

Color Country Interagency Fire Management

*Annual Operating Plan
2003*



2003 OPERATING PLAN

COLOR COUNTRY INTERAGENCY FIRE MANAGEMENT AREA

Field Representative, Southern Paiute Field Office

Date

Field Manager, BLM Arizona Strip Field Office

Date

Field Office Manager, BLM Cedar City Field Office

Date

Area Manager, State of Utah,
Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands

Date

Forest Supervisor, Dixie National Forest

Date

Superintendent, Zion National Park

Date

Superintendent, Cedar Breaks National Monument

Date

Superintendent, Bryce Canyon National Park

Date

Superintendent, Glen Canyon National
Recreation Area

Date

When all signature blocks are completed, this plan is approved including all attachments and appendixes. This plan will remain in effect until superseded.

Color Country Annual Operating Plan Attachments and Appendices

Attachment #1- A	Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area Map
Attachment #1- B	Color Country Interagency Fire Management Initial Response Area
Attachment #2	Shared Fire Group Frequencies
Attachment #3	Fire Mgt Guidelines for Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument
Appendix: A	Color Country Fire Information & Education Committee Charter
Appendix: B	Color Country Operations Committee Charter
Appendix: C	Color Country Fuels Committee Charter
Appendix: D	Cedar City Interagency Fire Center Annual Operating Plan
Appendix E	Color Country Fire Management Resources
Appendix F	Color Country Crew Guidelines
Appendix G	Color Country Fire Management Financial Plan
Appendix H	Color Country Incident Business Administration Plan
Appendix I	Color Country Multi-Agency Coordinating Group Guidelines
Appendix J	Cedar City Fire Facilities Annual Operating Plan

2003 OPERATING PLAN
COLOR COUNTRY
INTERAGENCY FIRE MANAGEMENT AREA

1. IDENTIFICATION OF LANDS

This Operating Plan covers the lands administered by the following agencies:

Dixie National Forest, Cedar City Field Office Bureau of Land Management, Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip Field Office including Grand Canyon-Parashant and Vermilion Cliffs National Monuments Bureau of Land Management, Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Cedar Breaks National Monument, Pipe Spring National Monument, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Southern Paiute Field Office of Bureau of Indian Affairs, and State of Utah, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands acting for Kane, Beaver, Garfield, Iron and Washington Counties.

2. AUTHORITY FOR PLAN

As provided in the Memorandum of Understanding between the United States Department of Interior and United States Department of Agriculture, dated January, 1943, and Cooperative Agreements and Amendments between agencies, as follows:

- A. Interagency Agreement No. 22-CA95-022/AGH005016 Dated 17, April, 1995, between United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management Utah, National Park Service Intermountain Region; Bureau of Indian Affairs, Phoenix Area Office, Albuquerque Area Office, and Navajo Area Office; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mountain and Prairie Region; United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Intermountain Region, and The State of Utah, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands.
- B. Interagency Agreement, No 97-SIA-004, FS# R401-F1-11046000-0188 Effective February 20, 2001 for Fire Management between the following agencies:
- The State of Utah, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, hereinafter called the State; and
 - The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, through the Regional Forester for Region 4, Intermountain Region, and
 - The United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Intermountain Region, and
 - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mountain and Prairie Region, and
 - The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Regional Office, Southwestern Regional Office, and Navajo Regional Office, and
 - The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, through the State Director for Utah.
- C. *Local agreement FS#-----*

3. PURPOSE OF PLAN

The purpose of this Annual Operating Plan (AOP) is to document agreement and commitment to fire protection assistance and cooperation. This plan is also designed to set forth a framework for building and assessing an interagency organization and approach to all aspects of fire management within the Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area. This agreement is entered into by and between the agencies listed above. This plan gives authorization for fire management activities by the above parties, on all Federal, State, and Tribal Trust Lands identified above.

This organization will be continually assessed for efficiency and effectiveness and adjusted as needed to appropriately provide fire protection assistance and cooperation.

4. MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

A. Leadership

Interagency Fire Management Board, consisting of the Bureau of Land Management Cedar City Field Office Manager, and the Arizona Strip Field Manager, Dixie National Forest Supervisor, Zion National Park Superintendent, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Superintendent, Bryce Canyon National Park Superintendent, Cedar Breaks National Monument Superintendent, Southern Paiute Field Office Field Representative, and Area Manager, State of Utah, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, will provide overall direction for interagency fire organization and operations, and be the Signatories of the Fire Management Area Annual Operating Plan.

Interagency Land Managers, consisting of the Dixie National Forest, Pine Valley, Cedar City, Powell, Escalante, and Teasdale District Rangers, the BLM, Cedar City Field Office, St George Field Office, and Kanab Field Office Managers, Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument Assistant Monument Manager – Biological Sciences, the BLM, Arizona Strip Field Manager and Grand Canyon-Parashant and Vermilion Cliffs National Monument Managers, Zion National Park Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection, Bryce Canyon National Park Chief of Resource Management, Cedar Breaks National Monument Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection, Pipe Springs National Monument Chief of Interpretation and Resource Management, Glen Canyon NRA Chief Ranger, Field Representative, Southern Paiute Field Office, and SW Area Manager for the State of Utah, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands will provide first-line direction and guidance for the interagency fire management organization and operation.

Interagency Fire Managers, consisting of the Bureau of Land Management Cedar City Field Office FMO, Arizona Strip Field Office FMO, the Dixie National Forest FMO, Dixie National Forest East Zone FMO, Zion National Park FMO, Southern Paiute Field Office FMO, and SW Area FMO for the State of Utah, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, will provide direct day-to-day coordination of fire resource repositioning, interagency fire organization operations and communicate

status of prescribed fire activity to management area fire centers.

Fire Management Officers are responsible for coordinating fire management efforts across jurisdictional lines with federal, state, and local agencies.

Assistant Fire Management Officers/Fire Control Officers (AFMO's/FCO's) work under the direct supervision of an FMO or Zone FMO and assist in fire preparedness and suppression activities. AFMO's/FCO's have other resource responsibilities and may be directed and supervised by other managers in those activities.

Interagency Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (Local-MAC Group) includes representatives from the agencies within the Color Country area or their delegated acting. Representatives include:

- Arizona Strip BLM FMO, Bryan Bracken
- Cedar City BLM FMO, Chris Simonson
- Dixie National Forest FMO, Brett Fay
- Forestry, Fire & State Lands, Larry LeForte
- Southern Paiute Field Station FMO, Vacant
- Zion National Park FMO, Jan Passek

The MAC Group will follow the operating guidelines described in the attached appendix I.

B. Dispatching and Logistics

The **Cedar City Interagency Fire Center Manager** is responsible for supervision of the fire center operations and is charged with independently acting in fire and emergency situations. The CCIFC Manager will commit resources (people, equipment, and aircraft) to meet initial response needs. The CCIFC Manager will coordinate between the local area dispatch centers, Eastern Great Basin Coordination Center, and the Color Country local MAC Group.

The **South Zone Interagency Dispatch Logistics Coordinator** is responsible for supervision of the dispatch operations and is charged with independently acting as needed in fire and emergency situations. The Logistics Coordinator will commit resources (people, equipment, and aircraft) to meet initial response needs and will coordinate with the CCIFC Manager.

The **Zion National Park Dispatch Supervisor** is responsible for supervision of the dispatch operations and is charged with independently acting as needed in fire and emergency situations. The Dispatch Supervisor will commit resources (people, equipment, and aircraft) to meet initial response needs and will coordinate with the CCIFC Manager.

5. DEFINITIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS

A. Fire Protection Responsibilities:

The Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area map will identify zones of

Fire Protection Responsibilities. Initial response by closest forces within the zone or from adjacent zones will be used for initial response on all incidents, consistent with existing cooperative agreements, guidelines, and practices.

The Cedar City Interagency Fire Center (CCIFC) is responsible for over-all Color Country dispatch coordination. It (CCIFC) serves as the sole area contact point with Eastern Great Basin Coordination Center, provides daily fire weather collection and dissemination, and coordinates situation reporting for the Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area into national fire intelligence system.

The Cedar City Interagency Fire Center is responsible for providing; initial response to the East and West zones and in the north fork area of Washington County. The CCIFC also coordinates extended attack, local smoke management coordination, weather information dissemination, and prescribed fire dispatch services for the East, West and South Zones including Zion NP. (for more information see appendix: D - CCIFC annual operating plan).

The South Zone Interagency Dispatch (SZID) is responsible for providing initial response; extended attack reinforcements, smoke management, weather information, and prescribed fire dispatch services for the management of all wildland fires occurring within this area of responsibility.

The Zion National Park Dispatch (ZNPD) is responsible for providing initial response; extended attack reinforcements, smoke management, weather information, and prescribed fire dispatch services for the management of all wildland fires occurring within this area of responsibility.

Fire protection and suppression requirements for the Urban/Wildland Interface have increased significantly. This increased need has prompted expanded efforts of coordination and cooperation between all fire agencies. This is critical for effective implementation of protection of life and property within these areas. All agencies must recognize their respective roles and capabilities and cooperate with each other to fully implement them. Immediate implementation of ICS is essential to the overall effectiveness of this coordination. Every effort will be made to establish ICS promptly and coordinate to the maximum extent whenever interface fires occur. A wildland fire involving structures will be responded to by the protecting agency in accordance with their training, equipment, and agency policies. Structural fire suppression is the responsibility of the respective county, fire protection district, or qualified National Park Service personnel.

Recognizing the need for safety and training for all individuals engaged in wildland firefighting (including full-time and volunteer fire departments), all agencies involved in this AOP will undertake a cooperative effort to develop and promote such requirements. The State and Federal agencies will continue to require and provide training and equipment consistent with National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) standards. Participating fire departments will be encouraged to meet standards for training and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) outlined in NFPA 295 and 1051 and other pertinent nationally recognized documents. Fire departments working on fires on federal land will be required to meet the NFPA standards outlined above. To assist fire departments in meeting these requirements, the parties to this AOP will work in conjunction with Utah Fire and

Rescue Academy (UFRA) to provide training and jointly pursue funding alternatives to assist local fire departments in providing PPE to their respective fire departments.

When interagency fire suppression resources are working with local fire department personnel, they will be cognizant of the local department's statutory responsibilities for fire protection and will be diplomatic regarding related political sensitivities. When fire departments are used by federal agencies on lands not under the department's statutory authority, the federal agencies may require a higher standard of training and safety than that of the department. Subsequently, the federal agencies may provide PPE, or request that a department provide more qualified personnel.

B. Direct Protection of Lands:

South Zone:

BLM, State and Private Lands in Washington County, Tribal Trust Lands in Washington County, Kaibab Paiute Tribal Trust Lands, Zion National Park, Pipe Spring National Monument, Pine Valley Ranger District of the Dixie National Forest, and BLM Arizona Strip Field Office administered public lands including Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument and Vermilion Cliffs National Monument.

East Zone:

Cedar City administered BLM, State and Private lands in Kane and Garfield Counties; Dixie National Forest Powell, Escalante, and Teasdale Ranger Districts; Bryce Canyon National Park; Glen Canyon National Recreation Area; and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. Fire protection of the block of BLM land in the Black Canyon area of the Sevier River drainage around and south of Antimony in Garfield County was transferred from Richfield BLM to the East Zone of the Color Country (ref FS agreement # 02-IA-99-023). The Loa District of the Fishlake National Forest fire management program is supervised by the AFMO on the Teasdale Ranger District of the Dixie National Forest.

West Zone:

BLM, State and Private lands in Iron, Beaver Counties, and the portions of Washington County north of Zion National Park (North Fork), BLM lands north of New Harmony, and north of Enterprise in Washington County, Tribal Trust Lands in Iron County, Dixie National Forest Cedar City Ranger District, and Cedar Breaks National Monument.

C. Protection Boundary:

The Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area is divided into three zones for fire management actions: the South, East, and West Zones. See Attachment #1 Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area Map for boundary specifics.

- D. Mutual Aid Dispatch Areas by Dispatch Levels: Reference State-Wide cooperative agreement.
- E. Mutual Aid Move-up and Cover Facilities: Reference State-Wide cooperative agreement, section 35.
- F. Special Management Considerations:

Wilderness Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, research natural areas, archeological sites, roadless areas, National Park Lands, Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument or other areas identified in land management planning documents or otherwise requiring special procedures. Follow administrating agency guidelines for fire operations in all existing and proposed wilderness areas. (See attachment #3 Fire Management Guidelines for Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument).

Wilderness Areas, BLM Lands Under Wilderness Review (WSAS), BLM HR-1500 Lands, Desert Tortoise habitat (Washington Co. and Mohave Co. Arizona), Utah Prairie Dog Habitat (Iron & Beaver CO.) Forest Service Wildland Fire Use Areas, National Park Lands proposed Wilderness, and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument Lands, require "Special Management Considerations". Check with Cedar City Interagency Fire Center, South Zone Interagency Dispatch or Zion National Park Dispatch for detailed fire management instructions.

- G. Responsibility for All Risk Incidents:

All risk incident requests will be coordinated through CCIFC, SZID, and ZNPD.

- H. Repair of Suppression Damage:

When repair of resource damage is anticipated the Jurisdictional Agency will order a Burned Area Rehabilitation Team prior to control of the fire. Resource damage due to suppression actions repairs/rehab (fences, cat lines, etc.) will be coordinated between involved agencies. All BAER team operations will be coordinated with the Incident Commander prior to any BAER operations.

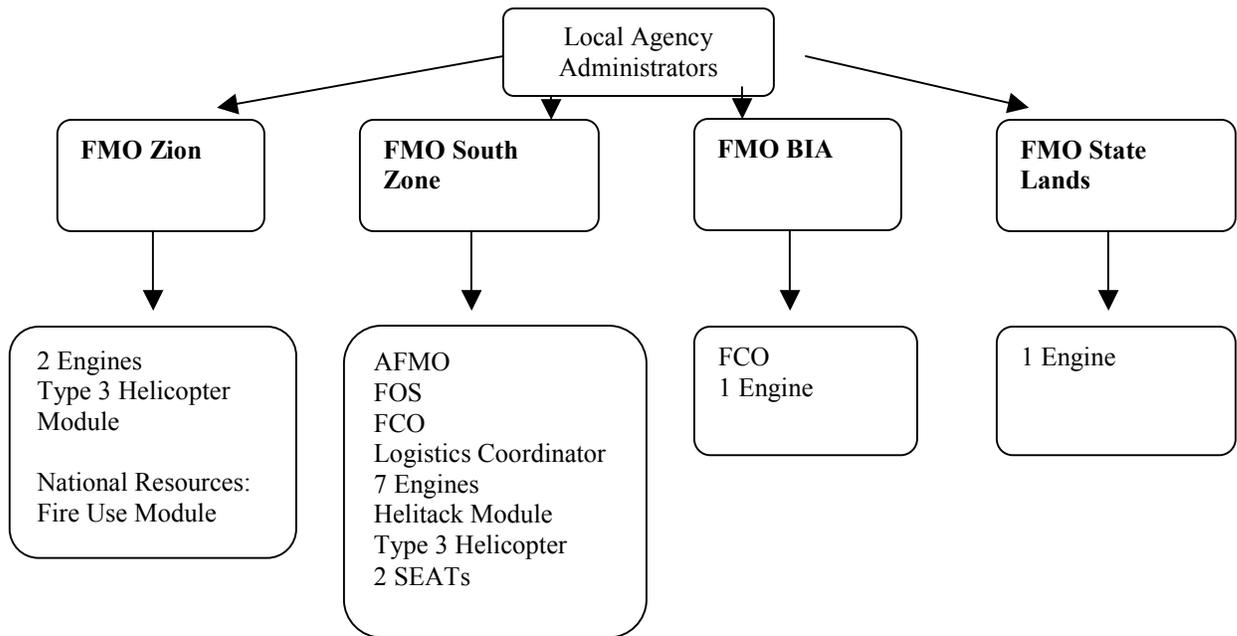
6. FIRE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

- A. Resources: (ICS type)
Each party of this plan will status all resources in the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) no later than June 1st. Updates will occur continually as needed.
- B. Location of Resources: See Appendix E
- C. Anticipated Resource Activation Period:

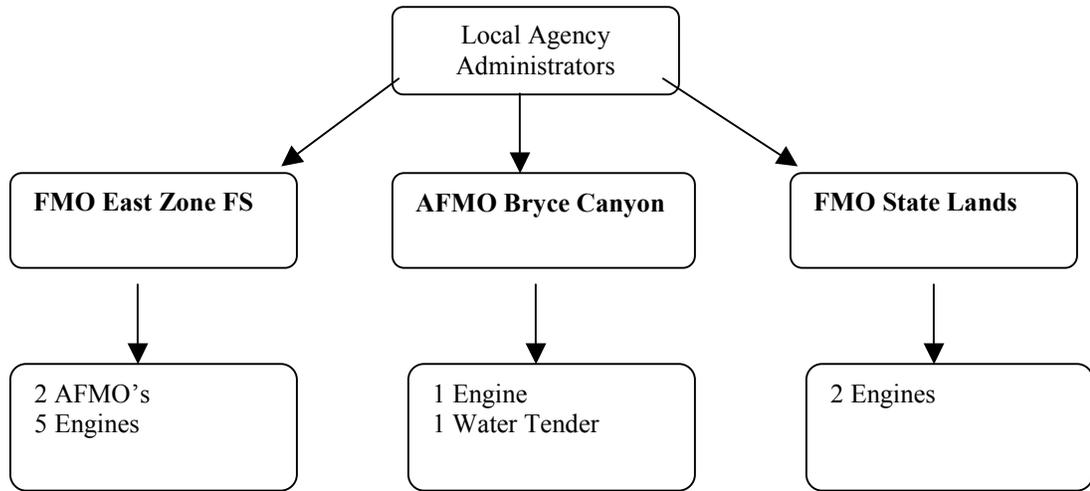
Agency	Start	End
BLM	5/15	10/30
FS	6/1	10/30
NPS	5/15	9/30
State	6/1	10/30

D. Organizational Flow Chart:

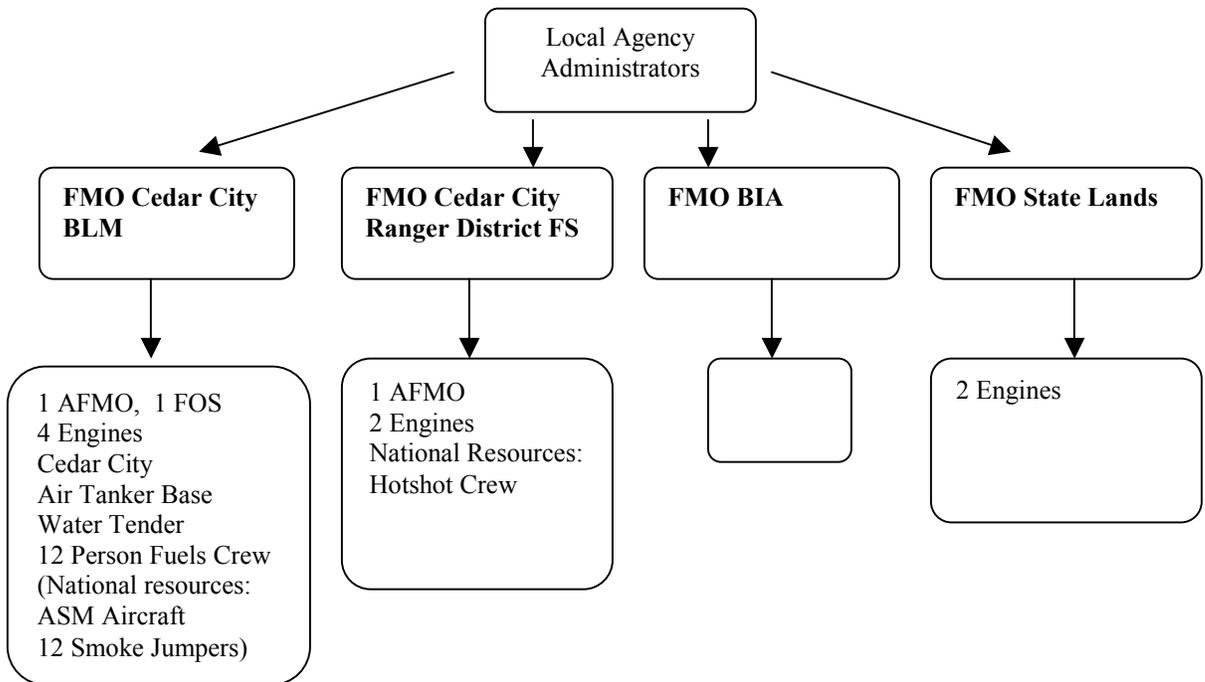
South Zone



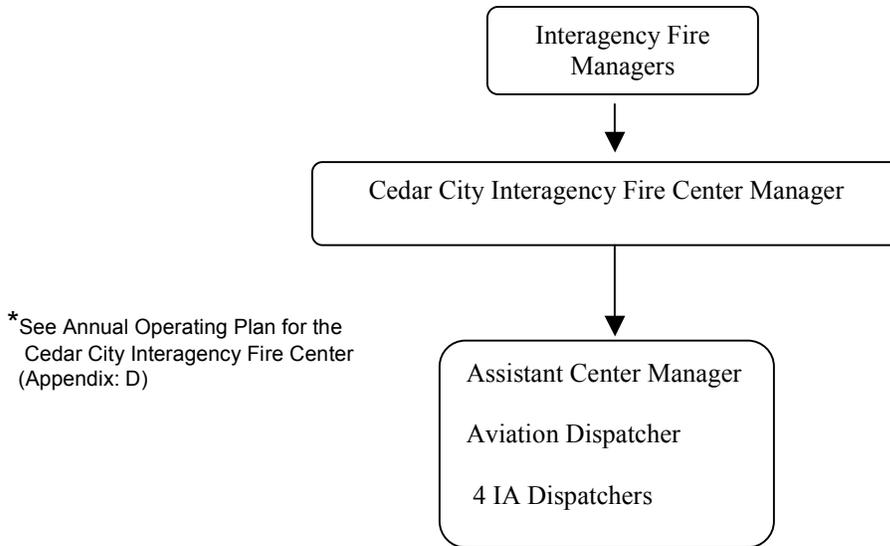
East Zone



West Zone



Cedar City Interagency Fire Center*



E. Organizational changes from previous year:

- Changed the organizational name structure
- Changed the South Zone boundary
- Moved protection responsibility for several sections of BLM lands in Washington County northeast of New Harmony and northwest of Enterprise from the South Zone to the West Zone.

7. PROTECTION AREA SUMMARIES

- A. Jurisdictional Agency, Protection Unit, County, etc.: also see map attachment #1a and b.

South Zone:

BLM, State and Private lands in Washington County, Utah; Arizona Strip Field Office lands including Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument and Vermilion Cliffs National Monument; FS Pine Valley Ranger District; Tribal Trust Lands; Pipe Spring National Monument and a portion of Lake Mead NRA. South Zone FMO will supervise the South Zone Az Strip BLM and Pine Valley Ranger District of the Dixie National Forest fire management personnel and coordinate with County Fire Wardens, and Southern Paiute Field Office in the management of all wildland fires occurring within this area of responsibility. Coordination for fire management activities on respective agency lands in the zone will be done through the FMOs and the Cedar City Interagency Fire Center duty officer.

Zion National Park and BLM lands south and west of the park along the Virgin river, to the divide south of the river, then west to the town of Virgin then north on the east side of the Kolob Terrace road to park boundary at the Smith Mesa

Road, Zion NP FMO will supervise NPS Fire crews.

The coordination of fire management activities on State of Utah owned lands is the responsibility of the Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands.

East Zone:

BLM, State and Private lands in Kane and Garfield Counties; Powell, Escalante, and Teasdale Ranger Districts; Glen Canyon National Recreation Area; Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. East Zone FMO will supervise the Escalante AFMO Loa/Teasdale AFMO. The east zone FMO will also indirectly supervise the BLM engine crew in Kanab. Bryce Canyon National Park Fire Staff has fire management responsibility for Bryce Canyon National Park and will coordinate with the East Zone FMO. Coordination for fire management activities on respective agency lands in the zone will be done through the FMOs and the Cedar City Interagency Fire Center duty officer.

All fire management actions occurring within private lands will be coordinated with County Fire Wardens. The coordination of fire management activities on State of Utah owned lands is the responsibility of the Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands.

West Zone:

BLM, State and Private lands in Iron, and Beaver County, Tribal Trust Lands in Iron County, FS Cedar City Ranger District, and Cedar Breaks National Monument, BLM FMO and FS Cedar City Ranger District FMO will have protection responsibilities on their respective agency lands. They will supervise respective fire management staff. Coordination for fire management activities on respective agency lands in the zone will be done through the FMOs and the Cedar City Interagency Fire Center duty officer.

In addition, the Cedar City District of the Dixie National Forest FMO will have protection responsibilities for the Cedar Breaks National Monument.

All fire management actions occurring within private lands will be coordinated with County Fire Wardens. The coordination of fire management activities on State of Utah owned lands is the responsibility of the Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands.

Due to the heavy workload in this zone, the Forest Service district FMO and Cedar City BLM FMO will manage fire operations on their respective lands. Fire Management activities will continually be coordinated between the agency FMOs.

- B. Map and/or legal description, dated to meet current need: See Attachment #1a
- C. Fire Protection Resources List: See Appendix E

8. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

A. Fire Notification:

All incidents occurring in their area of responsibility will be reported immediately to either CCIFC , SZID or ZNPD for response. The established initial response map (attachment #1b) will be used to accelerate the dispatch of personnel and equipment.

When fire resources are dispatched by an entity other than Cedar City Interagency Fire Center, notify CCIFC of initial response and fire statistics. When a fire goes from initial attack (IA) to extended attack, the Dispatch office and appropriate Zone FMO will consult with the Local Agency Administrators, and develop a plan to define safety considerations and set incident priorities.

The closest forces concept will be used for initial response on all incidents, consistent with existing cooperative agreements, guidelines, and practices, including the use of Federal and State fire fighting forces and equipment on the Tribal Trust Lands in Washington and Iron Counties, and Kaibab Paiute Tribal Trust Lands of the Southern Paiute Field Station.

The Southern Paiute Field Station FMO will be notified of fires reported or occurring on Tribal Trust Lands of the Kaibab Paiute, and Tribal Trust Lands in Washington and Iron Counties.

Respective agency Fire Management Officers will be notified immediately of incidents occurring on or adjacent to their respective jurisdictions.

Any Engine, Aircraft, overhead status change and/or fire occurrence will be reported to CCIFC. Fire occurrence will be reported upon dispatch of IA resources.

B. Establishment and Revision of Mutual Aid Dispatch Areas: See state-wide agreement.

C. Determination of Initial attack Dispatch Levels: See Color Country Interagency National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) planning guide.

D. Fire Investigations:

The party that takes initial attack action on human caused fires on lands under jurisdiction of the other party will immediately initiate a fire trespass investigation and documentation. As soon as practical, the agency with jurisdictional responsibility will assume responsibility for the trespass investigation and take approved actions.

E. Boundary Fires Including Unified Command and Cost Sharing:

Definitions of a boundary Fire:

1. A fire burning jointly on lands on both parties and the boundary line is known.

2. Where the fire location is known but the jurisdictional boundary is uncertain.

Actions:

Where the location of a reported fire is uncertain in relation to the jurisdictional boundary.

Once the exact location of the fire is determined in relation to the jurisdictional boundary, it ceases to be boundary fire unless falling into category 1 above.

The party receiving a report of a boundary fire will promptly take initial attack actions and notify the other party or parties. The parties concerned will coordinate initial attack plans or in some cases determine which party will take initial attack.

Between Federal Agencies and the State of Utah the party with jurisdictional responsibilities shall relieve the initial attack forces as soon as practical unless written field agreement is made for the initial attack force to continue fire suppression action. If instructions are given by phone or radio to continue fire suppression action, these verbal instructions should be followed by written confirmation.

If jurisdictional responsibility is in doubt, or the fire involves more than one agency, agencies concerned will agree on an Incident Commander. If the field personnel cannot reach an agreement in a reasonable amount of time, the next higher supervisory level will make agreement on designation of Incident Commander.

For extended period fires and boundary fires between Federal Agencies and the State of Utah a written agreement must be developed that defines cost sharing between agencies. A written cost share agreement will be prepared at the time the incident goes into extended attack.

Level of authority needed to authorize cost sharing agreements:

BLM	NPS	FS	BIA	State Of Utah
Field Office Manager	Park Superintendent	District Ranger	Regional Director	Area Manager

F. Assistance by Hire and Resource Order Process:

See the Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area Incident Service and Supply Plan. Resource orders will be processed through the Local Dispatch for initial attack until such time as local resource availability is exceeded, then orders will be forwarded on to Color Country Interagency Fire Center (CCIFC) for extended attack support. CCIFC will forward resource orders to Eastern Great Basin Coordination Center, if unable to fill in the Color Country area.

Repair of suppression equipment, associated costs and required resource order will be coordinated with the jurisdictional agency within 30 days of incident demobilization.

G. Aviation:

Aerial attack will be used only when authorized by the party with jurisdictional responsibility. Fire control authority for use of aerial attack on lands under jurisdiction of the BLM, Forest Service, or the Park Service rests with the Incident Commander. The SW Area Manager or FMO for the State of Utah, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands can make the authorization for the State.

The Agency Administrator must approve the aerial attack in Wilderness Areas.

H. Hand Crews and Dozers:

Whenever practical, hand crews will use Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics.

NO use of dozers and other such earth disturbing equipment on National Park Service Lands. NO use of dozers and other such earth disturbing equipment within the National Monuments, unless necessary for protection of structures/developed areas or private property. Monument Manager must approve use of dozers. On lands not listed above, the use of dozers and other such earth disturbing equipment must have prior approval of the jurisdictional agency.

The Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) process will be used to assess values of using Indirect vs. Direct attack for extended attack fires.

I. Interagency Sharing of Communications Systems and Frequencies:

Where applicable all agencies shall have shared radio frequencies. Each agency authorizes all other agencies party to this plan use of the frequencies listed in Attachment #2- Shared Fire Group Frequencies for emergency fire suppression operations.

J. Move-up and Cover: See the statewide cooperative agreement.

- K. Interagency procurement, transfer of funds, loaning, sharing, or exchanging of facilities, equipment, and support services: (see appendix: G Financial plan, and appendix H, Cedar City Interagency Facilities Agreement).

The Dixie National Forest, Cedar City BLM, Zion National Park, Utah State Forestry, Fire and State Lands, Kane and Washington Counties will establish accounts to exchange funds for salaries and use of equipment for Fire Management the 2003 fiscal year (see appendix G). These accounts will be used for but not limited to:

- Utah State, Kane County Fire Warden
- Utah State, Washington County Fire Warden
- Cedar City Interagency Facilities Agreement (appendix H)
- Interagency Helicopter support (Zion NP or Az. Strip BLM)
- Interagency Fire Management Support in the South Zone for the FMO and AFMO.

- L. Wildland Fire Situation Analysis / Wildland Fire Implementation Plan:

Extended attack situations require a Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) or Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) approved by the responsible line officer(s). A new or revised WFSA will be required whenever a fire exceeds the selected suppression alternative.

- M. Post-incident critiques and close out:

Fire critiques or reviews will be conducted jointly by the State and/or the appropriate federal agencies as described by interagency policy. Initial response crews of cooperating agencies will provide all pertinent information to the jurisdictional agency when relieved from the fire. Cooperating agencies conducting continuing suppression activities on other agency land shall provide all necessary fire related information to the jurisdictional agency within five (5) days after the fire.

The Interagency Fire Managers will jointly review 1% of the Color Country Fire management responses annually. These reviews will focus on fire fighter and public safety issues.

After action reviews will be completed and documented on every wildland fire response per agency policy.

- N. Joint Mobilization Centers or other incident support facilities:

See the Color Country Incident Service and Supply Plan.

- O. Agreed-to billing amounts (rates) for resources (appendix E) and billing information for readiness activities:

Each participating agency will be responsible for the base salaries for its employees for readiness activities. These employees will perform a variety of interagency duties

as a regular part of their work, but no attempt will be made to isolate cost by specific job during the base period. For extended period fires and boundary fires agencies must develop a written agreement that defines cost sharing between agencies on a case-by-case basis.

9. FIRE INFORMATION & EDUCATION

A fire information team composed of representatives from each of the three zones will be represented under the approved charter. (See appendix A: Fire Information & Education Charter).

A. Information:

1. Interagency Fire Center:

The Cedar City Interagency Fire Center will be the clearinghouse for all fire information. CCIFC will receive and disseminate wildland fire information within agencies systems. It may also be the point of contact to direct external agency contacts to the appropriate Color Country Fire Management unit information contact.

2. Incidents:

- a. It is recommended that all Type III incidents be assigned an Information Specialist.
- b. Some Type IV Incidents may also need an assigned Information Specialist at the discretion of the IC.
- c. Burn Bosses should consult with Information Specialist as needed to provide public information.

3. Fire danger and public notification:

When a period of severe fire weather is expected to result in a sudden and marked increase in fire danger a "Red Flag Warning" will be issued by the National Weather Service. The warning will include a statement indicating the area and particular extreme conditions expected. The dispatch centers will notify all agencies and personnel in the affected area of the red flag warning.

The public will be made aware of fire conditions through multimedia public service announcements as necessary.

4. Joint Press Releases:

Will be coordinated through the public information specialists with support by the Information and Education committee.

B. Education:

1. Smokey Bear Program:

The Smokey Bear program is an integral part of the fire education program and will be coordinated with the other interagency programs, which are becoming available. Refer to agency policy for use of this program.

2. Local Educational Programs:

The Fire Information Committee will develop fire education programs for the Color Country Fire Management Area. These programs will be available for use on an interagency basis per agency policy.

3. Fire Prevention Signs:

Prescribed and Wildland Fire Information and Education signing will be in accordance with each agency's policy.

C. Shared funding of fire education activities:

Will be established between agencies where appropriate in accordance with each agency's policy.

Programs considered:

- ✓ Restrictions and Closures: (See Enforcement)
- ✓ Engineering of prevention and education programs: (see appendix A, Education and Information committee)

10. FIRE PLANNING

A. Fire Safe Planning (Wildland/Urban Interface):

Agencies are encouraged to use current publications, which identify Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Hazard Assessment, Fire Prevention, and mitigation techniques for wildland urban interface areas.

Interagency administrators have defined interface fuels focus areas in concert with the Color Country Interagency Fire Managers. These areas are coordinated, planned and implemented through the Color Country Fuels and Education and Information Committees.

B. Railroads and Utilities:

Refer to Williams Gas (Kern River) Safety Plan at Dispatch Centers for information and contacts when fires are near the Williams Gas transmission line.

C. Enforcement

1. Burning and Campfire Permits:

Burning permits are required by Utah State law for all people who burn on private lands during the closed fire season from June 1 through October 31. Request for burning permits on private land will be referred to the respective County Fire Warden.

2. Restrictions and Closures:

When a fire closure or restriction is deemed necessary in the geographical area (or any portion of that area) pertaining to this Annual Operating Plan all conditions will be mutually agreed upon by the local MAC Group members prior to publication of the expected closure order. Procedures outlined in the statewide operating plan for fire restrictions/closures will be followed.

D. Fire Prevention plans:

Agency specific fire prevention plans are developed as per agency policy. These plans are coordinated on an interagency basis.

E. Preparedness, Training plans, etc.:

Preparedness plans are produced by each individual agency.

The Color Country Operations Committee is made up of interagency representatives from each zone and is established to identify and coordinate Color Country area training needs, courses and training assignments in addition to other operational and aviation issues. (see appendix B).

11. HAZARD FUEL MANAGEMENT AND PRESCRIBED FIRE

In 2003 there are proposed Prescribed Fires for an estimated 45,000 acres total by the cooperator agencies in southwestern Utah and northwestern Arizona. CCIFC and SZID will be notified prior to all prescribed fires by the jurisdictional agency of the location, date, and size. When parties to this agreement conduct prescribed fires on lands under their jurisdiction, which may be of concern to another party of this agreement, they will notify the other party before starting burning.

The Color Country Fuels Committee made up of a representative from each zone and /or agency with the Dixie National Forest FMO as liaison, will coordinate prescribed fire project information, ignition dates, and resources on an interagency basis.

See Appendix C: Color Country Fuels Committee Charter

12. GENERAL PROCEDURES

A. Periodic reviews:

Three meetings will be held each year.

The **Spring** meeting purpose is to brief Agency Managers, discuss the Operating Plan, Prescribed Fire plans, Color Country Fire School, etc. will be held each year

before April 30.

The Operating Plan will be signed and distributed by June 1 annually.

The **Fall** meeting purpose is to review fire season issues, Color Country Crew evaluations, training needs, etc., will be held each year before November 30.

The **winter** meeting purpose is to discuss the Operating Plan, Training Courses, Prescribed Fire plans, etc.

The date for the next meeting will be set at the end of each meeting:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ✓ Spring - March, 2003 | Host – AZ Strip
Chair- Kim Soper |
| ✓ Fall - October, 2003 | Host – State of Utah (Cedar City)
Chair- Kim Soper |
| ✓ Winter - January, 2004 | Host – Zion NP
Chair- Kim Soper |

The host will arrange for a place to meet, and invite each agency. The chair will take the minutes of the meeting and distribute.

B. Changes During Year (due to budget cuts or supplemental funding):

If any party makes significant changes in crews and equipment, that party will notify the Cedar City Interagency Fire Center who will coordinate notification of all parties of such modifications.

C. Severity Funding:

If severe fire condition funding is requested or is being considered for request on a specific unit or zone, information and coordination will be required with other Color Country Fire Management area members. This coordination will be conducted through the Interagency Fire Managers.

13. ADMINISTRATIVE LISTINGS

Zion National Park
Springdale, UT 84767

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
P.O. Box 1507
Page, Arizona 86040

Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
1594 W. N. Temple, Suite 32520
Box 145703
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5703

Bureau of Land Management
Arizona Strip Field Office
345 E. Riverside Drive
St. George, Utah 84790

Cedar Breaks National Monument
2370 W. hwy. 56
Cedar City, UT 84720

Bryce Canyon National Park
Bryce Canyon, Utah 84717

Dixie National Forest
1789 Wedgewood Lane
Cedar City, UT 84720

Southern Paiute Field Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
P.O. Box 720
St George, UT 84771

Bureau of Land Management
Cedar City Field Office
176 E. DL Sergent Dr.
Cedar City, UT 84720

Pipe Spring National Monument
HC 65 Box 5
406 North Pipe Spring Road
Fredonia, AZ 86022