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Appendix A. Fire Management Option Operational Direction

Operational Area	Critical Option	Full Option	Modified Option (Pre-conversion)	Modified Option (Post-conversion)	Limited Option
Initial Resource Allocation Priority	Wildfires occurring in the Critical Management Option or that threaten Critical sites are assigned the highest priority for suppression actions and assignment of available firefighting resources.	Wildfires occurring in the Full Management Option or that threaten Full sites are assigned a high priority for suppression actions and assignment of available firefighting resources but are below wildfires within or threatening a Critical Management Option area or site.	Before the conversion date, fires occurring within Modified will receive priority for allocation of initial action forces after the protection of Critical and Full areas. Exception: When on-the-ground actions are warranted, the resource allocation priority is equivalent to the management option designation of the site being protected. For example, if an action on a fire within pre-conversion Modified is an attempt to keep the fire from burning on to a Full site, the resource allocation priority should be equal to that given to Full.	After the conversion date, the priority is low for the allocation of initial action forces and is equal to the Limited Option. Exception: When on-the-ground actions are warranted, the resource allocation priority is equivalent to the management option designation of the site being protected. For example, if an action on a fire within post-conversion Modified is an attempt to keep the fire from burning on to a Full site, the resource allocation priority should be equal to that given to Full.	Limited Management Option fires are assigned the lowest resource allocation priority. Exception: When on-the-ground actions are warranted, the resource allocation priority is equivalent to the management option designation of the site being protected. For example, if an action on a fire within Limited is an attempt to keep the fire from burning on to a Full site, the resource allocation priority should be equal to that given to Full.
Detection	Critical Management Option areas and sites are the highest priority for detection coverage when lightning activity or human use indicate a high potential for ignition, or at the request of a Jurisdictional Agency.	Full Management Option areas and sites are the next priority after Critical for detection coverage when lightning activity or human use indicate a high potential for ignition, or at the request of a Jurisdictional Agency.	Detection coverage will be commensurate with fire conditions and availability of detection resources. Jurisdictional Agencies may negotiate additional detection flights with Protecting Agencies.	Detection coverage will be commensurate with fire conditions and availability of detection resources. Jurisdictional Agencies may negotiate additional detection flights with Protecting Agencies.	Detection coverage will be commensurate with fire conditions and availability of detection resources. Jurisdictional Agencies may negotiate additional detection flights with Protecting Agencies.
Initial Notification Requirements	Provide early notification to the jurisdiction at the point of origin and other jurisdictions immediately threatened so they can identify and prioritize values, communicate concerns, help to validate the default initial response, participate in any decision to take a non-standard response, and keep their leadership and stakeholders informed. This applies even if no suppression action is being taken or is being considered. Whenever possible, notification shall take place prior to taking any suppression action; however, initial response should not be delayed if contacts cannot be made.	Provide early notification to the jurisdiction at the point of origin and other jurisdictions immediately threatened so they can identify and prioritize values, communicate concerns, help to validate the default initial response, participate in any decision to take a non-standard response, and keep their leadership and stakeholders informed. This applies even if no suppression action is being taken or is being considered. Whenever possible, notification shall take place prior to taking any suppression action; however, initial response should not be delayed if contacts cannot be made.	Provide early notification to the jurisdiction at the point of origin and other jurisdictions immediately threatened so they can identify and prioritize values, communicate concerns, help to validate the default initial response, participate in any decision to take a non-standard response, and keep their leadership and stakeholders informed. This applies even if no suppression action is being taken or is being considered. Whenever possible, notification shall take place prior to taking any suppression action; however, initial response should not be delayed if contacts cannot be made.	Provide early notification to the jurisdiction at the point of origin and other jurisdictions immediately threatened so they can identify and prioritize values, communicate concerns, help to validate the default initial response, participate in any decision to take a non-standard response, and keep their leadership and stakeholders informed. This applies even if no suppression action is being taken or is being considered.	Provide early notification to the jurisdiction at the point of origin and other jurisdictions immediately threatened so they can identify and prioritize values, communicate concerns, help to validate the default initial response, participate in any decision to take a non-standard response, and keep their leadership and stakeholders informed. This applies even if no suppression action is being taken or is being considered.
Default Initial Action (Standard Response)	Mobilize resources to protect the area and/or sites and suppress the fire while minimizing risk to public and/or firefighter safety.	Mobilize resources to protect the area and/or sites and suppress the fire while minimizing risk to public and/or firefighter safety.	Mobilize resources to protect the area and/or sites and suppress the fire while minimizing risk to public and/or firefighter safety.	Conduct surveillance, assessments, and site protection as warranted.	Assess the fire’s potential to affect neighboring values. Conduct surveillance and site protection as warranted.
Initial Action Priorities	1. Protect human life. 2. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire. 3. Contain fires at the smallest acreage reasonably possible to limit short and long-term threats to values.	1. Protect human life. 2. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire. 3. Contain fires at the smallest acreage reasonably possible to limit short and long-term threats to values.	1. Protect human life. 2. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire. 3. Contain fires to limit short and long-term threats to values.	1. Protect human life. 2. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire. 3. Allow fires to burn naturally to the extent possible to protect, maintain, and enhance natural and cultural resources and maintain natural fire regimes.	1. Protect human life. 2. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire. 3. Allow fires to burn naturally to the extent possible to protect, maintain, and enhance natural and cultural resources and maintain natural fire regimes.
Extended Action & Notifications	Assess fires periodically and provide early notification to additional jurisdictions whose lands become threatened throughout the life of the incident. The Protecting Agency will determine the surveillance frequency in coordination with the affected Jurisdictional Agency(ies). If the pre-designated response is no longer appropriate, use a decision support process including situational assessment and risk analysis to develop incident-specific objectives, requirements, and courses of action; and document the rationale behind them.	Assess fires periodically and provide early notification to additional jurisdictions whose lands become threatened throughout the life of the incident. The Protecting Agency will determine the surveillance frequency in coordination with the affected Jurisdictional Agency(ies). If the pre-designated response is no longer appropriate, use a decision support process including situational assessment and risk analysis to develop incident-specific objectives, requirements, and courses of action; and document the rationale behind them.	Assess fires periodically and provide early notification to additional jurisdictions whose lands become threatened throughout the life of the incident. The Protecting Agency will determine the surveillance frequency in coordination with the affected Jurisdictional Agency(ies). If the pre-designated response is no longer appropriate, use a decision support process including situational assessment and risk analysis to develop incident-specific objectives, requirements, and courses of action; and document the rationale behind them.	Assess fires periodically and provide early notification to additional jurisdictions whose lands become threatened throughout the life of the incident. The Protecting Agency will determine the surveillance frequency in coordination with the affected Jurisdictional Agency(ies). If the pre-designated response is no longer appropriate, use a decision support process including situational assessment and risk analysis to develop incident-specific objectives, requirements, and courses of action; and document the rationale behind them.	Assess fires periodically and provide early notification to additional jurisdictions whose lands become threatened throughout the life of the incident. The Protecting Agency will determine the surveillance frequency in coordination with the affected Jurisdictional Agency(ies). If the pre-designated response is no longer appropriate, use a decision support process including situational assessment and risk analysis to develop incident-specific objectives, requirements, and courses of action; and document the rationale behind them.
Resource Benefit Objectives	Only appropriate in extraordinary circumstances at the explicit documented direction of an affected Jurisdictional Agency. Document the course of action with a decision analysis and support process.	Only appropriate on rare occasions, based on site-specific circumstances (e.g., the initial size-up and response is delayed beyond 24 hours, or a fire is primarily burning into Limited). Document the course of action with a decision analysis and support process.	May be appropriate, based on site-specific circumstances and time of season (e.g., a pre-conversion Modified ignition that as of the conversion date has little potential to threaten values). Document the course of action with a decision analysis and support process.	It is routinely appropriate to manage all or part of post-conversion Modified fires for resource benefit. A documented decision analysis and support process may be needed based on complexity or may be initiated at the discretion of an affected Jurisdictional Agency.	It is routinely appropriate to manage all or part of Limited fires for resource benefit. A documented decision analysis and support process may be needed based on complexity or may be initiated at the discretion of an affected Jurisdictional Agency.

Alaska Statewide Management Requirements

Jurisdictional Agencies have identified the following general constraints and guidelines. Additional constraints applicable to specific incidents are at the discretion of the Jurisdictional Agency and are documented in the Jurisdictional Agency’s fire management plans, the incident’s decision record, and/or the Delegation of Authority.

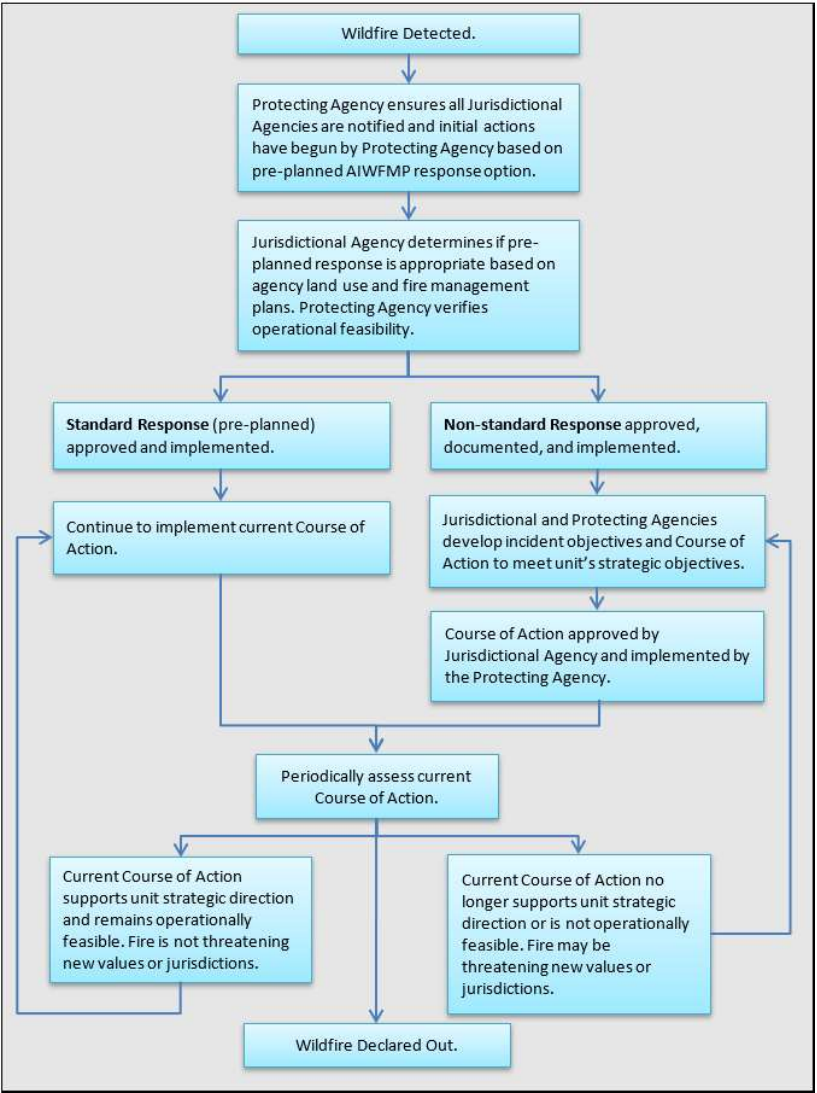
- Weigh the cost and environmental impacts of suppression actions against the economic, social, and/or resource values warranting protection. Consider risk to firefighters and the public in all fire management decisions.
- To the extent possible, use minimum impact suppression tactics. Wherever possible, construct firelines in a manner that minimizes erosion and follows natural contours. Use indirect attack to the extent practical. A suppression repair plan for wildfire suppression activity damage, as approved by the Jurisdictional Agency(ies), must be completed before the final demobilization occurs.
- Locate base camps, spike camps, staging areas, helispots, and other incident support areas in natural clearings if possible and minimize their visible footprint consistent with operational need and safety requirements. Make Jurisdictional Agencies aware of all support areas located on their lands. Keep these areas clean so as not to attract animals and ensure all unused supplies including fuel, oil, food, etc. are removed prior to demobilization of the incident. Exceptions must be explicitly authorized by the Jurisdictional Agency.
- Incident support areas on private lands or Native allotments require a Land Use Agreement (LUA). Do not remove resources (e.g., firewood, etc.) from private lands or Native allotments without an approved LUA. The BIA or the local BIA service provider must prepare Land Use Agreements involving Native allotments.
- The use of tracked or off-road vehicles requires approval by the Jurisdictional Agency(ies) prior to use.
- Comply with the stipulations and notification requirements in the ADF&G statewide [Fish Habitat Permit FH20-SW-0001 Amendment 3](#) when withdrawing water from a fish bearing stream with portable pumps, scooper aircraft or aerial buckers; or when crossing it with a vehicle or heavy equipment.
- If a game animal is killed in defense of life or property (DLP) on an incident, file an [Alaska Department of Fish & Game \(ADF&G\) DLP Report](#) and notify the Jurisdictional Agency(ies).
- Protecting and Jurisdictional Agencies will coordinate with State of Alaska land managers if wildland fires, or wildland fire management activities have the potential to affect public access to public waters or impact state resources. Protecting and Jurisdictional Agencies will coordinate if wildland fire or wildland fire management activities may result in fire area public access closures or may adversely impact values at risk.
- Take measures to prevent the introduction and spread of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species during fire operations. To the extent possible, ensure that heavy equipment, gear, tools, and footwear are weed free before moving into incident support and fire suppression areas. Do not use waterbodies known to harbor invasive species as water sources for air or ground-based water delivery equipment unless needed to protect life or property. If used, clean and sanitize equipment before the next use. Communicate concerns, questions, and needs regarding invasive species to jurisdictional representatives in a timely manner.
- Avoid application of aerial or ground delivered fire chemicals (including retardant) near lakes, wetlands, streams, rivers, and sources of human water consumption or areas adjacent to water sources. A minimum of 300 feet from waterways is identified in the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations* (Red Book). Individual Jurisdictional Agencies may have more restrictive retardant or other fire chemical use guidelines. Deviations from these guidelines may be acceptable when life or property is threatened, and the use of fire chemicals can be reasonably expected to alleviate the threat.
- Suppression activities including flight patterns on or near cultural sites or sites designated as “Avoid” must be coordinated with the Jurisdictional Agency.
- Consult with Jurisdictional Agencies regarding any operational restrictions in designated wilderness areas.
- When planning incident fireline construction, consult completed and planned fuels treatment information provided by the Jurisdictional and/or Protecting Agencies.
- Limit structure protection (not suppression) activities by wildland firefighters to exterior efforts, and only when such actions can be accomplished safely and in accordance with agency policy and established wildland fire operations standards.
- Wildland firefighters will not take direct suppression action on vehicle fires. Limit suppression efforts on vehicle fires by wildland firefighters to preventing spread into the wildlands and only if responders can avoid being exposed to the smoke from the burning vehicle.
- Wildland firefighters will not take direct action on fires within landfills. Limit suppression actions to preventing spread into the wildlands and only if responders can avoid being exposed to the smoke from the landfill. Protecting agencies will notify the ADEC Solid Waste Program of all fires that escape from landfills or that have a high potential to escape.
- Immediately report any discovery of potential unexploded ordnance (UXO) or other potentially hazardous materials (e.g., mining sites) through proper channels. Firefighters will remain clear of the area until the threat has been evaluated and mitigated.

Non-standard Responses

The non-standard determination is based on the initial response to a wildfire, regardless of intent. This does not apply to non-wildfire incident types. The following are considered **non-standard responses**:

- Critical, Full, or pre-conversion Modified Management Option fires where the initial strategy is **Monitor, Confine, or Point/Zone Protection** (no suppression actions intended to fully contain the fire are taken by ground or air resources within 12 hours of discovery). Justifications include, but are not limited to:
 - Lack of available resources or higher priorities.
 - Safety/weather concerns.
 - Re-evaluation of threat potential, risks, benefits (e.g., natural barriers preclude escape, extended forecast for wet weather, etc.).
- Post-conversion Modified or Limited Management Option fires where the initial strategy is **Full Suppression** (ground or air resources take suppression action on the fire within 12 hours of discovery with intent to fully contain it). Justifications include, but are not limited to:
 - Re-evaluation of threat potential, risks, benefits (e.g., site specific conditions warrant containment effort or proximity of values requiring protection).
 - Initial site protection most efficiently achieved by containing the fire.
 - Partial containment/confinement.

Operational Decision Chart for All Wildfire Management Options



Appendix B. Required Jurisdictional Fire Notifications

Table 9: State of Alaska Jurisdictional Contacts

Unit Description	Jurisdictional Contact(s)
State & Private Lands	DOF Regional FMO
Borough & Municipal Lands	DOF Regional FMO + appropriate Borough/Municipal contact
University of Alaska Lands	DOF Regional FMO + appropriate University contact

Table 10: USFS Jurisdictional Contacts

Unit Description	Jurisdictional Contact(s)
Chugach National Forest	USFS Chugach/Tongass Combined Fire Staff Officer (Forest FMO)
Admiralty Island National Monument Tongass National Forest Misty Fiords National Monument	USFS Chugach/Tongass Combined Fire Staff Officer (Forest FMO)

Table 11: BLM Jurisdictional Contacts (including pending Native allotments)

Unit Description	Jurisdictional Contact(s)
BLM Anchorage District Field Offices	BLM Anchorage District Fire & Fuels Program Supervisor
BLM Arctic District Office	BLM Fairbanks District FMO
BLM Fairbanks District Field Offices	BLM Fairbanks District FMO

Table 12: NPS Jurisdictional Contacts

Unit Description	Jurisdictional Contact(s)
Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve	NPS Eastern Area FMO
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (Tok Protection Area)	NPS Eastern Area FMO + AFS Military Zone FMO (Fiscal Authority)
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (Copper River Protection Area)	NPS Eastern Area FMO + AFS South Zone FMS (Fiscal Authority)
Kobuk Valley National Park Noatak National Preserve Bering Land Bridge National Preserve Cape Krusenstern National Monument Denali National Park and Preserve (Tanana Protection Zone)	NPS Western Area FMO
Denali National Park and Preserve (Fairbanks Protection Area)	NPS Western Area FMO + AFS Military Zone FMO (Fiscal Authority)
Denali National Park and Preserve (Mat-Su Protection Area) Lake Clark National Park and Preserve	NPS Western Area FMO + AFS South Zone FMS (Fiscal Authority)
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve Katmai National Park and Preserve Kenai Fjords National Park Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park Sitka National Historic Park Alagnak Wild River Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve	NPS Deputy Regional Fire Management Officer/Coastal Area FMO + AFS South Zone FMS (Fiscal Authority)

Table 13: USFWS Jurisdictional Contacts

Unit Description	Jurisdictional Contact(s)
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge	FWS Interior District FMO
Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge	FWS Interior District FMO + AFS Military Zone FMO (Fiscal Authority)
Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge Selawik National Wildlife Refuge	FWS Interior District AFMO
Innoko National Wildlife Refuge	FWS Interior District AFMO + AFS South Zone FMS (Fiscal Authority)
Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge Becharof National Wildlife Refuge Izembek National Wildlife Refuge	FWS Southern District FMO + AFS South Zone FMS (Fiscal Authority)

Table 14: BIA Jurisdictional Contacts (Native Allotments, Reservations, and other Trust Lands)¹

Unit Description	Jurisdictional Contact(s)
In AFS Protection	BIA Regional Fire Management Officer
In DOF Protection (TAS, DAS, FAS)	BIA Regional Fire Management Officer + AFS Military Zone FMO (Fiscal Authority)
In DOF Protection (SWS, MSS, KKS, CRS) & in USFS Protection	BIA Regional Fire Management Officer + AFS South Zone FMS (Fiscal Authority)

¹Parcels with a pending (or not yet patented) Native allotment application require notifications to both the BIA Regional FMO and a BLM Jurisdictional FMO (Fairbanks District FMO or Anchorage District Fire & Fuels Program Supervisor).

Table 15: ANCSA Regional or Village Corporation Jurisdictional Contacts

Unit Description	Jurisdictional Contact(s)
In AFS Protection	Appropriate Native Corporation Contact
In DOF Protection (TAS, DAS FAS)	Appropriate Native Corporation Contact + AFS Military Zone FMO (Fiscal Authority & Jurisdictional Representative)
In DOF Protection (SWS, MSS, KKS, CRS) & in USFS Protection	Appropriate Native Corporation Contact + AFS South Zone FMS (Fiscal Authority & Jurisdictional Representative)

Table 16: Tribal Jurisdictional Contacts

Unit Description	Jurisdictional Contact(s)
In AFS Protection	Appropriate Tribal Contact
In DOF Protection (TAS, DAS, FAS)	Appropriate Tribal Contact + AFS Military Zone FMO (Fiscal Authority & Jurisdictional Representative)
In DOF Protection (SWS, MSS, KKS, CRS) & in USFS Protection	Appropriate Tribal Contact + AFS South Zone FMS (Fiscal Authority & Jurisdictional Representative)

Table 17: Department of Defense Jurisdictional Contacts

Unit Description	Jurisdictional Contact(s)
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER)	Mat-Su Area Forester + Appropriate USAF Fire Chief
U.S. Army Garrison Alaska (USAG AK)	AFS Military Zone FMO (who will notify the appropriate Army Fire Chief, Natural Resource Specialist, Installation Range Manager, and, if applicable, the BLM District FMO or District Fire & Fuels Program Supervisor ¹).
Clear Air Force Station & Eielson Air Force Base	Appropriate USAF Fire Chief
Other Department of Defense lands	Area/Zone FMO is responsible for determining the appropriate contacts.

¹ U.S. Army Garrison Alaska (USAG Alaska) manages some lands in conjunction with the BLM including the Yukon and Donnelly Training Areas. The AFS Military Zone FMO works with USAG Alaska and BLM to determine jurisdictional and fiscal responsibility for fires on these lands.

Table 18: Other Federal Jurisdictional Contacts

Unit Description	Jurisdictional Contact(s)
Including (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Postal Service • U.S. Coast Guard • Federal Aviation Administration • General Services Administration • U.S. Public Health Service • National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service • National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 	Area/Zone FMO is responsible for determining the appropriate contacts.

Appendix C. Fire Notification Checklist

Protecting Agencies are responsible for providing early notification to the Jurisdictional Agency at the point of origin and other jurisdictions immediately threatened so that they can identify and prioritize values, communicate concerns, help to validate the default initial response, participate in any decision to take a non-standard response, and keep their leadership and stakeholders informed. Initial action should not be delayed if contacts cannot be made. Notifications are required for wildfires, false alarms, vehicle fires, structure fires, debris fires, non-statistical/others, foreign incidents, natural outs and prevention actions (see **Section 3.4 Fire Notifications**).

When a wildfire continues to spread after initial notifications are made, notify additional jurisdictions as early as possible prior to their lands being affected.

Protecting Units must document notification attempts. The Fire Notification Checklist below may be used for this purpose. Appropriate notification contacts are described in **Appendix B**.

Consider sharing the following items during the notification process; however, do not delay notification due to incomplete information.

- Incident Location (coordinates/ geographic description)
- Incident #
- Incident Name
- Cause
- Date/Time Reported
- Fire Management Option at Point of Origin
- Ownership/Jurisdictional Agency at Point of Origin
- Jurisdictional Agencies potentially threatened within first 48 hours
- Identified Values Threatened
- Fuels, Topography, Weather & Fire Behavior
- Resources on Site/Enroute/on Order
- Management Actions in Progress
- Management Action Recommendations (Standard/Non-Standard Response)
- Issues/Concerns (e.g., IA forces available, risk to public safety, risk to firefighters, smoke, Native Allotments, structures, probability of initial action success, etc.)
- _____
- _____
- _____

Fire Number:_____ **Fire Name:**_____ **Mgmt Option:**_____

Initial Response:

- ☐ Standard
☐ Non-standard
☐ N/A (Non-wildfires Only)

- ☐ Contain (Full Suppression) ☐ Confine
☐ Point-protect ☐ Monitor
☐ N/A (Non-wildfires Only)

Contact Date/Time:_____ Contacted by: _____

Contact Name/Title:_____ Contact Agency:_____

Contacted at (phone #/email address): _____

Contact Method: ☐Telephone ☐Text ☐Email ☐In-person ☐Other _____

Contact Confirmed: ☐Yes ☐No

Contact Notes:

Contact Date/Time:_____ Contacted by: _____

Contact Name/Title:_____ Contact Agency:_____

Contacted at (phone #/email address): _____

Contact Method: ☐Telephone ☐Text ☐Email ☐In-person ☐Other _____

Contact Confirmed: ☐Yes ☐No

Contact Notes:

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Appendix D. Fire Management Option Change Procedures

Each of the land managing Federal and State agencies and ANCSA Corporations in Alaska have their own missions, goals, and objectives related to their lands. To effectively prioritize and manage Alaska wildfires there is a need to consider the full spectrum of initial responses to wildfire; from suppression actions designed to contain and control fire growth, to periodic surveillance of fires that are allowed to spread naturally across the landscape. To accomplish this, jurisdictional organizations and Protecting Agencies have collaboratively assigned one of four Fire Management Options (**Critical, Full, Modified, and Limited**) to nearly all lands in Alaska. Pre-identified Fire Management Options allow fire managers to:

- Quickly prioritize areas for protection actions and the allocation of available initial attack firefighting resources to achieve protection objectives.
- Optimize the ability to achieve land use and resource management objectives and integrate fire management, mission objectives, land use, and natural resource goals.
- Reinforce the premise that the cost of suppression efforts should be commensurate with the economic, social, and resource values identified for protection.

Management options are assigned at a landscape scale and apply across jurisdictional boundaries. Considerations in their selection may include public and private values to be protected operationally. The management option at a wildfire's point of origin prescribes the default initial response to the incident and allows Protecting Agencies to rapidly prioritize initial attack resources and respond when Jurisdictional Agencies are unavailable for consultation.

There is no guarantee of protection from wildfire in any management option or on any site.

Management option designations are intended to be flexible. The default initial response will not be appropriate for every fire and may be overridden based on incident-specific considerations. See **3.2.3 Non-standard Responses**.

Jurisdictional Agencies and ANCSA Corporations have an annual opportunity to review wildfire management options and site designations on their lands and update them if warranted by changes in objectives, fire conditions, land use patterns, resource information, and/or technologies. All affected Jurisdictional and Protecting units should collaborate on Management Option changes. All Jurisdictional Agency Administrators whose lands are affected must approve the changes, and the Protecting Agency(ies) must concur.

The following procedures are designed to ensure adequate and consistent documentation of management option changes. Collaboration between all affected Protecting and Jurisdictional Agencies (including ANCSA Corporations) is essential in the management option review and change processes. Statewide Fire Planners and AFS GIS Staff are available to assist. **Completed change packages are due to Alaska Fire Service by March 1.**

Annual Management Option Review Process & Responsibilities

1. Protecting FMOs will annually provide reminders of fire management option review/change responsibilities to Jurisdictional Agencies within their Protecting Units. Reminders may be written, emailed, or transmitted verbally.
2. Protecting and Jurisdictional Agencies will conduct internal and interagency reviews of fire management option boundaries and/or protection levels.
3. Protecting and Jurisdictional Agencies will review non-standard responses annually to validate fire management option boundaries and protection levels.

Option Change Process Overview

1. Management Option boundary and/or protection level changes are typically initiated by Jurisdictional Agencies but may be initiated by Protecting Agencies or other cooperators.
2. Notify all affected and adjacent Jurisdictional Agencies and Protecting FMOs and give them the opportunity to participate in the change process.
3. Protecting FMOs will submit approved and certified Management Option change packages to the Statewide Fire Planners, AICC Emergency Operations Coordinator, and AFS GIS Staff by March 1.
4. The AFS GIS Staff will update the Interagency Fire Management Option Boundaries layer by April 1.
5. 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 fire management option review/change process.

Option Change Initiator Responsibilities

1. Ensure all affected and adjacent Jurisdictional Agencies and Protecting FMOs are aware of and are given the opportunity to participate in the option change process.
2. Prepare the option change package. This includes the following required documentation:
 - a. Written description of the proposed change(s) and the rationale behind them. Use the ***Change Description and Rationale*** section of Fire Management Option Change Approval Form (**Appendix E**).
 - b. PDF display map(s) that represent the change(s).
 - c. GIS data files (e.g., zipped shapefiles or a zipped geodatabase) with enough basic metadata to clearly define the change(s).
3. Ensure the Representative(s) from the affected Jurisdictional Unit(s) have reviewed and verified that the proposed option change(s) meet the intent and requirements of their agency.
4. Ensure the FMO(s) from the affected Protecting Unit(s) have reviewed and verified that the proposed option change(s) are operationally feasible.

5. Incorporate all mutually agreed upon modifications to the change package before obtaining signatures. If any affected Jurisdictional or Protecting Units do not concur with the change request, notify the primary Protecting FMO who will elevate the request to AWFCG for adjudication.
6. Circulate the verified change package among all affected Jurisdictional Agencies and obtain signatures for certification.
7. Verify that all steps in the Management Option Change Checklist have been completed and submit the complete change package to the primary Protecting FMO for final review and certification(s) **before March 1**.
8. Be prepared to answer questions and provide additional data upon request.

Jurisdictional Agency Responsibilities

1. Provide values data as needed to support the proposed change and communicate jurisdictional concerns regarding proposed changes.
2. Assist with change package preparation.
3. Jurisdictional Agencies must approve all management option boundary and/or protection level changes within their jurisdiction by signing and dating within the ***Jurisdictional Agency Certification(s)*** portion of the Fire Management Option Change Approval Form (**Appendix E**).

Protecting FMO Responsibilities

1. All affected Protecting FMO(s) will review option changes to determine whether they are operationally feasible. Protecting FMOs may propose modifications to the change proposal if feasibility concerns are identified. It is important that Protecting FMOs are involved early in the change process to avoid last-minute changes and delays.
 - a. ***BLM AFS Requirement:*** AFS Zone FMOs will notify and/or involve the SFMO and Deputy SFMO in the option change process for changes over 500,000 acres within AFS Protection Zones.
2. If the proposed change(s) involves more than one Protection Area, identify one Protecting FMO as the primary point-of-contact for obtaining Protecting FMO signatures, submitting the final change packet and communicating with AWFCG (as necessary).
3. If any affected units do not concur with the change request, the primary Protecting FMO will bring the concerns before the AWFCG for adjudication, ensure that the change package is amended to conform with AWFCG's decision and re-circulated by the Change Initiator for signatures.
4. Upon receiving the final change package with Jurisdictional signatures, the primary Protecting FMO will:
 - a. Verify the final change package is accurate and complete.

- b. Verify that all affected Jurisdictional and Protecting Units have had opportunity to participate in the change process and have agreed on the change(s).
- c. Verify that all affected Jurisdictional Units have signed the *Fire Management Option Change Approval Form* (**Appendix E**).
- d. Circulate the final change package *Fire Management Option Change Approval Form* for signature by all affected Protecting FMOs (and the AWFCG Chair if necessary).
 - **BLM AFS Requirement:** The SFMO will be a signatory on the Option Change Approval Form in addition to the AFS Zone FMO(s) for options changes that are over 500,000 acres within the AFS Protection area.
- 5. The primary Protecting FMO will submit the final change package (see **Appendix E** for details).
The deadline for submitting the final change package to the Statewide Fire Planners, BLM AFS GIS staff and AICC Emergency Operations Coordinator is March 1.
- 6. The Protecting FMO(s) will notify all affected Jurisdictional Agencies that the changes have taken effect and ensure local Protecting Unit map products are updated with the approved changes.

Statewide Fire Planners, BLM AFS GIS and AICC Responsibilities

- 1. The Statewide Fire Planners will verify the final option change packages are complete with all required signatures and ensure the option changes are incorporated into the Spatial Fire Planning Service and other systems (e.g., [AICC– Alaska Statewide Master Agreement webpage](#), Fire Management Option Change History, etc.).
- 2. BLM AFS GIS staff will process changes to the Interagency Fire Management Option Boundaries layer and maintain electronic archives of historical fire management option spatial data. Questions about spatial data will be referred to the Change Initiator identified on the Fire Management Option Change Approval Form (**Appendix E**).
- 3. The AICC Emergency Operations Coordinator will archive the Fire Management Option change package.
- 4. AFS GIS staff will ensure that the appropriate Protecting FMOs, AICC Emergency Operations Coordinator and the AFS Fire Planning Specialists are notified when approved changes have been incorporated into the Interagency Fire Management Option Boundaries layer.

Appendix E. Fire Management Option Change Approval Form

Change Description and Rationale

Describe changes geographically and jurisdictionally. Explain the rationale for the change (use additional sheets if necessary). Specify the conversion date for any changes to Modified:

Management Option Change Checklist

Changes initiated by:

Agency/Unit_____ Name/Title_____

Email_____ Phone Number_____

The following steps have been completed:

- ☐ All affected and adjacent Jurisdictional and Protecting Units are aware of and have been given the opportunity to participate in the change process.
- ☐ A change request package including the following elements has been completed:
 - ☐ A written description and rationale for the change(s).
 - ☐ A PDF map(s) representing the change(s).
 - ☐ GIS Spatial Data files including basic metadata (zipped geodatabase or zipped shapefile) that accurately reflect the requested change(s).
- ☐ The Representative(s) from the affected Jurisdictional Unit(s) have reviewed and verified that the proposed option change(s) meet the intent and requirements of their agency.
- ☐ The FMO(s) from the affected Protecting Unit(s) have reviewed and verified that the proposed option change(s) are operationally feasible.
- ☐ Representatives from all affected Protecting and Jurisdictional Agencies have signed this form.
- ☐ If any affected units do not concur with the change request, their concerns have been brought before AWFCG, have been adjudicated, and the AWFCG Chair has signed this form.

Once all required signatures have been obtained, the Protecting FMO will provide the completed change package to:

- ☐ Statewide Fire Planners: BLM_AK_AFS_FirePlanning@blm.gov
- ☐ BLM AFS GIS Staff: BLM_AK_AFS_GIS@blm.gov
- ☐ AICC Emergency Operations Coordinator: akacc.aircraft@firenet.gov
- ☐ A representative from each of the participating agencies.

Jurisdictional Agency Certification(s)

The following land manager(s)/owner(s) have approved these fire management option change(s) for the lands that they manage/own.

Jurisdiction #1 Agency/Unit: _____

Approver Name/Title

Approval Signature/Date

Jurisdiction #2 Agency/Unit: _____

Approver Name/Title

Approval Signature/Date

Jurisdiction #3 Agency/Unit: _____

Approver Name/Title

Approval Signature/Date

Jurisdiction #4 Agency/Unit: _____

Approver Name/Title

Approval Signature/Date

AWFCG Certification

(Only required if AWFCG adjudication was necessary)

AWFCG Chair Name/Title/Agency

Approval Signature/Date

Protecting FMO Certification(s)

All affected parties have been consulted regarding this management option change and have reached consensus. I am hereby submitting this completed option change package to the appropriate offices listed above.

Protecting FMO #1 Agency/Unit: _____

Approver Name/Title

Approval Signature/Date

Protecting FMO #2 Agency/Unit: _____

Approver Name/Title

Approval Signature/Date

Appendix F. Alaska Known Sites Update Procedures

The Alaska Known Sites Database (AKSD) identifies infrastructure, and cultural and natural resource sites throughout Alaska that may be threatened by wildfire. The dataset 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) 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: Jurisdictional Agencies are responsible for reviewing AKSD data for accuracy and are responsible for assigning Protection Levels.
- 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). The AKSD has editor tracking so there will be a record of who created and updated data points. Additionally, an “Alaska Known Sites Review and Validation” web application is available to 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 staff at BLM_AK_AFS_GIS@blm.gov.

Table 19: Alaska Known Sites Database Points of Contact

AWFCG Organization	Name	Contact Information
Alaska Department of Natural Resources	Dan LaBarre	(907) 451-2615 daniel.labarre@alaska.gov
Alaska Department of Fish and Game	Miles Spathelf	(907) 267-2463 miles.spathelf@alaska.gov
Bureau of Indian Affairs	Thomas St. Clair	(907) 456-0221 thomas.stclair@bia.gov
Bureau of Land Management	Jennifer Jenkins	(907) 356-5587 jljenkins@blm.gov
Chugachmiut	Nathan Lojewski	907-562-4155 ext. 0165 Nathan@chugachmiut.org
National Park Service	Brian Sorbel	(907) 644-3413 brian_sorbel@nps.gov
Tanana Chiefs Conference	Clinton Northway	(907) 452-8251 ext. 3379 clinton.northway@tananachiefs.org
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Brad Reed	(907) 786-3985 brad_reed@fws.gov
U.S. Forest Service	Erick Stahlin	(907) 240-1208 erick.stahlin@usda.gov

Appendix G. History of Fire Management Planning in Alaska

Fire Management Roles and Responsibilities

The history of fire management within Alaska dates back to 1939 when the Alaskan Fire Control Service was established under the General Land Office. Headquartered in Anchorage, it was given responsibility for fire suppression on an estimated 225 million fire-prone acres of public domain lands in Alaska. When the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was formed in 1946, it received the management authority for most of Alaska's federal lands and absorbed the Alaska Fire Control Service. The BLM fire organization was based in Fairbanks and Anchorage and the two offices worked cooperatively but separately. The BLM also kept a Division of Fire Management at the State Office.

In 1959, the first of three big divestures of land managed by BLM-Alaska began and, with the changes in land management authority, issues regarding wildland fire suppression responsibilities arose.

- 1) Under the Alaska Statehood Act of 1959, the State was granted 104 million acres of land.
- 2) Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) established Native corporations and an entitlement of 44 million acres for those corporations.
- 3) The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA) transferred approximately 100 million acres from BLM administration to the National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service.

Under ANCSA, the federal government was directed to continue to provide wildland fire suppression on lands conveyed to Alaska Native regional and village corporations. In response to ANILCA, Secretarial Order #3077, dated March 17, 1982, creating "a fire line organization with headquarters in Fairbanks" was issued. The BLM Alaska Fire Service (BLM AFS) was formed, and, in Department of the Interior Manual 620 Ch. 5, BLM AFS was assigned the fire suppression responsibility for all Department of Interior administered lands in Alaska and Native Corporation land conveyed under ANCSA. Department of Interior (DOI) administered lands include land managed by the BLM, National Park Service (NPS), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Although BLM AFS implements fire suppression for DOI agencies, individual agencies remain accountable for following agency-specific mandates and policies for resource and wildland fire management.

The State of Alaska established a wildland fire suppression organization in the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry (now Division of Forestry & Fire Protection) (DOF), and, in the mid-1970s, began to gradually assume suppression responsibilities beginning in the Haines area. A reciprocal fire protection agreement was signed by the BLM AFS, the USFS, and DOF to cooperatively provide fire suppression operations in fire-prone areas. Under the agreement, BLM AFS assumed suppression responsibility for wildland fires in the northern half of Alaska, regardless of ownership. By 1985, DOF had assumed suppression responsibility for wildland fires in Southcentral and most of Southwestern Alaska, as well as in portions of the Central Interior Alaska adjacent to the road-system. The U.S. Forest Service assumed suppression responsibility for state, federal, and Native lands within the boundaries of the Chugach and Tongass National Forests.

In 2010, the reciprocal fire protection agreements between the Protecting Agencies (DOF, BLM AFS, and USFS) and the individual memorandum of agreement between land management agencies (FWS, NPS, BIA) were consolidated into the *2015 Alaska Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Agreement (Alaska Master Agreement)*. The *Alaska Master Agreement* and its exhibits (including the *Alaska Statewide Operating Plan* and this *AIWFMP*) currently define the roles and responsibilities of the Jurisdictional and Protecting Agencies as well as operating procedures for fire management in Alaska.

Fire Management Planning

The Alaska Land Use Council was created under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA). This Council was directed “to serve as a forum for managers of public lands within Alaska and for governmental decision makers with differing perspectives and varying mandates with respect to land management of Alaska’s land resources” (Alaska Land Use Council Annual Report 1982). The Council advocated multi-jurisdictional planning efforts and created the Fire Control Project Group to establish definitions and criteria for categories of fire protection and response as well as a schedule, organization, and process for completing interagency fire plans (Alaska Interagency Fire Planning Guidelines, revised 1984). The Fire Control Project Group later became the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Council, which evolved into the current Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AWFCG).

The basis for interagency wildland fire management in Alaska is found in the 13 Interagency Fire Management Plans (IFMPs) completed between 1982 and 1988 at the direction of the Alaska Land Use Council. Four fire management options (Critical, Full, Modified and Limited) that set the resource assignment priorities and describe the standard response to a wildfire within the option boundaries were defined. Values-at-risk, ecological considerations and suppression costs were factors used to develop the management option criteria. The first Alaska IFMP for the Tanana-Minchumina Planning Area was completed and approved in 1982. Using that plan as a model and reference, 12 more plans were completed through the collaborative efforts of interagency, interdisciplinary teams. Public input was solicited throughout the planning process.

1980s Interagency Fire Management Plans

These plans were developed through the collaborative efforts of interagency, interdisciplinary teams and applied on a statewide, interagency, multi-jurisdictional, landscape scale. They provided land managers with wildland fire strategy choices and provided operational direction to the suppression agencies. Alaska Interagency Fire Planning Guidelines were published in 1984 to assist the planning group in expediting the completion of the plans. The following 13 plans provided “an opportunity for land managers within the planning area to accomplish their land use objectives through cooperative fire management” (Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan, Tanana/Minchumina Planning Area) and standardized management options statewide.

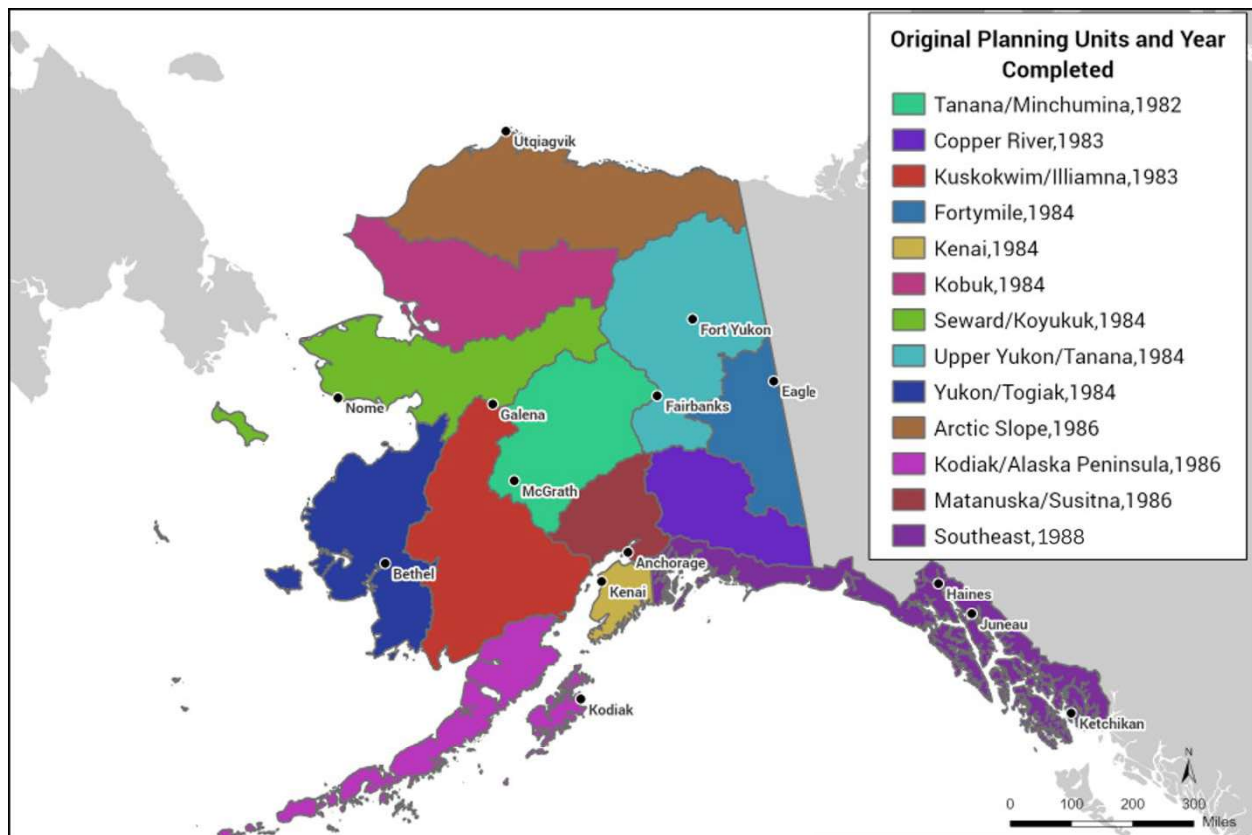


Figure 3: Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plans, Original Planning Units and Year Plan Completed

- 1982 Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan, Tanana/Minchumina Planning Area and 1984 Amendment
- 1983 Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan, Copper Basin Planning Area
- 1983 Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan, Kuskokwim/Illiamna Planning Area
- 1983 Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan, Upper Yukon/Tanana Planning Area
- 1984 Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan, Fortymile Planning Area
- 1984 Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan, Kenai Planning Area
- 1984 Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan, Kobuk Planning Area
- 1984 Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan, Seward/Koyukuk Planning Area
- 1984 Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan, Yukon/Togiak Planning Area
- 1986 Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan, Arctic Slope Planning Area
- 1986 Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan, Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula Planning Area
- 1986 Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan, Matanuska/Susitna Planning Area
- 1988 Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan, Southeast Planning Area

By 1988, the interagency fire management plans were implemented across the state. Each plan contained a description of the local environmental and socioeconomic conditions, natural and cultural resources, fire history and behavior, and local subsistence activities. The plans provided a coordinated, cost effective, landscape scale approach to fire management, a consistent interagency approach to operational procedures and a systematic method for the identification and prioritization

of values-to-be-protected. The initial response to a wildfire was determined by the management option designation and the likely consequences of the fire on firefighter and public safety.

1998 Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan, as amended 1998

At the direction of the AWFCG, the common elements in the 13 original IFMPs were consolidated during the 1990s and by 1998, *Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan* was completed. It provided the land managers and fire suppression organizations a single reference for interagency fire management operational information. The Plan clarified and streamlined existing fire management planning documents and incorporated operational changes that had occurred since the 1980s statewide fire management planning effort.

2010 Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan

This Plan updated and superseded the *Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan, as amended 1998*. The update was completed in response to public requests for more information regarding Alaska fire management practices, to clarify interagency guidelines, policies and operational direction for responses to wildland fires, and to bring terminology up to date. This Plan affirms that firefighter and public safety is the first priority in all fire management activities for all agencies. It also reaffirms the concepts presented in the 1998 Plan and previous Alaska interagency fire planning efforts. The stated purpose of the 2010 Plan was to promote a cooperative, consistent, cost-effective, interagency approach to wildland fire management and to be the interagency reference for wildland fire operational direction in Alaska.

2016 Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan

This Plan updates and supersedes the *2010 Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan*. It updates terminology and management criteria to reflect changes in policy and interagency agreements. It continues to provide a framework of common standards, terminology, and expectations to facilitate effective cooperation and collaboration between the federal, state and Alaska Natives entities to achieve both wildland fire protection and ecological goals in a safe, efficient, and cost-effective manner.

Significant changes between the 2010 and 2016 plans include:

- Reorganization of chapters within the Plan to better align with DOI FMP guidance.
- Reduced duplication by referencing the *Alaska Master Agreement* and *Alaska Annual Operating Plan (AOP)* direction where possible.
- Additional emphasis on the role of Jurisdictional Unit FMPs/RMPs where they exist.
- Clarified definition of Non-standard Response.
- Revised fire notification requirements:

- Jurisdictions should be notified immediately for fires occurring in all Management Options.
- Jurisdictions whose lands may be threatened within two burning periods should be notified.
- Clarified the fire management roles and responsibilities related to different types of Native organizations and referenced more detailed information in the *AOP*.
- Consolidated Alaska Fire Management and Planning History into Appendix G.
- Clarified distinction between Statewide Goals and Planning Objectives and Default Initial Response Actions and Priorities.
- Revised Operational Decision Chart to reflect updated WFDSS decision support direction.
- Recognizes that Fire Management Option selection should consider population density as opposed to the presence or absence of human life and inhabited property.
- Corrected conflicting direction regarding Plan review requirements.
- Fire occurrence statistics have been removed from the Plan. Statistics are not integral to the document and are available elsewhere.

March 2017 Review of the 2016 Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan

An interagency group with representation from each of the active members of AWFCG completed an annual review of the *2016 AIWFMP* prior to the 2017 fire season. The review and associated updates were certified by the AWFCG Chair, and the updated document was republished as *the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan 2016 (March 2017 Review)*. Updates include:

- Minor grammatical, punctuation, spelling, and format changes.
- Hyperlinks updated.
- Department of the Interior Manual 620 Chapter 2 references updated to Chapter 5.
- Updated discussion of policy affecting fire management on Alaska Native lands to reflect the 2013 changes to the fee-into-trust regulation.
- Updated jurisdictional authorities in Table 1.
- Updated Figure 1: Alaska Protection Areas of Responsibility to reflect 2017 Protection Area boundary changes in the Haines Area.
- Corrected the AWFCG membership status of Anchorage Fire Department and the Association of Village Council Presidents (both were inactive).
- Added a Statewide Management Requirement so that ADF&G stream crossing requirements for anadromous streams are distinguished from requirements for crossing non-anadromous fish-bearing streams.
- Clarified notification requirements for all management options.

- Included the August 20 “Special” Modified Conversion date that was inadvertently omitted in 2016.
- Clarified that the default initial action for Limited fires should include assessment of the fire’s potential to affect neighboring values.
- Updated Post-fire Response language to reflect current national policy and include options for post-fire response on non-federal lands.
- Updated fire investigation language for consistency with policy.
- Updated data sources language to reflect current products and processes regarding Management Option and Protection Area boundary changes, as well as fire perimeters, Known Sites, and ownership data.
- Included a citation in the Science and Climate Change chapter that was inadvertently omitted in 2016.
- Updated Appendix A: Fire Management Operational Direction to reflect changes elsewhere in the document.
- Updated Appendix B: Fire Notification Jurisdictional Contacts based on changes in the 2017 *AOP*.
- Updated Appendix C: Fire Notification Log to include management option and initial response information.
- Updated Appendix D: Fire Management Option Change Procedures and Appendix E: Fire Management Option Change Approval Form to ensure proper documentation and updating of associated data.
- Updated Appendix F: Known Sites Update Procedures to reflect current processes and acknowledge potential changes to the data product.
- Added link to Statewide Fire Management Option Reference Map.
- Updated this Appendix G: History of Fire Management in Alaska to reflect 2017 updates to the *AIWFMP*.
- Appendix H: Annual Review Certification completed and signed by the AWFCG Chair.

March 2018 Review of the 2016 Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan

An interagency group with representation from each of the active members of AWFCG completed an annual review of the *2016 AIWFMP* prior to the 2018 fire season. The review and associated updates were certified by the AWFCG Chair, and the updated document was republished as the *Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan 2016 (March 2018 Review)*. Updates include:

- Minor grammatical, punctuation, spelling, and format changes.

- Document edited for compliance with Section 508 of the Workforce Rehabilitation Act.
- Signatories on Signature page remain as they were in 2016 when the document was originally signed. The 2017 and 2018 reviews only require a signature from the AWFCG Chair. The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) was inactive in AWFCG in 2016 and did not sign. AVCP is once again active in AWFCG and has reviewed and signed the document on an additional signature page. The Anchorage Fire Department is no longer a voting member and did not sign.
- Section 1.2.1.3: Corrected AVCP's AWFCG status to active and clarified that they are an additional point of contact for some allotment owners within their BIA compact service area.
- Table 1 was corrected to reflect current jurisdictional authorities.
- Section 3.9 Fire Investigation was updated to align with changes in the 2018 AOP related to notifications.
- Section 3.11 and sub-sections were updated to better describe Alaska Wildland Fire Digital Atlas products and capture changes to the Alaska Known Sites Database.
- Section 4.4 Known Sites Updates and Appendix F: Known Sites Update Procedures were updated to reflect changes to the Alaska Known Sites Database.
- Appendix B: The Fire Notification Jurisdictional Contacts Table was corrected to include the BLM Arctic District Office.
- The requirement to include the Fire Notification Log with the final fire report package was removed to align with changes in the 2018 AOP.
- Appendix D: Fire Management Option Change Procedures was modified to clarify that affected and adjacent agencies should be involved in the change process. The role in the change process formerly held by the AFS Business and Technology Branch Manager was given to the AFS Fire Planning Specialists.
- Updated Appendix G: History of Fire Management in Alaska to reflect 2018 updates to the *AIWFMP*.
- Appendix H: Annual Review Certification completed and signed by the AWFCG Chair.

March 2019 Review of the 2016 Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan

- An interagency group with representation from each of the active members of AWFCG completed an annual review of the 2016 *AIWFMP* prior to the 2019 fire season. The review and associated updates were certified by the AWFCG Chair, and the updated document was republished as the *Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan 2016 (March 2019 Review)*. Updates include:
- Minor grammatical, punctuation, spelling, and format changes.

- Document edited for compliance with Section 508 of the Workforce Rehabilitation Act.
- Signatories on Signature page remain as they were in 2016 when the document was originally signed. The 2017 through 2019 reviews only require a signature from the AWFCG Chair.
- Includes additional detail describing ADEC and the ESMP
- Edits to fee-to-trust language stating that regulation is currently under review.
- Missile Defense Agency removed from Table 1: Jurisdictional Authorities. Lands used by the agency are managed by USAG Alaska.
- Referenced the DOF-JBER agreement, new in 2019.
- Added a statewide management requirement at the request of DOF: “Coordinate with state land managers whenever fire response activities may restrict use of public waters or impact state resources below the ordinary high-water mark or on emergent islands.”
- Provided additional detail regarding notifications beyond initial response.
- Added notification requirements regarding impacts to state resources below the ordinary high-water mark and restricted use of public waters.
- Updated ES & BAR language to align with current national direction.
- Updated Prevention, Origin & Cause Determination, and Fire Investigation sections to align with AOP and current policies. Updated notification requirements for uncertified Native Allotments to include both BLM and BIA.

March 2020 Review of the 2016 Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan

An interagency group with representation from each of the active members of AWFCG completed an annual review of the *2016 AIWFMP* prior to the 2020 fire season. The review and associated updates were certified by the AWFCG Chair, and the updated document was republished as the *Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan 2016 (March 2020 Review)*. Updates include:

- Minor grammatical, punctuation, spelling, and format changes.
- Two items regarding public waters were reviewed:
 - The Statewide Management Requirement in Section 3.2.1 regarding coordination with the State when activities on public waterways might be affected.
 - The paragraph in Section 3.4 regarding notifications to the State when response activities may affect public waterways. It was agreed that the language would not be changed for the 2020 Review but that it would be reviewed again in 2021. It was also agreed that an associated WFDSS Statewide Management requirement would not be included in the system until after the 2021 review.

2021 Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan

This Plan updates and supersedes the *2016 Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan*. It updates terminology and management criteria to reflect changes in policy and interagency agreements. It continues to provide a framework of common standards, terminology, and expectations to facilitate effective cooperation and collaboration between the federal, state and Alaska Natives entities to achieve both wildland fire protection and ecological goals in a safe, efficient, and cost-effective manner.

Significant changes between the *2020 review of the 2016 AIWFMP* and the *2021 AIWFMP* include:

- Minor grammatical, punctuation, spelling, and format changes.
- Hyperlinks validated and updated as needed.
- Updated signature authorities to reflect personnel changes since 2016.
- Section 1.1 amended to recognize the authority of individual agency land/resource management plans.
- Section 1.2.1.1 amended to describe additional policy and authorities:
 - Good Neighbor Authority
 - Pittman-Robertson Act
 - Reserve Treaty Rights Lands
 - Dingell Act
 - Executive Order 13855
- Section 1.2.1.2 amended to reflect changes to State wildland fire protection laws implemented through House Bill 355.
- Section 1.2.1.2 amended to address Alaska Department of Fish and Game land management authority and the protection of anadromous fish habitat.
- Section 1.2.1.3 amended to clarify policy affecting fire management on Alaska Native lands.
- Section 1.2.2.1 amended to provide background on jurisdictional authorities in Alaska.
- Section 1.3 amended to describe U.S. Forest Service Fire Management Reference Systems.
- Section 2.1 amended to include two additional goals:
 - Prevent human starts to the extent possible.
 - Investigate wildfires to understand cause and recover cost when possible.
- Section 2.1 amended to remove a goal regarding adherence to laws and regulations. It was agreed that this is self-evident.
- Section 2.3 Statewide Management Considerations reorganized and amended.

- Section 3.2.1 Statewide Management Requirements reorganized and amended.
- Section 3.2.1 public waters Statewide Management Requirement updated. Change made at the request of DOI agencies was reviewed and approved by a DOI Solicitor as well as by participating agencies. Updated Statewide Management Requirement will be carried over to WFDSS Requirements.
- Section 3.2.3 amended to clarify the purpose of designated Fire Management Options.
- Sections 3.2.3.1 - 3.2.3.4 amended to clarify that notifications to jurisdictions are required when their lands are threatened by wildfires (replaced “should be notified” with “will be notified”).
- Section 3.2.3.2 amended to recognize Full protection sites as well as Full protection areas similarly to the Critical Option.
- Section 3.2.3.3 amended to include an exception for initial resource allocation priority that was unintentionally omitted from the pre-conversion Modified Option.
- Section 3.2.3.3 amended to recognize that Modified conversion dates may be selected based on local considerations informed by the Alaska FDOP and are not limited to a specific set of dates.
- Section 3.2.4 amended to clarify rationale behind non-standard responses.
- Section 3.4 public waters notification requirement updated. Change made at the request of DOI agencies was reviewed and approved by a DOI Solicitor as well as by participating agencies.
- Section 3.5.1.1 amended to clarify Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation’s smoke management role in prescribed fire.
- Section 3.5.2.2 amended to better describe FireWise programs.
- Section 3.6 and sub-sections amended to align with policy changes in Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation programs.
- Section 4.6 amended and additional references cited to reflect recent advances in climate change science.
- Appendix B updated to reflect recent organizational changes.
- Appendices D & E updated to streamline Fire Management Option change procedures.
- Appendix F updated with changes to Alaska Known Sites Database contacts.
- Appendix G updated with 2021 Plan amendments.
- Document checked for compliance with Section 508 of the Workforce Rehabilitation Act.

March 2022 Review of the 2021 Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan

The *Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan* is reviewed annually by AWFCG. Every five years, or as deemed necessary by a majority of AWFCG voting members, a comprehensive review will be completed and approved by all AWFCG organizations. The latest comprehensive review was completed in 2021, and amendments were approved by line officers from all participating organizations.

The *Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan, 2021* was reviewed by the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group as of **March 2, 2022**.

The following edits were completed:

- Minor grammatical, punctuation, spelling, and format changes. Blank pages were removed from the document.
- Document edited for compliance with Section 508 of the Workforce Rehabilitation Act.
- Hyperlinks were updated where needed and URL text was removed for 508 compliance.
- Signatories on Signature page remain as they were in 2021 when the document was originally signed. The 2022 through 2025 reviews only require a signature from the AWFCG Chair.
- The Alaska DNR section under 1.2.1.2 State Fire Management Policy was reorganized for clarity with no significant content change.
- The Tribal Governments section under 1.2.1.3 Policy Affecting Fire Management on Alaska Native Lands was updated to briefly describe recent changes to the fee-to-trust process.
- Table 1 was corrected to indicate that for fire management purposes, tentatively approved lands fall under the jurisdiction of ANCSA corporations not the Federal Government.
- The third bullet in Section 2.3 Statewide Management Considerations was modified from “The population of Alaska is increasing; subdivisions and residential areas are expanding into previously undeveloped areas” to “In many areas of Alaska subdivisions and residential areas are expanding into previously undeveloped areas.” Per the 2020 census, Alaska population is not increasing; however, expansion into undeveloped areas continues.
- The 10th bullet under Section 3.2.1 Statewide Management Requirements was amended to clarify that waterbodies known to harbor invasive species will not be used as water sources for air or ground-based water delivery equipment unless needed to protect life or property. Previously only dip sites were explicitly mentioned.
- Section 3.2.4 Non-standard Responses was amended from, “The operational guidelines pre-determined by the point of origin management option may not be appropriate for every fire” to, “The operational guidelines pre-determined by the point of origin management option are not appropriate for every fire” to emphasize the need to assess the standard response to every fire and ensure it is appropriate under existing conditions.

- Site protection designation labels were changed in Section 3.3 Site Protection Designations as follows:
 - **Non-Protected** was changed to **No Protection** for clarity and to align with the AK Known Sites Database data standard.
 - **Unknown** was changed to **Undesignated** to help clarify that protection levels are intentionally not assigned to some sites.
- Section 3.4 Fire Notifications was amended to clarify the following:
 - That Protecting Agencies must notify Jurisdictions of non-statistical fires and prevention actions that are on or threaten their lands even if no fire number was generated and/or no suppression action was taken.
 - That BIA is also required to be notified for fires affecting uncertificated (or not yet patented) Native Allotment applications even though the jurisdictional responsibility resides with BLM. (Also amended in Appendix B.)
 - Initial and extended fire notification requirements. (Also amended Tables 2-6 and Appendix A.)
- Section 3.4 Fire Notifications was amended to show a name change from Appendix C: Fire Notification Log to Appendix C: Fire Notification Checklist and to require notification for significant property damage.
- A short Invasive Species Control section was added (3.6) that references more detailed information in the Alaska Statewide Operating Plan.
- Sections 3.7 Post Fire Response, 3.8 Prevention, 3.9 Origin and Cause Determination and 3.10 Fire Investigations were shortened to a brief statement referencing the Alaska Statewide Operating Plan instead of duplicating that information.
- Section 3.12.4 Fire Locations and Perimeters was amended to remove the statement that AICC is considered to be the definitive perimeter source. The National Incident Feature Server is now considered the authoritative source.
- Section 4.1 AWFCG Fire Management Plan Review/Revision was amended to align the plan approval date from April 1 to March 15 as indicated in the Alaska Statewide Operating Plan.
- Appendix B Required Jurisdictional Fire Notifications was amended to reflect the new USFWS and NPS Alaska organizational structures and add the DOF Area Forester as the contact for lands under state jurisdiction and state protection.
- The USFS Known Sites Database contact was updated in Appendix F, Table F-1.
- Sections 1.2.1.2, 3.4, and 3.12 were modified to describe the ADEC Solid Waste Program's responsibilities regarding landfill fires and a notification requirement for escaped landfill fires was added.

March 2023 Review of the 2021 Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan

The *Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan* is reviewed annually by AWFCG. Every five years, or as deemed necessary by a majority of AWFCG voting members, a comprehensive review will be completed and approved by all AWFCG organizations. The latest comprehensive review was completed in 2021, and amendments were approved by line officers from all participating organizations.

The *Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan, 2021* has been reviewed by the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group as of **March 2, 2023**.

The following edits were completed:

- Minor grammatical, punctuation, spelling, and format changes. Blank pages were removed from the document.
- Contacts were updated.
- All instances of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry (DOF) replaced with Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (DOF) to reflect Division name change.
- **3.2.1 Statewide Management Requirements** updated:
 - Amended to recognize that values include economic, social, and/or resource values.
 - Three bullets describing requirements for incident camps, staging areas, helispots and other support areas are consolidated into two bullets.
- **3.2.2 Wildfire Management Options** reorganized to reduce duplication and provide clarity.
- **3.2.3 Non-standard Responses** definitions clarified and aligned with Statewide Operating Plan Initial Strategy definitions.
- **3.3 Site Protection Designations** requirement to notify jurisdictions amended to provide intent of notifications.
- **3.4 Fire Notifications** notification requirements amended to provide intent of notifications.
- **3.11 Air Quality and Smoke Management** amended to clarify that Air Resource Advisors can be ordered through the ordering system.
- **Appendix D. Fire Management Option Change Procedures** amended to include an introduction for jurisdictions unfamiliar with their role in the process.

March 2024 Review of the 2021 Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan

The *Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan* is reviewed annually by AWFCG. Every five years, or as deemed necessary by a majority of AWFCG voting members, a comprehensive review will be completed and approved by all AWFCG organizations. The latest comprehensive review was completed in 2021, and amendments were approved by line officers from all participating organizations.

The *Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan, 2021* has been reviewed by the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group as of **April 3, 2024**.

The following edits were completed:

- Document-wide Updates:
 - Signatories on Signature page remain as they were in 2021 when the document was originally signed. The 2022 through 2025 reviews only require a signature from the AWFCG Chair.
 - Minor grammatical, punctuation, spelling, and format changes.
 - Document edited for compliance with Section 508 of the Workforce Rehabilitation Act.
 - Hyperlinks were updated where needed.
 - Contacts were updated.
- Mission statements for the Federal Agencies have been added to the document. The change was initially suggested by BIA and was concurred with by all membership. Previously, only State Agency mission statements appeared in the Plan.
- BIA added clarification that Alaska Native lands are not considered Public Lands.
- BIA added clarification that trust lands may belong to individuals or tribes.
- Jurisdictional Agencies Updates:
 - Table 1 updated to clarify that BIA is responsible for Federally Administered Indian Trust Assets.
- Statewide Management Requirements Updates (also will be updated in WFDSS decisions):
 - Clarified that notifications are only required if an animal killed in defense of life or property is a game animal.
 - The invasive species requirement was amended to address terrestrial invasives as well as aquatics.
 - Several Requirements were rephrased so that WFDSS decisions will emphasize that incident management organizations are expected to comply with them.
- Wildfire Management Options:
 - Clarified that all affected Jurisdictional and Protecting Agencies must concur with Management Option and Special Management Area changes and that AWFCG would be the final arbitrator where there are disagreements.
- Non-standard Responses:
 - Clarified that the 'Non-standard' designation is based on initial response.
- Site Protection Designations:

- Updated to show that Protecting Agencies ‘shall’ communicate and coordinate with Jurisdictions instead of ‘should’.
- Fire Notifications:
 - Updated incident types/categories requiring notification based on the new NWCG data standard.
 - Corrected term from ‘recordable injury or accident’ to ‘reportable injury or accident’.
 - Clarified that notifications are only required if an animal killed in defense of life or property is a game animal.
- Data Sources:
 - Added a brief introduction.
 - Removed remaining references to the deprecated term, ‘Digital Atlas’.
 - Added a description of the new Special Management Areas layer that emphasizes collaboration and avoiding prescriptive language that may conflict with background Fire Management Option direction and delay initial response.
- Required Jurisdictional Notifications:
 - Updated AK DOF contacts to align with new organizational structure.
- Management Option Change Procedures & Form:
 - Updates to clarify Initiating, Protecting, and Jurisdictional roles.

March 2025 Review of the 2021 Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan

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The *Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan, 2021* has been reviewed by the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group as of **March 25, 2025**.

- See summary of current year changes in the **2025 Review of the 2021 Alaska Interagency Wildfire Management Plan** section above.