AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: 2020 AOP; Wildland Fire Management

Action Requested: Board of County Commissioners' Signature

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins: **Term Ends:** **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:

Annual Operating Plan for wildland fire management for cooperative wildfire protection, in 2020. This document discusses interagency cooperation for wildfire management, mutual aid, memorandums of understanding and different funds available for reimbursement and cost share.

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: B. Lucero for Sheriff's Office **Submitter's Email Address:** smorrill@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: (●) Required ( ) Not Required

Comments:
No concerns, ln

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\lNienhueser Discharge Date: 2/14/2020

County Attorney Review: (●) Required ( ) Not Required

Comments:
ok db 2/14/20

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\dBaumgarten Discharge Date: 2/14/2020 Certificate of Insurance Required Yes ( ) No (●)

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 2/14/2020

(●) Consent Agenda ( ) Regular Agenda ( ) Worksession Time Allotted: 0

Agenda Date: 2/18/2020

Revised April 2015

2020 GUNNISON COUNTY ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN

PREAMBLE

This Annual Operating Plan (AOP) is prepared pursuant to the Statewide Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement and the Colorado Statewide Wildland Fire Management Annual Operating Plan and the Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this local Annual Operating Plan is to set forth standard operating procedures, agreed-upon policies, and responsibilities to implement cooperative wildfire protection on all lands within Gunnison County.

AUTHORITIES

- Colorado Statewide Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement Between:
  - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT – COLORADO Agreement BLM-MOU-CO-538
  - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE – INTERMOUNTAIN REGION Agreement F1249110016
  - BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS – SOUTHWEST REGION (no agreement number)
  - UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE – MOUNTAIN PRAIRIE REGION
  - UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE – ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION Agreement 11-FI- 11020000-017
- Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection in Gunnison County
- Gunnison County Emergency Operations Plan

RECITALS

It is to the mutual advantage of the Parties to this Plan to coordinate efforts for the prevention, detection, and suppression of wildfires in and adjacent to their areas of responsibility, and to limit duplication and improve the effectiveness of wildland fire response.

INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

Interagency Dispatch Centers Montrose Interagency Dispatch Center (MTC), Gunnison Regional Communications Center (GRCC) and Gunnison County EOC. Interagency dispatch centers utilize Wildcad while dispatching for initial attack and IROC to dispatch resources beyond the mutual aid period. Contacts can be referenced in Exhibit A.

Interagency Resources All wildland fire agencies are limited by current staffing and funding levels. A wildfire is normally a seasonal event and as such, fire suppression capability will vary by time of year.

Standards During initial action, all agencies accept each other's qualification standards. Once the jurisdiction is established, then the standards of the agency(s) with jurisdiction prevails. All fireline personnel at the incident, including during the mutual aid period, must be equipped with personal protective equipment that meets standards identified in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations-NFES 2724 (Red Book), Chapter 7.

Personnel responding to incidents on BLM Lands must meet the following requirements;

- Be 18 years of age or older;
- Have and use required personal protective equipment (PPE) found in chapter 7 of the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Red Book); and
- Attended basic wildland fire annual refresher training, that covers each of the following topic areas: Entrapment avoidance; Current issues; Fire Shelter deployment; Other hazards and safety issues; and NWCG Course I-100, Introduction to Incident Command System.

BLM District/Unit FMOs will coordinate with local fire departments to provide qualified instructors if needed.

PREPAREDNESS

Protection Planning Each jurisdictional authority is responsible for its protection planning documents to be created in accordance with the authority's policy and goals.

Protection Areas and Boundaries Federal jurisdictional agencies have responsibility for wildfire protection on federal lands. Within Fire Protection Districts and/or Fire Departments, the Fire Chief is responsible for fire protection on non-federal lands, unless this responsibility is transferred by mutual consent to the County Sheriff. The County Sheriff is responsible for wildfire protection on all non-federal lands in the county that are outside of Fire Protection District boundaries. The Division of Fire Prevention and Control does not have jurisdiction on any lands until authority and responsibility is transferred by mutual consent from the County Sheriff to DFPC.

Methods of Fire Protection and Suppression
The Incident Command System (ICS) is a component of NIMS and is a standardized emergency management system specifically designed to provide for an integrated organizational structure used for incident management. ICS will be used to manage all wildland fires.

Reciprocal (Mutual Aid) Fire Assistance
Mutual Aid Zones- One mile on either side of the boundary between the jurisdictional agency's lands.

Mutual Aid Period- The mutual aid period is typically the first operational period ending at midnight. However, mutual aid may be extended through the second operational period by mutual consent of the involved parties. The mutual aid period will preferably end at midnight. Each agency covers its own expenses during the mutual period.

Mutual Aid Resources- All eligible resources including severity resources not listed below. MMA for detection flights only.

Non-Mutual Aid Resources-
The following resources may be ordered but are typically not considered a mutual aid resource.

- Aircraft
- Smokejumpers

Public Use Restrictions The purpose of fire restrictions is to reduce the risk of human-caused fires during high fire danger and/or burning conditions, for the protection of human life and property. Fire restrictions and closures are invoked on federal, state, county, and private lands under federal and state laws. It is essential that the restrictions and closures are easily understood by the public and that implementation should be discussed across all lands and jurisdictions involved in the county. In the case of any restrictions on burning or public movements because of extreme fire danger, the county sheriff will be responsible for the enforcement of all non-federal lands and may assist other lands at the request of that agency. See Exhibit C.

Prescribed Fire (Planned Ignitions) and Fuels Management The Parties agree to cooperate in the development and implementation of prescribed burning programs and projects. Each agency will notify the other agencies of major prescribed burning activity prior to ignition. If parties to this AOP conduct a cooperative prescribed fire, details covering cost-sharing, reimbursement, and responsibility for suppression costs, should it escape, shall be agreed upon and documented in the burn plan. Wildfires resulting from escaped prescribed fires ignited by a party to this AOP on lands it manages shall be the responsibility of that party. The party responsible for the prescribed fire will reimburse other parties to this AOP consistent with the terms and conditions contained herein for costs incurred in the suppression of such fires.

Smoke Management The Parties to this plan agree to try and minimize negative smoke impacts as a result of prescribed burning. All prescribed fires will conform to standards set forth in local, state, and federal regulations. Smoke Management Permits are required to conduct prescribed burns and are administered through the State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

OPERATIONS

Fire Notifications GRCC and MTC will receive reports of wildfires and coordinate the notification and/or dispatch of the appropriate agencies for all wildfires, regardless of location.

Boundary Line Fires A boundary line fire is a fire that occurs on lands of intermingled and/or adjoining protection responsibilities. A fire adjacent to a protection boundary or located in an area of undetermined jurisdiction will be the initial attack responsibility of the protecting agencies on both sides of the boundary. If multiple agencies are engaged in a fire on or near common boundaries, the agency representatives should convene as soon as possible to decide upon the best fire strategy.

Response to Wildland Fire Firefighter and public safety are the foremost priority. Upon arriving on scene initial attack resources should provide a size-up, determine jurisdiction, and make the appropriate notifications if necessary. Resources should only commit to tactics and strategies that have a high probability of success while accomplishing incident objectives. Firefighters should establish and maintain Lookouts, Communication, Escape Routes and Safety Zones (LCES) and follow the 10 Standard Fire Orders. The closest forces concept will be utilized. There should be no delay in response pending a determination of the precise location of a fire, land ownership, fire jurisdiction or responsibility. The jurisdictional agency will assume command of the incident as soon as possible or as otherwise agreed upon.

Special Management Considerations

Management Objectives: It is recognized that federal agencies may manage fire for multiple objectives on lands within their jurisdiction. A supporting agency taking independent action within another agency's jurisdiction should notify that agency as soon as possible, in order to avoid conflicting land management objectives. However, it is agreed that there should be no delay in initial fire response pending a determination of the precise location of the fire, land ownership, or responsibility.

Evacuations: Evacuation efforts will be coordinated and controlled by the County Sheriff's office. Traffic control will be provided by the County Sheriff, upon request, to expedite the routing of vehicles and personnel to and from major fires and to exclude unauthorized personnel from the fire area.

Gunnison Sage Grouse(GUSG): Protection and habitat enhancement is a high priority for the federal land management agencies fire management program. When unplanned ignition occurs in GUSG habitat the appropriate federal land management agency will be immediately notified.

Retardant Avoidance Areas: Avoid aerial application of all wildland fire chemicals within 300 feet (ft.) of waterways or other mapped avoidance areas. Waterways are defined as any body of water (including lakes, rivers, streams, and ponds) whether or not it contains aquatic life. Deviations from the policy are allowed only for the protection of life or safety (public and firefighter).

Decision Process Federal agencies are required to utilize the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) for fires on their lands. If multi-jurisdictional fires occur that involve federal and non-federal lands, then one WFDSS should be completed for the incident that includes input from all affected jurisdictional agencies. Additionally, all State Responsibility Fires require a Decision Support System to be utilized.

Cooperation The parties agree to coordinate fire suppression efforts and will continue to enhance strong partnerships between local, state, and federal agencies.

Communication Each agency is responsible for providing public information as necessary for fires that they are responsible for. The parties agree to coordinate public information efforts as needed. On multijurisdictional fires, a Joint Information Center (JIC) may be established. A JIC can act as a single point of coordination for public information on an incident. The agencies having jurisdiction on the incident are all represented and can jointly disseminate official, timely, and accurate information to the public through their respective PIOs.

Cost Efficiency The cost-effectiveness of any fire operation is the responsibility of all involved, including those that authorize, direct or implement those operations. Cooperation and coordination during the decision process should be the intent with the goal being to accomplish fire operations objectives safely and efficiently. Each party

is fiscally accountable and responsible for the cost of the suppression of wildfires within their respective jurisdictional boundaries. The parties agree to coordinate and make joint decisions when resources are being ordered that may have a financial impact on a partner agency.

Delegation of Authority In the event of an extended attack incident, a Delegation of Authority should be issued to the Incident Commander prior to assuming command of the fire. If that is not possible due to time constraints then the delegation should be issued as soon as possible following the assumption of command. If the fire is a multijurisdictional fire, then an Agency Administrator from each jurisdictional agency should issue a single joint Delegation of Authority to the incident commander.

Preservation of Evidence The Jurisdictional Agency will be responsible for fire origin and cause investigation. Regardless of whether the Initial Attack Incident Commander is a representative of the Jurisdictional Agency, he or she should protect and preserve the general origin area of the fire, as well as information and evidence pertaining to the origin and cause of the wildland fire. The general origin area of the fire should be immediately identified and protected by the first participant to arrive on the scene in order to protect evidence for the fire origin and cause investigation. Fire cause investigations are required for Federal Fires, State Fires, and any wildland fire that receives a Federal Emergency Management Agency declaration. The participants acknowledge that an accurate origin and cause investigation and determination are essential to an effective and fair administrative, civil or criminal action. Federal policy requires federal agencies to use an NWCG qualified Fire Investigator (INVF) and to pursue cost recovery for all human-caused fires on public land. Joint investigations are encouraged on multijurisdictional fires.

STATE EMERGENCY FIRE FUND (EFF)

The Emergency Fire Fund program formalizes the transfer of a qualifying fire from a County Responsibility Fire to a State Responsibility Fire. Details are outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding for Participation in the Colorado Emergency Fire Fund.

USE AND REIMBURSEMENT OF INTERAGENCY FIRE RESOURCES

Cost Share Agreement (Cost Share Methodologies) A cost-share agreement should be considered for any multi-jurisdiction fire that goes beyond the mutual aid period or utilizes non-mutual aid resources. Cost-share agreements should not influence the suppression of the fire. Cost-share agreements should be negotiated as soon as practical and signed by agency administrators. Cost-share agreements can be updated whenever necessary. A copy of all cost-share agreements should be provided to the DFPC Battalion Chief.

Examples include but are not limited to the following methodologies for determining shared costs to the agencies involved:

- Each agency assumes its own costs as expended by it in the fire control effort.
- Division of costs based upon percent ownership.
- Each agency agrees to a negotiated portion of the suppression costs.

Training Each party shall be responsible for the training of their respective personnel. Standardized fire training courses are provided periodically within the county. As courses are offered, the parties should advise the others and issue invitations to participate.

Communication Systems Local, state and federal agencies utilize different radio systems and frequencies. The Parties agree to share the appropriate radio frequencies with each other in order to enhance firefighter coordination and allow for an effective mutual aid response. See Exhibit B

Fire Weather Systems Fire weather forecasts are issued by the National Weather Service. Each agency may obtain fire weather forecasts and is responsible for requesting spot weather forecasts for their individual fire incidents. Red Flag Warning and Watches are issued by the National Weather Service.

Aviation Operations Aviation resources for wildland fire should be ordered through Montrose Interagency Dispatch. When aircraft are ordered, the request should include the following:

- Type and kind of aviation resource being requested.
- Lat/Long (Degrees decimal minutes)
- Ground contact for who will work with the aircraft on the incident.
- Aerial Hazards in the area.

Air Attack will be ordered automatically under certain circumstances per the Interagency Aerial Supervision Guide.

Designated VHF air-to-ground frequencies are required when using aircraft and dispatch will designate the appropriate air-to-ground frequency for the incident.

Aircraft must be DOI/USFS carded for use on fires where federal resources are being used or where federal lands are involved.

Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA): To order the MMA call the DFPC Duty Officer at (720) 460-9367 and/or fill out and submit the MMA Ordering Form.

Billing Procedures DFPC administers wildfire billing in Colorado for local, state, and federal agencies. The parties may aggregate expenses incurred and present an invoice for such expenses to DFPC. Required documentation includes but is not limited to Resource Orders, Crew Time Reports, Equipment Shift Tickets, and Colorado Resource Rate Forms (CRRFs). DFPC will then bill the jurisdictional authority and reimburse the applicable party. A copy of all cost-share agreements between non-federal and federal agencies should be provided to DFPC for billing purposes.

Cost Recovery In the event that cost recovery is pursued on a trespass fire (regardless of ownership), all costs from the time of the initial report of the fire (including mutual aid) may be pursued. Federal policy requires federal agencies to pursue cost recovery for all human-caused fires on federal jurisdiction.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Personnel Policy Employees of the Parties to this plan are subject to the personnel rules, laws and regulations of their respective agencies.

Modification Mid-year changes are to be avoided; however, if an agency becomes unable to uphold commitments, it should notify all parties to this plan.

Annual Review This Operating Plan is reviewed annually and revised, as needed.

Duration of Plan The AOP remains in effect until superseded.

Previous Agreements Superseded Once signed, this AOP superseded the previous AOP.

SIGNATURES- Authorized Representatives

GUNNISON COUNTY SIGNATURES

County Sheriff

Sign Print Date

County Commissioner

Sign Print Date

COLORADO DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL SIGNATURE

Region Battalion Chief

Sign Print Date

FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY SIGNATURES

GMUG Forest Service Supervisor

Sign Print Date

BLM Rocky Mountain District Manager

Sign Print Date

Black Canyon National Park And Curecanti National Recreation Area Superintendent

Sign Print Date

Gunnison		Office	Cell	Email
Dispatch Centers				
Montrose Interagency (MTC)		970.249.1010		comtc@firenet.gov
Gunnison County Dispatch		970.641.8201		
GUX-Gunnison County				
Sheriff	John Gallowich	970.641.1113	970.209.5806	jgallowich@gunnisoncounty.org
Undersheriff	Scott Jackson	970.641.1113	970.209.2585	sjackson@gunnisoncounty.org
Emergency Managers	Bobbie Lucero	970.640.2443	970.640.2443	blucero@gunnisoncounty.org
	Scott Morrill	970.275.1370	970.641.2481	smorrill@gunnisoncounty.org
EOC		970.641.7607		eoc@gunnisoncounty.org
Commisioners	Roland Mason	970.641.0248		
	John Messner	970.209.7548	970.922.9653	
	Jonathan Houck	970.641.0248	970.275.9625	
Fire Protection Districts				
Gunnison	Hugo Ferchau	970.641.8153	970.209.7666	hferchau@gunnisonco.gov
Crested Butte	Rob Weisbaum	970.349.5333		rweisbaum@cbfpd.org
Arrowhead	Jim Gelsomini	303.881.7480		avfdchief2014@gmail.com
Ohio City	Hal Hearne	970.209.7848	970.641.4057	hlhearne@pcrs.net
Colorado DFPC				
Gunnison River Region BC	Tanner Hutt	970.787.0881		tanner.hutt@state.co.us
CO Emergency Operations Line	*Request BC Assistance	303.279.8856		
GMUG National Forest				
Forest Supervisor	Chad Stewart	970.874.6674	970.275.7347	chad.stewart@usda.gov
Forest FMO	Cordell Taylor	970.874.6643	970.615.0922	cordell.taylor@usda.gov
North Zone FMO	Vacant			
West Zone FMO	Corey Robinson	970.327.4261	970.901.6691	cdrobinson@fs.fed.us
East Zone FMO	Pat Medina	(970) 642-4407	(970) 596-1086	pmedina@fs.fed.us
BLM				
Rocky Mountain District Manager	Catherine L Cook	(719) 269-8554 O	(719) 239-4145 C	ccook@blm.gov
Gunnison Field Office Manager	Elijah Waters	970.642.4940	970.570.0042	ewaters@blm.gov
FMO- BLM Southwest CO	Brandon Lewis	(970) 240-5351 O	(970) 596-5359 C	bclewis@blm.gov
Deputy FMO- BLM Southwest CO	Randy Chappell	(970) 240-5373 O	(970) 596-6343 C	rchappell@blm.gov
DSHEM- RFM	Drew Peterson	(970) 633-0201		drew.petersen@state.co.us
West Region Fire Council	Jamie Gomez	970.615.7300	970.249.9051	jamie.gomez@cowildfire.org
Colorado State Forest Service	Sam Pankratz	(970) 258-2105	(970) 641-6852	Sam.Pankratz@colostate.edu
NPS-Black Canyon				
Chief Ranger	Chris Mengel	970.641.2337	970.765.1672	chris_mengel@nps.gov
Park Supervisor	Deanna Greco	970.641.2337 ex220		deanna_greco@nps.gov
	TBD			

2020 RADIO FREQUENCIES

Repeater Name	Radio Display Name	RX	Tone GRD	TX	Tone GRD
BALD MT	BALD	170.4625		164.8250	136.5
BOBCAT	BOBCAT	170.0250		165.4500	146.2
GRAYHEAD	GRAYHEAD	170.0250		165.4500	123.0
GUNNISON PORTABLE	GUN PORT	170.4625		164.8250	127.3
HILL 71	HILL 71	172.3250		173.3250	146.2
ISLAND LAKE	ISLAND LAKE	170.4625		164.8250	107.2
JACKSON	JACKSON	172.3250		166.4250	141.3
JUMBO	JUMBO	170.0250		165.4500	71.9
LANDSEND BASE		170.4625		164.8250	100.0
LANDSEND REPEAT		170.4625		164.8250	103.5
LONE CONE	LONECONE	170.0250		165.4500	179.9
MATCHLESS		172.3250		166.4250	103.5
MANTI LA SAL	MANTI	170.0250		165.4500	167.9
MONARCH	MONARCH	172.3250		166.4250	156.7
MONTPELIER	MONTPELR	170.4625		164.8250	114.8
MONTROSE PORT	MONTPORT	170.0250		165.4500	127.3
MUD HILL	MUD HILL	170.4625		164.8250	110.9
9 MILE	9 MILE	172.3250		166.4250	167.9
PAONIA BASE	PAONIA	170.4625		164.8250	162.2
PILOT KNOB	PILOTKNB	170.4625		164.8250	131.8
RENO	RENO	172.3250		166.4250	151.4
RASPBERRY	RASPBRY	170.0250		165.4500	107.2
RAZOR DOME	RAZOR	172.3250		166.4250	192.8
STORMKING	STRMKNG	170.0250		170.0250	173.8
Tac Name	**Radio Display Name**	**RX**	**Tone GRD**	**TX**	**Tone GRD**
BLM WORK	LD WORK	168.3500		168.3500	
FS WORK	FD WORK	164.9875		164.9875	
VFIRE21	VFIRE21	154.2800		154.2800	156.7
FIRETAC 7	FIRETAC 7	169.2875		169.2875	
A/G Name	**Radio Display Name**	**RX**	**Tone GRD**	**TX**	**Tone GRD**
CO04 A/G1	A/G15	167.5250		167.5250	
CO04 A/G1	A/G 13	167.4250		167.4250	
CO04 A/G1	A/G07	166.8500		166.8500	
ALL AIR AMBULANCE	**VMED28**	**155.3400**		**155.3400**	**156.7**
NATIONAL FLIGHT FOLLOW		**168.6500**	110.9	**168.6500**	**110.9**

Also Refer to West Region Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (WR TIC)

EXHIBIT C

FIRE RESTRICTIONS and CLOSURES

Purpose

The purpose of Fire Restrictions and Closures (Restrictions/Closures) is to reduce the risk of human-caused fires during unusually high fire danger; for the protection of human life and property. Restrictions/Closures should be considered when weather factors and fuel conditions indicate an increased risk to public safety and fire fighting personnel.
Restrictions/Closures should be planned for the long-term danger and not change at short-term fluctuations in risk, weather, and fire danger.
This guidance should provide fire management staff the tools to develop, implement, and legally enforce Restrictions/Closures. Further, by providing consistency and developing clear messages for the public and partners, this guidance will encourage public acceptance and compliance.
Restrictions/Closures impose many limitations on the general public, and therefore should be implemented only after all other prevention measures have been taken. These measures may include but are not limited to: increasing the number of prevention signs, public contacts, media campaigns, and other proactive public education efforts. Restrictions/Closures should not be considered the equivalent of a fire prevention program.

Authority

Restrictions/Closures are enacted on federal, state, county, and private lands under federal, state, and local laws. Agency Administrators issue appropriate documents and are responsible for enforcing Restrictions/Closures for those lands on which they have jurisdiction. The authorities related to Restrictions/Closures on federally-managed lands are referenced below:

Bureau of Land Management

- 43 U.S.C. §1701, et seq. (Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976)
- 43 CFR, Part 9210 (Fire Management)
- 43 CFR, Part 9212 (Wildfire Prevention)

US Forest Service

- 16 U.S.C. §551; 18 U.S.C. §3559; and 18 U.S.C. §3571 (Violations and Penalties)
- 36 CFR Part 220.6 (Categorical Exclusions)
- 36 CFR Part 261.50 (Orders)
- 36 CFR Part 261.51 (Posting)
- 36 CFR Part 261.52 (Fire)

The complete references shown above may be found at United States Code (U.S.C.): http://uscode.house.gov/
Code of Federal Regulations (CFR): http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/

Coordination

Restrictions/Closures procedures should be uniform across administrative and geographic boundaries. Agency Administrators and fire management staff are responsible for coordinating with other agencies including, but not limited to, other federal land management agencies, Tribal agencies, Congressional members, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Colorado State Parks, county officials (commissioners, sheriffs, emergency managers), permittees, and local fire departments. The scope of the Restrictions/Closures will dictate how much coordination is necessary.
Annually, the parties to the Annual Operating Plan shall review and validate the Restrictions/Closures procedures and monitor the previous year's use of the procedures to ensure Restrictions/Closures are implemented consistently. The conditions identified in the Fire Restriction/Closure Evaluation Guidelines should be agreed upon by all fire management agencies in the county before the onset of fire season and will become part of the Annual Operating Plan.
Restrictions/Closures will be implemented and rescinded by fire restriction area and all agencies within the area will coordinate uniform levels and timing of restrictions, verifying that the trigger points have been reached.

Initiating a Restriction/Closure

When the conditions identified in the Fire Restriction/Closure Evaluation Guidelines approach critical levels for an area, fire management staff will make Restriction/Closure recommendations to Agency Administrators. Agency Administrators and fire management staff will be responsible for monitoring these conditions.

1. When conditions are identified as critical, fire management staff within the proposed fire restriction area will confer, review conditions, recommend that a fire restriction is necessary for their area of responsibility, and include a start date.

2. Before the respective agency(s) applies a restriction, they will coordinate with the other agencies in developing a schedule and plan for public notification.

3. The Montrose Interagency Dispatch Center will be notified of Restrictions/Closures.

4. Law enforcement personnel for each agency should have an opportunity to review the Restriction/Closure Orders to assure they are enforceable prior to public release. Law enforcement and fire personnel should jointly develop a plan to enforce the restrictions.

5. Each respective agency will be responsible for assuring their Restriction/Closure Orders are properly completed and signed by the Officer with authority.

6. The Public Information Officer with responsibility for that fire restriction area will organize and initiate the media notification process.

7. Each agency will disseminate Restriction/Closure notification through web pages, signage, and media outreach according to agency guidelines. Additional patrols may be initiated in high risk-high value areas.

8. Each agency will inform agency personnel of the restrictions being enacted and discuss changes in their daily routines to compensate for the increased fire danger. Those responsible for public contact will be provided with a copy of the Restriction/Closure Order and an appropriate map. Each agency will also ensure that all employees understand what each Restriction/Closure means.

County Sheriffs' that have emergency needs to bypass the Fire Restrictions and Closures procedures will immediately notify Montrose Interagency Dispatch Center of the status of Restrictions/Closures occurring in their jurisdictions.

Rescinding a Restriction/Closure

When a level of restriction is no longer needed, the Restriction/Closure may go to a lower stage by implementing a new, supplemental or modified Order; or the Restriction/Closure may be rescinded.

Removal of Restrictions/Closures will follow the same procedures outlined above. Agency Administrators and fire management staff must agree that the Restrictions/Closures should be removed in the fire restriction area.

Fire Restriction/Closure Evaluation Guidelines

When weather factors or fire suppression impacts become a concern, the following guidelines will be used to determine if Restrictions/Closures should be considered:

Montrose Interagency Dispatch Response Area at Preparedness Level 4 or Above, and:

Local fire activity is impacting local agencies' suppression resources; making adequate initial attack difficult. The local area is receiving a high occurrence of human-caused fires, or the human-caused risk is predicted to increase.

Adverse fire weather conditions and risks are predicted to continue.

Implementation of existing fire restrictions is not adequately reducing human-caused fires.

Consider initiating STAGE I Fire Restriction if:

- Preparedness Level is 4, and
- one of the above conditions is met.

Consider initiating STAGE II Fire Restriction if:

- STAGE I Fire Restriction has been in effect,
- Preparedness Level is 4 or above, and
- all of the above conditions are met.

Consider initiating STAGE III Closure if:

- STAGE II Fire Restriction has been in effect, and
- Preparedness Level is 5, and
- all of the above conditions are met.

Closures are extremely rare events, and will only be implemented in extraordinary situations, after significant interagency coordination, and when there is a very high risk to human life or property and the ability to manage those risks using Stage I or Stage II Fire Restrictions are no longer viable. Closures should be implemented only in situations where the public's safety cannot be guaranteed.

Prohibited Acts Under Stage I and II Fire Restrictions, and Stage III Closure

There will be three stages to fire restrictions – Stage I and II Fire Restrictions and Stage III Closures. Each agency must write its own Fire Prevention Order which authorizes the Restrictions/Closures within their jurisdiction. Each is responsible for using their agency's format and having their law enforcement personnel review the Order to assure it is legally correct and enforceable.

To reduce confusion and standardize the Restrictions/Closures, the following language will be used in all Fire Prevention Orders:

STAGE I Fire Restrictions

The following acts are prohibited:

• The building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire or stove fire except within a permanently constructed fire grate in a developed campground, developed recreation site, or improved site.

• Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

STAGE II Fire Restrictions

In addition to the prohibited acts of Stage I Fire Restrictions, the following acts are prohibited:

- Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire or stove fire.
- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building.
- Operating a chainsaw or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine.
- Welding, operating a torch with open flame, or any activities which generate flame or flammable material.
- Use of explosives.

STAGE III Closure

Stage III is a closure prohibiting entry to the affected area. The area is closed to all entry other than the following:

- Persons with a written fire entry and activity permit.
- Any federal, state, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
- Resident owners and lessees of land within the closed area.

Closures are extremely rare events, and will only be implemented in extraordinary situations, after significant interagency coordination, and when there is a very high risk to human life or property and the ability to manage those risks using Stage I or Stage II Fire Restrictions are no longer viable. Closures should be implemented only in situations where the public's safety cannot be guaranteed.

The following acts are always prohibited on federally managed lands:

- The use of fireworks and other incendiary devices on public lands in Colorado
- Leaving fires unattended or unextinguished

Exemptions

Exemption from prohibited acts may be granted to specific entities during a Restriction/Closure under the authority of 43 CFR 9212.2 and 36 CFR 236.50 (Orders), and 43 CFR 9212.3 (Permits).

Exemptions to a Fire Prevention Order will be included in the Order and identify those persons who, without a written permit, are exempt from the closure or restrictions (43 CFR 9212.2 / 36 CFR 236.50). Further, 43 CFR 9212.3 states that Permits may be issued to enter and use public lands designated in Fire Prevention Orders when the authorized officer determines that the permitted activities will not conflict with the purpose of the Order. Each permit shall specify:

- The public lands, roads, trails or waterways where entry or use is permitted;
- The person(s) to whom the permit applies;
- Activities that are permitted in the closed area;
- Fire prevention requirements with which the permittee shall comply; and
- An expiration date.

An authorized officer may cancel a Permit at any time.

Exemptions from prohibited acts may also be included in the Fire Prevention Orders under the discretion of the Agency Administrator. Typically, exemptions included in an Order specify an allowable use of a prohibited act. Examples include:

The following acts are prohibited until further notice:

- The building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire or stove fire.

EXEMPTION: Use of a heating or cooking device fueled solely by liquid fuels that can be turned on and off is allowed.

• Operating a chainsaw or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine. EXEMPTION: Operating a chainsaw or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine between the hours of 5:00 am and 11:00 am is allowed.

An exemption does not absolve an individual or organization from liability or responsibility for any fire started by the exempted activity.

Restriction/Closure Boundaries

Restrictions/Closures should be implemented on the smallest geographic scale to affect the fewest number of people.

For ease of implementation and interagency coordination, an Order should be designed to cover an easily identifiable, logical geographic area. This may be a county, district or field office boundary, a watershed, or an area bounded by specified roads or topographic features.
All orders should be accompanied by a high-quality map clearly delineating the boundaries of the Restrictions/Closures in such a manner that the public can readily locate those boundaries on the ground. As enforcement is a key component of every Order, the boundaries must be designed to facilitate compliance.

Various stages might be in effect in more than one geographic area across the landscape. However, before making the decision to implement more than one Restriction/Closure at a time on the landscape, there needs to be careful consideration of the potential for confusion and for potential effects on the public.

Communication

The planning process for Restrictions/Closures will include a public awareness campaign, keeping the media and public informed of the possibility of Restrictions/Closures. All press releases, descriptions of Restrictions/Closures, and other necessary agency documents will be available in template format before the start of the fire season. Public Information Officers will then prepare a media notification plan to inform the public.

Development and issuance of news releases will be coordinated with all agencies for any implementation or rescission of Restrictions/Closures. Public information about Restrictions/Closures must be broad-based, clear, and coordinated.

Each agency will inform it's personnel of the Restrictions/Closures being enacted and discuss changes in their daily routine to compensate for the increased fire danger. Those responsible for public contact will be provided with a copy of the Order and appropriate map.

Public Information Officers for each agency will be responsible for notifying the public ways in which they can find the status of Restrictions/Closures for any area in Colorado. The intent is to better inform the public of Restrictions/Closures throughout Colorado when they may be planning activities at areas away from their homes.

Definitions

The following definitions should be used as part of, or referenced to, the Special Orders or laws that initiate and authorize a Stage I or Stage II Fire Restriction and a Stage III Closure:

Campfire: A fire, not within any building, mobile home or living accommodation mounted on a vehicle that is used for cooking, branding, personal warmth, lighting, ceremonial or aesthetic purposes. Campfires are open fires, usually built on the ground from native fuels or charcoal, including charcoal grills. Campfire includes "fire".
Chainsaw: A saw powered by an internal combustion engine with cutting teeth linked in an endless chain.
Closure: The closing of an area to entry or use.
Developed Campground: An area that provide designated campsites, toilets, picnic tables, and fire rings.
Developed Recreation Site: An area which has been improved or developed for recreation. A developed recreation site is signed as an agency-owned campground or picnic area and identified on a map as a site developed for that purpose.
Explosives: Any substance or article, including a device, which is designed to function by explosion (i.e., an extremely rapid release of gas and heat) or which, by chemical reaction within itself, is able to function in a similar manner even if not designed to function by explosion. For the purposes of these restrictions, firearms are not considered an explosive.
Fire Grate/Fire Ring: A permanent structure, installed by the agency managing the lands, that is used for building a campfire.

Fire Prevention Order: A legal document restricting certain prohibited acts that are issued in times of increased fire danger and human-caused fire activity. Orders specify actions that are prohibited in specific areas under the jurisdiction of the agency with authority over the lands identified in the Order. Fire Prevention Orders also specify the duration of the restrictions and identify the legal references granting authority to restrict the mentioned acts.
Fire Restriction Area: The area that is covered by a Fire Restriction/Closure Order. Restrictions/Closures enacted cover the area defined by the Order as defined in the Order.
Fire: The burning of timber, trees, slash, brush, tundra, grass or other flammable material such as, but not limited to, petroleum products, trash, rubbish, lumber, paper, cloth or agricultural refuse occurring out of doors and includes campfires.
Improved Site: An area that has been cleared and has an established fire barrier that restricts fire spread, and includes improvements such as picnic tables and/or toilets.
Permit: A written document issued by an authorized agency representative to specifically authorize an otherwise prohibited act.
Restriction: A limitation on an activity or use.
Stove Fire: A campfire built inside an enclosed stove, grill or portable stove; including a space heating device.
Torch: Any of various lamp-like devices that produce a hot flame and are used for soldering, burning off paint, etc.
Welding: To unite or fuse (as pieces of metal) by hammering, compressing, or the like, especially after rendering soft by heat, and sometimes with the addition of fusible material like or unlike the pieces to be united.