

Appendix I

Fire Activity Tracking

SMP I – Required

SMP II – Required

Tracking is defined as a system or method of tracking fire activity to assess emissions, and thereby refine the knowledge of smoke impacts. Emissions are tracked for all fire sources regardless of ownership, cause of ignition, or purpose since it is recognized that all fires have an effect on air quality and contribute to regional haze. In order to consistently calculate emissions and ensure the uniformity of subsequent regional modeling and visibility monitoring data analyses, a consistent fire tracking system based on fire activity information is essential. Tracking fire emissions will also provide the information needed for an emission inventory, which is required by the Regional Haze Rule (RHR), and which will be instrumental in evaluating the Smoke Management Program (SMP), determining the Annual Emission Goal, and helping the development of informed revisions to the SMP and state implementation plan as necessary.

In the case of wildfire, tracking is also required, pursuant to the RHR. For all wildfires greater than 100 acres in size, the land owner/manager must report the location, fuel type and approximate loading, and quantity of fuel consumed (or blackened acreage). A summary for the total values for the entire wildfire must be submitted six weeks after the fire has been declared out, or by November 1st, whichever comes first. The information can be submitted on the AQB form on-line or other equivalent by e-mail, fax, or mail.

All burners under the SMP will be required to submit (on-line, e-mail, mail, fax) a completed Tracking Form to the AQB within two weeks of completion of the burn project or if the burner was not able to burn the project a tracking form must still be submitted with zeros in the columns by the end of the calendar year. Wildland Fire Use must also submit tracking information within two weeks of the fire being declared out. Information required on the Tracking Form includes:

- a) Total acres/total pile volume burned
- b) Acreage/pile volume by vegetation type
- c) Percent combustion
- d) Fuel loading/pile condition by vegetation type
- e) An accounting of ERTs utilized

If burners are unable to calculate or estimate fuel loading, the AQB will provide assistance with this (see Appendix K for more information on calculating fuel loading). It is to each burner's advantage to make the best estimates possible of acreage burned, fuel loading, and percent consumption, as this will drive the amount of emissions estimated. The information on the utilization of emission reduction techniques will facilitate the evaluation of progress toward the current Annual Emission Goal and in developing the following year's Annual Emission Goal (see Appendix L for a discussion of the Annual Emission Goal).

I.1. Definitions

Burn Project – in prescribed burning, an area that is contiguous and is being treated for the same land management objectives.

Emission Reduction Technique (ERT) – a strategy for controlling smoke from prescribed fires that minimizes the amount of smoke output per unit of area treated or other objective unit of accomplishment. This strategy is used in conjunction with fire and is not a replacement for fire. For the purposes of the NM Smoke Management Plan, if a technique is used within three years of a burning operation, the technique is considered an ERT; if it replaces fire for – three years or more, the technique is an alternative to burning.

Fuel Loading – the amount of fuel present expressed quantitatively in terms of weight of fuel per unit area usually tons per acre.

Percent Consumption – the amount of a specified fuel type or strata expressed as a percentage that is removed through the fire process.

Pile – materials that have been relocated either by hand or machinery and heaped together.

Wildfire – any unplanned, non-structural fire that occurs on wildland.

Wildland Fire Use – the management of naturally ignited (i.e., lightning) wildfire to accomplish specific pre-stated resource objectives in predefined geographic areas, also known as prescribed natural fire, wildfire use and fire use for resource benefit.

I.2. References

Regional Haze Rule

Published in the Federal Register on July 1, 1999, 64 FR 35714.

http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t1/fr_notices/rhfedreg.pdf

Wildland Fire: Elements of a Basic Smoke Management Program Draft Report Completed for the FEJF on July 10, 2001.

WRAP Policy on Enhanced Smoke Management Programs for Visibility

Approved by the Western Regional Air Partnership, November 12, 2002.

WRAP Policy on Fire Tracking Systems

Approved by the WRAP on April 2, 2003