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**Subject:** Updated Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy

**To:** Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director and Deputy Chiefs

Last year the Wildland Fire Leadership Council agreed to key changes in the way we implement federal wildland fire policy. To facilitate those changes, the Fire Executive Council (FEC) has approved the enclosed *Guidance for Implementation of the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy* to ensure consistent implementation of 1995/2001 Federal Fire Policy.

To be clear, the 1995/2001 Federal Fire policy is affirmed and sound. Any management response to a wildland fire on federal land will continue to be based on objectives established in the applicable Land/ Resource Management Plan. Also, there is no change in the objective for initial attack actions on human-caused wildfire. We will continue to suppress fire to minimize negative consequences with respect to firefighter and public safety.

The revised guidance changes some elements of implementation of wildland fire management. In the enclosed document you will encounter the following changes:

- Terminology has changed. Wildland fire is a term describing any non-structure fire that occurs in the wildland. Wildland fires are categorized into two distinct types:
  - Wildfires – Unplanned ignitions and planned ignitions that are declared wildfires. The wildfire term is to be applied to all unplanned ignitions, including events formally termed wildland fire use.
  - Prescribed fires – Planned ignitions.
- A wildland fire may be concurrently managed for one or more objectives and those objectives can change as the fire spreads across the landscape, encountering new fuels, weather, social conditions, and governmental jurisdictions.

The revised Implementation Guidance reaffirms the need to work collaboratively with State, local, and tribal fire managers as well as public and nongovernmental organizations in the management of wildland fire. It also emphasizes the need to prepare fire management plans which are intergovernmental in scope and at a landscape scale and help prepare for the eventuality of wildland fire.



The federal wildland fire agencies are working together to develop unified direction and guidance for agency/bureau manuals, directives, handbooks, guidebooks, plans, agreements and other pertinent documents to complete final implementation of this guidance. We are revising and developing accountability standards, performance measures, and monitoring systems to assess if resource and protection objectives are met during the management of wildland fires. We will be working with you and your staff to make this transition successful.

***/s/ Abigail R. Kimbell***

ABIGAIL R. KIMBELL

Chief