp/crews.php>).

When mobilization of Type 2 EFF crews to other GACCs is a priority, Parties to this Agreement will provide their resources for assignments as Crew Representatives, Interagency Resource Representatives, and Crew Administrative Representatives.

#### **L. Interagency and Agency Crews**

Type 1, Type 2IA, and Type 2 interagency or agency crews will be used as available. By June 1, all Type 1 and Type 2IA crews should complete their annual training and/or certification requirements. For Type 1 crew certification requirements, reference the [Standards for Interagency Hot Shot Crew Operations](https://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/PA_WIDContribution/simplegetfile?dDocName=FSEPRD495259&url=/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd495259.pdf) ([https://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/PA\\_WIDContribution/simplegetfile?dDocName=FSEPRD495259&url=/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd495259.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/PA_WIDContribution/simplegetfile?dDocName=FSEPRD495259&url=/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd495259.pdf)); Type 2IA crews will meet [Interagency Standard for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations](https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html) ([https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol\\_ref\\_redbook.html](https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html)) standards. See the *AIMG* for ordering procedures.

#### **M. National Guard**

All requests for National Guard resources will be processed by NFDC. The DNR maintains the following agreements/plans for National Guard assistance:

- AK National Guard Fire Fighting Program Operating Plan
- MOA with Alaska Organized Militia (AKOM) for Wildland Firefighting Support

#### **N. Non-DNR State of Alaska Resources**

DNR will process requests for State of Alaska employees and ensure that reimbursable services agreements are in place. Costs are reimbursable to DNR and included with the Suppression and Non-Specific Suppression Support billings.

#### **O. Non-NWCG Federal Agency Resources**

AFS will process requests for non-NWCG Federal Agency employees and ensure that reimbursable services agreements are in place. Costs are reimbursable to AFS and included with the Suppression and Non-Specific Suppression Support billings.

#### **P. Alaska Orientation Briefing**

Resources from other GACCs ordered to Alaska incidents will have an Alaska Orientation Briefing package made available to them prior to mobilization.

## **R. Miscellaneous Assistance**

Agencies are accountable for tracking the expenditures charged for the items listed in this clause. Where separate reimbursable agreements are necessary, establishing reimbursable agreements and charge codes pre-season is encouraged. Costs associated with this clause that are eligible for reimbursement using a Bill for Collection may be totaled and included as a separate line item in the Annual Fixed Costs billing. Each bill is subject to audit.

**Exchange of funds between parties to this agreement for work not associated with wildland fire is outside of the scope of this agreement and requires independent reimbursable agreements.**

### **1) *Meals and Lodging***

- AFS has lodging and dining facilities available on Fort Wainwright and in Galena. DOF operates a dining hall in McGrath.
- Personnel filling fire Resource Orders are subsisted and sign for meals and lodging using an assigned charge code.
- Personnel without fire resource orders using reimbursable agreements for meals or lodging must ensure that their agency has a reimbursable agreement and accompanying charge code in place prior to arrival.
- Personnel intending to use a credit card for lodging expenses must confirm prior to arrival that their credit card will be accepted at the facility. Credit cards may be accepted for lodging at the AFS barracks on Fort Wainwright and Galena; credit cards are not accepted at AFS facilities for meals.
- Personnel on resource orders will be given priority for lodging. Lodging for agency personnel not on a Resource Order is available on a case-by-case basis.
- Cash is accepted at the AFS Barracks and AFS Dining Hall on Fort Wainwright. Barracks rates and cash meal prices are set annually.

### **2) *AFS Facilities on Fort Wainwright***

AFS provides office space and furniture, office equipment and supplies, telecommunications, computers, network access and support. Refer to **Attachment 1:: Annual Fixed Costs** for billing information.

### **3) *McGrath Facilities***

The DNR is authorized to use the BLM's McGrath facilities and property to support their fire preparedness activities. BLM and DOF will meet at least once annually to discuss maintenance needs for the facilities and determine how they will be met. DOF will annually fund a reimbursable code between AFS and DOF (see **Attachment 1:: Annual Fixed Costs**). Funds in this account will be used by AFS to fulfill McGrath facilities maintenance obligations identified in the annual maintenance meeting or on a case by case basis as agreed upon by both parties. Unused funds will be carried over for the next season. The need for additional funds to be provided by DOF will be negotiated annually during the maintenance meeting and will be agreed upon in the subsequent Operating Plan. AFS will provide DNR with annual documentation of all McGrath maintenance expenditures.

### 3. STANDARDS

Assigned personnel will function under the Protecting Agency's health and safety, and air operations procedural policies unless the Agency's policies of assigned personnel are more stringent. In that case, the more stringent Agency's policies will be followed by that individual. When safety issues, concerns, or questions develop, an Agency subject matter expert will be contacted for resolution.

The hiring or employing agencies are responsible for ensuring that local government or structure fire department personnel working on wildland fires are trained and qualified according to one or more of the following standards:

- [National Interagency Incident Management System Wildland Fire Qualification Guide \(National Wildland Fire Coordinating Group Publication 310-1\)](https://www.nwccg.gov/publications/310-1), (<https://www.nwccg.gov/publications/310-1>)
- [Forest Service Fire and Aviation Management Qualifications Guide, \(USFS\)](https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2gjc/training/fsfaqg.pdf), ([https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch\\_centers/r2gjc/training/fsfaqg.pdf](https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2gjc/training/fsfaqg.pdf))
- [Wildland Training for Structural Firefighters, \(U.S. Fire Administration\)](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/wui/training/), (<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/wui/training/>).

Hiring or employing agencies will provide coordination and payment for local government or structure fire department resources used on an incident per local agreements. These costs may be reimbursable per terms of the agreements. These local resources will only be assigned in their areas of specialized expertise, jurisdiction, and qualification. Additional guidance is contained in the *AIMG*, the *AIWFMP*, and the [Interagency Standard for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations](https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html) ([https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol\\_ref\\_redbook.html](https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html)).

### 4. SUPPLEMENTAL FIRE DEPARTMENT RESOURCES

As of April 1, 2020 no Alaska-based Supplemental Fire department Resources have been identified.

### 5. SUB-GEOGRAPHIC AREA OPERATING PLANS

Zone/Area/Forest/local Jurisdictional Units Operating Plans may be developed and incorporated as attachments to this Statewide Operating Plan. The format for all local Operating Plans between parties who are signatory to the Master Agreement should be similar to this Statewide Operating Plan and address local operating procedures. Signed local Operating Plans should be submitted annually no later than April 1 to agency representatives listed below in **Section VIII.7**; USFS local Operating Plans should be submitted to the Region 6/10 Incident Business Coordinator. Local Operating Plans are valid until a new operating plan is signed and submitted.

Currently no sub-geographic area operating plans are incorporated into this *Alaska Statewide Operating Plan*.

## IV. PREPAREDNESS

### 1. PROTECTION PLANNING

Annually, Jurisdictional and Protecting Agencies will complete preparedness activities according to the schedule identified in **Table 3: Interagency Preparedness Planning Schedule**.

Table 3: Interagency Preparedness Planning Schedule

<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Protection Planning Task</i>
January AWFCG Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AWFCG review and update of AIWFMP. (AWFCG SOP)</li> <li>• Teletype hub at AFS is operational year round. (<b>Clause VI.3.D</b>)</li> <li>• Integrated Fire Management (IFM) system is operational year round. (<b>Clause VI.3.C.2</b>)</li> </ul>
January (2 <sup>nd</sup> week)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applications for Type 1 &amp; 2 IMT members due.</li> </ul>
Month of February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alaska IMT ICs and C&amp;G select standing Type 1 &amp; 2 IMT rosters.</li> </ul>
February 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated Federal and State of Alaska Geographic Area Supplements available with rates for Emergency Equipment Rental Agreements for upcoming fire season. (<b>Section VI.7.C</b>).</li> </ul>
March 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deadline for submitting AIWFMP Management Option designation changes to AFS Fire Planners and AFS GIS per the Management Option Change Procedures available on the <a href="https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php">AWFCG webpage (https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php)</a> under <b>C. Documents</b>.</li> <li>• Deadline for submitting protection area boundary changes to AFS Fire Planners and AFS GIS. (<b>Section IV.2</b>)</li> <li>• Deadline for submitting ownership data to AFS GIS for inclusion in Alaska Wildland Fire Jurisdictions product.</li> </ul>
March 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Objectives and Management Requirements for each unit updated in WFDSS</li> <li>• AIMG changes submitted to AICC. (<b>Section III.1.D.1</b>)</li> <li>• IFM system annual updates completed</li> <li>• DNR desired RAWS operational dates to AFS (<b>Section VI.4.C</b>)</li> <li>• Master Agreement review complete; Alaska Statewide Operating Plan updated by the signatories to this Agreement and signed by regional and statewide fire staffs. (<b>Section VIII.4</b>)</li> <li>• Area/Zone/Forest operating plans completed, reviewed, and signed, as needed.</li> <li>• AIWFMP Annual Review completed</li> </ul>
March - last week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IMTs, Agency Administrators and Fire Management Officers Spring Meeting. Alaska Team Standard Operating Guide finalized this week.</li> </ul>
April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical Fire Perimeters and Historical Fire Locations (origins) files updated with prior year data and available from AFS (<b>Section VI.3.H.7</b>)</li> <li>• Management Option data updated and available from AFS. (<b>Section VI.3.H.2</b>)</li> <li>• Review and edit data in the Alaska Known Sites Database.</li> <li>• Alaska Wildland Fire Jurisdictions product updated and available from AFS for current year.</li> <li>• Statewide WFDSS datasets complete and submitted to WFM RD&amp;A</li> </ul>

<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Protection Planning Task</i>
April 1- Aug 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Official State of Alaska Fire Season.</li> <li>• State Burning Permits required (<b>Section IV.7</b>)</li> <li>• Principle operating period for Alaska Fire Weather Program (<b>Clause VI.4.B</b>)</li> </ul>
April 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DNR and AFS exchange information on their fueling services and vendors available for aircraft operations. (<b>Section VI.6</b>)</li> <li>• AIMG changes Completed. (<b>Section III.1.D.1</b>)</li> </ul>
May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DNR provides the list of aircraft that will routinely operate on AFS ramp on Ft. Wainwright to AFS Aviation. (<b>Section VI.6</b>)</li> </ul>
May 1 – Aug 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dispatch Centers staffed 0800-1800 7 days per week with the exception of Galena and Southwest Area (<b>Section III.1.C</b>)</li> </ul>
May 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lightning Detection Network operational.</li> </ul>
June 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Alaska Type 1 and Type 2 IA crews have completed their annual training and/or certification requirements. (<b>Clause III.2.L</b>)</li> </ul>
July 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alaska IMT applications open for following season</li> </ul>
October 2nd week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interagency Fall Fire Review (AWFCG SOP)</li> <li>• Type 1&amp;2 Alaska IMT Incident Commander applications due. AWFCG selects ICs</li> <li>• Initiate Operating Plan &amp; AIWFMP review process</li> </ul>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type 1 &amp; 2 Alaska IMT C&amp;G applications due. ICs and Operations Committee select C&amp;G</li> </ul>

## 2. PROTECTION AREAS AND BOUNDARIES

Because of the intermingled nature of the lands where these responsibilities apply, the Parties agree that wildland fire protection services are best provided by dividing the State into three geographic fire protection areas and assigning protection responsibility in each area to a single Protecting Agency irrespective of jurisdictional boundaries. The primary intention of this strategy is to provide cost effective suppression services across the State and to minimize unnecessary duplication of suppression systems.

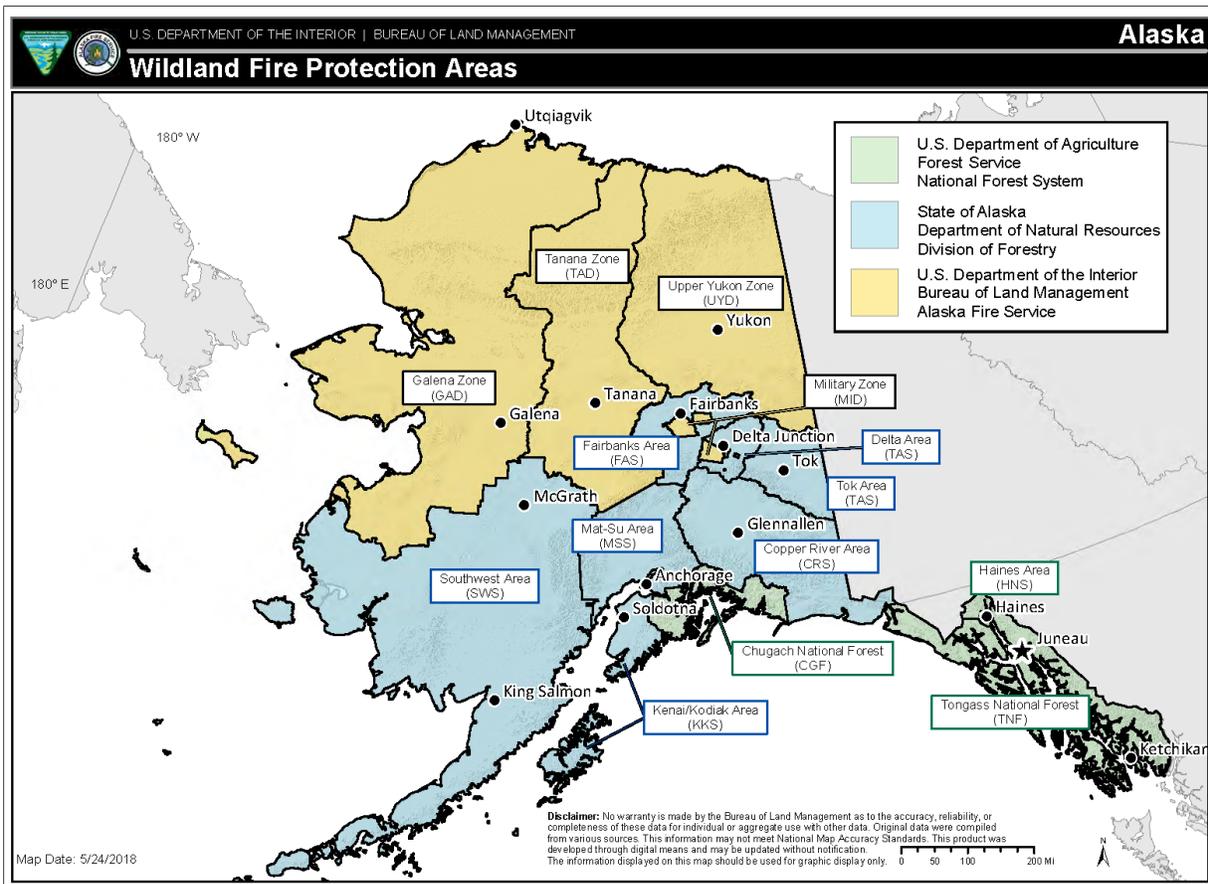
Generally, AFS provides wildfire protection services to the northern portion of the State; Alaska DNR provides protection services in the southwest and southcentral portion of Alaska; and the USFS furnishes protection services for Forest Service lands and inholdings within the Chugach and Tongass National Forests as well as for additional lands in southeast Alaska including the Haines Area.

Protecting Agencies further divide their geographic areas of responsibility into Protecting Units. Each Protecting Unit is assigned protection responsibility for all incidents within the Unit regardless of jurisdictional responsibility. These Protecting Units are referred to as Zones within the AFS Protection Area; and as Areas within the Alaska DNR and USFS Protection Areas.

Protection area boundaries have been mutually agreed upon by AFS, Alaska DNR, and the USFS and are authorized by the Alaska Master Agreement and this Statewide Operating Plan (**Figure 1**).

ALASKA MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT  
2021 ALASKA STATEWIDE OPERATING PLAN

Figure 1: Alaska Fire Protection Areas



Fire Protection Area and Management Option boundaries are maintained in the Digital Atlas for Alaska Wildland Fire Management Geospatial Data (See **Section VI.3.H**).

Protection Area boundary change procedures are described below in **Section VI.3.H.3**) and in **Attachment 5**:. Management Option change procedures are described in the AIWFMP.

**A. Lands outside of the scope of this Operating Plan**

1) ***Annette Island Reserve (Metlakatla Indian Reserve)***

The BIA (Pacific Northwest Region) is the Jurisdictional Agency for the Metlakatla Indian Community (MIC) and is not a party to this Agreement. Protection responsibility for the Annette Island Reserve (Metlakatla Indian Reserve) is outside the scope of this agreement.

2) ***DNR Delta Area Authority for Donnelly Training Area***

For lands located in the Donnelly Training Area in Critical and Full Management Option areas, the Army Fire Chief or AFS Military Zone FMO may request initial response assistance directly from the DNR. All requested suppression costs incurred by DNR are reimbursable by AFS. The AFS Military FMO will be immediately notified of the request and response. The Fairbanks/Delta Area Forester and AFS Military FMO will negotiate extended response operations.

3) ***DNR Matsu Area Authority for Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER)***

An agreement between DNR and U.S. Air Force at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) will define roles and responsibilities for fires occurring on the base.

4) ***DNR Fairbanks Area Authority for Eielson Air Force Base and Clear Air Force Station***

For lands managed by the U.S. Air Force at Eielson and Clear, the appropriate Fire Chief may request initial response assistance directly from the DNR. As of March 2019, there are no reimbursable arrangements in place.

5) ***Other Federal and Military lands with no suppression agreements in place***

As of March 2019, the only suppression agreement with the military in Alaska is the a memorandum of agreement and annual operating plan between BLM Alaska and the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Wainwright which specifies joint BLM/Army responsibilities for fire management on the Yukon and Donnelly training ranges. There are no reimbursable arrangements in place for other federal and military lands in Alaska. Agencies taking action on fires in these areas are responsible for their own costs.

### **3. METHODS OF FIRE PROTECTION AND SUPPRESSION**

#### **A. Joint Jurisdictional-Protecting Responsibilities (All Parties)**

**Because of their common interests, the Parties agree to the following:**

- 1) The protection of human life is the single, overriding fire management priority. Setting additional priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done based on an evaluation of values to be protected, human health and safety, and the cost of protection.
- 2) All Parties will ensure their capability to provide safe, cost-effective fire management programs in support of land and resource management plans through appropriate planning, staffing, training, equipment, and management oversight.
- 3) All Parties will use compatible planning processes, training and qualification requirements, operational procedures, management option designations, and public education programs for all fire management activities.
- 4) All Parties will maintain membership in the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AWFCG). It is the responsibility of members to participate in the decision-making process and ensure their respective agencies are made aware of decisions that will affect them.
- 5) All Parties will provide qualified personnel to participate in workgroups, committees, and training in support of wildland fire management.
- 6) All Parties will support wildland fire research, identify research needs and priorities, provide personnel and logistical support for research projects, and assist with technology transfer and implementation of research results. **(See Section IV.10)**
- 7) All Parties will work together to develop and implement invasive species controls designed to prevent spread resulting from fire management activities.
- 8) All Parties will cooperate with each other, interested parties, and the public to prevent unauthorized ignition of wildfires.

- 9) All Parties affected by an incident will collaboratively analyze incident complexity and determine the required level of decision documentation and the appropriate management organization.
- 10) All Parties affected by an incident will work collaboratively to develop incident decision documents, approve decisions, and complete periodic assessments according to established timeframes.
- 11) All Parties affected by an incident will collaboratively develop and jointly sign a Delegation of Authority to implement the Courses of Action and Incident Objectives defined in the decision document when incident complexity is Type 3 and above.
- 12) All Parties affected by an incident will collaboratively develop and conduct initial IMT briefings.
- 13) All Parties affected by an incident will participate in IMT meetings to discuss local issues, personnel, and facilities and establish a formal recognition of agency roles.
- 14) All Parties affected by an incident will coordinate incident media releases with IMTs and other affected agencies. The Protecting Agency will provide fire statistics and information regarding on-going suppression/management actions on fires. Jurisdictional fire management direction and policy information will be provided by the appropriate Jurisdictional Agency.
- 15) All Parties affected by an incident will collaboratively develop and conduct IMT closeout meetings and contribute to the written evaluation of IMT performance in the implementation of the direction contained in the Delegation of Authority. IMT evaluations, notes from the Closeout Meeting, and the Incident Summary will be forwarded to the Protecting Agencies' Chief of Fire Operations, affected Jurisdictional Agency(ies) and the AWFCG Chair and Executive Assistant.
- 16) As requested and based on availability of resources, any Party may provide assistance to another for planning and implementing prescribed fires and other fuels treatment projects.
- 17) All Parties shall comply with statutes, laws, executive orders, and policies relating to nondiscrimination. These include, but are not limited to Sections 119 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, participation in any public assistance program, or disability. Pursuant to 41 CFR Ch. 60-1.4 all parties recognize that they are obliged to abide by and include the equal opportunity clause contained in the Federal Executive Order 11246, Section 202, in each of its government contracts, should there be contracts as a result of this agreement.
- 18) Issues or concerns between Jurisdictional and Protecting Agencies that are not resolvable at the local level should immediately be elevated to the appropriate Regional Fire Management Officer/Coordinator, the AFS Manager, the DNR Chief of Fire and Aviation, and/or the USFS R10 Fire Operations Specialist for discussion and adjudication. Lessons learned from this process should be included in the Interagency Fall Fire Review agenda.

### C. Jurisdictional Responsibilities

Jurisdictional Agencies are responsible for all planning documents (i.e. land use, resource and fire management plans) for a unit's wildland fire and fuels management program. **Table 4** lists agencies with land management responsibilities in Alaska and their jurisdictions. **Attachment 9:** describes jurisdictional responsibilities for the different types of Native lands in Alaska.

#### Jurisdictional Agencies will:

- 1) Ensure management actions taken by the Protecting Agency are compliant with unit plans and Jurisdictional Agency policy and are fiscally responsible.
- 2) Set strategic fire direction in Unit Fire Management Plans, WFDSS, and/or in the *AIWFMP*. Ensure *AIWFMP* management option designations are appropriate and reviewed annually. Identify general restrictions and constraints on their administrative units. Management option change procedures are addressed in the *AIWFMP*.
- 3) Annually review infrastructure, cultural sites, and natural resource areas within jurisdictional boundaries, and provide direction to the Protecting Agencies regarding protection priorities. Ensure that *AIWFMP* management options reflect these priorities, and that specific sites are included in the Alaska Known Sites Database when appropriate. (See **Section VI.3.H.4**).
- 4) Notify Protecting Agency of any special resource concerns. Assign, as the incident complexity warrants, an Agency Representative and/or Resource Advisor. BIA service contractor providers may serve as Resource Advisors for Native Allotments.
- 5) Keep Protecting Agency FMOs up to date on local invasive species issues and work with them to develop controls designed to prevent introduction and/or spread resulting from fire management activities.
- 6) Investigate and pursue all legal actions that are deemed necessary for human-caused fires according to agency policy.
- 7) Provide written repair standards for wildfire suppression activity damage. Ensure suppression activities damage repair is completed satisfactorily by the Protecting Agency.
- 8) Determine the need for, develop, and manage Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation activities.
- 9) Certify final fire reports in the Interagency Fire Occurrence Reporting Module (InFORM) as described in **Section V.1.B**.
- 10) Manage agency fire prevention and education programs.
- 11) Manage vegetation through hazardous fuels and habitat improvement programs.
- 12) Manage fire closure/restrictions for agency lands and coordinate with interagency partners.
- 13) Ensure that their employees are trained, certified, and made available to participate in the wildland fire program locally, regionally, and nationally as the situation demands. Employees with operational, administrative, or other skills will support the wildland fire program.

ALASKA MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT  
2021 ALASKA STATEWIDE OPERATING PLAN

Table 4: Jurisdictional Agencies based on Ownership/Land Status

<i>Jurisdictional Agency</i>	<i>Ownership/Land Status</i>
<b>Alaska Department of Natural Resources**</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alaska State managed lands including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ State Parks, Forests, Mental Health, and other state lands</li> <li>○ State Critical Habitat Areas, Range Areas, Refuges and Sanctuaries (joint w/Alaska Department of Fish and Game)</li> <li>○ Lands “Tentatively Approved” for conveyance to the state</li> <li>○ DNR lands permitted or leased to another entity †</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>City, Borough and Municipality lands</b></li> <li>• <b>Private fee simple lands</b></li> </ul>
<b>Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Village and Regional Corporations</b> (AFS may act as the Agency Administrator Representative, when necessary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Patented or Interim Conveyed ANCSA Regional or Village Corporation lands</b></li> <li>• <b>ANCSA lands permitted or leased to another entity †</b></li> </ul>
<b>Bureau of Indian Affairs***</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BIA managed lands including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Restricted Native Allotments (patented or certificated)</li> <li>○ Annette Island Indian Reservation</li> <li>○ Other federally-administered Indian trust lands</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Bureau of Land Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BLM managed lands including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ National system of public lands as defined in Federal Land and Management Policy Act</li> <li>○ National Conservation Areas</li> <li>○ BLM Wild and Scenic Rivers</li> <li>○ National Recreation Areas</li> <li>○ National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska</li> <li>○ BLM lands permitted or leased to another entity †</li> <li>○ Native Allotment Applications (not yet patented or certificated)</li> <li>○ ANCSA Regional or Village Corporation selected lands outside of National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, and Forests that are not conveyed</li> <li>○ State selected lands outside of National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, and Forests that are not conveyed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>National Park Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NPS managed lands including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ National Parks, Preserves, and Historical Parks</li> <li>○ Aniakchak, Cape Krusenstern, &amp; World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monuments</li> <li>○ NPS Wild and Scenic Rivers</li> <li>○ NPS lands permitted or leased to another entity †</li> <li>○ ANCSA Regional or Village Corporation selected lands within National Parks, Preserves, Historical Parks, and Monuments that are not conveyed</li> <li>○ State selected lands within National Parks, Preserves, Historical Parks, and Monuments that are not conveyed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>FWS managed lands including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ National Wildlife Refuges</li> <li>○ FWS Wild &amp; Scenic Rivers</li> <li>○ FWS lands permitted or leased to another entity †</li> <li>○ ANCSA Regional or Village Corporation selected lands within National Wildlife Refuges that are not conveyed</li> <li>○ State selected lands within National Wildlife Refuges that are not conveyed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

ALASKA MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT  
2021 ALASKA STATEWIDE OPERATING PLAN

<i>Jurisdictional Agency</i>	<i>Ownership/Land Status</i>
<b>U.S. Forest Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>USFS managed lands including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ National Forests</li> <li>○ Admiralty Island &amp; Misty Fjords National Monuments</li> <li>○ USFS lands permitted or leased to another entity †</li> <li>○ ANCSA Regional or Village Corporation selected lands within National Forests that are not conveyed</li> <li>○ State selected lands within National Forests that are not conveyed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Department of Defense Agencies*</b> including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. Army</li> <li>• U.S. Air Force (USAF)</li> <li>• U.S. Navy</li> </ul>	<p>Each of these agencies is responsible for management of wildland fire on their own lands except where specific agreements exist.</p>
<p><b>Other Federal Agencies</b> including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. Postal Service</li> <li>• U.S. Coast Guard</li> <li>• Federal Aviation Administration</li> <li>• General Services Administration</li> <li>• U.S. Public Health Service</li> <li>• National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</li> </ul>	<p>Each of these agencies is responsible for management of wildland fire on their own lands except where specific agreements exist. As of <b>March 2021</b>, there are no reimbursable arrangements in place for lands in these jurisdictions.</p>

\* U.S. Army Garrison Alaska (USAG Alaska) manages some lands in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management. The AFS Military FMO works with USAG Alaska and BLM to determine Jurisdictional Agency for fires on these lands. As of March 2021, the only suppression agreement with the Army in Alaska is the a memorandum of agreement and annual operating plan between BLM Alaska and the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Wainwright which specifies joint BLM/Army responsibilities for fire management on the Yukon and Donnelly training ranges. An agreement between Alaska DNR and the U.S. Air Force Joint-Base Elmendorf-Richardson describes fire management roles and responsibilities for fires occurring on the base. There are no reimbursable arrangements in place for other federal and military lands in Alaska, including the Fort Greely Missile Defense site.

\*\*Under state statute, the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry maintains jurisdictional authority over private lands (excepting restricted Native Allotments, and Alaska Native Corporation lands conveyed under ANCSA). Private landowners may negotiate management option changes with the state.

\*\*\*In some cases, BIA authority may be managed by a contract service provider. Jurisdictional authority for lands sold out of restricted status is based on the purchaser’s status.

†Federal and state permits, leases, sales contracts and other documents that allow for private use of federal and state lands may contain information regarding wildfire protection levels and management option designation in the document or document’s stipulations. Those designations are applicable to the lands and personal property located on those lands; the issuing Jurisdictional Agency is responsible for selecting the response management option.

## D. Protecting Roles and Responsibilities

The Protecting Agencies in Alaska are the DNR, the BLM-AFS, and the USFS. Protecting Agencies maintain and operate wildfire suppression organizations in Alaska with the primary intention of providing safe, cost-effective suppression services and minimizing unnecessary duplication of suppression systems. Suppression services include all management actions intended to protect identified values from a wildfire, extinguish a wildfire, or alter a wildfire's direction of spread. Management actions for the protection of identified values include, but are not limited to, surveillance, mapping, and on-site actions.

### The Protecting Agencies will:

- 1) Implement the initial response to an incident in accordance with the *AIWFMP*.
- 2) Notify affected jurisdictions of all incidents, including wildfires, false alarms, and suppression actions taken on non-escaped fires. Notify additional jurisdictions as they become affected by an incident. Notify affected jurisdictions of significant events on an incident including but not limited to:
  - a. Increase or decrease in complexity
  - b. Incident status change
  - c. Incident strategy change
  - d. Injury or accident
  - e. Initiation of an investigation or cost recovery action.
- 3) Provide the operational control for suppression services in support of the Jurisdictional Agency's mission.
- 4) Provide supervision and support including oversight, direction, and logistical support for all wildfires.
- 5) Provide fire detection coverage based on levels of lightning activity and human use, or at a Jurisdictional Agency's request.
- 6) Determine and document the location, management option, and cause of each incident.
- 7) Ensure that new fires are initiated in the dispatch system, and that the data are correctly exchanged with the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) through the Integrated Reporting of Wildland Fire Information (IRWIN) data exchange environment.
- 8) Assign an Incident Commander and an appropriate sized management organization for initial and extended responses.
- 9) Assign a Protecting Agency liaison to out-of-state IMT's.
- 10) Track incident costs and provide daily cost estimates to other Protecting and Jurisdictional Agencies.
- 11) Complete wildfire suppression activities damage repair in accordance with approved suppression repair plans in collaboration with the Jurisdictional Agency(ies). Ensure Jurisdictional Agency(ies) are informed of progress.
- 12) Fulfill interagency reporting requirements and notify the affected Jurisdiction Agencies when the final fire report is ready for certification in the Interagency Fire Occurrence Reporting Module (InFORM) as described in **Section V.1.B**.
- 13) Submit fire acreage and perimeter data using AWFCG Geographic Information System (GIS) Committee protocols. Perimeters will be submitted for all fires ten acres or greater.

Submissions will include periodic acreage and perimeters for ongoing incidents as negotiated with the Jurisdictional Agency, and a final acreage and fire perimeter dataset for inclusion with the final fire report and the GIS Fire History dataset. Collaborate with Jurisdictional Agencies to acquire and validate data.

- 14) Provide periodic fire surveillance updates including latest perimeter maps for ongoing fires on a schedule negotiated with Jurisdictional Agencies or as defined within WFDSS.
- 15) Collaborate with Jurisdictional Agencies to identify the need for Fire Management Option changes and assist with the Option Change process as described in the AIWFMP.
- 16) Provide Jurisdictional Agencies with updated information on infrastructure and other sites collected during fire management actions in order to help ensure that the Alaska Known Sites Database is current. (See **Section VI.3.H.4**).
- 17) Provide wildland fire management related training to Jurisdictional and other Protecting Agencies employees, including emergency fire fighters, based on needs and available training space.
- 18) Communicate annual step-up and draw down plans to Jurisdictional Agencies. Discuss when resource levels and/or fire conditions have triggered step-up or draw down plans during daily tactical meeting.
- 19) Comply with Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) stream-crossing and water-withdrawal permit requirements.
- 20) Ensure suppression operations comply with all ADF&G requirements.
- 21) Complete prescribed fire reporting requirements for inclusion in daily Geographic Area and National reporting systems.

#### **4. JOINT PROJECTS AND PROJECT PLANS**

Joint plans will be completed in accordance with agency policies. Costs allocations will be agreed upon and documented in the project plan.

Joint DNR-AFS project expenses are reimbursable; a project code will be assigned and used to track costs and expenses. These costs may be included in the bill for collection for Suppression or Non-Specific Suppression Support.

For DNR, DOI agencies or USFS projects, a reimbursable agreement, bill of collection, or a purchase request/order citing this agreement is to be used. (See *Master Agreement Exhibit I* for a template)

Additional guidance for the federal agencies is contained in the [Interagency Standard for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations](https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html) ([https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol\\_ref\\_redbook.html](https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html)) under Federal Agencies Assistance in the Fuels Management Chapter.

#### **5. FIRE PREVENTION**

Fire prevention programs are a jurisdictional responsibility; however, communication, collaboration, and cooperation between jurisdictional and protecting agencies is encouraged. The AWFCG Wildland Fire Education and Prevention Committee provides an interagency forum for addressing statewide prevention issues. Alaska prevention brochures including Alaska Firewise and other educational materials are available on the AWFCG webpage (<https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>).

Jurisdictional agencies will be notified of any suppression actions taken on non-escaped fires taken by a Protecting Agency within their jurisdiction. See **Section V.1.A.**

Haines Area prevention roles and responsibilities are described in **Attachment 7:**

## **6. PUBLIC USE RESTRICTIONS**

Public use restrictions are a jurisdictional responsibility. It is recognized that Jurisdictional Agencies in Alaska have varying authorities, terminology, and processes for issuing burn restrictions, suspensions, and/or closures. It is in the interest of all parties to this Operating Plan to coordinate these actions closely in order to avoid providing the public with confusing and/or conflicting information.

Jurisdictional and protecting agencies will coordinate public notifications of burn restrictions, suspensions, and/or closures to ensure that the public, as well as the Protecting Agency Public Affairs offices, are kept fully informed. See **Attachment 8: Alaska Fire Restriction Levels.**

### **A. Federal Restrictions & Closures**

Federal Agency Administrators have the authority to restrict activity on federal lands within their jurisdiction in several ways, including:

- Restricting fire use in back-country (e.g., no cooking or warming fires outside developed sites);
- Restricting public use activities (e.g., back-country access, cancellation of permits, smoking restrictions);
- Restricting agency operations or contract activities (e.g., halting construction, blasting, chain saw use); and
- Totally or partially closing Agency lands to the public.

The extent of these federal restrictions/closures is limited by the jurisdictional authority of the issuer; they do not apply to private inholdings or adjacent non-federal or private lands.

### **B. State Burn Permit Suspensions and Burn Closures**

Division of Forestry burn permit suspensions and burn closures are defined by State statute. They apply on State, borough, municipal, city, and private lands. Burn permit suspensions are typically issued for a Protection Area or portion thereof. State burn closures are issued by the Commissioner of Natural Resources or State Forester and require public notice to establish and rescind. Burn closures may apply to one or more geographic and/or political units. Additional information is available from the [DNR Burn Permit webpage \(https://dnr.alaska.gov/burn/\)](https://dnr.alaska.gov/burn/).

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) has the authority as specified in State statute (*18 AAC 50.065*) to call an air quality episode if the ambient air quality is expected to exceed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). In the event that an air quality alert is issued, open burning is also prohibited. Beyond that, open burning is prohibited between November 1 and March 31 in the wood smoke control and nonattainment areas in the Mendenhall Valley and Fairbanks North Star Borough. Additional information is available from the [ADEC website \(https://dec.alaska.gov/air/air-permit/\)](https://dec.alaska.gov/air/air-permit/).

### **C. Other Restrictions**

Boroughs, municipalities and cities have the authority to restrict or close burning on their lands separate from State restrictions.

## **7. BURNING PERMITS**

Burning requirements vary by jurisdiction. ADEC open burning regulations apply on all lands in Alaska, regardless of jurisdiction.

### **A. Burning on State, Municipal, and Private Lands**

Burning on all State, municipal, or private forested lands is subject year-round to State laws and regulations pertaining to burning practices (Alaska Statute 41.15.010-41.15-170 and 11 AAC95 Article 6). Burning conducted under 11 AAC 95.400 – 11 AAC 95.430 may be subject to other local laws and regulations that are more restrictive. Non-criminal and criminal citations can be issued for violations for State wildland fire protection laws.

Permit requirements for burning on all State, municipal, or private forested lands during the fire season (April 1 to August 31) and at other times of year as designated by the Commissioner of DNR include:

- Alaska Division of Forestry Small Scale Burn Permits are required by law prior to ignition of a burn barrel, burning a maintained lawn of less than 1 acre, and burning a brush pile of organic material not exceeding 10 feet in diameter by 4 feet in height.
- Alaska Division of Forestry Large Scale Burn Permits are required for any burning of wooded debris that exceeds the size and/or complexity of the Small Scale Burn Permit including agricultural parcels, land clearing, logging operations, and contractor certification burning.
- Campfires, warming and signal fires less than 3' feet in diameter and 2 feet in height do NOT require a Burn Permit but must comply with local laws and Alaska Wildland Fire Protection Statutes and Regulations.
- Additional permitting may be required by other local agencies having jurisdictional authority. Permittees are responsible for determining and complying with any federal, state, municipal, or local laws or regulations that apply.
- Burn permits are subject to suspensions and closures (this is distinct from public use restrictions identified above and applies only to those activities that require a burn permit under DNR regulations)

DNR burn permits and permit regulations is available from the [DNR Burn Permit webpage \(https://dnr.alaska.gov/burn/\)](https://dnr.alaska.gov/burn/)

*ADEC regulation 18 AAC 50.065* prohibits the combustion of materials that create black smoke, toxic and acid bases and particulate matter and burning that creates adverse effects on nearby persons or property. Exceptions apply to for fire training operations.

### **B. Burning on Federal Lands**

Burning on Federal lands requires permission from the local Federal jurisdictional authority and larger burns may require an ADEC Open Burn Approval.

### C. Prescribed Burning

Prescribed fire projects covered under an agency approved Prescribed Fire Plans do not require additional permitting beyond the ADEC Open Burn Approval for smoke management. ADEC Open Burn Approval applications are available from the [ADEC Open Burn Information webpage \(https://dec.alaska.gov/air/air-permit/open-burn-application/\)](https://dec.alaska.gov/air/air-permit/open-burn-application/). Information and regulations are available from the [ADEC Air Permit Program webpage \(https://dec.alaska.gov/air/air-permit/\)](https://dec.alaska.gov/air/air-permit/). See **Section IV.8** for more information on prescribed fire.

## 8. PRESCRIBED FIRE AND FUELS TREATMENTS

Fuels treatments often span multiple jurisdictions and meet multiple resource goals with multiple funding sources. Agencies are encouraged to document strategies to cooperate with memorandums of understanding and fiscal arrangements through interagency agreements.

Prescribed fires are planned, implemented, and reported according to individual agency policy. Minimum requirements for Federal Agencies are described in the [Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide \(https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/484\)](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/484).

Ignition of prescribed fire is subject to restriction based on National and Alaska Preparedness Levels. (Reference *AIMG* for Alaska Preparedness Level information.)

A dispatch center will be assigned to support every prescribed fire. It is the responsibility of the agency conducting a burn to identify an appropriate dispatch center and coordinate activities with them. In most cases this will be the local dispatch center responsible for the area/zone where the burn is being conducted. In some cases (e.g., local dispatch closed for season) AICC will be assigned. Extended hours for the assigned dispatch center will be negotiated prior to ignition. The agency conducting the burn is responsible for ensuring that a funding agreement is in place for any extended hours dispatch support that is necessary as well as for any travel and transportation expenses, crew salaries, and other project expenses incurred by the Protecting Agency supporting the burn. Billing procedures and charge codes will be established prior to orders being placed and included in the project plan as described in **Section IV.4**.

Each day prior to ignition, the Burn Boss is responsible for establishing communications with the assigned dispatch center, ensuring they are aware of planned burn activities, and have a copy of the prescribed fire plan and/or incident action plan according to agency policy. At a minimum, the dispatch center will be made aware of:

- Burn site point of contact and contact information
- Burn location
- Planned ignition time
- Planned acreage
- Request for extended hours (see below)
- Contingency forces identified including location and contact information

Each evening during the project, the Burn Boss will report acres burned to the assigned dispatch center. The assigned dispatch center is responsible for notifying adjacent dispatch centers and AICC that a burn is being implemented and for reporting acres to AICC so that the information may be included in the Daily Situation Report.

## 9. SMOKE MANAGEMENT

Smoke assessments are the responsibility of both the Jurisdictional and Protecting Agencies. The need for air resource advisors is increasing and additional technical expertise for addressing air quality and health related issues may be available through ADEC.

The [Alaska Enhanced Smoke Management Plan for Planned Fire \(ESMP\)](https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg_committees.php) ([https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg\\_committees.php](https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg_committees.php)) was developed by ADEC in coordination with the AWFCG Air Quality Committee. The ESMP outlines the process and identifies issues that need to be addressed by ADEC and federal and state agencies or private landowners/corporations to help ensure that prescribed fire activities minimize smoke and air quality problems. The ESMP Appendices provide additional assistance for interagency sharing of information, the applicability and availability of current smoke management techniques, monitoring protocol, public education strategies, and emission reduction techniques.

The AWFCG-approved [Smoke Effects Mitigation and Public Health Protection Procedures](https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php) (<https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>) provides direction on keeping the public informed about wildfire smoke. For current smoke information and forecast, regulations, advisories, and educational materials, refer to the [AK DEC Air Non-Point & Mobile Sources webpage](https://dec.alaska.gov/air/anpms/) (<https://dec.alaska.gov/air/anpms/>).

## 10. SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

One of the National Cohesive Strategy's guiding principles is to ensure "*fire management decisions are based on the best available science, knowledge, and experience, and used to evaluate risk versus gain.*" Parties to the *Alaska Master Agreement* recognize the important role of science and research in understanding Alaska's fire-adapted ecosystems and guiding an effective fire management program that meets the goals of each of the agencies as well as the public.

AWFCG participates in the [Alaska Fire Science Consortium \(AFSC\)](https://www.frames.gov/partner-sites/afsc/home/) (<https://www.frames.gov/partner-sites/afsc/home/>). The AFSC is one of fifteen regional consortia supported by the Joint Fire Science Program and is part of a national fire science exchange network. Their primary purpose is to strengthen the link between fire science research and on-the-ground application by promoting communication between managers and scientists, providing an organized fire science delivery platform, and facilitating collaborative scientist-manager research development. In order to accomplish this, AWFCG is committed to providing input through the AFSC advisory board members and to participating in and supporting AFSC functions.

In addition, AWFCG has chartered the following committees to ensure that current scientific information is made available to decision-makers, and that critical information gaps are identified in order to help guide future scientific inquiries:

### A. Fire Research Development and Applications Committee (FRDAC)

The purposes of this committee is to identify research needs in Alaska and to facilitate the development and exchange of fire effects, fire behavior, and fire danger information and applications to meet the needs of the member agencies of the AWFCG.

One of the primary tasks of the FRDAC is to maintain a list of research task items that is continually updated as tasks are completed or new tasks are identified. Other activities include development of fire effects monitoring and fuel moisture-sampling protocols along with

contributions to statewide products including an interactive map of fire research plots, and a bibliographic reference collection on fuels and fire effects. FRDAC products are available on the [AWFCG Committees webpage](https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg_committees.php) ([https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg\\_committees.php](https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg_committees.php)) and the Alaska Fire Science Consortium web site: (<https://www.frames.gov/partner-sites/afsc/partner-groups/frdac/>).

## **B. Fire Modeling and Analysis Committee (FMAC)**

The purpose of this committee is to provide cohesive direction and collaborative response to address interagency needs for fire modeling and analysis within Alaska. This committee provides comprehensive integration and coordination in support of statewide analysis and modeling concepts, data needs, and training/mentoring. It also provides consolidated responses to data and information requests to ensure Alaska-specific needs, anomalies, and conditions are supported in national systems. The FMAC is responsible for updating a fuel model guide to Alaska vegetation and has been designated by the AWFCG as the Alaska liaison and point of contact for the LANDFIRE project. FMAC information is available on the [AWFCG Committees webpage](https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg_committees.php) ([https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg\\_committees.php](https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg_committees.php)) and the Alaska Fire Science Consortium web site (<https://www.frames.gov/partner-sites/afsc/partner-groups/fire-behavior-modeling-group/>).

## **C. Fire Danger Committee**

The Fire Danger Committee provides collaborative interagency direction for fire danger in Alaska and updates on national direction and guidance. The committee provides comprehensive integration and coordination in support of statewide fire danger needs. It coordinates the Alaska Statewide Fire Danger Operating Plan.

# **V. OPERATIONS**

## **1. FIRE NOTIFICATIONS**

### **A. Notification Procedures**

Protecting Agencies are responsible for informing Jurisdictional Agencies when incidents including wildfires, false alarms, and non-escaped fire suppression actions occur on or threaten their lands. Affected jurisdictions will also be notified of significant events on an incident including but not limited to:

- Increase or decrease in complexity
- Incident status change
- Incident strategy change
- Injury or accident
- Initiation of an investigation or cost recovery action

Notification contacts and requirements are described in the AIWFMP.

## B. Final Fire Reports

Fire reporting requirements vary among agencies. Protecting and Jurisdictional Agencies are required to complete their own reporting and maintain official incident documentation records. In 2020, the Interagency Fire Occurrence Reporting Modules (InFORM) replaced legacy wildland fire reporting systems, including the Wildland Fire Management Information (WFMI) system that has been used by BIA, BLM, and NPS, as well as the Fire Statistics System (FireStat) that has been used by the US Forest Service. The USFWS will continue to utilize Fire Management Information System (FMIS). However, within Alaska, FWS will participate and certify final fire reports within InFORM on lands with points of origin (POO) on USFWS lands. The State of Alaska will also utilize InFORM to complete fire reporting for the National Association of State Foresters (NASF).

InFORM shares data with other fire applications such as IFM, WildCAD, FireCode, EGP, WFDSS and FAMWeb-209 via automated data exchange services (i.e., IRWIN and the National Incident Feature Service). The InFORM application suite is currently comprised of 3 integrated applications:

- **Inspector** is the web-based application that will be used in Alaska to complete and certify fire reports. Most of the data will have been entered in upstream applications such as IFM and WildCAD so Inspector is used to review that data, add/edit information to complete all required data fields, and certify the report.
- **Survey123** can be used to initiate a fire report in areas where a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) is not used or is otherwise unavailable. *Within Alaska, all Protecting Agencies will initiate fire reports within a CAD system, and Survey 123 will not be used.*
- **Collector** can be used on a GPS-enabled cell phone or tablet to capture a perimeter for any incident reported through IRWIN. *For all systems to reflect consistent perimeter data, any perimeters collected in this manner must be properly attributed in the National Incident Feature Service, and AFS GIS must be notified.*

Within 15 days of a fire being called out or declared a false alarm, the Protecting Agency will review and update the report within Inspector. Final perimeter for fires larger than 10 acres will be loaded into the National Incident Feature Service (NIFS) within 15 days of being called out. Once the report is complete and ready for Certification, the Protecting Agency will notify all affected Jurisdictions and provide a copy of dispatch fire/false alarm documentation for review (WildCAD Incident Card or IFM Final Fire Report). For fires/false alarms within State or Forest protection on DOI or ANCSA lands, the designated AFS DM 620 representative will be notified as well.

The Jurisdictional Agency at the point of origin will be the Certifier in Inspector for both single and multi-jurisdiction fires. If there are corrections needed to the fire report, Jurisdictional Agencies are responsible for notifying the Protecting Agency as well as other affected Jurisdictions for multi-jurisdictional fires. Protecting Agencies should make corrections promptly to ensure that all agencies can meet their reporting deadlines. Only when the data are correct should reports be certified.

AICC will monitor the completion of final fire reports and provide periodic status updates to all agencies. AICC will also maintain the state-wide archive of final fire reports as well supporting documentation.

Some agencies may use InFORM for reporting prescribed fires. Prescribed fire reporting procedures and responsibilities will be determined on an agency-by-agency basis.

## **2. BOUNDARY LINE FIRES**

See *Alaska Master Agreement Clauses IX.2. and IX.3.*, and reference the notification procedures in the AIWFMP and those listed in **Section V.1.A** of this *Alaska Statewide Operating Plan*.

The *British Columbia & NW United States Wildfire Response Border Arrangement* and associated *Operating Guideline* provide a framework under which wildfire management activities, identification, initial response, mutual aid and planning allows for cooperative pre suppression and wildfire protection along the United States and Canada's British Columbia portion of the International Border. Signatories include:

- British Columbia, Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development
- USDA-Forest Service, Pacific Northwest, Alaska and Northern Regions
- USDOJ-National Park Service, Pacific West, Alaska and Intermountain Regions
- USDOJ-Bureau of Land Management for Oregon, Washington and Idaho State Offices

A 1971 Cooperative Fire Control Agreement between the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development of Canada and the US Department of the Interior established a 10 mile buffer zone on either side of the Yukon Territory/Alaska border within which either party is authorized to take action on a wildfire. This agreement is being reviewed to ensure its provisions are in line with current international border security requirements.

## **3. INDEPENDENT ACTION ON LANDS PROTECTED BY ANOTHER AGENCY**

See *Alaska Master Agreement Clause IX.4. Independent Action*.

## **4. RESPONSE TO WILDLAND FIRE**

The protection of human life is the single, overriding suppression priority. Setting additional priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done based on an evaluation of the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection.

Dispatching of initial attack suppression resources uses the closest available and appropriate resource as determined by the Protecting Agency FMO. This dispatch procedure applies to all responding Jurisdictional or Protecting Agency resources.

Operational control, as defined in Exhibit A: Wildland Fire Glossary of Terms, of wildfire incidents is the responsibility of the Protecting Agency. The Protecting Agency FMO will assign an Incident Commander and provide supervision and support including oversight, direction, and logistical support for wildfires. The Protecting Agency FMO will retain operational control of all fires including those that are unstaffed.

The Protecting Agency will be responsible for fulfilling daily interagency incident reporting requirements and will prepare the final fire report for certification by the affected Jurisdictional Agencies. Jurisdictional Agencies are responsible for all fire reporting required by internal agency policy. When requested, the Protecting Agency will provide digital photos (aerial preferred) to the Jurisdictional Agency for decision support documentation.

## **A. Special Management Considerations**

### **1) *Detection***

The Protecting Agencies will provide fire detection coverage based on levels of lightning activity and human use or at the Jurisdictional Agency's request.

### **2) *Initial Response***

Upon discovery, the Protecting Agency is responsible to determine, verify and document the incident location, the Jurisdictional Agency, management option, and cause, and implement the initial response. Notification procedures are addressed in the AIWFMP and **Section V.1.A** of this Statewide Operating Plan.

The Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan (AIWFMP) is incorporated by reference into this Statewide Operating Plan. Its purpose is to promote a cooperative, consistent, cost-effective, interagency approach to wildland fire management and it is the interagency reference for wildfire operational information. It specifies direction for the response to a wildfire that is based on the management option designation and provides guidelines to Jurisdictional and Protecting Agencies for decision support direction as the complexity of a wildfire increases.

The AWFCG is responsible to review and update, as warranted, the AIWFMP. That plan and its appendices are available in **Appendix B of the Alaska Agency Administrator's Guide (<https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/aaguide.php>)**.

The Protecting Agencies will notify the appropriate Jurisdictional Agency(ies) of any fire threatening that agency's lands in accordance with the *AIWFMP* and **Section V.1.A** of this Statewide Operating Plan. Response will be based on strategic direction provided by Jurisdictional Agency(ies) at the time of the incident or the management option designation. Procedures for non-standard responses are in the *AIWFMP*.

### **3) *Evacuations***

Protecting Units are responsible for coordinating with cooperators and communicating evacuation authorities, procedures, and contacts to incident management organizations under their operational control.

### **4) *Fires with Federal Emergency Management Agency Reimbursable Expenses***

If an incident affects lands within State jurisdiction, expenditures may qualify for the Fire Management Assistance Grant Program (FMAG) under Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A new incident number/FireCode may be issued to track expenses during the FEMA qualifying period. This grant program is applicable to fires occurring on state and private lands (not including Native Allotments or Native Corporation lands) regardless of

Protecting Agency. Reference **Section VII.1.A** below for billing procedures and documentation requirements.

5) ***Stafford Act Responses***

Under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Response Framework (NRF), Emergency Support Function (ESF) #4 – Firefighting provides Federal support for the detection and suppression of wildland, rural, and urban fires resulting from, or occurring coincidentally with, an all-hazard incident requiring a coordinated national response for assistance.

Under a pending Stafford Act Emergency or Major Disaster Declaration, ESF 4 may be activated within the State of Alaska by FEMA Region X (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington). Consistent with the NRF, the Forest Service will serve as the Coordinator and Primary Agency for ESF 4 activities. Department of the Interior Agencies including BLM, BIA, NPS, and USFWS serve as Support Agencies under ESF 4. In addition, the Stafford Act Subtitle B Section 621 (c) 1 (<https://www.fema.gov/robert-t-stafford-disaster-relief-and-emergency-assistance-act-public-law-93-288-amended>) allows for the mobilization of State resources. Complete documentation of ESF 4 roles/responsibilities under the NRF is available from FEMA at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/frameworks/response#esf>.

6) ***Prescribed Fires Declared Wildfires***

The fiscal responsibility for suppression costs on an escaped prescribed fire that was ignited by, managed at the direction of, or under the supervision of one or more of the Parties to this Agreement shall be agreed upon and documented in an incident-specific cost apportionment agreement.

Once a prescribed fire is declared a wildfire, the Protecting Agency FMO will assume operational control of the wildfire with the collaboration of Jurisdictional Agency, the Burn Boss, and the contingency IC. A wildfire number will be assigned and all wildfire management costs will be charged to that number. Decision support documentation is required regardless of fire cause. The acreage burned after the prescribed fire was declared a wildfire is reported as wildfire acreage in the final fire report. Reference **Section V.5** below for decision process requirements. As dictated by individual agency policy, the Jurisdictional Agency administrator is responsible for conducting the appropriate level of investigation when a prescribed fire is declared a wildfire.

7) ***Surveillance and Monitoring***

Periodic surveillance/monitoring of unstaffed fires in order to evaluate fire behavior and threats will continue for the duration of the incident. Surveillance/monitoring frequency will be coordinated between the Protecting Agency and the Jurisdictional Agency; both agencies will notify the appropriate interagency fire dispatch center prior to departure of surveillance/monitoring flights.

Monitoring for fire effects and research purposes is at the Jurisdictional Agency's discretion. The Jurisdictional Agency will coordinate with the Protecting Agency FMO and notify the Interagency Fire Dispatch Center prior to departure of a monitoring flight over on-going incidents.

Flights, monitoring actions or visits to the wildfire, or within the vicinity of the fire, will be coordinated with the local dispatch center as well as the on-site Incident Commander and Protecting Area FMO.

8) ***Overwintering Fires***

All fires that are determined to have overwintered from a previous year ignition will be treated as a new start and receive a new fire number. Their cause will be recorded the same as the cause for the original fire. In order to facilitate tracking of overwintering fires, the following naming convention will be used:

**Original fire name + Overwinter + Sequential number of this year's fires that have overwintered from the original start**

(e.g, Timber Creek Overwinter 1, Timber Creek Overwinter 2...)

9) ***Invasive Species Control***

The AWFCG Fire/Invasive Species Committee (FISC; formerly the Invasive Species Task Group) has developed and communicated strategies for preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species during fire operations. Strategies address issues within Alaska, as well as concerns involving movement of people and resources from outside the State, including Alaska crews and resources returning from outside fire assignments. FISC members will review this section of the Operating Plan annually for currency.

Informational materials to support these strategies have been developed to ensure that firefighters understand the problems associated with invasive species in Alaska and reinforce the tactics necessary to prevent their spread including:

- Appropriate methods for cleaning clothing, boots, line-gear, and tools.
- Appropriate methods for washing equipment including trucks, engines, UTVs, pumps, hoses, and other water-handling equipment.
- Appropriate methods for disposal of plant/seed material after cleaning.
- Identification of invasive species and contacts for reporting.

FISC materials will be shared through a variety of means including:

- IMT in-briefings.
- The Alaska Handy-Dandy.
- Alaska orientation videos.
- Agency websites.
- Instructions attached to resource orders.
- Invasive Species Pocket Guide for Alaska Firefighters: Print copies available and online at: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd586115.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd586115.pdf)

In order to minimize the potential transmission of aquatic invasive species, water drafting or scooping aircraft and helicopter buckets from other GACCs or Canada will be washed either immediately prior to, or upon arrival at an established base (Fort Wainwright, Palmer, Tanacross, Delta, Kenai, McGrath, Galena).

Waterbodies known to harbor invasive species will not be used as dip sites unless needed to protect property or life. Water delivery equipment (including aviation and ground based) will be cleaned and sanitized before its next use if sites containing known water-borne invasive species such as Elodea have been used as water sources. Additional information about Elodea in Alaska including a list of lakes with known infestations is available on the [DNR Elodea webpage \( http://plants.alaska.gov/invasives/elodea.htm\)](http://plants.alaska.gov/invasives/elodea.htm).

Equipment washing guidance can be found in NWCG,s [Guide to Preventing Aquatic Invasive Species Transport by Wildland Fire Operations \(PMS 444\)](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/444) (<https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/444>). Power washing with clean water at a temperature of 140 degrees Fahrenheit or greater is required. State and AFS Aviation Offices will maintain a log that documents the cleaning date and location.

Additional sources of information regarding invasive species in Alaska are:

- [Alaska Exotic Plants Information Clearinghouse \(AKEPIC\) website \(http://accs.uaa.alaska.edu/invasive-species/non-native-plants/\)](http://accs.uaa.alaska.edu/invasive-species/non-native-plants/)

This site includes maps of invasive species with the capability to download locations for use in Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

- [DNR Division of Agriculture website \(http://plants.alaska.gov/invasives/index.htm\)](http://plants.alaska.gov/invasives/index.htm) contains general information on invasive plants and links to current projects
- The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Invasive Species Reporter (<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=invasivespeciesreporter.main>)

Reporting site for all taxa of invasive species, known or unknown. Can upload images and drop a pin on location of observation. Reports can be submitted via web or smart device. The ADF&G website includes information on specific invasive species and pathways, and best practices for prevention.

- The Alaska Weeds ID app (<https://apps.bugwood.org/apps/alaska/>) can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play. It features an interactive identification key, point distribution maps, and the ability to report invasive plant observations including location data and photo uploads.

- Alaska Invasive Species Partnership (AKISP; <https://www.uaf.edu/ces/invasives/akisp/>)

AKISP is an informal group of people representing agencies and organizations statewide whose mission is to prevent and reduce the impacts from invasive species in Alaska. Their website includes links to numerous resources, regulations, and management approaches. They have monthly meetings, a listserv, and a Facebook page.

## 10) *Post-fire Response*

Suppression Repair, Emergency Stabilization, and Rehabilitation activities are an integral part of wildfire incidents, but are planned, programmed, and funded separately from each other.

The Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) program addresses post-fire emergency stabilization (ES) activities on federal lands. General information can be found in Chapter 11 of the *Interagency Standard for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations* ([https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol\\_ref\\_redbook.html](https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html)), but processes differ among agencies.

For DOI agencies, additional information is available in 620 DM 7 ([https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/elips/documents/Chapter%207\\_%20Post-Wildfire%20Recovery.docx](https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/elips/documents/Chapter%207_%20Post-Wildfire%20Recovery.docx)). Guidance specific for the Fish and Wildlife Service can be found in Chapter 11 of the Fire Management Handbook (<https://www.fws.gov/fire/handbook/2021%20Chapter%2011.pdf>).

For USFS, additional information is available on the USFS BAER webpage (<https://www.fs.fed.us/naturalresources/watershed/burnedareas-background.shtml>).

For state agencies, additional information is available from the DNR Division of Mining, Land, and Water.

### a. **Fire Suppression Activity Damage Repair (Suppression Repair)**

Suppression Repair targets damage to resources, lands, and facilities resulting from wildfire suppression actions, in contrast to damages resulting from the wildfire itself. Suppression repair is funded through the incident charge code. Protecting Agencies are responsible for completing suppression repair per each Jurisdictional Agency's written direction.

### b. **Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Emergency Stabilization (ES)**

Emergency Stabilization efforts are planned actions to stabilize and prevent unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources caused by a wildfire, to minimize threats to life or property resulting from the effects of a wildfire, or to repair/replace/construct physical improvements damaged by a wildfire that are necessary to prevent degradation of land or resources. DOI policy allows each bureau to establish timelines for ES plan review and approval, so check agency-specific guidance regarding plan submission. Per

DOI policy (620 DM 7), ES funding is provided for no more than one year plus 21 days after the ignition date of a wildfire. USFS specifies that ES actions must be taken within 1 year of containment (*FSM 2500, Chapter 2520*). ES is applicable on Federal, and Federal Indian Trust lands (including Native Allotments). Jurisdictional Agencies are responsible for planning and implementing post-fire assessments and ES projects per agency policy and funding. Contact agency lead for more information.

**c. Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR)**

Burned Area Rehabilitation efforts are non-emergency projects undertaken to repair or improve fire-damaged lands that are unlikely to recover to management-approved conditions; or to repair or replace minor assets damaged by fire. BAR is applicable on Federal and Federal Indian Trust lands (including Native Allotments). Jurisdictional Agencies are responsible for planning and implementing post fire assessments and BAR projects per agency policy and funding.

DOI BAR can occur within 5 years plus 21 days of wildfire ignition. Although ES and BAR are separate programs with different funding mechanisms, ES and BAR treatments may be described in a single BAER plan. Funding for BAR is divided among the DOI Bureaus based on the rolling 5-year average number of acres burned by wildfire in the US exclusive of Alaska. Each bureau submits projects through the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS) and prioritizes them within the bureau. USFS BAR efforts can be undertaken within 3 years of a wildfire, but there is no special funding allocation and BAR is financed using regular agency appropriations.

**d. Restoration**

Restoration is the continuation of rehabilitation activities beyond the initial 3 or 5 years specified by BAR or the repair or replacement of major facilities damaged by the fire. Restoration is financed using non-emergency funding. Jurisdictional Agencies are responsible for planning and implementing restoration projects per agency policy and funding.

**e. Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation on Non-Federal Lands**

ES and BAR funding is generally only available for use on Federal and Federal Indian Trust lands (including Native Allotments). However, funding may be made available for non-federal lands (including ANCSA Native Corporations) through the Wyden Amendment when a "direct benefit" to federal lands can be demonstrated (e.g., preventative measures on non-federal lands designed to prevent degradation of nearby federal lands). In very limited situations, it might also be applied to hazard tree removal where significant federal land was involved or where a federal agency manages a right-of-way across non-federal lands.

Other options for funding emergency stabilization and rehabilitation actions on non-federal lands include:

- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funding programs including the [Emergency Stabilization and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/eqip/) (<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/eqip/>).
- Emergency appropriations through the State of Alaska legislative process.
- [FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program](https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program) (<https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program>) funding available following Presidential major disaster declarations.

## 5. DECISION PROCESS

The Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) is a web-based decision support system that provides a single dynamic documentation system for use beginning at the time of discovery and concluding when the fire is declared out. WFDSS allows the Agency Administrator to describe and analyze the fire situation, develop incident objectives and requirements, develop a course of action, evaluate relative risk, complete an organization assessment, document the rationale, and publish a decision.

A published decision documents:

- Strategic direction from Land/Resource Management Plans and/or Fire Management Plans
- Incident Objectives and Requirements
- Incident management strategies and courses of action
- Estimated costs for the duration of the incident;
- All affected jurisdictions that participated in the decision process and concurred with the strategies selected;
- That Agency Administrator(s) have reviewed and approved the decision; and
- The framework for the actions to be performed under the Delegation of Authority that authorizes an Incident Commander to operate on a specific unit(s).

Not all wildfires require published WFDSS decisions, and policy varies between agencies. There is no mandate for the State of Alaska to publish a decision for fires in State Protection Areas that only affect lands within State jurisdiction (State, Municipal, Private). The Operating Plan signatory agencies, including DOF, agree to collaborate in the publication of a decision when:

- A non-standard AIWFMP response is taken to a fire in a federal protection area, or lands within federal jurisdiction are affected by the fire.
- At the request of any of the protecting or jurisdictional agencies affected by the fire.
- Whenever wildfire complexity is Type 3 or above and a federal agency is involved.

WFDSS direction for federal agencies is provided in Chapter 11 of the [Interagency Standard for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations \(https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol\\_ref\\_redbook.html\)](https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html).

Individual jurisdictions are responsible for determining whether a WFDSS decision is needed for a fire that affects their lands. Any affected Jurisdictional or Protecting Agency may initiate the decision process. If a decision is initiated, a WFDSS Planning Area that includes all jurisdictions likely to be affected by the fire will be developed. All jurisdictions within the Planning Area as well as the Protecting Agency and any fiscally responsible agencies not already represented will be given the opportunity to participate in the decision process.

Incoming incident management organizations for all fires with federal involvement and Type 3 or above complexity will be provided with approved WFDSS decisions reflecting the strategic intent of the involved jurisdictions. If another jurisdiction has not already taken the lead, the Jurisdictional Agency at the point of origin (or the Alaska Fire Service if the point of origin falls on ANCSA lands) is responsible for ensuring that a decision is coordinated for these fires.

Decisions will support the strategic objectives defined by the participating Jurisdictional Agency(ies).

For all incidents:

- Public and firefighter safety issues are the primary considerations.
- If a WFDSS decision is initiated, the Protecting Agency should assist in the development of a Risk Management Assessment, course of action, and cost estimate. The Protecting Agency will authorize and provide oversight for all incident resources regardless of the complexity level.
- Additional operational guidelines and management considerations are contained in the *AIWFMP* and/or in Unit Fire Management Plans and will be included in the decision documentation in WFDSS.

Additional information regarding WFDSS is located in Appendix C of the [Alaska Agency Administrators Guide \(https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/aaguide.php\)](https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/aaguide.php).

## 6. COOPERATION

Table 5: Alaska WFDSS Approval Authorities

Signature Type	Agency	DOI: < \$5 Million <sup>1</sup> USFS: Type 3,4,5 Incident	DOI: \$5 - \$10 Million <sup>1</sup> USFS: Type 2 Incident	DOI: > \$10 Million <sup>1</sup> USFS: Type 1 Incident
<b>Jurisdictional Agency</b>	<b>Alaska State (incl. municipal, &amp; pvt. lands)</b>	Regional Forester	Regional Forester	Regional Forester
	<b>BIA (Native Allotments)</b>	BIA Deputy Regional Director/Agency Super. <sup>2</sup>	BIA Regional Director	BIA Regional Director <sup>2</sup>
	<b>BLM</b>	Field Office Manager <sup>3</sup>	Field Office Manager <sup>3</sup>	Field Office Manager <sup>3</sup>
	<b>NPS</b>	NPS Park Superintendent	NPS Park Superintendent <sup>4</sup>	NPS Park Superintendent <sup>4</sup>
	<b>FWS</b>	FWS Refuge Manager	FWS Refuge Manager <sup>5</sup>	FWS Refuge Manager <sup>5</sup>
	<b>ANCSA Corporation</b>	AFS FMO <sup>6</sup>	AFS Manager <sup>6</sup>	AFS Manager <sup>6</sup>
	<b>Other Federal and Department of Defense</b>	TBD <sup>7</sup>	TBD <sup>7</sup>	TBD <sup>7</sup>
	<b>USFS</b>	Agency Administrator (Working Level Cert.) <sup>8</sup>	Agency Administrator (Journey Level Cert.) <sup>8</sup>	Agency Administrator (Advanced Level Cert.) <sup>8</sup>
<b>Protecting Agency</b>	<b>AFS Protection</b>	AFS FMO	AFS Manager	AFS Manager
	<b>DOF Protection</b>	Regional Forester	Regional Forester	Regional Forester
	<b>USFS Protection</b>	Agency Administrator (Working Level Cert.) <sup>8</sup>	Agency Administrator (Journey Level Cert.) <sup>8</sup>	Agency Administrator (Advanced Level Cert.) <sup>8</sup>
<b>Fiscal Agency</b>	<b>FWS, NPS, ANCSA &amp; Native Allotments BIA)</b>	AFS FMO <sup>6</sup>	AFS Manager <sup>6</sup>	AFS Manager <sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> **NPS/FWS/BIA** – Cost estimate should be based on estimated final cost of the incident.

<sup>2</sup> **BIA** – For fires costing less than \$5 million WFDSS approval authority is delegated to the Agency Superintendent for lands within the Fairbanks Agency (Doyon Region). Outside of the Fairbanks Agency, decisions for fires costing less than \$5 million will be approved by the Associate Regional Director. Approval authority for fires costing more than \$10 million has been delegated to the Regional Director.

<sup>3</sup> **BLM**–Alaska approvals have been re-delegated to the Field Manager per agency policy. District Managers will provide written notification to the State Director when an incident meets or exceeds federal combined expenditures of \$5 million and more than 50% of the burned acres are managed by DOI and ANCSA. District Managers will provide written notification to the National Director when an incident meets or exceeds federal combined expenditures of \$10 million and more than 50% of the burned acres are managed by DOI and ANCSA. Notifications should be emailed with a cc to the BLM Fire and Aviation Directorate Assistant Director.

<sup>4</sup> **NPS** – Park Superintendents will provide written notification to the Regional and/or Agency Director when an incident meets or exceeds federal combined expenditures of \$5 million and/or \$10 million in suppression costs, AND more than 50% of the burned acres are managed by the NPS. Written notifications should be emailed with a cc to the Chief, Branch of Wildland Fire.

<sup>5</sup> **FWS** – WFDSS approval authority in Alaska has been delegated to Refuge Managers for all fires. The Alaska Region Chief of Refuges will be notified when combined federal expenditures exceed \$5 million, and the R7 Chief of Refuges and National Director will be notified when combined federal expenditures exceed \$10 million.

<sup>6</sup> **ANCSA Corporations** – AFS retains fiscal and joint jurisdictional responsibility for ANCSA Corporation lands in USFS Protection although there is no mechanism for funds exchange between BLM and USFS.

<sup>7</sup> **Other Federal and Department of Defense Agencies** U.S. Army Garrison Alaska (USAG Alaska) manages some lands in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management. The AFS Military FMO works with USAG Alaska and BLM to determine Jurisdictional Agency for fires on these lands. As of March 2020, the only suppression agreement with the Army in Alaska is the a memorandum of agreement and annual operating plan between BLM Alaska and the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Wainwright which specifies joint BLM/Army responsibilities for fire management on the Yukon and Donnelly training ranges. There are no arrangements in place for other federal and military lands in Alaska, including the Fort Greely Missile Defense site. An agreement between Alaska DNR and the U.S. Air Force Joint-Base Elmendorf-Richardson describes fire management roles and responsibilities for fires occurring on the base.

<sup>8</sup> **USFS**- This authority may be retained at the Regional Forester level.

Initial strategies will conform to response direction in the AIWFMP unless otherwise agreed to by Protecting and Jurisdictional Agencies. Strategic direction for non-standard responses and other fires requiring a WFDSS decision will be documented in the decision. See **Section 5: Decision Process**.

WFDSS decisions document objectives and requirements, fiscal estimates, and a course of action for an incident. The decision-making process requires a collaborative effort by all of the agencies responsible for these components:

- Jurisdictional Agency(ies) are responsible for identifying values of concern, strategic objectives and management requirements based on their unique land and resource management priorities.
- The Fiscally Responsible Agency (AFS has fiscal approval authority for non-BLM DOI lands, Alaska Native Corporation lands, and Native Allotments) is responsible for providing cost oversight and direction.
- The Protecting Agency is responsible for developing an implementable, fiscally responsible course of action that meets objectives and complies with management requirements.

All Jurisdictional Agencies within the Planning Area (see **Table 4: Jurisdictional Agencies based on Ownership/Land Status**) will be given the opportunity to participate in the decision process and approve the decision. In addition, the Fiscally Responsible Agency, and the Protecting Agency as described in Chapter 2 and Chapter 11 of the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations* and in **Table 5: Alaska WFDSS Approval Authorities** of this Operating Plan will be given the opportunity to participate in the decision process and approve the decision.

The Protecting Agency will develop and implement incident tactics based on verbal approval from the Jurisdictional Agency FMO(s) or Agency Administrator(s) while WFDSS approvals are being finalized.

## 7. COMMUNICATION

Effective communication between Protecting and Jurisdictional Agencies and between neighboring jurisdictions is important in Alaska's multi-agency fire management environment. Opportunities for communication include:

- Spring and Fall Interagency Meetings
- Local pre-season meetings
- Incident notification process
- Incident decision process (WFDSS)
- Incident Briefings and Meetings
- Incident after-action reviews
- AIWFMP Fire Management Option review and change process

Protecting Agency incident notification requirements are described in Section 3.4 of the AIWFMP. Jurisdictional Agencies should promptly communicate concerns about fires with potential to affect their lands to the Protecting Agency.

## **8. COST EFFICIENCY**

Both Jurisdictional and Protecting Agencies are responsible for considering cost efficiency when developing strategy and tactics. WFDSS Decision cost estimates will be agreed upon by all participating agencies and jurisdictional cost thresholds will be identified in WFDSS Decisions and/or Delegations of Authority. Protecting Agencies will inform jurisdictions when cost thresholds are being approached.

Protecting Agencies will track incident costs and provide reports for other affected Parties upon request. AFS/DNR Interim and Final Incident Cross-billing reports will be made available to all parties to this agreement. The USFS and all Jurisdictional parties to the agreement will make annual incident cost data for Alaska incidents available to all parties including:

- Total Agency Charges by Incident
- Recovery costs billed to Protecting Agency by incident

## **9. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

Delegations of Authority will be jointly developed by the Jurisdictional and Protecting Agencies and will document procedures and criteria that specify direction, authority, and financial management guidelines to Incident Commanders.

For fires not on BLM lands, the Master Agreement and this Operating Plan serve as the initial Delegation of Authority from Jurisdictional Agencies to the Protecting Agencies to implement initial response activities in accordance with the AIWFMP. BLM requires that all Type 3, 4, and 5 Incident Commanders for fires affecting BLM lands receive a pre-season delegation from the State Director or appropriate District Manager. BLM-AFS will coordinate this process.

Incident Commanders for fires of Type 3 complexity and above will receive a written delegation consistent with the Master Agreement and this Operating Plan that has been jointly developed and signed by affected Jurisdictional and Protecting Agencies. If additional jurisdictions become affected amendments to the Delegation of Authority and additional signatures may be required. When the Jurisdictional Agency, the Protecting Agency, and the employing agency of the Incident Commander are one and the same, a written delegation for Type 3 incidents is optional.

Protecting and Jurisdictional Agencies will participate in IMT in-briefings to provide information on local issues, personnel, facilities and identify key representatives. The Protecting Agencies will authorize and provide oversight for incident resources regardless of the complexity level and will assign a liaison to out-of-state Type 1 & 2 IMTs. Jurisdictional Agencies may assign incident resources outside of the IMT structure such as Agency Administrator Representatives, Resource Advisors, Strategic Operational Planners, Long-term Analysts, or other positions. These assignments should be coordinated with the IMT.

Protecting and Jurisdictional Agencies will collaborate to develop schedules and agendas for IMT in-briefings and closeout meetings. Prior to the closeout meeting, each agency will be given the opportunity to contribute to the written evaluation of IMT's performance in the implementation of the direction contained in the Delegation of Authority. The Protecting Agency is responsible for compiling the final evaluation documents, the closeout notes, and for obtaining the Incident Summary from the IMT. IMT evaluations, and minutes from the closeout or IMT Incident Summary will be forwarded to the Protecting Agencies' Chief of Fire Operations, and the AWFCG Chair and Executive Assistant for distribution to affected Jurisdictional Agency representatives.

Lessons learned from the IMT debriefings will be included as an Interagency Fall Fire Review agenda item.

## 10. PRESERVATION OF EVIDENCE

Evidence will be preserved in accordance with applicable Agency regulations and policies.

### A. Origin and Cause Determination

Accurate fire cause determination is a critical first step for a successful fire investigation and for targeting fire prevention efforts. Protection agencies are responsible to perform origin and cause determination findings on all fires. Protecting Agency and all other first responders are required to preserve information and evidence pertaining to the origin and cause of all fires to the extent practical. This includes accurate and timely identification of coordinates and jurisdictional responsibility at the point of origin. The Protecting Agency is responsible for verifying point of origin jurisdiction through the use of tools and contacts identified in **Section VI.3.H.1) Alaska Wildland Fire Jurisdictions (AKWFJ)**. Protecting Agencies will immediately inform the appropriate Jurisdictional Agency(ies) when they suspect a wildfire is human caused.

### B. Fire Investigation

If probable cause indicates human involvement, two Wildland Fire Investigators (INVF) should be ordered to conduct an investigation. Investigations and all ensuing legal actions beyond origin and cause determination are the responsibility of the affected Jurisdictional Agencies; however, investigation support may be requested from the Protecting Agency subject to resource availability and appropriate regulations and agency limitations. It is best if a Federal INVF leads investigations under Federal jurisdictions and a State INVF leads investigations under State jurisdiction. Protecting FMOs will coordinate with jurisdictions to ensure all agency requirements for investigations are met.

The Lead Investigating Agency is typically the Jurisdictional Agency at the point of origin; however, other affected Jurisdictional Agencies may also initiate investigations. The Lead Agency will notify all affected agencies immediately when the decision is made to pursue an investigation beyond origin and cause or seek cost recovery on an incident in order to proceed jointly and cooperatively if desired. When incidents affect multiple agencies lands, collections will be pursued jointly and cooperatively by each affected agency to the extent practical. See **Section VII.5**.

Chapter 18 of the *Interagency Standard for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations* ([https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol\\_ref\\_redbook.html](https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html)) summarizes Federal policy regarding fire trespass investigation. Additional interagency direction is contained in *PMS 412, Guide to Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination* <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/412> and Agency-specific references include:

- **BLM** – [9238-1 17](#)
- **NPS** – [RM-18, Chapter 6](#) and [RM-9 Chapter 18](#)
- **FWS** – [Fire Management Handbook Chapter 18](#)
- **USFS** – [FSM 5130](#) and [FSM 5320](#)
- **BIA** – <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/dfwfm/bwfm/fire-management-memo-library>
- **Alaska DNR** – <http://forestry.alaska.gov/>

## 11. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

The conditions for which accident investigations are required are identified in individual Agency policies and in Chapter 18 of the [Interagency Standard for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations](https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html) ([https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol\\_ref\\_redbook.html](https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html)).

An accident investigation will be initiated by the agency with operational control of the incident on which it occurs. The investigating agency will provide all information to the accident investigation team, if established. Affected agencies (including the employing agencies for involved personnel) will share information related to the accident and investigation with other affected agencies, upon request and within their legal parameters.

- Operational control of a wildfire (including a prescribed fire that has been converted to a wildfire) is held by the Protecting Agency.
- Operational control of a prescribed fire will be defined in the Prescribed Fire Plan.
- Operational control during normal and routine business is held by the employing agency, or agency for which the affected individual(s) are fulfilling an assignment. For example, USFS smokejumpers filling a Resource Order for a booster crew and assigned to AFS are under the operational control of AFS despite USFS being the employing agency.

## 12. PUBLIC INFORMATION

Sharing of information in Alaska is a collaborative effort between jurisdictional and Protecting Agencies. In the spirit of the [National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy](https://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy/documents/strategy/NationalActionPlan_20140423.pdf) ([https://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy/documents/strategy/NationalActionPlan\\_20140423.pdf](https://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy/documents/strategy/NationalActionPlan_20140423.pdf)) and in this environment of collaboration, agencies respect each other's communication policies and practices. The parties to this Agreement will mutually share information to serve the best interests of the Agencies and the public in accordance with Agency rules and regulations. Haines Area information roles and responsibilities are described in **Attachment 7**.

Every effort should be made to distribute fire information to the public collaboratively and in a timely manner. Multi-jurisdiction fire information needs and deliveries are negotiated and approved by the agency administrators and the Protecting Agency FMO and coordinated by the JIC, if activated.

## A. Alaska Fire Information Websites

AFS hosts and maintains the [AICC website \(https://fire.ak.blm.gov/\)](https://fire.ak.blm.gov/), a centralized source of information about wildland fire in Alaska for use by Agencies and the public.

AFS maintains a web mapping application that provides information about wildland fire in Alaska. The application is available for use by Agencies and the public.

- [Alaska Wildland Fire Information: https://blm-egis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=32ec4f34fb234ce58df6b1222a207ef1](https://blm-egis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=32ec4f34fb234ce58df6b1222a207ef1)

Inciweb and akfireinfo, as well as agency social media sites are also valuable online tools the Alaska interagency wildland fire community can use for their public information needs:

[Inciweb \(https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/\)](https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/)

Inciweb is best suited for complex fires that threaten villages and towns; fires that span jurisdictional boundaries; fires with political or public interest; or a group of fires within a single jurisdiction.

The Protecting Agency has the responsibility to initiate an Inciweb page. However, through negotiation this responsibility can be designated to the Jurisdictional Agency. The initiator will ensure that other appropriate agencies have access to the page and can update it. It is also important for involved agencies to collaboratively develop and act upon an Inciweb information plan that addresses how the page will be updated.

[Akfireinfo \(https://www.akfireinfo.com\)](https://www.akfireinfo.com)

Akfireinfo is the primary platform for wildland fire information to the public because of its ease of use and reach to Alaskan audiences. Each Protecting and Jurisdictional Agency is allowed access to akfireinfo. Akfireinfo is a Word Press tool that operates as a blog and allows the public to subscribe to email updates. It optionally will also automatically populate both the DOF and AFS Twitter and Facebook pages. The Alaska Fire Service is the administrator of this site. Both the AFS public affairs specialist and DOF public information officer can grant access to the site.

Additional agency-specific public information websites include:

- [DOF http://forestry.alaska.gov/fire/current.htm](http://forestry.alaska.gov/fire/current.htm)
- [BLM-AFS https://afs.ak.blm.gov/](https://afs.ak.blm.gov/)
- [FWS-Alaska https://www.fws.gov/alaska/pages/refuge-management/fire-management](https://www.fws.gov/alaska/pages/refuge-management/fire-management)
- [NPS-Alaska https://www.nps.gov/locations/alaska/wildland-fire.htm](https://www.nps.gov/locations/alaska/wildland-fire.htm)

### Social Media

Social media can be used to disseminate accurate fire information in a timely manner, quash rumors, and coordinate unified themes and messages. There are already established social media efforts at agencies that accomplish the same or similar goals of disseminating accurate fire information to the public. Social media sites created for a specific fire can result in undue overlap and duplication of fire information. In addition, agency level coordination and participation helps ensure that information is, when appropriate, delivered to the public in the context of unified themes or messages.

## **B. Protecting Agency and Incident Management Teams**

The Protecting Agency and the Incident Management Team, when assigned, are responsible for the release of operational and public safety information to the media and public during the initial response to and during an ongoing wildfire. The Protecting Agency and Incident Management Team will coordinate with the Jurisdictional Agency on the release of fire information. Specific Jurisdictional Agency direction will be stipulated in the Delegation of Authority. If no IMT is assigned or the IMT organization lacks a PIO, the Jurisdictional Agency may request to be delegated primary responsibility for the release of operational and public safety information.

Coordination of information releases between IMT, Protecting, and Jurisdictional Agencies is essential. It is incumbent on jurisdictional and protecting FMOs to ensure that information roles are clearly defined and information needs are being met. Releases will be distributed to all stakeholders and approved by the Incident Commander prior to release. Jurisdictional Agency policy and messaging will be included when requested by the agency administrator. Policy questions will be referred to the Jurisdictional Agency.

## **C. Jurisdictional Agencies**

Jurisdictional Agencies may develop and distribute information for the media and public that includes agency messaging and policy. Updates to public documents (Inciweb, news releases, etc.) that include information made public via other means (e.g., Situation Report) may be issued without additional coordination. When releases include specific incident-related information, the Jurisdictional Agency will coordinate with the Protecting Agency and IMT to ensure consistency. Delegations of Authority to an IMT may include further direction and points of contact and will not conflict with the terms above.

Upon request and availability, the Parties to this Agreement may provide fire information support including but not limited to releasing staff to support information functions or single resource ordering PIOs to meet agency needs.

## **D. Joint Information Center (JIC)**

At Alaska Preparedness Levels 1-3, the AFS and DNR Public Information Officers collaboratively develop and post updates on the akfireinfo site. At Alaska Preparedness Level 4 and 5, a Joint Information Center (JIC) will be activated and staffed. The JIC will normally be located at AICC and managed by AMAC. Other JIC functions requested or established by the Parties to this Agreement will be coordinated with the JIC at AICC. The JIC will refer all inquiries concerning Jurisdictional Agency policy to the responsible Jurisdictional Agency.

# **VI. USE AND REIMBURSEMENT OF INTERAGENCY FIRE RESOURCES**

## **1. COST SHARE AGREEMENT**

### **A. Fiscal Responsibility for Wildfires in Alaska**

*Clause VII.3 of the Alaska Master Agreement* identifies the parties fiscally responsible for protection services on jurisdictions within Alaska. **Table 6** summarizes fiscal responsibility by jurisdiction.

ALASKA MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT  
2021 ALASKA STATEWIDE OPERATING PLAN

Table 6: Wildfire Fiscal Responsibility by Jurisdiction

<i>Jurisdictional Agency</i>	<i>Fiscally Responsible Party</i>
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
BLM*	Bureau of Land Management
FWS, NPS, BIA (Native Allotments and some Townsites)*	BLM - Alaska Fire Service
ANCSA Regional and Village Corporations*	BLM - Alaska Fire Service
State, Municipal, and Private lands	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Military and Other Federal lands	TBD*

\* U.S. Army Garrison Alaska (USAG Alaska) manages some lands in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management. The AFS Military FMO works with USAG Alaska and BLM to determine Jurisdictional Agency for fires on these lands. As of March 2020, the only suppression agreement with the Army in Alaska is the a memorandum of agreement and annual operating plan between BLM Alaska and the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Wainwright which specifies joint BLM/Army responsibilities for fire management on the Yukon and Donnelly training ranges. A 2020 agreement between Alaska DNR and the U.S. Air Force Joint-Base Elmendorf-Richardson describes fire management roles and responsibilities for fires occurring on the base. There are no reimbursable arrangements in place for other federal and military lands in Alaska, including the Fort Greely Missile Defense site.

BIA, FWS, NPS, and USFS may bill DNR to recover costs incurred in support of DNR for extended staffing requests and incident assignments. Costs must be documented on appropriate fiscal documents (agency-approved timesheets, resource orders, travel vouchers, etc.). Billing will be processed by the respective regional offices.

There is no mechanism for billing between federal agencies for expenses incurred on wildfires on federal lands per the *Interagency Agreement for Wildland Fire Management among the BLM, BIA, NPS, FWS and the USFS, FY2011-FY2015, Section VI.B.1.*

(<https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/references.htm>). Therefore, BLM & AFS retain fiscal responsibility for DOI & ANCSA Corporation lands in USFS Protection although there is no mechanism for funds exchange between the agencies. This arrangement does not diminish the role of Jurisdictional Agency Administrators in providing incident cost oversight.

## B. Default Alaska Cost Apportionment Process

This *Alaska Statewide Operating Plan* defines the following default methodology for apportioning costs associated with in-state fires between the fiscally responsible parties. The method is based on the point of origin of the incident and the initial actions taken upon discovery:

- When the initial actions upon discovery are an effort to extinguish the wildfire, the costs will be apportioned based on jurisdictional acres burned and the associated responsible fiscal party(ies).
- When the initial action upon discovery is surveillance or site-specific protection, all costs incurred are attributed to the agency on whose land the wildfire originated and billed to the fiscally responsible party.

It is the intent of this procedure to attribute wildfire suppression costs to the agency who has taken the risk of allowing a fire to burn without suppression action, other than surveillance or site-specific protection, during the stages when it can be most easily suppressed. It is the responsibility of the Protecting Agencies to identify to the best of their ability the exact location of fires when first detected, document that location, implement the initial response based on the management option designation, and notify the Jurisdictional Agency.

## C. Incident-specific Cost Share Agreements

Incident specific cost share agreements may be negotiated for any incident at the request of any of the Protecting Agencies involved. **Table 7** outlines signature authorities for incident-specific cost share agreements.

A template for incident specific cost share agreements is available in *Exhibit F of the Alaska Statewide Master Agreement*, but its use is not mandatory. Copies of the Agreement will be provided to:

- Federal and State Budget/Billing Offices
- DOF Operations Forester
- AICC Intelligence Desk

Table 7: Incident-specific Cost Share Agreement Signature Authorities

<i>Fiscally Responsible Party</i>	<i>Signature Authority</i>
U.S. Forest Service	USFS Director of Fire, Fuels and Aviation
Bureau of Land Management	AFS Manager
BLM - Alaska Fire Service	AFS Manager
Alaska Department of Natural Resources	DNR Chief of Fire and Aviation
Other	TBD

In the absence of an incident specific cost share agreement, costs for Alaska wildfires will be apportioned using the default methodology described in **Section VI.1.B** above and the special cases identified below.

For more details on the cost apportionment billing process, reference **Section VII** of this Operating Plan and *Exhibit D of the Master Agreement*.

#### **D. Incident Cost Apportionment Special Cases**

##### **1) *Cost Apportionment for Escaped Prescribed Fires***

The fiscal responsibility for suppression costs on an escaped prescribed fire that was ignited by, managed at the direction of, or under the supervision of one or more of the Parties to this Agreement shall be agreed upon and documented in an incident-specific cost share agreement.

##### **2) *Cost Apportionment for AIWFMP Non-standard Initial Response Fires***

An incident-specific cost apportionment agreement should be considered for fires involving multiple jurisdictions that have received a non-standard initial response as defined in the AIWFMP. A fire originating in the Critical, Full, or Pre-Conversion Modified Fire Management Option that is not immediately suppressed due to lack of resources or safety concerns may be a likely candidate for an incident-specific cost apportionment agreement. By default, non-standard initial responses will be apportioned as described in **Clause VI.1.D** above.

##### **3) *Cost Apportionment for Fires that Merge***

An incident-specific cost apportionment agreement should be considered for allocating costs between fires that involve multiple jurisdictions and have merged (burned together). See ICS-209 and agency final fire reports directions for reporting requirements and reference 2016 NWCG memo EB-M-16-024 and attachments EB-M-16-024a and EB-M-16-024b available at <https://www.nwcg.gov/executive-board/correspondence> for additional considerations. By default, when wildfires merge, costs for each fire will be maintained independently and will be apportioned as described in **Clause VI.1.D** above.

##### **4) *Cost Apportionment for Overwintering Fires***

An incident-specific cost apportionment agreement should be considered for overwintering fires that are reported as originating on a different jurisdiction than the previous year.

##### **5) *Cost Apportionment for Fires that Originate in Canada***

An incident-specific cost apportionment agreement should be considered for fires that originate in Canada and spread into Alaska.

##### **6) *Cost Apportionment for Complexes***

An incident-specific cost apportionment agreement should be considered for allocating costs between fires involving multiple jurisdictions that are managed as an Incident Complex. Only costs that cannot be reasonably attributed to an individual fire will be assigned to the Complex code unless otherwise directed in an incident-specific cost apportionment agreement. Incident costs charged to the Complex will be allocated to individual fires based

the percentage of effort involved in managing individual fires. The allocation method employed will be documented in the incident-specific cost apportionment agreement

By default, when wildfires are assigned to a complex, costs for each fire within the complex will be apportioned as described in **Clause VI.1.D** above. By default, costs charged to the complex code will be allocated to individual fires prior to apportionment as follows:

$$FireTotal_x = FireCode_x + \left( ComplexCode * \frac{FireCode_x}{(FireCode_1 + FireCode_2 + FireCode_3 + \dots + FireCode_n)} \right)$$

Where:

**FireTotal<sub>x</sub>** = Total fire costs, including proportional share of complex code charges

**FireCode<sub>x</sub>** = Costs charged to individual fire codes

**ComplexCode** = Costs charged to complex code

**n** = number of fires in complex

## 2. TRAINING

The Parties to this Agreement participate and assist each other in interagency fire training through the AWFCG Alaska Interagency Fire Training and Qualifications Committee. This includes scheduling, cost sharing, tuition charges, course development, and course presentation. Agencies may provide housing and/or meals for students and instructors from other agencies through agreed upon means. Haines Area EFF/AD and cooperator training roles and responsibilities are described in **Attachment 7:**.

### A. Emergency Fire Fighter (EFF/AD) Training

EFF crews will be trained and receive physical fitness testing in accordance with the Alaska Emergency Fire Fighter Crew Management Guide. Protecting Agencies are responsible for training and physical fitness testing for EFF/AD and crews in their Protection Area.

EFF Crew Boss training will be conducted on an interagency basis on odd numbered years. EFF Crew Boss training is hosted by the AFS. Travel costs for instructors and trainees are the responsibility of their employing agency.

### B. Cooperator Training

NWCG Training may be provided to cooperators by the Jurisdictional Agency, the Protecting Agency, or the local fire department.

Non-agency firefighters will be certified by state or local fire departments, or private training providers approved by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) through their local GACC. Agencies will not assist in the administration, or sponsor the Work Capacity Test (WCT), as the certifying agency (*Chapter 13, Interagency Standard for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations* ([https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol\\_ref\\_redbook.html](https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html))).

### C. Field Deliverable Courses

Costs incurred for students who are participating in Field Deliverable courses including S-420 Command and General Staff will be charged to the incident hosting the course. Field deliverable courses will require a Support Resource Order for training within an incident. Course cadre will be ordered in their respective position. Cadre not identified by position will

be ordered as Technical Specialists. Students will be ordered as Trainees in their respective trainee positions.

### 3. COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

Jurisdictional and Protecting Agencies will collaborate on any proposed modifications or deletions to fire management databases or websites that affect their agency and provide each other the opportunity for comments.

AFS has provided BLM network access to DNR, NPS, FWS, and USFS employees stationed on Fort Wainwright. Guest logins to the BLM network are provided to personnel assigned to AFS facilities on Resource Orders.

NPS, FWS, USFS, and DNR may provide their employees based on Fort Wainwright with access to their agency network.

#### A. BLM Network Access

In order to facilitate the exchange of information, access to the BLM's network will be provided as needed. The following definitions have been used to establish the AFS Access Guidelines to providing a balance between user access and the protection of the network from known and potential security threats.

##### 1) *AFS Access Guidelines*

- Unrestricted access to the BLM trusted network will be provided only to trusted users who have cleared the National Agency Check (NAC) and completed the requirements to initiate the NAC with written Inquiries (NACI). Personal Identity Investigation credentials will then be issued. Costs associated with the processing of the NAC and NACI will be the responsibility of the BLM.
- It is the responsibility of all agencies to ensure that only trusted users are afforded access to BLM's network.
- All users on BLM's trusted network will be granted full access to information in the Public Releasable and Agency General Information groupings.
- Access to information in the Agency Sensitive Information grouping will be granted by the host agency to specifically authorized employees and employee groups and to individually authorized contractor personnel.
- Access to information in the Agency Very Sensitive Information grouping (primarily law enforcement information) will be granted only to individually authorized personnel.
- Guests/Detailers and non-DOI employees may be granted access to AFS WiFi (Leopard). A DOI sponsor (PFT, CS, or Temporary employee) is required for guest WiFi access. Special Provisions

All personnel will comply with the Information Technology security policies established by BLM, the [Computer Security Act of 1987, OMB A-130, Appendix III \(https://www.congress.gov/bill/100th-congress/house-bill/145\)](https://www.congress.gov/bill/100th-congress/house-bill/145), and the [Homeland Security Presidential Directive #12 \(https://www.dhs.gov/homeland-security-presidential-directive-12\)](https://www.dhs.gov/homeland-security-presidential-directive-12).

## **B. GIS and Information Technology Applications**

AFS agrees to maintain mutual use GIS files, databases and IT applications and servers for use and access by other agencies. AFS will collaborate with other agencies in the development of user requirements, files, databases, and applications.

AFS agrees to maintain and distribute the following GIS datasets:

- Recorded Lightning Strikes
- Current and historical fires (points and polygons)
- Fire Management Options and Zones
- Fire Heat Detections
- Alaska Wildland Fire Jurisdictions (AKWFJ)
- Current Fire-AKWFJ Breakdown

AFS will maintain a publicly available web mapping application that displays information relative to Alaska Wildland fire. However, other agencies may use the authoritative datasets to develop similar applications tailored to their specific agency needs. AFS will collaborate with other agencies in the development of user requirements, files, databases, and applications.

Costs for application modifications specific to an agency's requirements will be determined on a project-by-project basis and billed to that agency as appropriate.

Any DNR contribution to the Interagency GIS and IT Mapping Application development and support is included as an Annual Fixed Cost. This support may include, but is not limited to: Alaska Known Sites, Fires, and Integrated Fire Management (IFM) layers, etc. The amount will be evaluated annually and listed in **Alaska Protecting Agencies work closely with each other to provide services that benefit all wildland fire agencies**. Support for some of these services is cross-billed through this agreement and documented in **Table 11, Table 12, and Table 13**.

Not all interagency services are cross-billed through this agreement. A list of some of these unbilled services appears in **Table 14**. This list is not comprehensive and there is no implied commitment by any of the agencies to continue to fund these items without reimbursement.

Table 11: Annual Fixed Costs - DNR bills AFS.

## **C. Computer-aided Dispatch Systems (CADs)**

### **1) *WildCad***

The Alaska Fire Service uses WildCad as the CAD for fires in Alaska Fire Service protection zones. Fire occurrence data from the former Fire Beans system will continue to be maintained to feed various systems. The Tongass and Chugach National Forests also will use WildCad beginning in 2021.

### **2) *Integrated Fire Management (IFM)***

DNR will provide and maintain the Integrated Fire Management (IFM) system as the CAD for fires in State protection. The IFM will be operational year-round and seasonal updates will be completed by April 1. Jurisdictional Agencies may be provided read-only access as requested.

IFM will provide real-time information within State protection for fire managers:

- Available resources including air tankers, smokejumpers, helicopters, engines, and crews
- Active fires by Management Option and Jurisdictional Agency
- Summary of staffed fires by Area/Forest
- Daily Preparedness Levels and Staffing Plans
- BLAST – relevant radio logs filtered by agency, Jurisdictional Agency, and job type.

#### **D. Teletype**

The Parties to this Agreement will assume full responsibility for their portion of the teletype (TTY) network.

- AFS will provide and maintain the TTY hub at AFS. This hub will be operational year-round. Connections between this hub and the data communications equipment will be via TCP/IP or standard RS-232 connections. AFS will also provide and maintain the TTY software to run on computers with Windows operating system. This maintenance is limited to that necessary to maintain a reliable and functional system.
- The DNR will provide their own data circuit(s) accessing the DNR owned communication equipment at AFS; this will serve as the demarcation point between AFS and DNR circuits. DNR contributes funding to AFS to support the Teletype system and the costs are included in the Bill for Collection for Annual Fixed Costs.
- Any operational changes to the TTY system, including hardware and software, will be made on an interagency basis, with concurrence from both DNR and AFS.

#### **E. AICC Website**

The [AICC website \(https://fire.ak.blm.gov/\)](https://fire.ak.blm.gov/) is a comprehensive source of fire-related information. Website links to documents, webpages, and data include, but are not limited to Alaska and National situation reports and preparedness levels, current and historical fire map products and data, media releases, planned prescribed fires, incident management team and crew information and rotation lists, current weather forecasts, weather station data, Alaska fire and fuels information, and fire potential outlooks.

#### **F. Radio Communications**

All agencies will adhere to all Federal Communication Commission and DOI Office of Telecommunication policy and internal agency rules and regulations pertinent to use of frequencies.

##### **1) Radio Frequency Sharing**

Each Protecting Agency Area/Zone/Forest has local frequencies on which they operate. The Interagency Fire Dispatch Centers for that Area/Zone/Forest are responsible for assigning and tracking incident frequencies, and all resources assigned to an incident are permitted to use assigned frequencies. The DNR and AFS have agreed to share assigned frequencies for

the purpose of initial response, logistical support, preparedness, and administrative traffic on a non-interfering basis. DNR and USFS have a similar agreement. Additionally, AFS and DNR agree to make every effort to have the same channel line-up and radio configurations in their fire radios.

To facilitate interagency communications, there are interagency frequencies approved for use during an incident response. Contact the AICC Communications Coordinator (Reference the *AIMG* for information on how to request additional dedicated radio frequencies for use during extended response.)

All agencies will coordinate the deployment of equipment using frequency assignments with the principle licensee to avoid frequency/interference conflict. At Alaska Preparedness Level 4 & 5 or as fire activity warrants a statewide interagency Communications Coordinator is activated and assigned to the AICC.

Frequency sharing agreements between individual agencies exist outside of this agreement. One such agreement allows for the DNR and AFS to share frequencies. AFS has agreements in place with the DOI agencies that allows sharing of some frequencies. The AFS/DOI Frequency Sharing Agreements do not permit use of these frequencies by other agencies without authorization of the owning agency or the AFS Chief, Branch of Communications.

## 2) *Radio and RAWs Site Maintenance*

AFS will provide radio site preventive maintenance at six DNR sites in the McGrath area (Horn Mountain, Mount X, Cloudy Mountain, Beaver Mountain, Spike Mountain, and the McGrath station). DNR will adopt the Interior Telecommunications Coordinating Group (ITCG) radio equipment, shelters, solar panels, and batteries for all sites maintained by AFS. Existing shelters will remain in place providing they meet the OSHA standards for confined space.

Scheduled maintenance costs are billed under Annual Fixed Costs and may be offset by documented expenses incurred by DOF. Aviation, equipment, part and supplies for the unscheduled radio site and RAWs maintenance will also be included in the Bill for Collection for Annual Fixed Costs. AFS will advise DOF of these unplanned costs, where practicable, prior to the expenditure but at a minimum upon completion of the maintenance. No equipment will be purchased without the concurrence of DOF.

DOF will provide funding for an Electronic Mechanic's labor as negotiated and listed in **Alaska Protecting Agencies work closely with each other to provide services that benefit all wildland fire agencies**. Support for some of these services is cross-billed through this agreement and documented in **Table 11, Table 12, and Table 13**.

Not all interagency services are cross-billed through this agreement. A list of some of these unbilled services appears in **Table 14**. This list is not comprehensive and there is no implied commitment by any of the agencies to continue to fund these items without reimbursement.

Table 11: Annual Fixed Costs - DNR bills AFS. This labor will include, program oversight, mission planning, technical assistance, field maintenance of radio and RAWs sites.

Communication site maintenance schedules and costs for AFS, NPS and FWS sites are determined under other agreements.

## **G. AICC and National Interagency Coordination Center Situation Reports**

Each protecting area Interagency Fire Dispatch Center submits an evening report to AICC with the information on wildfires and prescribed burns necessary to complete required reports to the National Interagency Coordination Center and to compile the AICC Situation Report. Incident Status Summaries (ICS-209s) are required as directed in the AIMG. Information flow for Stafford Act responses follows a similar process.

The AICC Situation Report narrative is a primary source for fire information, and should summarize that day's activities and expected activities for the following day. Refer to the AIMG for details.

## **H. Digital Atlas for Alaska Wildland Fire Management Geospatial Data**

The official Digital Atlas for fire management geospatial data in Alaska is maintained and distributed by Alaska Fire Service GIS Staff and BLM Northern Region IT Staff. The core data comprising the Digital Atlas are: Alaska Wildland Fire Jurisdictions, Fire Heat Detection (VIIRS and MODIS), Fire Management Option Boundaries, Fire Protection Area Boundaries, Fire Perimeters, Fire Locations (Origins), and Lightning Detections. Alaska Known Sites are a key component to the Digital Atlas however these data are maintained by individual AWFCG agencies and are distributed using the National Interagency Fire Center – ArcGIS Online platform. Digital Atlas datasets are updated regularly, and are available on the AICC Predictive Services Maps/Imagery/Geospatial webpage (<https://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>). Note that users needing access to the Alaska Known Sites Database will be redirected to the National Interagency Fire Center – ArcGIS Online (NIFC-AGOL) website.

AICC and individual Areas, Zones, and Forests may maintain local map atlases consisting of hard-copy maps and/or electronic data to serve as backups and to help facilitate operations; however, they are responsible for ensuring the official Digital Atlas is updated with any changes made at the local level.

### **1) *Alaska Wildland Fire Jurisdictions (AKWFJ)***

Alaska Wildland Fire Jurisdictions is a spatial dataset produced by the Bureau of Land Management-Division of Support Services and the Alaska Fire Service. It provides land ownership information for initial fire management decisions. Alaska CAD systems use the dataset to determine the default ownership and jurisdiction for a location. The Alaska Wildland Fire Jurisdictions also forms the basis for several WFDSS datasets including:

- Jurisdictional Agencies
- Unit Boundaries
- Strategic Objectives/Fire Management Units

WFDSS datasets derived from Alaska Wildland Fire Jurisdictions are submitted on an interagency basis at the statewide level. Because WFDSS datasets are derived from AKWFJ data, the April version of these data will be used throughout the fire season.

Alaska Wildland Fire Jurisdictions is not an authoritative source for land status information. In order to determine land status appropriate source documents must be consulted.

The BLM General Land Office Records website (<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx>), provides online access to federal land conveyance records. In addition, the Alaska Spatial Data Management System (SDMS) (<https://sdms.ak.blm.gov/sdms/>) is a one-stop tool to view, research, print and download federal land status information such as surveyed land parcels, land status, mining claims, and Master Title Plats (MTPs).

The DNR Alaska Mapper website (<http://dnr.alaska.gov/mapper/controller>) provides interactive access to State of Alaska land records. As with federal land status, source documents remain the official record. Additional help may be obtained from the DNR Public Information Centers (<http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/pic/>) located in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau.

2) ***Fire Management Option Boundaries***

The Fire Management Options Boundary Layer within the Digital Atlas is the official record that delineates Fire Management Option boundaries. Refer to the AIWFMP for more information on Fire Management Options and for guidance on changing Fire Management Options.

3) ***Fire Protection Area/Zone Boundaries***

The Fire Protection Area Boundary Layer within the Digital Atlas is the official record that delineates fire protection area/zone boundaries. Refer to **Attachment 5:** and **Attachment 6:** for guidance on changing Protection Area boundaries.

4) ***Alaska Known Sites Database***

The Alaska Known Sites Database (AKSD) identifies infrastructure, and cultural and natural resource sites throughout Alaska that may be threatened by wildfire. The intent of this dataset is to provide information on known sites located outside of the urban areas and is not a replacement for “structure” data available from the different Boroughs. Furthermore, not all known sites information collected by Agencies and other partners are included in the AKSD. Protection Agencies will need to work with the Jurisdictional Agencies to ensure they have access to these additional known site records.

The AKSD provides locations, descriptions, and jurisdictions, as well as direction regarding site protection priorities. These data are made available to fire managers and other authorized data users through a password-protected website (National Interagency Fire Center – ArcGIS Online) in order to support wildland fire planning and decision-making. There are two primary sources of site information included in the AKSD:

- Jurisdictional Agency inventory and assessments.
- Data collected by Protecting Agency staff and IMTs. These data are subject to review by Jurisdictional Agency administrative units on which sites reside.
  - AKSD is a dynamic product with real-time updates (i.e., new data are available for immediate use).
  - Jurisdictional Agencies are responsible for reviewing AKSD data for accuracy and are responsible for assigning Protection Levels.

The AKSD has editor tracking so there will be a record of who created and updated data points. Additionally, there is an “Alaska Known Sites Database Changes” web application that will help simplify the data review process.

Access to AKSD can be requested through one of the Alaska Known Sites Database Points of Contact or by contacting AFS GIS (BLM\_AK\_AFS\_GIS@blm.gov).

5) ***Heat Detections***

Fire Heat Detection points are derived from two satellite instrument suites: Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) and Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS). These data are processed by Geographic Information Network of Alaska (GINA) and further processed for display and distribution by AFS IT. These data are continually updated (in near-real time).

6) ***Lightning Detections***

AFS owns and maintains the Alaska Lightning Detection Network (ALDN). Lightning data (including cloud-cloud lightning activity) are collected using the Time of Arrival (TOA) system and made available to users in GIS format. The data are continually updated.

7) ***Fire Locations and Perimeters***

IMTs, Protecting Agencies, and Jurisdictional Agencies must collaborate to ensure the integrity of fire location and perimeter data.

Fire Location (Origin) points are entered through CAD systems and any changes should always be made through the CAD.

AICC/AFS manages a fire perimeter dataset for Alaska. It is the responsibility of the Protecting Agency to ensure that periodic fire perimeter data is submitted for all ongoing fires ten (10) acres or greater. Jurisdictional and Protecting Agencies will negotiate timelines for fire surveillance and perimeter updates. All Alaska fire perimeters should be submitted to AICC/AFS using the current process described in the Perimeter Submission Guide available at <https://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>. AICC/AFS will ensure that all approved perimeters are uploaded to the National Incident Feature Service. Even IMTs that are interacting with the National Incident Feature Service must submit perimeters directly to AICC/AFS. Once approved, the current AICC/AFS perimeter should be considered the definitive perimeter source for an incident.

Final fire perimeters are due 15 days after a fire is called out so that they can be included in the final fire report and added to the AICC Fire History dataset.

Fire location and perimeter updates may still be submitted after final fire reports have been certified however close coordination between the Protecting Agency, the Jurisdictional Agency and AICC/AFS GIS is essential. Updates to fire location and perimeter data submitted after January 1 may not be included in Fire History datasets until the following year.

## **I. Photographs**

Each Jurisdictional Agency is responsible for establishing mutually agreed upon photograph protocols and timeframes with Protecting Agencies for sharing photographs. IFM may be used to share photographs and documents between agencies.

## **4. FIRE WEATHER SYSTEMS**

Predictive Services weather products are available on the [AICC Fire Weather webpage \(https://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/weather.php\)](https://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/weather.php). Fire Weather Index tables, maps, and hourly data are found on the [Alaska Fire and Fuels website \(https://akff.mesowest.org/\)](https://akff.mesowest.org/). The principal operating period for the Alaska Fire Weather Program is April 1 through September 1.

### **A. Fire Weather AOP**

[The National Weather Service - AWFCG Fire Weather AOP \(https://www.weather.gov/media/arh/FireWxAOP\\_public.pdf\)](https://www.weather.gov/media/arh/FireWxAOP_public.pdf) describes the roles, responsibilities, and operational procedures of the NWS, AFS, DOF, and the AWFCG membership in support of the Alaska Fire Weather Program, to ensure effective use of NWS fire weather products, and establish responsibilities of the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) fire weather meteorologist.

### **B. Operational Guidelines**

April 1 through September 1 will be the principal operating period for the Alaska Fire Weather Program. Starting and ending dates are subject to the fire weather threat. The roles described in this Operating Plan are intended to be flexible and allow for changing conditions of personnel, workload, and weather hazards.

### **C. National Fire Danger Rating System Remote Automated Weather Stations (NFDRS-RAWS)**

Alaska primarily uses the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System Fire Weather Index (CFFDRS-FWI) tool for determining fire danger. Though RAWS stations are maintained to the national NFDRS standards, and station data is kept current in the Weather Information Management System (WIMS) for use with NFDRS-RAWS in the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS), this is not the tool of choice. The goal is to produce an accurate assessment of the wildland fire potential across all units to support planning and implementation of Alaska's fire management program.

CFFDRS-FWI indices will be calculated through the University of Utah's MesoWest program for the [Alaska Fire and Fuels \(AKFF\) website \(https://akff.mesowest.org/\)](https://akff.mesowest.org/). This will allow indices to be calculated at nearly double the number of stations across the state as non-RAWS sites are incorporated. This webpage will run separately from NFDRS calculations made within WIMS. CFFDRS calculations will no longer be made on the AICC Webpage, but will solely be on the AKFF site.

## D. Roles and Responsibilities

**Table 8: Alaska Weather Data Collection and Archiving Process** identifies Points of Contact, roles, and responsibilities for weather data collection and archiving in Alaska. Points of Contact will work with affected agencies and individuals to ensure that weather data is properly collected and archived.

Table 8: Alaska Weather Data Collection and Archiving Process

Task	Responsible Party & Description
NFDRS-RAWS Equipment Maintenance <sup>1,2,3,4</sup>	As defined in the <i>Interior Telecommunications Coordinating Group (ITCG) – Alaska Agreement</i> .
NFDRS-RAWS Site Maintenance	<b>The Owning Agency</b> will work with the <b>local Protecting Agency unit</b> to determine most efficient way to maintain the vegetation at the NFDRS-RAWS location to meet NFDRS standards.
WIMS Station Catalog	<b>The Protecting Agency</b> will update the station catalog to include green-up date and freeze-up date including ensuring the location information is correct. <b>Predictive Services</b> will assist as needed.
WIMS Weather Observation Input	<b>The Protecting Agency</b> will confirm (automatic stations) or enter (manual stations) daily weather observations.
WIMS Oversight and Review	<b>Predictive Services</b> will routinely review the weather observations and station functionality to ensure data is captured. Any edits completed in the Alaska Fire and Fuels website by Predictive Services will also be completed in WIMS. In addition, if Predictive Services detects any station outages, they will work with the ITCG to obtain that data through on-site maintenance. Predictive Services will maintain the Access Control list in WIMS for all agencies.
AKFF CFFDRS Data	<b>Predictive Services</b> will be the point of contact with University of Utah MesoWest regarding any issues with the Alaska Fire and Fuels website and FWI calculations.
NFDRS-RAWS Performance and Data Review	<b>Predictive Services</b> will be the interagency point of contact for NFDRS-RAWS performance and data review

<sup>1</sup> The DNR will coordinate with AFS on scheduled maintenance and establish desired operational dates for NFDRS-RAWS sites, and communicate them to AFS by March 1 of each year. The DOI apportions the cost for NFDRS-RAWS maintenance through the Interior Telecommunications Coordinating Group AOP and those costs, excluding labor (see **Clause VI.3.F.2**) are included in the Bill for Collection for Annual Fixed Costs.

<sup>2</sup> The DOI will calibrate and maintain the below identified DNR NFDRS-RAWS sites: Bentalit, Chatanika, T-Lake, Stoney River, Telida, Willow, Ninilchik, Salcha, Goodpaster, Paxson, Flat, Homer, Chitina, Angel Creek, George Creek, Tok River Valley, Big Lake, Gold King, Skilak Guard, Chistochina, and Point MacKenzie, Girdwood, Rabbit Creek, Campbell Creek and Eagle River. The USFS is responsible for the operation and maintenance of NFDRS-RAWS located within the Tongass and Chugach National Forests.

<sup>3</sup> NFDRS-RAWS schedules for NPS and FWS stations are determined by those agencies and may be maintained by other agencies under other agreements.

<sup>4</sup> NFDRS requires annual RAWS maintenance to be completed no later than 30 days prior to the start of fire season; however, some Alaska RAWS sites may not be accessible by this date.

## **E. Automatic Lightning Detection Network**

The AFS is responsible for the installation, maintenance, and operation of the statewide automatic lightning detection network. Data from this network is available to all agencies on the [AICC website \(https://fire.ak.blm.gov/maps.php\)](https://fire.ak.blm.gov/maps.php) and is provided at no charge to federal agencies as part of the wildland fire suppression services designated to AFS in 620 DM 5. DNR contributes funding to AFS to support this network and those expenses are included in the Bill for Collection for Annual Fixed Costs. The target date for the system to be operational will be May 20 annually.

## **5. INCIDENT METEOROLOGICAL (IMET) SERVICES**

The provisions described in the Interagency Agreement for Meteorological and Other Technical Services (IMET Agreement) [Interagency Agreement for Meteorological and Other Technical Services \(IMET Agreement\)](https://www.weather.gov/media/fire/IA_NWS_Meteorological_Tech%20Services_Fire_FINAL.pdf) [https://www.weather.gov/media/fire/IA\\_NWS\\_Meteorological\\_Tech%20Services\\_Fire\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/fire/IA_NWS_Meteorological_Tech%20Services_Fire_FINAL.pdf), along with the procedures detailed within the *AIMG* will be followed for the use of Incident Meteorologists to support responses to wildfires.

## **6. AVIATION OPERATIONS**

For information on the mobilization, use, management and the various types of aircraft available, refer to the *AIMG*. By April 15 each year, the AFS, NPS, FWS, USFS, and DNR provide each other with aviation operations information that includes fueling services and vendors available.

### **A. Aviation Site Management**

All aircraft will be operated under the terms of agreement for aircraft operations currently in effect between the site operator and the runway owner.

### **B. Pilot and Aircraft Certification**

Pilots and aircraft transporting federal personnel must be certified (carded) by either the Office of Aviation Services (OAS) or the USFS. *Federal Aviation Regulations Part 121* and *Part 135* apply to certain commercial charters where OAS or USFS certification is not required.

### **C. Aviation Mission Standards**

- Interagency missions are defined as missions with both federal and state employees assigned to the aircraft operation, regardless of which agency is managing the incident or aircraft. All interagency missions will comply with the more stringent policies and will meet Interagency Aviation Safety and Personal Protective Equipment standards. Employees are responsible for ensuring that their agency requirements have been met.
- When a mission is under the operational control of the DNR and only DNR employees are assigned, DNR policies are applicable.
- For guidance regarding the use of the non-federally approved airtankers under the operational control of the DNR, refer to the National MAC [Guidelines for Use of National Tactical Aviation Resources](https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/administrative/nmac/GuidelinesTacticalAvResources.doc) (<https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/administrative/nmac/GuidelinesTacticalAvResources.doc>).

- All federal contract and agency pilots will comply with the interagency pilot duty/days off standard listed in the in the [Interagency Standard for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations \(https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol\\_ref\\_redbook.html\)](https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html).
- All fuel delivery systems will meet agency safety standards and will comply with whichever standard is more stringent. Both AFS and DNR will provide aircraft servicing at their ramps on a reimbursable basis.

#### **D. Temporary Flight Restrictions Notifications**

When a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) is issued for an incident, Jurisdictional Agencies that may be impacted by the TFR should be notified by the Protecting Agency.

#### **E. Sanitizing Aircraft Water Delivery Systems**

In order to minimize the potential transmission of aquatic invasive species, water drafting or scooping aircraft and helicopter buckets from other GACCs or Canada will be washed either immediately prior to, or upon arrival at an established base (Fort Wainwright, Palmer, Tanacross, Delta, Kenai, McGrath, Galena). Power washing with clean water at a temperature of 140 degrees Fahrenheit or greater is required. State and AFS Aviation Offices will maintain a log that documents the cleaning date and location.

Water delivery equipment should be rinsed between missions if sites containing known water-borne invasive species such as Elodea have been used as water sources. Additional information about Elodea in Alaska including maps of known infestations is available on the [DNR Elodea webpage \(http://plants.alaska.gov/invasives/elodea.htm\)](http://plants.alaska.gov/invasives/elodea.htm).

#### **F. Canadian Aviation Resources**

Canadian resources may be ordered by DNR under the terms of the Northwest Wildland Fire Protection Agreement (Northwest Compact). While in Alaska, those resources must remain under the operational control of DNR unless inspected and certified by the appropriate federal agency.

#### **G. Airtanker Bases**

Airtankers may load retardant at any airtanker base on a reimbursable basis. DNR contracted airtankers loaded at AFS airtanker bases will be loaded to the specifications of the DNR contract.

The application of suppression chemicals will follow the guidelines in the [Interagency Standard for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations \(https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol\\_ref\\_redbook.html\)](https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html). Some jurisdictions may require Agency Administrator approval prior to the use of suppression chemicals and/or may have more restrictive guidelines.

Pilots will be fully briefed by base personnel and are required to abide by all base rules and runway regulations while operating on these bases.

#### **H. Ft. Wainwright Aircraft Operations**

All pilots will be fully briefed by the responsible AFS personnel on the use of the AFS ramp and the U.S. Army-Alaska's runway. Pilots will comply with all applicable restrictions, requirements, and regulations.

Air traffic procedures published for Ladd Army Airfield will govern all aviation operations conducted at the AFS ramp.

All proposed structures, buildings, or any changes to the real property must be in compliance with the AFS site plan and U.S. Army-Alaska requirements, and be pre-approved by the AFS Manager.

AFS will:

- Provide ramp parking for fire-related aircraft and office space including telephone for the aviation related personnel temporarily assigned to perform fire-related duties on Fort Wainwright.
- Provide aircraft-related services as stipulated in AFS aviation contracts.
- Annually charge DNR for office space and telephones for DNR staff (pilots, Air Attack personnel, and retardant site staff stationed at Fort Wainwright) in the Bill for Collection for Annual Fixed Costs.

The DNR is authorized to use the AFS ramp on Ft. Wainwright throughout the fire season and agrees to:

- Provide AFS with a list of all DNR aircraft that are expected to routinely operate at the AFS ramp by May 15 annually. The list will include aircraft type, vendor name, and aircraft tail number.
- Provide all logistical support requirements for DNR personnel associated with aircraft parked at the AFS ramp.
- Manage all hazardous materials and hazardous waste generated by DNR on Ft. Wainwright according to the current *AFS Standard Operating Procedures for the Management of Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Waste*.

#### **I. Fire Scene Aviation Organization and Communications**

All tactical aviation resources will be dispatched and flight followed by the local Interagency Fire Dispatch Center when responding to an incident. All aircraft will utilize VHF Air-to-Air frequency 128.450 MHz unless otherwise indicated by their local Interagency Fire Dispatch Center.

For standard operating procedures for tactical aircraft flying over or near an incident, reference the [NWCG Standards for Aerial Supervision \(https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/505\)](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/505).

#### **J. Non-Tactical Aviation Resources**

All non-tactical fire aviation resources will coordinate flights with the local Interagency Fire Dispatch Center and, if present, with Air Attack (or other reconnaissance aircraft in the area) when flying over or near a fire. Dispatch will determine flight following protocols and relay information on aircraft currently in the fire area.

#### **K. Unmanned Aerial Systems**

The Parties to this Agreement agree to approve the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in support of wildland fire incidents on all federal and State lands. The National Park Service requires incident-specific Park Superintendent approval prior to UAS use.

All UAS activities shall be conducted in accordance with each agency's aviation rules, policies, and directives. For interagency missions (defined as missions with aircraft from two or more agencies in the fire traffic area), the standards of the agency with the most stringent rules, policies and directive apply. Interagency UAS standards are available at <https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pms515.pdf>.

#### **L. Aerial Mapping Services**

There are no infrared equipped aircraft based in the Alaska Geographic Area. Any order for an IR aircraft will be placed from AICC to NICC. Further information is available in Chapter 50 of the *Alaska Interagency Mobilization Guide* in the Airborne Thermal Infrared (IR) Fire Mapping section.

#### **M. Forms for Aviation Payment Documentation**

Each agency will use their own codes and forms for payment and documentation to log flight times for government and contract aircraft.

#### **N. Reimbursable Aviation Costs**

The following costs will be compiled and apportioned. Eligible costs will be included in agencies' Suppression and Non-Specific Support billing:

- Agency personnel costs including standby, weekend staffing, extended staffing, preposition flights etc.
- Overtime for agency pilots and crewmembers.
- Aircraft without fire resource orders must ensure that their agency has a reimbursable agreement and accompanying charge code in place prior to fueling.
- Fuel and oil will be charged to the using agency code/incident number.
- Retardant costs are reimbursable at a per gallon rate.
- Use of agency aircraft as documented on *DNR Form 10-3133* or *OAS-23* and billed at the predetermined hourly flight rate. Flight hourly rates are determined by:
  - Contract and On-Call aircraft: current Contract Rate letter.
  - Aircraft Rental Agreement: current OAS Rental Aircraft Source List.
- Costs incurred for aircraft ordered from other GACCs or Canada, as agreed and documented during the Daily Statewide Strategy Meeting and on the Resource Order.
- Aircraft availability and/or surcharges may be negotiated prior to the fire season. Costs will be included in the pre-season spreadsheet.
- Availability charges may apply to aircraft contract extension or severity requests.

### **7. INCIDENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

Jurisdictional Agency Administrators are ultimately accountable for ensuring that fiscally responsible decisions are made on an incident. Fire business management processes are the responsibility of the Protecting Agency managing the incident; Protecting Agencies will abide by their own agency procurement regulations. Pay rates and business practices are dependent on employing agency. Supply and Equipment purchases require supporting Resource Order numbers in order to be reimbursed.

## **A. Handbooks**

Each agency will follow their administrative regulations and procedures for management of fires within their established Protection Areas. DNR uses the [Alaska Incident Business Management Handbook \(http://forestry.alaska.gov/fire/aibmh.htm\)](http://forestry.alaska.gov/fire/aibmh.htm). AFS and USFS use the [Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook \(IBMH\) \(NFES 2160\) \(https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/902\)](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/902) and policy memorandums. BLM Alaska Supplemental Business Practices are available on the [AICC Incident Business Management website \(https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/IncidentBusinessManagement.php\)](https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/IncidentBusinessManagement.php).

## **B. Incident Business Oversight**

For any Type 1 or Type 2 incident, the Protecting Agency is responsible to provide an administrative briefing to the IMT that addresses cost reporting, incident finance package, agency-specific requirements, and the role of the Incident Business Advisor. The Protecting and Jurisdictional Agencies will also provide oversight in regards to cost management, expenditure of funds, and agency procurement regulations, etc. Thresholds for assigning Incident Business Advisors and Large Fire Cost Reviews are contained in the Interagency Standard for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations ([https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol\\_ref\\_redbook.html](https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html)).

## **C. Emergency Equipment Agreements**

The Federal and State of Alaska Geographic Area Supplements that list the rental rates are jointly reviewed by AFS and DNR biennially. The most current rates will be posted on the DNR Division of Forestry Equipment Hiring website (<http://forestry.alaska.gov/equipment.htm>) and the AFS internal website no later than April 1.

Under current Federal regulations, EERAs must be incident-specific and supported by a resource order with a unique equipment number. All billing is contingent upon that resource order/equipment number. If the equipment is reassigned, the item must be closed out on the original EERA, a new resource order/equipment number assigned, and a new EERA agreement and pre-use inspection established and signed by the vendor.

## **D. Property Loss or Damage**

Personal property claims for loss or damage on an incident will be adjudicated and processed by the employee's (permanent/seasonal/casual/EFF) home agency in accordance with that agency's policy. The Protecting Agency managing the incident is responsible to document claims and forward them to the individual's home agency.

Tort Claims (third party claims) for loss/damage related to the incident will be adjudicated by the responsible Protecting Agency.

Contract Claims (emergency equipment rental or other agency contract/procurement agreement) will be adjudicated by the agency responsible for establishment and/or payment of the contract.

## **E. Medical Transport, Treatment, and Transfer to Home Unit**

The Protecting Agency will facilitate medical treatment for all Employees/casuals assigned to incidents until they are released to their point of hire. The Hiring Unit facilitates medical treatment for employees and casuals once returned to Alaska upon release from incidents in

other GACCs due to injury/illness. The responsible Dispatch Center will arrange travel within Alaska. Incidents will notify the appropriate Dispatch Center of medical transport.

The Dispatch Center is responsible to:

- Arrange transportation from incident to Fairbanks or Anchorage.
- Notify Injury Compensation Office of inbound medevac/transport including name of injured individual, time, method, and location of arrival.
- Provide Check-in/Check-out Point of Contact for Injury Compensation staff providing medevac/transport.
- Coordinate with the FMO and IC to determine if the medically released individual will be returned to the incident. Arrange appropriate travel arrangements (incident or point of hire) based on the decision.
- Notify the IC of individuals released directly to their point of hire and make appropriate travel arrangements.

The Protecting Agency Injury Compensation representative is responsible to:

- Coordinate prompt medical treatment.
- Arrange for subsistence (food and lodging) if required.
- Ensure completion of appropriate injury compensation documents.
- Notify Dispatch Center when medevac/transport is complete. Communicate the location of injured employee.
- Notify Dispatch Center of Administrative Services staff return to duty or arrival home.
- Notify Dispatch Center of medical release to full duty or return to the point of hire.
- Notify and provide all documentation to appropriate Hiring Unit.

## **8. EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, CACHE ITEMS**

The Parties to this Agreement agree to provide fire cache support to each other on an as-available basis. Fire Cache supplies and equipment are prioritized and intended to be for support of on-going fire incidents. On a case-by-case basis, other orders, such as preparedness, non-fire, or non-emergency requests may be filled but require reimbursable agreements. All equipment and supply costs including transportation and cache restocking are charged to the code generating the workload. Abnormal or unique transportation costs will be negotiated at the time of request. Reimbursable agreements may be used to develop and stock specialized Alaska equipment in the caches. Haines Area cache management roles and responsibilities are described in **Attachment 7**:

## **B. Warehouse Catalog**

The [Alaska Interagency Catalog of Fire Supplies and Equipment](https://afs.ak.blm.gov/support/supply.php) (<https://afs.ak.blm.gov/support/supply.php>) will be jointly maintained between AFS and DNR.

## **C. Incident Support**

Prior to placing orders for equipment or supplies out of state, all resources within the state will be utilized to the extent they are available. Resource ordered supplies and equipment not available in state will be ordered through the National Fire Cache system.

Cost for equipment and supplies for incident use drawn from the DNR or AFS fire caches or warehouses shall be included in billing for Suppression and Non-Specific Suppression Support. Billing justification shall include item(s) name, catalog number, quantity, cost, and initial request or Resource Order number, incident project name/number, and warehouse issue and return printouts.

The incident or receiving agency will be responsible for returning all supplies and equipment not consumed by the incident to the issuing agency. Returns will be made in a timely manner by the most practical and cost-effective means.

## **D. Property Loss or Damage**

Refer to the [Interagency Standard for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations](https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html) ([https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol\\_ref\\_redbook.html](https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html)) and both the *IBMH* and the Alaska *IBMH*.

## **E. Fresh Food Contracts**

DOF maintains the contract for fresh food and catering services. Reference the *AIMG* for the process to request fresh food boxes.

# **VII. BILLING PROCEDURES**

In addition to the information below, refer to **Attachment 1**, **Attachment 2**, and *Master Agreement Exhibit D*. The preferred method for suppression billing under this Agreement is the Reconciliation process as outlined in Exhibit D of the Master Agreement with exceptions noted below.

## **1. SUPPRESSION BILLING**

### **A. In-State Fires with FEMA Reimbursable Expenses**

- When the DNR has a fire that may qualify for Fire Management Application Grant (FMAG) assistance, DNR will provide a copy of FEMA Form 90-58, Request for Fire Management Assistance Declaration to the AFS Chief, Division of Fire Operations.
- The AFS, in exercising its responsibilities as the FEMA Principal Advisor, will prepare and submit FEMA Form 90-32 Principal Advisor's Report and coordinate all such action with DNR.
- DNR is notified by FEMA if the incident qualifies for a FMAG, and will notify the BLM and Forest Service Incident Business Specialists once the FEMA-qualifying period has been established.

- When a fire is declared a FEMA incident, a duplicate fire package will be prepared by DNR. The duplicate fire package will contain daily Incident Action Plans, Resource Orders, and all financial records that pertain to the FEMA-qualifying period including but not limited to: agency approved timesheets of all personnel charging to the incident, shift tickets, flight logs, invoices, contracts, inspection checklists, signed rental conditions and agreements, and Incident Cost and Reporting System data.
- All agencies agree to provide the DNR with all financial/payment data pertinent to the declared incident. This report will include but is not limited to travel, payroll, and vendors with amount paid. In addition, all agencies will provide copies of payroll time & attendance reports or equivalent; travel vouchers or equivalent; aviation flight reports or equivalent; any invoices paid; and backup/source documentation for payroll, travel, aviation charges, and invoices; shift tickets; additions or deductions; rental agreements; inspection checklists; signed rental conditions; and Resource Orders attributable to FEMA incident.
- The DNR agrees to reimburse the AFS, NPS, FWS, USFS and BIA for costs associated with the above normal workload of gathering source documentation to satisfy FEMA requirements.

#### **B. Meals and Lodging for Resource Ordered and Subsisted Personnel**

Costs for meals and lodging for personnel being subsisted with Resource Order documentation are calculated and billed with the Suppression and Non-Specific Suppression Support Expenses.

Personnel are required to enter their payment code (i.e. charge code, fire code, reimbursable agreement code) when signing in at an agency dining facility. The cost charged for meals will be established annually for each location. Meals, including sack lunches that are ordered, regardless if they are consumed, will be billed to the charge code.

Lodging for personnel filling a Resource Order will be charged to the Resource Order charge code. Barracks rates are established annually.

#### **C. Suppression and Non-Specific Suppression Support**

##### **1) *Federal Agency Billings to DNR***

- Federal agencies will submit bills for their reimbursable costs to the DNR whenever the DNR is the fiscally responsible agency.

##### **2) *DNR Billings to Federal Agencies***

###### **a. DNR as Protecting Agency**

- When the DNR is the Protecting Agency for lands on which AFS is fiscally responsible, the DNR will bill AFS for costs.

###### **b. DNR as Supporting Agency**

- For fires within Alaska where AFS is fiscally responsible and the DNR is a supporting agency, the DNR will bill AFS for reimbursable costs.

- For fires within Alaska where the USFS is fiscally responsible and the DNR is a supporting agency, the DNR will bill the USFS for reimbursable costs.
- For non-Stafford Act, non-Northwest Compact DOI fires outside of Alaska, the DNR will bill AFS for reimbursable costs.
- For non-Stafford Act, non-Northwest Compact USFS fires outside of Alaska, the DNR will bill the USFS for reimbursable costs.
- For non-Stafford Act, non-Northwest Compact, non-Federal fires outside of Alaska; the DNR will bill the USFS for reimbursable costs.
- For Stafford Act responses to other GACCs where the USFS has been issued an ESF Mission Assignment or Subtasking under the National Response Framework, the DNR will bill the USFS for reimbursable costs.
- For all mobilizations of resources under the terms Northwest Compact, the DNR will bill as specified in the Compact.

### 3) *All Parties Billings*

All Parties to this Agreement agree to:

- Bill for expenses and adhere to the incident billing criteria as described in *Exhibit D of the Alaska Master Agreement*.
- Bill for eligible aviation costs as listed in **Clause VI.6.N**.
- Incorporate AFS and DNR project costs associated with **Clause VII.3.A**.
- Include suppression and non-specific suppression costs associated with equipment, supplies, meals, lodging, personnel salaries based on agency policy, overtime and travel, repositioning, and the agreed upon percentage of supplemental resources expenses.
- Include agreed upon miscellaneous costs including, but not limited to those listed in *Exhibit D of the Alaska Master Agreement*.
- Ensure a unique fire code is generated for all reimbursable incidents. Reimbursable incidents should not be included in ABCD Misc.
- Facilitate each other's financial management activities by cooperating with any additional requests for billings and cost estimates.
- Bill using the Bill for Collection Process.
- Comply with the billing and payment timelines identified in **Table 10** as applicable.
- Follow the general directions in *Exhibit D* of the *Master Agreement*.

#### **D. BIA, FWS, NPS Cost Recovery Process for DNR Incident Support**

The BIA, FWS, and NPS may recover costs for their support of incidents where DNR is fiscally responsible for suppression costs. These recoverable costs will be documented as outlined in this Agreement and as described in *Exhibit D* of the *Master Agreement*. These agencies will directly bill DNR, establish billing thresholds, and submit no later than the dates AFS and DNR

have established for billing and payments. See **Table 10** and **Attachment 10:: Cross-billing Timeline**. Extension to billing dates may be negotiated.

**E. Indirect Cost Rate**

The 10% de minimis indirect cost rate will be charged for calendar year 2021. DNR has an existing Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate of 18.03% which excludes fire suppression costs from the base; therefore, the rate may not be applied to fire suppression costs invoiced to the Government.

The 10% rate may be charged against each agency's Suppression and Non-Specific Support total. It applies to those agencies that are allowed to bill an indirect cost rate. See Exhibit D of the Master Agreement for additional guidance.

All parties agree that when billing each other this rate will not exceed an annual maximum of \$450,000.

**F. Audits**

Each Protecting Agency shall be subject to audit for at least five (5) years after final payment. Audits shall be confined to those matters connected with the performance of the Master Agreement and the supporting Exhibits.

## G. Billing Documentation

Billing documents will include cost data, financial transaction registers and an Excel worksheet of the summary data by reciprocal accounting codes (fire codes) for the fire season being billed. Copies of payment documents (i.e. Invoices, rental agreements, etc.) for line items in excess of \$25,000 (excluding labor) and aircraft line items in excess of \$10,000 will be attached. Other documentation will be provided upon request. All payments will be made by an electronic transfer of funds.

### 1) *Requests for payments from AFS*

All requests for payments from AFS will be mailed to/coordinated with:

Karen Bracken, Budget Analyst  
Bureau of Land Management  
Alaska Fire Service  
P.O. Box 35005  
Fort Wainwright, AK 99703-005  
[kbracken@blm.gov](mailto:kbracken@blm.gov) 907-356-5788

### 2) *Requests for payments from DNR*

All requests for payments from DNR will be mailed to/coordinated with:

Andrea Fruean, Cross Billing Accountant  
State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry  
101 Airport Road  
Palmer, AK 99645  
[andrea.fruean@alaska.gov](mailto:andrea.fruean@alaska.gov) 907-761-6204

### 3) *Requests for payments from USFS*

Original requests for payments from the USFS will be mailed to the National Incident Business Office. Copies will be mailed to the Region 6/10 Incident Business Coordinator and the appropriate local Forest Office.

Table 9: USFS Billing Addresses and Contact Information

National Office (include original billing and supporting documents)	Regional Office (include copies of billing and supporting documents)	Tongass National Forest (include copies of billing and supporting documents)	Chugach National Forest (include copies of billing and supporting documents)
US Forest Service	US Forest Service	US Forest Service	US Forest Service
Albuquerque Service Center - Incident Business	R6/10 Incident Business Coordinator	Tongass National Forest	Chugach National Forest
101 B Sun Ave., NE Albuquerque, NM 87109	1220 SW Third Ave Portland, OR 97204	648 Mission St. Ketchikan, AK 99901	161 East 1 <sup>st</sup> Ave., Door 8 Anchorage, AK 99501
Contact: 1-877-372-7248 Option 1	Contact: Rebecca Slick 503-896-0618	Contact: Rebecca Slick 503-896-0618	Contact: Rebecca Slick 503-896-0618

ALASKA MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT  
2021 ALASKA STATEWIDE OPERATING PLAN

Table 10: AFS-USFS-DNR Billing Due Dates and Tasks for In-State Suppression and Non-specific Suppression Support

<i>Due Date*</i>	<i>Billing Tasks</i>
<b>April 1, 2021</b>	DNR, AFS, and USFS provide each other with the preliminary cost spreadsheet for CY 2020 Suppression and Non-Specific Suppression Support.
<b>May 15, 2021</b>	DNR, AFS, and USFS submit the Bills for Collection to each other for the preliminary costs compiled for CY 2020 Suppression and Non-Specific Suppression Support.
<b>June 15, 2021</b>	Payments due to DNR, AFS, and USFS respectively for the preliminary costs for CY 2020 Suppression and Non-Specific Suppression Support.
<b>July 1, 2021</b>	AICC updates the list of CY 2021 fires with acreage breakdowns by percentage, management option, and actions taken to determine fiscal responsibility to DNR, USFS, AFS Budget Officer, NPS, FWS, and BIA.
<b>August 1, 2021</b>	AFS bills DNR for collection of the 2021 Annual Fixed Costs.
<b>August 1, 2021</b>	DNR bills AFS for collection of the 2021 Annual Fixed Costs.
<b>August 15, 2021</b>	AFS and USFS provide DNR with estimated CY 2021 costs for Suppression and Non-Specific Suppression Support for fires occurring before July 1, 2021.
<b>September 15, 2021</b>	DNR provides AFS and USFS with estimated CY 2021 costs for Suppression and Non-Specific Suppression Support for fires occurring before September 1, 2021.
<b>September 30, 2021</b>	AFS provides DNR with a complete cost accounting of the fire medic program including overhead, supplies, and training for non-incident related expenses.
<b>November 1, 2021</b>	AFS, DNR, and USFS exchange backup documentation for all line items exceeding \$25,000 (excluding labor) and aircraft line items exceeding \$10,000 for the CY 2020 Preliminary Billing. AFS and DNR may request backup for any other line items.
<b>November 1, 2021</b>	AICC updates the lists of CY 2021 fires with acreage breakdowns by percentage, management option, and actions taken to determine fiscal responsibility to DNR, USFS, AFS Budget Officer, NPS, FWS, and BIA.
<b>December 1, 2021</b>	AFS, DNR, and USFS will provide estimates, listed by incident number, of CY 2021 Suppression and Non-Specific Suppression Support cost-to-date to each other.
<b>December 31, 2021</b>	AFS, DNR, and USFS submit a final CY 2020 Suppression and Non-Specific Suppression Support billing.
<b>February 15, 2022</b>	Payment due for the final CY 2020 costs for Suppression and Non-Specific Suppression Support.

\*Extensions to due dates may be negotiated by the Agencies.

## 2. FEE BASED SERVICES

Billings for any fee-based services will be in accordance with separate written agreement or contract(s).

### 3. NON-SUPPRESSION BILLINGS

#### A. Joint Projects and Project Assistance (Fuels)

DNR-AFS fuels projects are assigned a project code and the DNR and/or AFS reimbursement for expenses is included in the cross-billing for Suppression and Non-Specific Suppression Support. Joint projects involving other agencies require separate reimbursable agreements.

#### B. Annual Fixed Costs

The DNR and AFS agree to bill for annual fixed costs as listed in **Attachment 1:: Annual Fixed Costs**. No other agencies bill each other for Fixed Costs; the Administrative Overhead Rate does not apply to this billing.

### 4. STAFFORD ACT BILLINGS

USFS reimburses DNR for expenses incurred by DNR resources and personnel including base pay, overtime, and travel. Refer to *Master Agreement Exhibit D Reimbursable Billings and Payments*, and *Exhibit H Use of and Reimbursement for Shared Resources in Stafford Act Response Actions*.

### 5. TRESPASS COST RECOVERY

Fire trespass refers to the occurrence of unauthorized fire on agency-protected lands where the source of ignition is tied to some type of human activity. BLM, NPS, BIA, and USFS must pursue cost recovery, or document why cost recovery is not required, for all human-caused fires on their lands. Although FWS is authorized to pursue criminal trespass cases, FWS does not have trespass cost recovery authority; however, BLM-AFS may pursue suppression cost recovery for fires on FWS lands when BLM is not reimbursed for suppression actions. However, these cases must be pursued in a civil action through the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) as BLM regulations require the fire to have burned BLM lands to recover costs through the administrative trespass process. Any effort to pursue cost recovery on wildland fires that occur on non-BLM land should be done in close consultation with the Solicitor's Office and in coordination with the respective Jurisdictional Agency.

Copies of all reports and materials compiled or prepared in connection with establishing cause, extent, or potential liability for any fire or response incident shall be provided to all affected agencies. The statistics included in the final fire report may be used for litigation purposes. The Protecting Agency, upon request, will provide the Jurisdictional Agency with detailed costs to support trespass cases. (See **Clause V.10.B**)

## VIII. GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 1. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS

See **Attachment 3**: for principal contact information for each of the Parties to the Master Agreement and this Operating Plan.

## **2. PERSONNEL POLICY**

Refer to the [2020-2025 Master Agreement \(https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/asma.php\)](https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/asma.php).

## **3. MODIFICATION**

Modifications within the scope of this Operating Plan shall be made by mutual consent of the Parties, through the issuance of a written modification signed and dated by all Parties prior to any changes being performed. Any Party shall have the right to terminate their participation under this Operating Plan by providing one-year advance written notice to the other Parties.

Revisions or updates to this *Alaska Statewide Operating Plan* are automatically incorporated into the [2020-2025 Master Agreement \(https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/asma.php\)](https://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/asma.php). Formal modification to the *Master Agreement* is not required for *Operating Plan* revisions and updates to take effect.

## **4. ANNUAL REVIEW**

This Alaska Statewide Operating Plan is reviewed annually by March 15 and revised as needed. Master Agreement Exhibits are also reviewed and revised annually in conjunction with the Operating Plan. The review will be scheduled and led by the Protecting Agencies and will include designated representatives of each of the signatories.

An After Action Review may be hosted by any Parties to this Agreement. The Interagency Fall Fire Review is scheduled annually to discuss issues and concerns. Other reviews will be conducted as needed or required by agency policy.

## **5. DURATION OF OPERATING PLAN**

This Operating Plan is executed as of the date of last signature and remains in effect through March 15, 2025 unless modified or superseded.

If the current Master Cooperative Agreement is superseded by a new Agreement, this Operating Plan may remain in effect to the extent that it does not conflict with provisions of the new Agreement, but only until such time that all activities and conditions can be incorporated into a new Operating Plan.

## **6. PREVIOUS INSTRUMENTS SUPERSEDED**

This 2021 Alaska Statewide Operating Plan supersedes the 2020 Alaska Statewide Annual Operating Plan as Exhibit C of the 2020-2025 Alaska Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement.

## **7. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES**

By signature below, all signatories to this Operating Plan certify that the individuals listed in this document are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this Operating Plan.

## **IX. REVIEW AND SIGNATURES**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed *this 2021 Alaska Statewide Annual Operating Plan, Exhibit C* of the *2020-2025 Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement*, as of the date of signature of the Party's authorized representative.

### **United States Department of the Interior**

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Thomas St. Clair, Regional Fire Management Officer  
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska Region

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Kent Slaughter, Alaska Fire Service Manager  
Bureau of Land Management, Interior Unified Region 11, Alaska

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Bob Narus  
Regional Fire Management Coordinator  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior Unified Region 11, Alaska

---

Chuck Russell  
Regional Fire Management Officer  
National Park Service, Interior Unified Region 11, Alaska

### **United States Department of Agriculture**

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Alex Robertson  
Regional Director Fire, Fuels, and Aviation  
United States Forest Service, Region 6 and 10

### **State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources**

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Norm McDonald  
Chief of Fire and Aviation  
State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources

## Attachment 1: Annual Fixed Costs

Alaska Protecting Agencies work closely with each other to provide services that benefit all wildland fire agencies. Support for some of these services is cross-billed through this agreement and documented in **Table 11**, **Table 12**, and **Table 13**.

Not all interagency services are cross-billed through this agreement. A list of some of these unbilled services appears in **Table 14**. This list is not comprehensive and there is no implied commitment by any of the agencies to continue to fund these items without reimbursement.

Table 11: Annual Fixed Costs - DNR bills AFS

Item	Formula	2021 Costs
	DNR has no fixed cost billings to AFS for 2021	

Table 12: Annual Fixed Costs - DNR bills USFS

Item	Formula	2021 Costs
Pioneer Peak IHC (Clause III.2.L)	USFS preparedness funds to support the Pioneer Peak IHC	\$164,000

Table 13: Annual Fixed Costs - AFS bills DNR

Item	Formula	2021 Costs
Office Space AICC DNR Logistics Coordinator DNR Intelligence Coordinator (Clause III.1.D.1) & III.2.Q)	96 sq. ft. of office space X \$3/sq. ft. X 12 mos. = \$3,456 \$3,456 X 2 positions = \$6,912 192 sq. ft. X \$8.8859 (FT WW utility rate) = \$1,706 2 phone lines X \$30/line X 12 mos. = \$720 Toll Calls 2 lines X \$100/mo. X 12 mos. = 2,400 \$6,912 + \$1,706 + \$720 + \$2,400 = \$11,738	\$11,738
Office Space DNR Fire Operations Forester (Clause III.2.Q)	165 sq. ft. of office space X \$4/sq. ft. X 12 mos. = \$7,920 165 sq. ft. X \$8.8859 (FT WW utility rate) = \$1,466 3 telephone line X \$30/line X 12mo = \$1,080. Toll calls: \$100/mo. X 12 mos. = \$1,200 \$7,920 + \$1,466 + \$1,080+ \$1,200 = \$11,666	\$11,666
Office Space DNR Pilots, Air Attack, Retardant personnel assigned to Fort Wainwright (Clause VI.6.H)	560 sq. ft. of office space X \$3/sq. ft. X 4 mos. = \$6,720 560 sq. ft. X \$3.0089 (FT WW utility rate) = \$1,685 \$7.50/day for 120 days for porta-potty service = \$900 \$6,720 + \$1,685 + \$900 = \$9305	\$9,305
Office Space DNR Public Affairs Officer (Clause III.2.Q)	112 sq. ft. of office space X \$3/sq. ft. X 12 mos.= \$4,032 112 sq. ft. X \$8.8859 (FT WW utility rate) = \$995 1 telephone line X \$30/line X 12 mos. = \$360 Toll calls: \$100/mo. X 12 mos. = \$1,200 \$4,032 + \$995 + \$360 + \$1,200 = \$6,587	\$6,587
Office Space DNR Strategic Planner (Clause III.2.Q)	173 sq. ft. of office space X \$3/sq. ft. X 12 mos.= \$6,228 173 sq. ft. X \$8.8859 (FT WW utility rate) = \$1,537 1 telephone line X \$30/line X 12 mos. = \$360 Toll calls: \$100/mo. X 12 mos. = \$1200 \$6,228 + \$1,537 + \$360 + \$1,200 = \$9,325	\$9,325
AICC Tactical Desk Support (Clause III.1.D.1)	Negotiated DOF funding for AICC tactical support for State tactical resources. Equivalent to one month Center Manager salary plus two months' salary for a Tactical Aircraft Dispatcher.	\$35,000

ALASKA MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT  
2021 ALASKA STATEWIDE OPERATING PLAN

<i>Item</i>	<i>Formula</i>	<i>2021 Costs</i>
Air Tanker Base Manager <b>(Clause VI.6.G)</b>	Negotiated DOF funding for ATBM position that exists on the AFS Table of Organization. Position is based on Fort Wainwright but will provide temporary support to the alternate tanker base at Fairbanks International as needed.	\$25,000
Interagency Electronic Mechanic's Labor <b>(Clause VI.3.E)</b>	Negotiated DOF funding for an Electronic Mechanic who will provide program oversight, mission planning, technical assistance, and field maintenance for radio and RAWs sites.	\$22,320
VIIRS Data Acquisition <b>(Clause VI.3.B)</b>	Negotiated 28% DOF funding of annual VIIRS data acquisition cost through GINA. This cost has not been cross-billed in prior years. However, in 2021 annual costs have increased from \$50K to \$200,614.  \$200,614 x 28% = \$56,000 DOF funding	\$56,172*
Lightning Detection Network <b>(Clause VI.3.H.6)</b>	Negotiated 28% DOF funding for annual maintenance/operating costs and amortized sensor replacement/upgrade costs associated with the ALDN.  <b>Annual Maintenance/Operating Costs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$10K TOA Support Contract</li> <li>• \$30K Salary</li> <li>• \$8K Travel</li> </ul> \$48K Total x 28% = \$13,440 DOF funding  <b>Annual Amortized Sensor Upgrade Costs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$48K = \$30K x 16 sensors / 10-year lifecycle</li> <li>• \$4K = \$40K upgrade travel / 10-year lifecycle</li> </ul> \$52K Total x 28% = \$14,560 DOF funding  <b>Total Annual ALDS Costs:</b> \$100K x 28% = \$28K DOF funding	\$28,000*
McGrath Facilities <b>(Clause III.2.Q)</b>	Negotiated DOF funding to replenish the McGrath station maintenance expense fund. Approximately \$10K was spent on maintenance in 2020 leaving approximately \$10K in the fund.	\$10,000
Radio Maintenance <b>(Clause VI.3.E)</b>	4 sites in McGrath area @\$2,500 per site, and McGrath Field Station (shared site) @ \$833. Figures are from ITCG AOP and do not include labor. This cost may be offset by any fuel provided by the DOF McGrath Station.	\$10,833
RAWs Maintenance <b>(Clause VI.4.C)</b>	Maintenance for 26 sites: \$2,500 X 26 sites = \$65,000*. Figures are from ITCG AOP	\$65,000

\* Department of Natural Resources 28% share calculated based on percentage of Alaska lands State is mandated to protect (State, Borough, Municipal, and Private). Values derived from AICC Jurisdictions & Protection Boundaries Dashboard and rounded to the nearest percentage point.

ALASKA MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT  
2021 ALASKA STATEWIDE OPERATING PLAN

Table 14: Unbilled Interagency Services\*

<i>Item</i>	<i>Formula</i>
Mobile IFM Support/Maintenance	DOF provides mobile and desktop IFM support for users from all agencies. AFS Zones use IFM to display Preparedness levels. Jurisdictional agencies use IFM to monitor incident activity in State protection areas.
Interagency GIS and IT Mapping Application Development and Support (Clause VI.3.B)	AFS provides support for interagency databases, applications development, and GIS products and data including but not limited to: Alaska Known Sites Database, Fires & Perimeters, web mapping applications, legacy FireBeans data sharing.
Teletype (Clause VI.3.C)	AFS supports & maintains the teletype hub tactical communications tool and provides support to users from all agencies.
Mobilization Center Support	DOF Northern Region Dispatch Center organizes, coordinates, and demobilizes Statewide Mobilization Centers for incoming and outgoing resources from all agencies.
Fresh Food Contract Administration	DOF manages the statewide contract for incident fresh food in support of all Protecting Agencies.
Fire Medic Program	DOF & AFS share Fire Medic Program costs as described in the Fire Medic Program agreement.
Fuel Truck	AFS makes an aviation fuel truck available to all Protecting Agencies.
Alaska IMT IT Support	AFS provides IMT computer kit hardware, support, and kit storage.
Alaska IMT Support	DOF provides an IMT operating budget for IMT expenses.

\* This list is not comprehensive and there is no implied commitment by any of the agencies to continue to fund these items without reimbursement.

## Attachment 2: *Suppression and Non-specific Support Costs*

Table 15: *Suppression and Non-specific Support Costs*

<i>Item</i>	<i>Formula</i>
Joint Projects and Project Assistance including Prescribed Fire ( <b>Clause IV.4 &amp; Clause IV.8</b> )	All project costs will be billed to the agency that developed the project unless otherwise agreed to in the project plan.
Extended and Weekend Staffing for Statewide Shared Tactical Resources ( <b>Clause III.2.B</b> )	Costs for tactical resources and their support will be allocated to the agency making the request.
Local Extended Staffing ( <b>Clause III.2.G</b> )	As authorized by the Protecting Agency FMO.
Supplemental Resource Requests ( <b>Clause III.2.H</b> )	Costs will be apportioned as decided in the Daily Statewide Strategy Meeting or by the AMAC.
Fire Medic Program ( <b>Clause III.2.I</b> )	Billed costs for Fire Medic salaries and kit resupply are included with incident expenses. Pre-season training costs are allocated equally to AFS and DNR. A complete cost accounting of the fire medic program including overhead, supplies, and training for non-incident related expenses will be provided to all agencies by September 30th
Training ( <b>Clause VI.2.C</b> )	Student expenses associated with field deliverable courses will be included in the incident costs.
Various Support functions Interagency Fire Dispatch Centers ( <b>Clause III.1.F</b> ), Equipment and Supplies ( <b>Clause VI.8</b> ), Aviation Operations( <b>Clause VI.6.N</b> )	Costs incurred are attributed to an incident but, when necessary and as authorized by the Protecting Agency FMO, may also be charged to non-specific support code.
Indirect Cost Rate ( <b>Clause VII.1.E</b> )	<p>The 10% de minimis indirect cost rate will be charged for calendar year 2021. DNR has an existing Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate of 18.03% which excludes fire suppression costs from the base; therefore, the rate may not be applied to fire suppression costs invoiced to the Government.</p> <p>The 10% rate may be charged against each agency's Suppression and Non-Specific Support total. It applies to those agencies that are allowed to bill an indirect cost rate. See Exhibit D of the Master Agreement for additional guidance.</p> <p>All parties agree that when billing each other this rate will not exceed an annual maximum of \$450,000.</p>
Default Cost Apportionment for incidents where the initial action was intended to extinguish the wildfire ( <b>Clause VI.1.D</b> )	Costs will be apportioned based on jurisdictional acres burned and the associated responsible fiscal party(ies).
Default Cost Apportionment for incidents where the initial action upon discovery is surveillance, or site specific protection ( <b>Clause VI.1.D</b> )	All costs incurred are attributed to the agency on whose land the fire originated and billed to the fiscally responsible party.

ALASKA MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT  
2021 ALASKA STATEWIDE OPERATING PLAN

Item	Formula
Default Cost Apportionment for wildfires resulting from escaped prescribed fires ( <b>Clause VI.1.D</b> )	The fiscal responsibility for suppression costs on an escaped prescribed fire that was ignited by, managed at the direction of, or under the supervision of one or more of the Parties to this Agreement shall be agreed upon and documented in an incident-specific cost apportionment agreement.
Default Cost Apportionment for Non-Standard Responses ( <b>Clause VI.1.D.2</b> )	An incident-specific cost apportionment agreement should be considered for fires involving multiple jurisdictions that have received a non-standard initial response as defined in the AIWFMP. A fire originating in the Critical, Full, or Pre-conversion Modified Fire Management Option that is not immediately suppressed due to lack of resources or safety concerns may be a likely candidate for an incident-specific cost apportionment agreement. By default, non-standard initial responses will be apportioned as described in <b>Clause VI.1.D</b> above.
Default Cost Apportionment for Merged Fires ( <b>Clause VI.1.D.3</b> )	An incident-specific cost apportionment agreement should be considered for allocating costs between fires that involve multiple jurisdictions and have merged (burned together). (See ICS-209 and agency final fire reports directions for reporting requirements and reference 2016 NWCG memo EB-M-16-024 and attachments EB-M-16-024a and EB-M-16-024b available at <a href="https://www.nwcg.gov/executive-board/correspondence">https://www.nwcg.gov/executive-board/correspondence</a> for additional considerations..) By default, when wildfires merge, costs for each fire will be maintained independently and will be apportioned as described in <b>Clause VI.1.D</b> above.
Default Cost Apportionment for Overwintering Fires ( <b>Clause VI.1.D.3</b> )	An incident-specific cost apportionment agreement should be considered for overwintering fires that are reported as originating on a different jurisdiction than the previous year.
Default Cost Apportionment for Fires that originate in Canada ( <b>Clause VI.1.D.3</b> )	An incident-specific cost apportionment agreement should be considered for fires that originate in Canada and spread into Alaska.
Default Cost Apportionment for Incident Complexes ( <b>Clause VI.1.D</b> )	<p>Costs will be attributed to each fire in the complex and apportioned as listed above.</p> <p>Complex costs that cannot be attributed to individual fires will be prorated and apportioned as a percentage of effort/cost attributed to each fire. An incident-specific cost apportionment agreement should be considered for allocating costs between fires involving multiple jurisdictions that are managed as an Incident Complex. Only costs that cannot be reasonably attributed to an individual fire will be assigned to the Complex code unless otherwise directed in an incident-specific cost apportionment agreement. Incident costs charged to the Complex will be allocated to individual fires based on the percentage of effort involved in managing individual fires. The allocation method employed will be documented in the incident-specific cost apportionment agreement</p> <p>By default, when wildfires are assigned to a complex, costs for each fire within the complex will be apportioned as described in <b>Clause VI.1.D</b> above. By default, costs charged to the complex code will be allocated to individual fires prior to apportionment as follows:</p> $FireTotal_x = FireCode_x + \left( ComplexCode * \frac{FireCode_x}{(FireCode_1 + FireCode_2 + FireCode_3 + \dots + FireCode_n)} \right)$ <p>Where:  <b>FireCode<sub>x</sub></b> = Costs charged to individual fire codes  <b>ComplexCode</b> = Costs charged to complex code  <b>n</b> = number of fires in complex</p>

**Attachment 3: *Principal Contacts***

**BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
ALASKA REGION**

Thomas St. Clair  
Regional Fire Management Officer

Bureau of Indian Affairs  
101 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room 166  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Phone: 907-456-0221  
Email: [thomas.stclair@bia.gov](mailto:thomas.stclair@bia.gov)

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
INTERIOR UNIFIED REGION 11, ALASKA**

Charles Russell  
Regional Fire Management Officer

National Park Service  
240 W. 5th Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99501

(907) 644-3409  
[charles\\_russell@nps.gov](mailto:charles_russell@nps.gov)

**U.S. FOREST SERVICE  
REGION 10, ALASKA**

Bobette Rowe  
Region 10 Fire Operations Specialist

U. S. Forest Service  
161 East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501

(907) 743-9479  
[bobette.rowe@usda.gov](mailto:bobette.rowe@usda.gov)

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
INTERIOR UNIFIED REGION 11, ALASKA**

Bob Narus  
Regional Fire Management Coordinator

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1011 East Tudor Rd. MS 238  
Anchorage, AK 99503

(907) 786-3497  
Email: [robert\\_narus@fws.gov](mailto:robert_narus@fws.gov)

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
INTERIOR UNIFIED REGION 11, ALASKA**

Kent Slaughter  
Manager, Alaska Fire Service

Bureau of Land Management  
PO Box 35005  
Fairbanks, AK 99703-0005

(907) 356-5506  
[kslaught@blm.gov](mailto:kslaught@blm.gov)

**STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

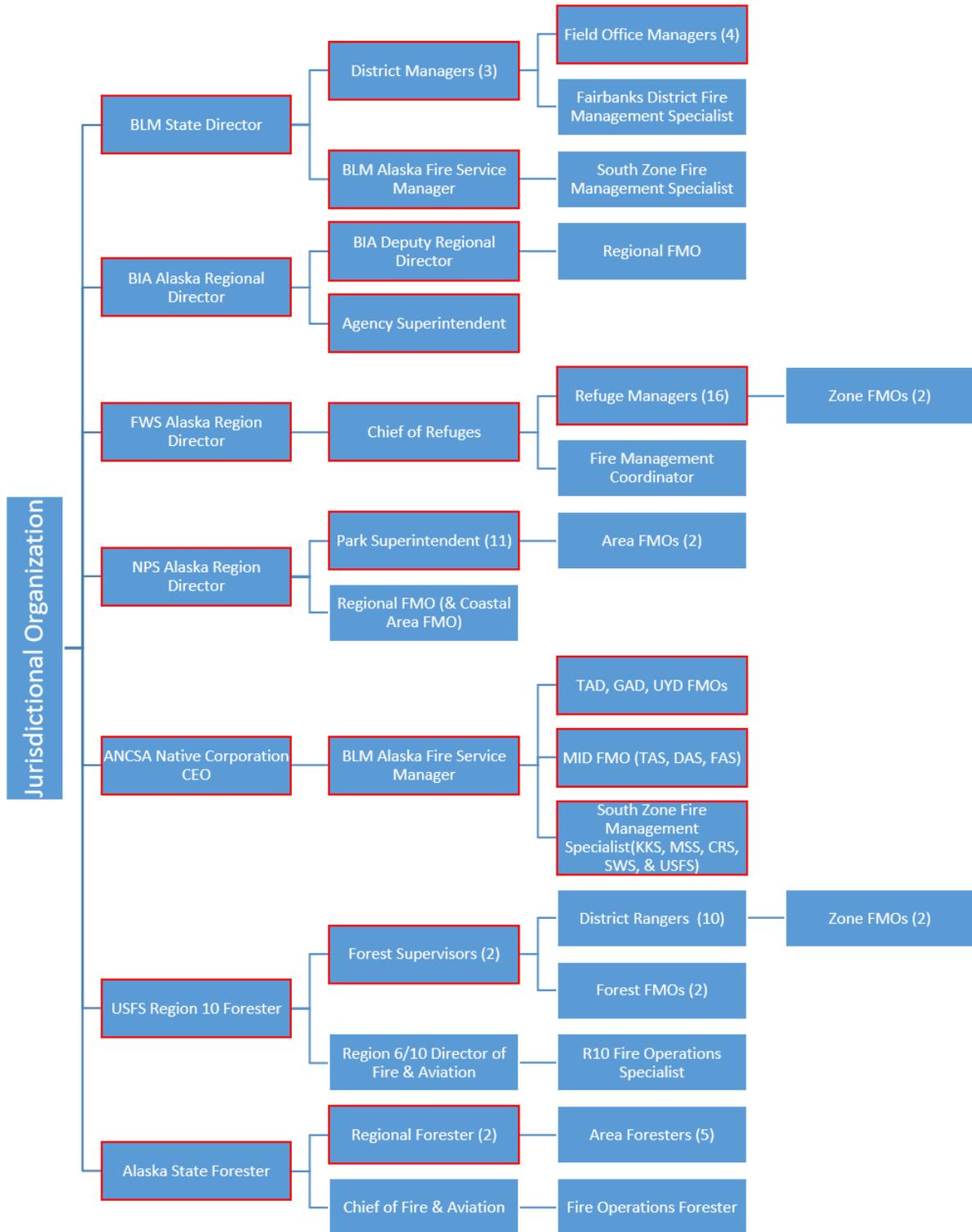
Norm McDonald  
Chief of Fire and Aviation

Alaska Division of Forestry  
101 Airport Road  
Palmer, AK 99645

(907) 761-6225  
[norman.mcdonald@alaska.gov](mailto:norman.mcdonald@alaska.gov)

**Attachment 4: Alaska Interagency Fire Management Organization**

Figure 2: Alaska Jurisdictional Organization



Red outline indicates jurisdictional line authority

The above chart summarizes lines of authority and does not represent complete agency organizations

**Alaska Interagency Fire Management Organization**

Figure 3: Alaska Protecting Organization



The above chart summarizes lines of authority and does not represent complete agency organizations.

## **Attachment 5: *Protection Area Boundary Changes***

Protecting Agencies may change protection boundaries within their area of responsibility or may negotiate boundary changes with other Protecting Agencies. The following procedures are designed to ensure adequate and consistent documentation of protection area boundary changes. Collaboration between all affected protecting and jurisdictional agencies is essential in the change process. Completed change packages are due to Alaska Fire Service by March 1.

### **Change Process**

1. The Protecting Agency(ies) involved in the boundary change will inform affected Jurisdictional Agencies of the proposed change early in the process.
2. The Protecting Agency(ies) involved in the boundary change will produce a change package including the following documentation:
  - a. Description of boundary change
  - b. Reasons for boundary change
  - c. Any agreements developed in support of the boundary change
  - d. Spatial data representing the boundary change
  - e. Summary of effects on Jurisdictional Agencies
  - f. Summary of changes to the Operating Plan, AIWFMP, or other plans or agreements made necessary by the boundary change.
3. Approved and verified protection area boundary change packages will be submitted by the initiating Protecting Agency(ies) to AICC, the AFS Planners, and AFS GIS by March 1 to all three of the following inboxes:

**AFS Fire Planning Specialist:** [BLM\\_AK\\_AFS\\_FirePlanning@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_AK_AFS_FirePlanning@blm.gov)

**AFS GIS Staff:** [BLM\\_AK\\_AFS\\_GIS@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_AK_AFS_GIS@blm.gov)

**AICC:** [BLM\\_AK\\_ACCAIR\\_Dispatch@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_AK_ACCAIR_Dispatch@blm.gov)
4. AFS GIS will update the protection area layer within the Digital Atlas by April 1.
5. The AFS Planners will submit data to the National Fire Decision Support Center for inclusion in the WFDSS data layer.
6. AICC will archive the change package for future reference.
7. If any participant in the review/change process believes that the change process has been circumvented, unfairly implemented, or unduly delayed they will notify their AWFCG representative. The AWFCG is the final arbitrator for resolving procedural issues associated with the protection area change process.

## Attachment 6: *Protection Area Boundary Change Form*

Send completed change package to:

AFS Fire Planning Specialist: [BLM\\_AK\\_AFS\\_FirePlanning@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_AK_AFS_FirePlanning@blm.gov)

AFS GIS Staff: [BLM\\_AK\\_AFS\\_GIS@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_AK_AFS_GIS@blm.gov)

AICC: [BLM\\_AK\\_ACCAIR\\_Dispatch@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_AK_ACCAIR_Dispatch@blm.gov)

The following steps have been completed by the Protecting Agency(ies):

- All affected Jurisdictional Agencies have been notified.
- Attach Description of boundary change including:
  - Geographic description of boundary change including display map
  - Reasons for boundary change
  - Summary of effects on Jurisdictional Agencies
  - Summary of potential changes to the Operating Plan, AIWFMP, or other plans or agreements made necessary by the boundary change.
- Attach copies of any agreements developed in support of the boundary change
- Submit spatial data representing the boundary change including basic metadata (zipped geodatabase or zipped shapefile)

### Protecting Agency

Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Administrative Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Protecting Agency

Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Administrative Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### GIS/ map product prepared by:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

ALASKA MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT  
2021 ALASKA STATEWIDE OPERATING PLAN

**The following steps have been completed by the Alaska Fire Service:**

The Protection Area boundary changes identified and approved above have been made to the official Digital Atlas, the AICC Paper Atlas, and within WFDSS; and the change package has been archived.

Digital Atlas Updated By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

AICC Paper Atlas Updated/ Change Archived By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

WFDSS Update Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Attachment 7: *Haines Area Fire Management Roles and Responsibilities***

The Haines Jurisdictional Area encompasses the Haines Borough, City of Skagway, Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, and Haines State Forest. The protection area includes other land owners including National Park Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs and ANCSA Village and Regional Corporations.

In March, 2017 the protection responsibility for the Haines Area was transferred from the State of Alaska to the US Forest Service (USFS), Tongass National Forest and was documented in the Alaska Statewide Annual Operating Plan through the boundary change process.

Protection and jurisdictional responsibilities are outlined within the 2020 Alaska Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement and the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan. Additional detail regarding responsibilities is included below.

### **US Forest Service:**

- Develop/maintain cooperative agreements with local volunteer fire departments (VFDs) for mutual aid support as well as local incident requests.
- Provide safety refresher training (RT-130) for VFDs and address other training opportunities when possible
- Access cache supplies and/or equipment as needed. Keep an inventory of used items and coordinate with State Cache Support to resupply, using incident S-numbers when appropriate.
- Communicate with local, regional, and national news organizations to provide information on fire activity, fire season severity, and other fire related topics
- Coordinate press releases with VFDs and/or the State when appropriate to provide a consistent message to the public.
- Provide prevention signs for Forest Service lands. Ensure signs can be maintained/updated in a timely manner.

### **State of Alaska / Division of Forestry:**

- Provide certification (red cards) for State, local and volunteer fire department members as needed.
- To the extent possible hire EFF firefighters for preposition or extended attack when requested by the Incident Commander or Forest Service fire management.
- Provide fitness testing as needed to maintain basic firefighter certification for State, local and VFDs.
- Manage training database (IQS) with cooperator/VFD training history.
- Collaborate with local VFDs for assistance grant opportunities.
- Maintain Haines cache facility including maintenance/upkeep, utilities, landscaping, inventory, resupply, etc.
- Provide annual refurbish/repair for motorized equipment in cache to ensure pumps, chainsaws, etc. are in good working order.
- Coordinate with the Forest Service and VFDs when possible to disseminate fire related information.
- Provide prevention signs for State lands. Coordinate with VFDs to address local needs.

**Contact List:**

**USFS**

**Public Affairs:**

- Paul Robbins, Tongass NF Public Affairs  
(907) 228-6201 [paul.robbins@usda.gov](mailto:paul.robbins@usda.gov)

**Contacts for training questions/requests:**

- Una Pesata, Tongass NF Assistant Fire Management Officer  
(907) 789-6210 [una.pesata@usda.gov](mailto:una.pesata@usda.gov)
- Bobette Rowe, R-10 Fire Operations Specialist  
(907) 743-9458 [bobette.rowe@usda.gov](mailto:bobette.rowe@usda.gov)

**State of Alaska / DOF**

- Greg Staunton, Jurisdictional Agency Administrator  
(907) 225-3070 [greg.staunton@alaska.gov](mailto:greg.staunton@alaska.gov)
- Greg Palmieri, Jurisdictional Agency Rep  
(907) 766-2120 [greg.palmieri@alaska.gov](mailto:greg.palmieri@alaska.gov)
- Jack Hoch, Alaska DNR Cache Manager  
(907) 451-2640 [john.hoch@alaska.gov](mailto:john.hoch@alaska.gov)
- Tim Mowry, Alaska DNR Information Officer  
(907) 356-5512 [tim.mowry@alaska.gov](mailto:tim.mowry@alaska.gov)
- Sarah Saarloos, Alaska DNR Fire Staff Officer  
(907) 301-0971 [sarah.saarloos@alaska.gov](mailto:sarah.saarloos@alaska.gov)
- Dan Govoni, Alaska DNR Fire Prevention  
(907) 761-6230 [dan.govoni@alaska.gov](mailto:dan.govoni@alaska.gov)

## Attachment 8: *Alaska Fire Restriction Levels*

### ALASKA FIRE RESTRICTION LEVELS

The purpose of this document is to provide a uniform statewide system to aid fire staff in proposing and communicating local, state, and federal fire restrictions to the public in Alaska. This interagency document is a reference guide to clarify the definitions of fire use for the public relative to general restriction levels.

Agency contacts must be identified annually to coordinate fire restrictions for their respective agency land ownership, to obtain approval within their agency, and coordinate public outreach. The contact list will be disseminated at the Spring Operations meeting each March. Public outreach and messaging must clarify, as needed, that open burning activities may require compliance with regulations from multiple agencies within one geographic area.

### DESIGNATED AREA OF RESTRICTIONS

Fire restrictions are implemented based on fire indices and corresponding fire danger levels with consideration for preparedness levels, resource availability, land use status, and socio-political concerns. They may be implemented statewide or directed at specific areas. Cooperating agencies will coordinate to identify the boundaries of temporal fire restriction levels prior to disseminating specific restrictions to the public. Whenever possible, fire restriction boundaries should be commonly known geographic features or administrative boundaries that are easily communicated to the public through multiple media channels including verbal and visual methods.

### LEGAL AUTHORITIES

Individual agencies remain responsible for implementing restrictions within their jurisdiction according to their own policies and procedures. Generally, the authority to implement or rescind fire restrictions resides with an Agency Administrator or other public official, and fire staff are responsible for coordinating the level of restriction needed and outreach to the public. Reference Alaska Fire Restrictions at <https://dec.alaska.gov/air/anpms/alaska-fire-restrictions/> for the statewide compilation by jurisdiction. Reference the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan's Table 1. Alaska Jurisdictional Agencies based on Ownership / Land Status.

### RESTRICTION LEVELS

The restriction levels are relative categories used for the application of fire restrictions when multiple agencies are experiencing very high to extreme fire danger and/or limited resource availability across a large geographic area. These levels are not defined by statute or regulation. Designation of the level is made by agreement between agency authorities and line officers recommending protections.

### AGENCY CONTACTS

Agency	Agency Contact	Phone	Email
Alaska Department of Natural Resources	Tim Dabney	(907) 269-8476	<a href="mailto:tim.dabney@alaska.gov">tim.dabney@alaska.gov</a>
Bureau of Indian Affairs	Tom St. Clair	(907) 458-0221	<a href="mailto:thomas.stclair@bia.gov">thomas.stclair@bia.gov</a>
Bureau of Land Management	Casey Boespflug	(907) 356-5859	<a href="mailto:cboespflug@blm.gov">cboespflug@blm.gov</a>
Bureau of Land Management (alternate)	Ben Seifert	(907) 267-1465	<a href="mailto:bseifert@blm.gov">bseifert@blm.gov</a>
Bureau of Land Management (alternate 2)	Willie Branson	(907) 474-2226	<a href="mailto:wbranson@blm.gov">wbranson@blm.gov</a>
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Bob Narus	(907) 786-3497	<a href="mailto:robert_narus@fws.gov">robert_narus@fws.gov</a>
National Park Service	Chuck Russell	(907) 644-3409	<a href="mailto:charles_russell@nps.gov">charles_russell@nps.gov</a>
U.S. Forest Service	Erick Stahlin	(907) 240-1208	<a href="mailto:erick.stahlin@usda.gov">erick.stahlin@usda.gov</a>

Figure 4: Agency Fire Restrictions Points of Contact

## RESTRICTION LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

**Table 16** outlines what activities are prohibited and allowed during the levels of restrictions. All activities listed here are subject to private, local, state, federal, and native trust burning requirements and limitations.

Table 16: Alaska Fire Restriction Level Descriptions

Activity	No Restrictions	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Notes/Reference
Burning of brush/debris piles, use of burn barrels, burning of lawns and other types of open burning which may be regulated under a state or local burn permitting system.	Allowed <sup>1</sup>	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	<sup>1</sup> Subject to landowner, Alaska DNR, Alaska DEC, and local permitting requirements and limitations. This activity is generally prohibited on federally administered lands but subject to local jurisdiction approval.
Campfires in unimproved or dispersed camp sites, such as gravel bars, beaches and remote/backcountry locations.	Allowed	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	
Campfires in designated campgrounds and fire rings.	Allowed	Allowed <sup>2</sup>	Prohibited	Prohibited	<sup>2</sup> In Level 1, campfires must be 3 feet or less in diameter with flame lengths no more than 2 feet high.
Cooking and warming devices that operate using charcoal briquettes, wood pellets, or any other exposed fuel source that <u>cannot be immediately shut off</u> via a commercially manufactured and installed off/on switch or fuel flow shut off valve.	Allowed	Allowed	Prohibited	Prohibited	
Commercially manufactured cooking and warming devices that can be immediately shut off with an installed off/on switch or fuel flow shut off valve.	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Prohibited	
Any other activity that may involve the use or creation of an open flame for burning including: DEC approved waste disposal sites, gas and oil flares, outdoor shooting ranges, live fire training undertaken by a registered fire department, outdoor licensed food vendors, etc.	Shall be at the discretion of the government agency having jurisdictional oversight.				
The sale and personal and/or commercial use of fireworks	Subject to borough or municipality ordinance and landowner restrictions. If none apply, under all Levels it shall be at the discretion of the State Fire Marshal's office in areas where the Department of Natural Resources has declared the wildfire danger to be high, very high, or extreme, or there are depleted firefighting resources (Reference 13AAC 50.025 and International Fire Code 5608.11.14).				

## **Attachment 9: Alaska Native Organizations & Lands**

### **Alaska Regional & Village Native Corporations (ANCSA Corporations)**

Alaska Native Corporations were established in 1971 when the United States Congress passed the *Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA)*. ANCSA was designed to settle land and financial claims made by Alaska Natives and provided for the establishment of 13 Regional Corporations and over 200 Village Corporations to administer those claims. Many of the Village Corporations have merged with other Village Corporations or into their parent Regional Corporation since that time. ANCSA Corporations are ‘for profit’ entities. Both Regional (with the exception of The 13<sup>th</sup> Regional Corporation) and Village Corporations have selected land in and around native villages throughout the state in proportion to their enrolled populations. Most of these lands have been conveyed to the ANCSA Corporations; however, some selected lands remain under federal ownership. In most cases, only surface rights have been conveyed to Village Corporations. Regional Corporations own the subsurface rights of both their own conveyances and of those of the Village Corporations.

### **FIRE MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS FOR ANCSA CORPORATION LANDS**

The 1971 *Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1620(e))* as amended by the 1980 *Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 1409)* states:

*Public lands status of real property interests exempt from real estate taxes for purposes of Federal highway and education laws; Federal fire protection services for real property interests without cost. Real property interests conveyed pursuant to this chapter to a Native individual, Native group, corporation organized under section 1613(h)(3) of this title, or Village or Regional Corporation shall, so long as the fee therein remains not subject to State or local taxes on real estate, continue to be regarded as public lands for the purpose of computing the Federal share of any highway project pursuant to Title 23, as amended and supplemented, for the purpose of the Johnson-O'Malley Act of April 16, 1934, as amended (25 U.S.C.A. section 452), and for the purpose of Public Laws 815 and 874, 81st Congress (64 Stat. 967, 1100). So long as there are no substantial revenues from such lands they shall continue to receive wildland fire protection services from the United States at no cost.*

*Department of the Interior Manual 620 Chapter 5.3 delegates BLM the responsibility to provide cost-effective wildland fire suppression services on Alaska Native lands:*

*5.3 Program Requirements. Nothing in this chapter relieves heads of bureaus/offices of management responsibility and accountability for activities occurring on their respective lands.*

*A. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) maintains and operates the DOI wildland fire suppression organization in Alaska with the primary intention of providing cost-effective suppression services and minimizing unnecessary duplication of suppression systems for DOI bureaus/offices. The BLM provides statewide mobility of wildland fire resources.*

*B. The BLM Alaska Fire Service (BLM-AFS) is authorized to provide safe, cost-effective wildland fire response consistent with approved land, natural and cultural resource management plans on DOI administered land and on lands that require*

***protection under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), as amended (43 U.S.C.1620(e)), hereinafter referred to as Native lands.***

C. *The BLM-AFS executes these services within the framework of approved fire management plans or within the mutually agreed upon standards established by the respective land managers or owners.*

D. ***Wildland fire response services and other fire management activities provided on Native lands under the authority of ANCSA will consider Native lands managers on an equal basis with Federal land managers.***

E. *Each bureau/office will conduct non-response wildland fire management activities such as planning, education, and prevention, fuels management, establishing wildfire response strategies, and setting priorities for the wildfire response organization on respective bureau lands.*

Based on this direction:

- ANCSA Corporations are considered the Jurisdictional Agency for surface lands that have been conveyed to them, and are annually given the opportunity to validate or change the AIWFMP Fire Management Options for those lands.
- ANCSA Corporation lands are treated as DOI lands for the purpose of cost-apportionment (**Table 6: Wildfire Fiscal Responsibility by Jurisdiction**).
- BLM- Alaska Fire Service (AFS) provides liaisons to the ANCSA Corporations to facilitate fire notifications and the WFDSS decision support process. FMOs and AFS liaisons will coordinate to ensure ANCSA Corporations are informed about fires occurring on or threatening their lands, and are represented in fire management decisions.
  - AFS Zone FMOs serve as the liaisons for all incidents involving ANCSA Corporation lands in their AFS Protection Zone. AFS Zone FMOs are the WFDSS fiscal/jurisdictional signatory for incidents costing less than \$5 million in DOI funds. The AFS Manager is the WFDSS signatory for incidents in the zones costing \$5 million or more in DOI funds.
  - The AFS Military Zone FMO serves as the liaison for all incidents involving ANCSA Corporation lands in DOF Protection within the Tok, Delta and Fairbanks Areas. The AFS Military Zone FMO serves as the liaison and WFDSS fiscal/jurisdictional signatory for incidents costing less than \$5 million in DOI funds. The AFS Manager is the WFDSS signatory for incidents in these areas costing \$5 million or more in DOI funds.
  - The AFS South Zone Fire Management Specialist serves as the liaison for all incidents involving ANCSA Corporation lands in USFS protection or in DOF Protection within the Copper River, Mat-Su, Kenai-Kodiak, and Southwest Areas. The AFS South Zone Fire Management Specialist serves as the liaison and WFDSS fiscal/jurisdictional signatory for incidents in these areas costing less than \$5 million in DOI funds. The AFS Manager is the WFDSS signatory for incidents in these areas costing \$5 million or more in DOI funds.

## **Tribal Governments**

There are 229 federally recognized tribes in Alaska. Most have tribal councils as their governing bodies. There is a variety of names for these councils including ‘Native council,’ ‘tribal council,’ ‘IRA council,’ ‘village council,’ and ‘traditional council.’ All of these refer to the governing body of a tribe. Tribes and Tribal Governments are distinct from ANCSA Regional and Village Corporations.

Even though ANCSA places its land entitlement with the ANCSA Corporations, most tribes in Alaska own some land. Tribes have acquired land through various means including purchases, gifts, and through land transfers from ANCSA Corporations and cities. Tribally owned parcels range from small lots to large tracts transferred from ANCSA Corporations. Tribally owned lands are in fee simple status and in Alaska are not considered held in Trust for jurisdictional purposes.

### **FIRE MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS FOR TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS**

Tribal governments in Alaska have all the immunities and privileges available to other federally acknowledged Indian tribes by virtue of their government-to-government relationship with the United States as well as the responsibilities, powers, limitations and obligations of such tribes.

Although tribally owned lands are in fee simple status, and fire management responsibilities are not identified in *ANCSA*, *ANILCA*, or *620 DM 5.3*, tribal lands are currently treated similarly to ANCSA Corporation lands for fire management purposes. See *Fire Management Considerations for ANCSA Corporation Lands* above.

### **Federally Administered Indian Trust Lands (including Native Allotments)**

Federally administered Indian trust lands in Alaska include the Annette Island Indian Reservation and some Town Site lots created under the *1891 Townsite Act*.

In addition, restricted-title Alaska Native Allotments are treated as trust lands for the purpose of fire protection. A Native Allotment is a parcel or parcels of land, totaling up to 160 acres, conveyed by restricted deed to an Alaska Native under the terms and conditions of the *Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906* and 1956 amendment; and the *Alaska Native Veteran Allotment Act of 1998*. 43 U.S.C. §§ 357, 357a, 357b.

### **FIRE MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS FOR FEDERALLY ADMINISTERED INDIAN TRUST LANDS**

*Department of the Interior Manual 620 Chapter 5.3* delegates wildland fire suppression services for DOI administered lands (including trust lands) to BLM. These services are provided by BLM-Alaska Fire Service (AFS), and by the State of Alaska and US Forest Service through the *Alaska Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (2015 Alaska Master Agreement)*.

The BIA serves as the Jurisdictional Agency for all Indian Trust lands in Alaska.

The BIA Regional Fire Management Officer is the primary notification point-of-contact for all trust lands that are impacted or threatened by wildland fire.

Some of the 229 federally recognized tribes in Alaska have compacted with the BIA through their tribal governments to become a service provider for some allotment owners that are members of the tribe. Compacted tribal governments provide a point of contact, and valuable and pertinent local information for suppression agencies. Some tribal governments have joined into non-profit

consortiums in order to pool resources and provide a better service to the tribal members they represent.

Examples of such consortiums include:

- Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC)
- Chugachmuit
- Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP)

The level of service provided will vary from one Service Provider to the next. BIA serves as the Service Provider for trust lands where no Tribal or Consortium service provider has compacted services.

**Notwithstanding the compacting process, the BIA never relinquishes its trust responsibility as the Jurisdictional Agency for Trust and restricted-title lands, as long as they remain in trust or in restricted status.**

Service Providers are responsible for:

- Serving as an additional point of contact for Protecting Agencies for fire management concerns regarding allotments identified in their service area.
- Maintaining site-specific information for allotments identified in their service area.
- Assisting the Protecting Agency in the protection of trust lands during an ongoing incident.
- Serving as Resource Advisors for the suppression efforts affecting allotments identified in their area.

