Dixie National Forest

Fire Management Plan

2004

Firefighter and Public Safety is the principal consideration in every Wildland Fire Management

Prepared by - /s/ Brett Fay
Brett Fay
Forest Fire Management Officer

Approved - /s/ Bob Russell Date: __1/24/04__
Bob Russell
FOREST SUPERVISOR

Table of Contents

I. SECTION I: Introduction

A. Purpose of the Plan

This plan defines the implementation of the fire management program on the Dixie National Forest. It is compliant to the requirement that Fire Management Plans must be developed for all areas subject to wildland fires – i.e., in compliance with the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review, the Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy and Implementation Procedures Reference Guide, Managing Impacts of Wildfires on Communities and the Environment, and Protecting People and Sustaining Resources in Fire Adapted Ecosystems – A Cohesive Strategy (FSM 5101, 5103, and 5108).

B. Collaboration Process Used

The Color Country interagency Fire management organization is used to coordinate fire management planning. This group, made up of Federal and State land management organizations continually assesses the opportunity to collaborate fire management planning. Currently the Dixie National Forest Fire Management plan incorporates the Cedar Breaks National Monument (NPS).

C. Plan program of action

This plan is a detailed program of action to carry out fire management policies to achieve resource management and fire protection objectives as defined in the Dixie National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP).

D. Compliance with NEPA

This Fire Management Plan is guided by, and adheres to, the goals, objectives and constraints identified in the Dixie National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). The LRMP meets National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements as well as other State and Federal regulatory requirements.

E. Authorities

FSM 5101 describes the authority for fire management activities on National Forest System Lands.
FSM 5108 lists pertinent references for guidance on the minimum standards and procedures for wildland fire management.

SECTION II: Relationship to Land Management Planning and Fire Policy

A. Documents used to develop this plan

- ✓ Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy, Implementation Procedures and Reference Guide, August 1998
- ✓ Federal Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review, January 2001
- ✓ Land and Resource Management Plan, 1986, Dixie National Forest
- ✓ Utah Fire Amendment, September 2001
- ✓ Forest Service Manual (FSM) 5100
- ✓ Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 5109
- ✓ Dixie National Forest, 1999 NFMAS Analysis, June 1999

B. Management policies concerning fire management

The 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (updated from 1995 policy), Dixie National Forest, Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) and Utah Fire Amendment (2001) are the guiding policies for fire management on Dixie National Forest.

The 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy directs Federal agencies to achieve a balance between suppression to protect life, property, and resources, and fire use to regulate fuels and maintain healthy ecosystems. The policy provides nine guiding principles that are fundamental to the success of the Federal wildland fire management program:

1. Firefighter and public safety is the first priority in every fire management activity.
2. The role of wildland fire as an essential ecological process and natural change agent will be incorporated into the planning process.
3. Fire Management Plans, programs, and activities support land and resource management plans and their implementation.
4. Sound risk management is a foundation for all fire management activities.
5. Fire management programs and activities are economically viable, based upon values to be protected, costs, and land and resource management objectives.
6. Fire Management Plans and activities are based upon the best available science.
7. Fire Management Plans and activities incorporate public health and environmental quality considerations.
8. Federal, State, tribal, local, interagency, and international coordination and cooperation are essential.
9. Standardization of policies and procedures among federal agencies is an ongoing objective.

2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy:

1. Safety

Firefighter and public safety is the first priority. All Fire Management Plans and activities must reflect this commitment.

2. Fire Management and Ecosystem Sustainability

The full range of fire management activities will be used to help achieve ecosystem sustainability, including its interrelated ecological, economic, and social components.

3. Response to Wildland Fire

Fire, as a critical natural process, will be integrated into land and resource management plans and activities on a landscape scale, and across agency boundaries. Response to wildland fire is based on ecological, social, and legal consequences of the fire. The circumstances under which a fire occurs, and the likely consequences on firefighter and public safety and welfare, natural and cultural resources, and values to be protected dictate the appropriate management response to the fire.

4. Use of Wildland Fire

Wildland fire will be used to protect, maintain, and enhance resources and, as nearly as possible, be allowed to function in its natural ecological role. Use of fire will be based on approved Fire Management Plans and will follow specific prescriptions contained in operational plans.

5. Rehabilitation and Restoration

Rehabilitation and restoration efforts will be undertaken to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health, and safety, and to help communities protect infrastructure.

6. Protection Priorities

The protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection. Once people have been committed to an incident, these human resources become the highest value to be protected.

7. Wildland Urban Interface

The operational roles of federal agencies as partners in the Wildland Urban Interface are wildland firefighting, hazardous fuels reduction, cooperative prevention and education, and technical assistance. Structural fire suppression is the responsibility of tribal, State, or local governments. Federal agencies may assist with exterior structural protection activities under formal Fire Protection Agreements that specify the mutual responsibilities of the partners, including funding. (Some federal agencies have full structural protection authority for their facilities on lands they administer, and may also enter into formal agreements to assist State and local governments with full structural protection.)

8. Planning

Every area with burnable vegetation must have an approved Fire Management Plan. Fire Management Plans are strategic plans that define a program to manage wildland and prescribed fires based on the area's approved land management plan. Fire Management Plans must provide for firefighter and public safety; include fire management strategies, tactics, and alternatives; address values to be protected and public health issues; and be consistent with resource management objective, activities of the area, and environmental laws and regulations.

9. Science

Fire Management Plans and programs will be based on a foundation of sound science. Research will support ongoing efforts to increase our scientific knowledge of biological, physical, and sociological factors. Information needed to support fire management will be developed through an integrated interagency fire science program. Scientific results must be made available to managers in a timely manner and must be used in the development of land management plans, Fire Management Plans, and implementation plans.

10. Preparedness

Agencies will ensure their capability to provide safe, cost-effective fire management programs in support of land and resource management plans through appropriate planning, staffing, training, equipment, and management oversight.

11. Suppression

Fires are suppressed at minimum cost, considering firefighter and public safety, benefits, and values to be protected, consistent with resource objectives.

12. Prevention

Agencies will work together with local partners and other affected groups and individuals to prevent unauthorized ignition of wildland fires.

13. Standardization

Agencies will use compatible planning processes, funding mechanisms, training and qualification requirements, operational procedures, value-to-be-protected methodologies, and public education programs for all fire management activities.

14. Interagency Cooperation and Coordination

Fire management planning, preparedness, prevention, suppression, fire use, restoration and rehabilitation, monitoring, research, and education will be conducted on an interagency basis with the involvement of cooperators and partners.

15. Communication and Education

Agencies will enhance knowledge and understanding of wildland fire management policies and practices through internal and external communication and education programs. These programs will be continuously improved through the timely and effective exchange of information among all affected agencies and organizations.

16. Agency Administrators and Employee Roles

Agency administrators will ensure that their employees are trained, certified, and made available to participate in the wildland fire program locally, regionally, and nationally as the situation demands. Employees with operational, administrative, or other skills will support the wildland fire program as necessary. Agency administrators are responsible and will be held accountable for making employees available.

17. Evaluation

Agencies will develop and implement a systematic method of evaluation to determine effectiveness of projects through implementation of the 2001 Federal Fire Policy. The evaluation will assure accountability, facilitate resolution of areas of conflict, and identify resource shortages and agency priorities.

18. FSM 5103

a. Integrate consideration of fire management into Forest land and resource management plan (Forest plan) objectives, prescriptions, and practices. When developing fire management direction in the forest plan, identify the foreseeable effects of fire on environmental, social, and economic conditions and outputs. Identify a range of protection levels and fire use alternatives. Estimate the economic and social effects based on analysis that incorporates consideration of commodity, non-commodity, and social values.
b. Develop a fire management plan based on direction in land and resource management plans and interagency plans and assessments. Amend Forest plans where necessary to meet fire management objectives. Use the best available science to assess and plan on a landscape scale, across agency boundaries.
c. Conduct fire management planning, preparedness, suppression, monitoring, and research, and fire use on an interagency basis and involve affected partners. Integrate with forest planning whenever possible.
d. Observe these fire management priorities on all fires: first, ensure firefighter and public safety; and, second, protect property and natural and cultural resources based on the relative values to be protected.
e. Designate a prescribed fire, or a wildland fire managed for resource benefits, as a wildfire, when it exceeds, or is anticipated to exceed, one or more prescription parameters. Once a fire has been declared a wildfire, it may not be redesignated either as a prescribed fire or as a wildland fire managed for resource benefits.
f. Do not manage human-caused wildland fires to achieve resource benefits.

C. Forest-wide desired condition, goals, and objectives

Forest-wide goals related to fire as described by the Dixie National Forest Land Management Plan as amended (2001):

Goal
Ecosystems are restored and maintained, consistent with land uses and historic fire regimes, through wildland fire use and prescribed fire.

Standards and Guidelines
Wildland Fire Suppression

1. **Standard** - Human life (firefighter and public safety) is the highest priority during a fire. Once firefighters have been assigned to a fire, their safety becomes the highest value to be protected. Property and natural and cultural resources are lower priorities.
2. **Guideline** - When assigning protection priorities to property and natural and cultural resources, decisions will be based on relative values to be protected, commensurate with fire management costs.
3. **Standard** - Human-caused fires (either accidental or arson) are unwanted wildland fires, and will be suppressed. Natural ignitions will be suppressed in areas not covered by an approved fire management plan.
4. **Guideline** - The full range of suppression tactics is authorized forest wide, consistent with forest and management area emphasis and direction.

Prescribed Fire

1. **Guideline** - Prescribed fire is authorized forest wide. (Use prescribed fire in wilderness only to meet wilderness fire management objectives.)

Wildland Fire Use

1. **Guideline** - Wildland fire use is authorized forest wide *except in*

    - Administrative sites
    - Developed recreation sites
    - Summer home sites
    - Designated communication sites
    - Oil and gas facilities
    - Mining facilities
    - Above-ground utility corridors
    - High-use travel corridors.

The management response for these locations will be suppression if they are threatened.

In areas authorized for wildland fire use, the full range of management responses--from full suppression to monitoring--may be used.

Fuels

1. **Guideline** - Reduce hazardous fuels. The full range of fuel reduction methods is authorized, consistent with forest and management area emphasis and direction.

SECTION III: Wildland Fire Management Strategies

A. General Management Considerations

There is a broad range of consideration while achieving the wildland fire management program goals listed below. Fire fighter and pubic safety is the primary consideration. Other considerations while managing wildland fire and fuels include:

- ✓ Public information and involvement
- ✓ Cooperator coordination
- ✓ Forest Service Policy
- ✓ Collaborative processes
- ✓ Information, marketing and education of the wildland fire environment

B. Wildland Fire Management Goals

- Achieve a program where firefighter and public safety is the highest priority in every fire management activity.
- Manage wildland fire and implement the use of prescribed fire wherever appropriate as tools to meet resource management objectives as described in the Dixie National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.
- Maintain an efficient and effective organization for the suppression of wildfires at a minimum cost consistent with the values at risk.

C. Wildland Fire Management Options

A full range of wildland fire fuels management options are authorized by the Dixie National Forest LRMP. The Dixie National Forest LRMP does constrain certain wildland fire use options in specific areas. This plan implements the decisions made in the LRMP.

This section displays the scope of fire management program elements that will be implemented within the administrative unit and will be further developed throughout the Fire Management Plan.

Risk Rating

Each management area identified in the Dixie National Forest Land Management Plan has a level of risk to resource values posed by wildfire. This plan categorizes these areas of risk into three different levels based on the concentration of the values defined by the Dixie National Forest LRMP. High concentrations of values at risk are classified as “high risk”, moderate concentrations as “moderate risk” and low concentrations as “low risk”. Operationally, a different set of fire management options may be available in “high risk” areas contrasted to “low risk” areas. These three fire management categories were used to describe the general level of risk across the Dixie National Forest. The following are descriptions of these categories:

Red Category – High Risk. Fire may perform an important role in the function of the ecosystem but because of resource concerns, LRMP goals and potentially high economic impacts from unplanned ignitions, considerable constraints and mitigation measures are required. The appropriate management response is usually aggressive suppression actions to fire control. Fuels reduction is a major means of mitigating the potential risks and losses. Prescribed fire projects are complex and costly due to stringent contingency planning and monitoring.

Unplanned ignitions are typically not managed to meet resource management objectives due to the proximity of high value improvements and the concentration of areas excluded from wildland fire use by the Dixie National Forest Land Management Plan.

Yellow Category – Moderate Risk. Fire is a desirable component of the ecosystem with moderate mitigation requirements and constraints. A significant level of prescribed fire activity is used to attain desired resource and ecological conditions. Prescribed fire treatments for hazard reduction is a lower priority than in Red category. Wildland fires may be managed to meet resource management objectives under an approved wildland fire implementation plan (WFIP).

Green Category – Low Risk. Fire is an integral component in maintaining or achieving the desired future condition for affected lands with less mitigation requirements or resource constraints than categories described above. Prescribed fire for hazardous fuel reduction is not a priority except where an immediate threat to public health and safety exists. Wildland fires may be managed to meet resource management objectives under an approved wildland fire implementation plan.

Designated Wilderness areas (Pine Valley, Box Death Hollow and Ashdown Gorge) are included in the Green category where natural processes are encouraged.

State and Private lands

State and private lands adjacent to or intermingled with National Forest System lands. The jurisdictional agency or local cooperator will aggressively suppress Wildland fire occurring in these areas.

The following are the elements of wildland fire management program on the Dixie National Forest. They are considered as options in managing wildland fire and fuels.

1. Wildland Fire

a. Wildland fire suppression:

Appropriate Management Response

Wildland fire suppression may use all the tactics related to this type of action. These tactics include, Confine, Contain and Control or a combination strategy. These strategies will always be implemented with firefighter and public safety as the determining factor.

All wildland fire ignitions will be assessed under the stage I analysis. If an appropriate management response is determined to be a suppression alternative (suppression tactics include confine, contain and control) then all tactics under this strategy are available to managers.

It is a Dixie National Forest Policy that, If wildland fire suppression strategy uses confine or contain as part of the tactics, then a Wildland Fire Situation Analysis must be prepared.

The Forest Supervisor (or delegated representative) is responsible for establishing priorities and coordinating all fire management activities on the Forest. The management of the Forest fire program has been delegated to the Forest Fire Management Officer or acting delegate.

Zone and District Fire Management Officers (and/or Zone/District Duty Officer) manage aspects of the interagency fire management program under their supervision in coordination with the responsible sub-unit Line Officer (District Ranger). These responsibilities are delegated in writing annually to specific individuals.

Types of organizations used by the Forest for fire suppression and related activities are:

Initial Attack	Type 4 and 5 incidents
Initial Management Group (IMG)	Type 3 incidents
Incident Management Teams	Type 2 and 1 incidents
Expanded Dispatch	Buying Teams
Burned Area Rehabilitation Team*	

A Burned Area Rehabilitation Team (BAER) may be used to evaluate impacts to resource values resulting from wildfires as well as to design resource mitigation efforts. Rehabilitation actions required as a result of suppression activities is coordinated with key resource specialists separately from a BAER team.

Initial attack resources include hand crews, engines, helicopters, smokejumpers, airtankers and local cooperator resources. Initial attack resources staffed by participating agencies in the Color Country Interagency Fire Management area are dispatched based on the closest

resources concept regardless of jurisdiction. Airtankers, helicopters, smokejumpers and air attack resources are located at the Cedar City Air Center and St. George airport

b. Wildland fire use

As defined by the LRMP, implementation of wildland fire use to benefit resources will be allowed under prescriptive parameters. These prescriptive parameters are displayed under the Fire Management Unit (FMU) descriptions in following sections of this plan. Human caused fires will be suppressed. This program will always use firefighter and public safety as the determining factor.

If a wildland fire managed for resource benefits exceeds prescription parameters and cannot be brought back into prescription within 24 hours, it will be declared a wildfire. A Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) will then be prepared and the appropriate suppression response taken.

i. Skills, Qualifications, and Organization

The skills, qualifications, and organization needed to manage a wildland fire use program vary depending on the fire situation. Individuals involved in Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) development and daily revalidation should have completed the appropriate or similar academic or on-the-job training listed below. The qualifications of personnel assigned to the fire from another agency will be accepted, even if the qualification requirements differ from those of the USDA Forest Service.

The line officer must designate a Fire Use Manager (FUMA) for every wildland fire managed to achieve resource benefits. The FUMA is directly responsible for all aspects of the WFIP. The FUMA may manage several wildland fires that do not require significant staffing, external communications, or holding resources for plan implementation. Alternatively, the FUMA may be the leader of a Fire Use Team needed to manage one or more complex fires. An individual FUMA must be assigned to each wildland fire requiring Stage III analysis.
As complexity increases, line officers should consider assigning a formal Fire Use Team. Indicators of increasing complexity include safety, the number of fires being managed, rate or number of acreage increases, anticipated severe or critical weather, increasing coordination needs, smoke issues, threatened resources, and logistical needs. Fire Use Management Teams (FUMT), Type I Incident Commanders, or Type II Incident Commanders may be designated as FUMAs provided they meet the qualification standards in the Interagency Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualifications System Guide (310-1). If a FUMA must be replaced or relieved, the line officer must designate a replacement at the same level of authority as made the initial FUMA assignment.

When required, a Long-Term Fire Analyst (LTAN) or Fire Behavior Analyst (FBAN) must provide long-term fire behavior predictions, based on the best scientific process available. The LTAN or FBAN used must have experience in long-term fire behavior predictions.

ii. Line Officer Responsibility (District Ranger and Forest Supervisor)

District Rangers have the authority and responsibility to recommend the management of a candidate wildland fire for resource benefits.

The Forest Supervisor has the approval authority for Wildland Fire Use actions described in Stage I, II and III of the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP), and approve the periodic revalidation of the WFIP at Regional and National Preparedness Levels I through III. The Regional Forester is responsible for WFIP approval at National Preparedness levels IV and V.

iii. Forest Duty Officer (FFMO or Acting)

The Forest Duty Officer is responsible for assisting and advising the District Ranger and Forest Supervisor in the decision process for a candidate resource benefit fires.

iv. District Duty Officer (ZFMO, DFMO, AFMO or Acting)

The District Duty Officer is responsible for assisting and advising the District Ranger in the decision process for a candidate resource benefit fires and manage the transition of the wildland fire from initial response to either wildland fire use or suppression tactics.

v. Fire Use Manager (FUMA)

The Fire Use Manager is responsible for the development of the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP), on site fire management operations, daily revalidation of the WFIP, any necessary revisions to the WFIP, and complying with provisions in the Utah Smoke Management Plan.

Qualified FUMAs
Brett Fay – Forest Fire Management Officer
Kim Soper – East Zone Fire Management Officer

vi. Long-Term Fire Analyst (LTAN)

The Long-Term Fire Analyst has the responsibility to provide projections of fire spread based on current and expected conditions or average worse conditions, assist development of a Maximum Manageable Area (MMA) or validation of a preplanned MMA for Stage III of the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan, and prepare risk assessments when requested by the Fire Use Manager, Incident Commander, or Line Officer(s).

vii. Wildland Fire Use Resource Specialist Team

Wildland Fire Use Resource Specialist Team is consulted in the Dixie National Forest Stage I WFIP analysis and in the on-going management of a resource benefit fire. Specialists potentially involved include, but are not limited to: designated resource advisor, archeologist, public affairs officer, fisheries biologist, wildlife biologist, hydrologist, range management specialist, and fire operations personnel (division-group supervisor qualified at minimum)

Wildland Fire Use Resource Specialist Team for 2004:

Historic Resource Specialist - Marion Jacklin
Range Management Specialist – David Grider
Ecologist – Priscilla Summers
Recreation Management Specialist – Gretchen Merrill
Soil and Water – Rich Jaros
Timber – Vacant
Ecosystem Management – Steve Robertson
Fisheries and Aquatic Resources – Steve Brazer

As Needed:
Wilderness Specialist – Fred Ybright

D. Fire Management Units

Fire Management Units (FMUs) on the Dixie National Forest are based on risk. There are 24 separate fire management units on the Dixie National Forest. These FMUs are further defined by risk to improvements and resources as defined by the land management plan. Risks in fire management units are separated into two categories: General Risk and Specific Risk.

1. General Risk – FMU Map

General risk as used in FMU determination and is defined as a concentration of at-risk conditions that can be identified by a geographic area. General risk categories are used to describe relative risk on the Dixie National Forest. Fuel conditions, concentrations of wildland urban intermix and interface, areas defined for protection from wildland fire by the Dixie National Forest Land Management Plan were used to geographically define general risk categories.

General risk categories include:

Red Category - High Risk
Fire may perform an important role in the function of the ecosystem but because of resource concerns and potentially high economic impacts from unplanned ignitions, considerable constraints and mitigation measures are required. The appropriate management response is usually aggressive suppression actions to fire control. Fuels reduction is a major means of mitigating the potential risks and losses. Prescribed fire projects are complex and costly due to stringent contingency planning and monitoring. Unplanned ignitions are typically not managed to meet resource management objectives due to the proximity of high value improvements and the concentration of areas excluded from wildland fire use by the Dixie National Forest Land Management Plan. Large relative concentration of private land in holdings surrounded by fire prone vegetation types has been classified a HIGH general risk area.

Yellow Category – Moderate Risk. Fire is a desirable component of the ecosystem with moderate mitigation requirements and constraints. A significant level of prescribed fire activity is used to attain desired resource and ecological conditions. Prescribed fire treatments for hazard reduction is a lower priority than in Red category. Wildland fires may be managed to meet resource management objectives under an approved wildland fire implementation plan (WFIP). Areas with scattered individual campgrounds or improvements and or vegetation that could have undesired effects from wildland fire have been classified as MODERATE general risk area.

Green Category – Low Risk. Fire is an integral component in maintaining or achieving the desired future condition for affected lands with less mitigation requirements or resource constraints than categories described above. Prescribed fire for hazardous fuel reduction is not a priority except where an immediate threat to public health and safety exists. Wildland fires may be managed to meet resource management objectives under an approved wildland fire implementation plan. An area with few improvements and or vegetation that has a high potential for beneficial effects from wildland fire has been classified as LOW general risk area.

Designated Wilderness areas (Pine Valley, Box Death Hollow and Ashdown Gorge) are included in the Green category where natural processes are encouraged.

2. Specific Risk

Specific risks are subsets of the general risk category. They are individual improvements or resource values that have the potential to be at risk under identified fire behavior. Specific risk areas occur across the Forest in all General Risk categories. These specific risk areas will be evaluated at the time of discovery of an unplanned ignition and will assist in the identification of potential fuels treatment areas. Specific risks areas are displayed through geographic information system (GIS) data that is a companion to this plan. Examples of specific risk include:

- Administrative sites*
- Areas of fire fighter safety concerns
- Developed recreation sites*
- Summer home sites*
- Designated communication sites*
- Oil and gas facilities*
- Municipal watersheds
- Private land with structures
- Noxious plants

- Timber emphasis areas
- Mining facilities*
- Above-ground utility corridors*
- High-use travel corridors*
- Historic Resource areas
- Plantations
- Capable range lands
- Wildlife habitat / TES

(* = Areas that are defined by the Dixie LMP as areas where wildland fire use is not allowed)

3. Dixie National Forest Fire Management Units

There are 24 distinct fire management units on the Dixie National Forest. Fire management units are update annually by a Ranger District interdisciplinary team. They are reviewed and submitted by the District Ranger to the Forest Supervisors office for approval.

Pine Valley Ranger District FMUs

- Westside
- Pine Valley Interface
- Pine Valley Brush land
- Pine Valley Wilderness
- Pinto

Cedar City Ranger District FMUs

- Bear Valley
- Ashdown Gorge
- Brian Head
- Cedar Breaks
- Cedar Interface
- Panguitch Lake

Powell Ranger District FMUs

- Dave's Hollow
- Red Canyon
- East Fork
- Mt. Dutton
- Fish Hook

Escalante Ranger District FMUs

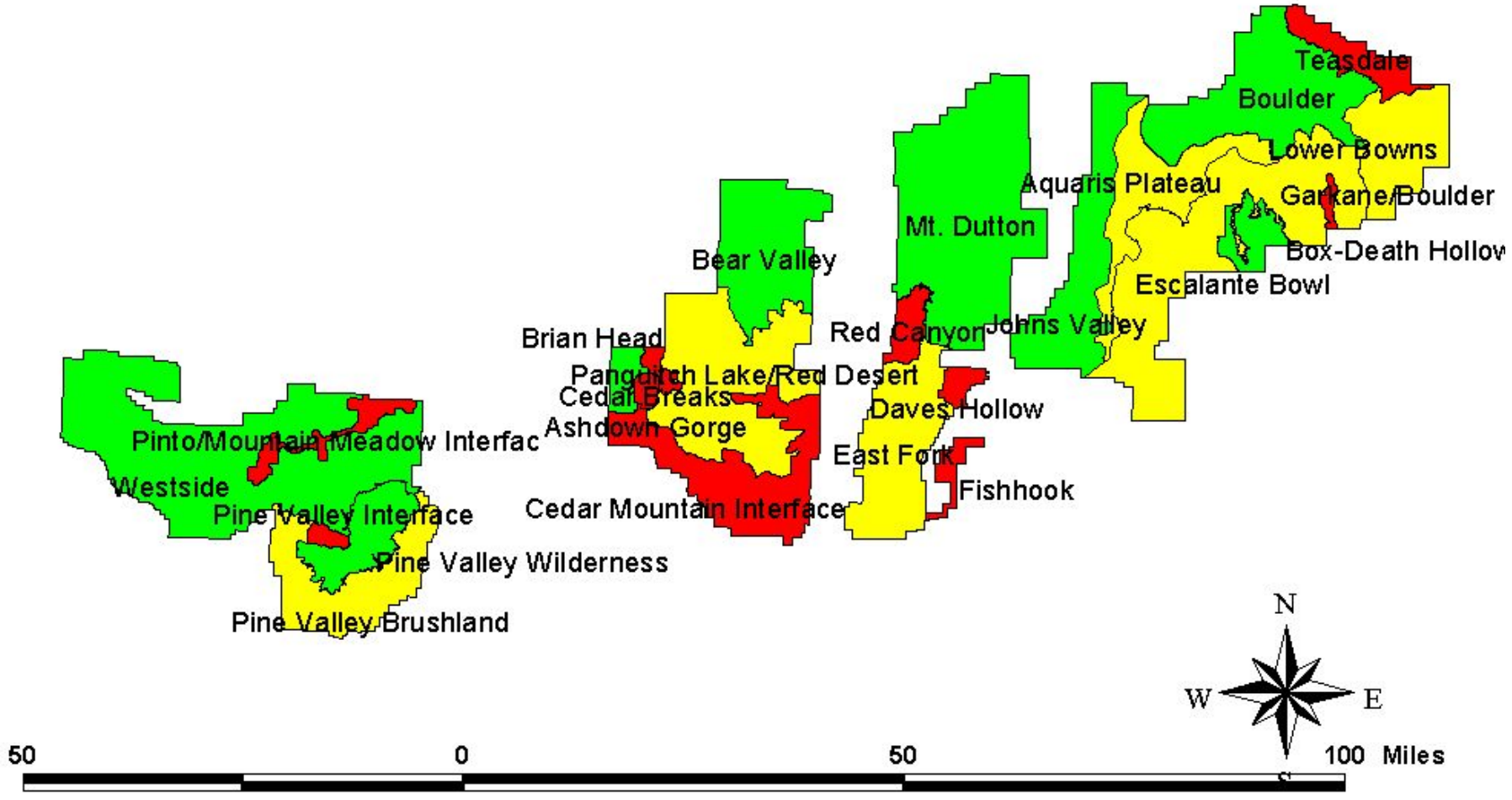
- Aquarius
- Box Death Wilderness
- Escalante Bowl
- Garkane / Boulder
- Johns Valley

Teasdale Ranger District FMUs

- Boulder
- Lower Bowns
- Teasdale

`

Dixie National Forest Fire Management Units



4. **Fire Management Unit Description Outline**

   Individual FMUs and their descriptions are contained in the appendix. Also see example FMU Outline in the appendices for detailed information

SECTION IV: Wildland Fire Management Program Components

A. General Management Procedures

All wildfires will be subject to an initial attack response. This response will include size up of the current fire situation, determination of probable fire cause and estimate of potential for fire spread. An appropriate suppression response will be initiated unless the fire is determined to be a candidate ignition for management as a wildland fire use incident.

All ignitions determined to be human caused will be suppressed using an appropriate management response. Natural ignitions will be suppressed unless they are located in an area that has an approved wildland fire use plan.

Based on the Dixie National Forest Land Management Plan (LMP) amendment it has been determined that over the last 20 to 30 years unwanted wildland fires have grown in size, intensity, and frequency. This has caused undesirable changes in the composition and structure (age and size) of forest and rangeland vegetation. One of the primary factors responsible for the increased size, intensity and severity of wildland fires is fire exclusion in forested ecosystems, which has led to uncharacteristically high fuel loadings.

The increasing size, intensity and severity of wildland fires pose greater threats to human life and property. More people are recreating in National Forests and building homes in wildland areas, increasing their exposure to naturally ignited wildland fires and increasing the risk of human-caused wildland fire ignitions. Also, the threat to cultural resources is increased by uncharacteristically high fire intensities and severities resulting from uncharacteristic changes in vegetation, fuel loadings, and fire behavior. Fire suppression costs have also increased.

While suppression of unwanted wildland fires will continue, land managers need additional options in addressing ways to help achieve the desired conditions described in each forest plan. Responsible and appropriate use of fire, both prescribed fire and wildland fire use for resource benefit, across a landscape-scale is needed to help reduce hazardous fuels and sustain wildland ecosystems into the future. Fire management direction has been modified or deleted and new management direction been added to the forest plans to address these concerns.

This Fire Management Plan (FMP) is the operational guide to implement the Dixie National Forest Land Management Plan (LMP) fire management direction.

The appropriate management response will be developed based on firefighter and public safety considerations, resource and cultural values at risk, and circumstances unique to the incident while providing for cost-effective management.

WFIP Stage	Planning and Assessment Element	Requirement Status			Maximum completion timeframe
		Initial Attack	Other Suppression-oriented appropriate management responses	Fire use actions	
WFIP Stage I: Initial Fire Assessment	Fire Situation	1	1	1	As soon as possible
	Decision Criteria Checklist (Initial GO-NO-GO Decision)	3	1	1	2 hours after first fire detection
WFIP Stage II: Short-term Implementation Actions	Short-Term Fire Behavior Predictions and Risk Assessment	3	1	1	24 hours after Stage I completion
	Short-term Implementation Actions	2	1	1	
	Complexity Analysis	3	1	1	
	Stage III Need Assessment Chart	NA	1	1	
WFIP Stage III: Long-Term Implementation Actions	MMA Definition	3	4	4	Within 24 hours after Stage II or Periodic Fire Assessment indicates need
	Fire Behavior Predictions	3	4	4	
	Long-Term Risk Assessment	3	4	4	
	Long-term Implementation Actions	3	4	4	
Periodic Fire Assessment	Part 1: Re-validation	NA	1	1	On assigned frequency
	Part 2: Stage III Need Assessment Chart	NA	1	1	
WFSA		5	5	6	Before implementing new strategy

1. Implementation Procedures

All unplanned wildland fire responses will have a stage one wildland fire assessment completed. This assessment and subsequent procedures are outlined in chapter 4 of the Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy Guide (FSM 5103, 5108 and 5232.32). Table 1 below describes time frames and requirements of the Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy Guide. All human caused fires will have a suppression response.

Duty officers for their defined FMUs are responsible for completing the stage one assessment. The appropriate FMU initial response dispatch office may accomplish this for the FMU duty officer.

Stage I – Initial Fire Assessment will be completed by the Zone Fire Management Officer or designee along with the responsible Line Officer (District Ranger) within two hours of receipt of size up information that confirms that the ignition was started by lightning. The Stage I assessment provides the decision framework for selecting the appropriate management response. Operational management decisions are described in the WFIP.

Stage II – Short-term Implementation Actions are completed by the Fire Use Manager (FUMA) and staff within twenty-four (24 hours) following the completion of the Stage I assessment. Key components of the Stage II assessment include development of short-

term fire behavior predictions, implementation actions required, and incident complexity analysis.

Individual wildland fire use plans identify the responsible Line Officer who must approve the Stage II assessment. This responsibility is in large part based on the projected complexity of the incident, potential to affect multiple jurisdictions and projected duration of the incident.

Stage III – Long Term Assessment and Implementation Actions include identification of the maximum manageable areas (MMA) and long-term risk assessment. In addition to the fire use manager (FUMA) a Long Term Fire Analyst (LTAN) or fire behavior analyst (FBAN) is required to complete applicable risk assessments and projections.

Table 1: WFIP implementation stages, requirement status, and completion timeframes.

Requirement status key:

1 = mandatory
2 = mandatory, but can be preplanned
3 = optional
4 = completed if Stage II or Periodic Fire Assessment, Part 2 indicate need.
5 = completed if fire exceeds management capabilities
6 = completed if Periodic Fire Assessment, Part 1 indicates need

The text box below outlines the information required for the stage 1 assessment. Every unplanned ignition will have this information assessed before a wildland fire response is initiated.

Figure 1: Stage 1

Dixie National Forest
WFIP Stage I: Initial Fire Assessment

- ❑ Fire name
- ❑ Fire number
- ❑ Jurisdiction(s)
- ❑ Administrative unit(s)
- ❑ Fire Management Unit (FMU)
- ❑ Responsible duty officer
- ❑ Geographic Area(s)
- ❑ Management Code(s)
- ❑ Start date/time
- ❑ Discovery date/time
- ❑ Current size
- ❑ Location
- ❑ Cause
- ❑ Fuel model(s)/conditions
- ❑ Current weather
- ❑ Forecasted weather
- ❑ Current fire behavior
- ❑ Forecasted fire behavior
- ❑ Availability of resources
- ❑ Decision criteria checklist
  - ✓ Fire behavior indicator
  - ✓ Threats to fire fighter or public safety
  - ✓ Specific risk assessment
- ❑ Recommended response action

B. Wildland Fire Suppression

Fires will be suppressed considering firefighter and public safety, benefits, and values to be protected, consistent with resource objectives, at minimum costs.

All strategies for managing wildland fire suppression are available on the Dixie National Forest. They include: Confine, Contain and Control or a combination of these strategies.

Qualified District Rangers will be responsible for managing fires at the Type II level and below. The Forest Supervisor will be responsible for all Type I fires.

The Dixie National Forest Supervisor has the authority to sign all WFSAs and Delegation of Authority to Incident Commanders:

A suppression response will be initiated in situations including, but not limited to:

- Wildland fire that is human-caused
- Prescriptive criteria are outside of the range to allow Wildland fire use for the individual Fire Management Unit.

The level of suppression response intensity will range from aggressive initial attack to a combination of strategies to achieve confinement. The chart shown in Figures 3 & 4 should be used to determine the suppression response intensity.

Figure 3 Appropriate Management Response

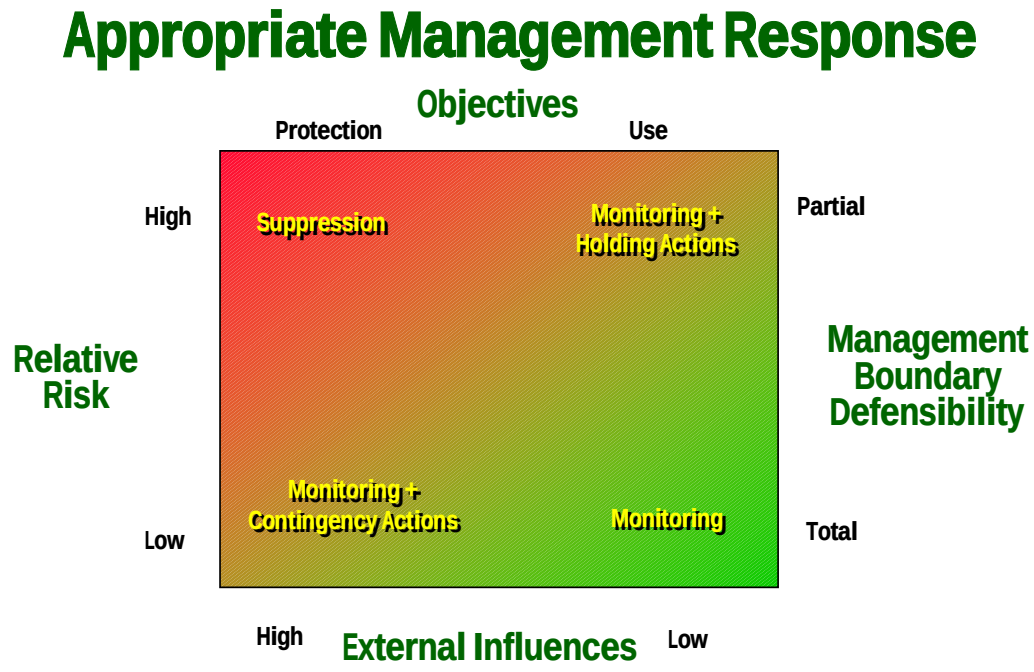
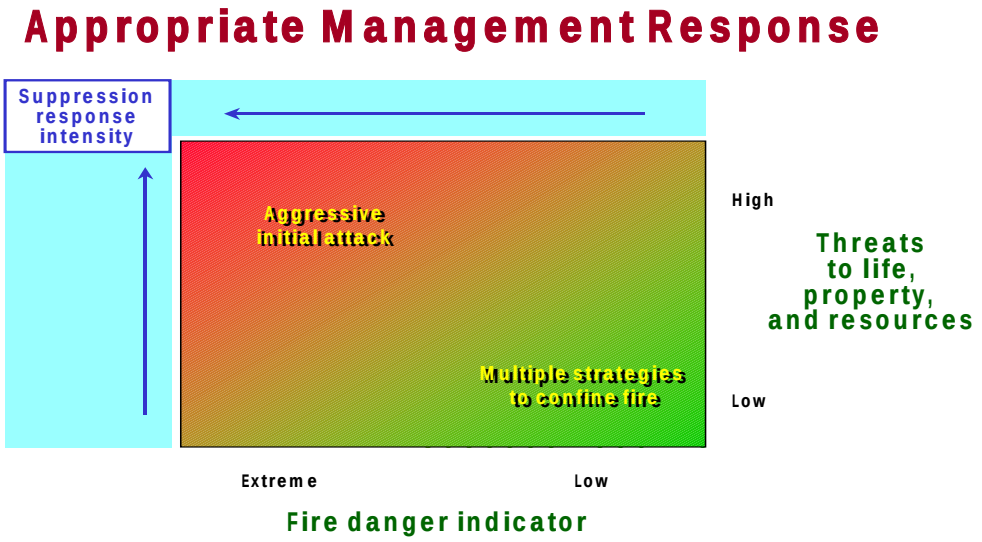


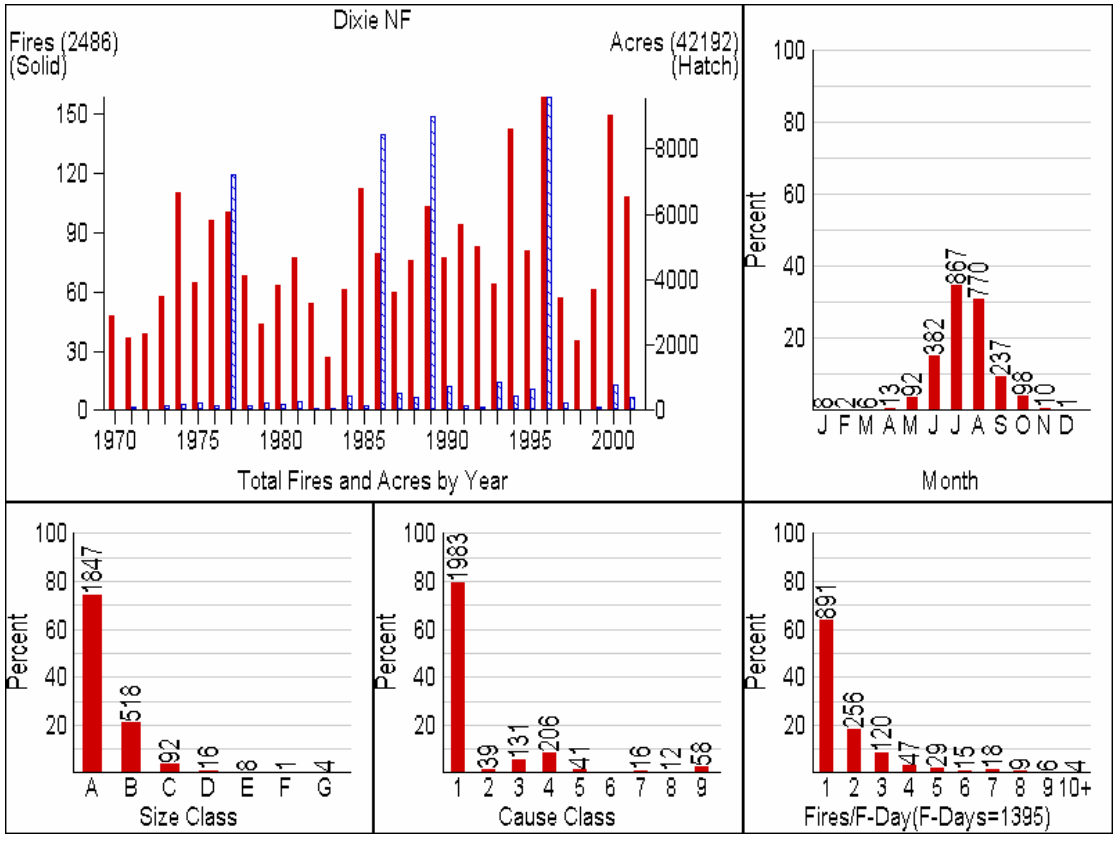
Figure 4 Appropriate Management Response



1. Range of potential behavior

Review of representative weather stations on the Dixie NF indicates that Energy Release Component (ERC) is a reliable fire danger indicator to estimate potential fire behavior. Energy Release Component (ERC) charts are included in the Color Country NFDRS plan.

Graph 1 illustrates the Dixie National Forest Fire Occurrence 1970 – 2001GRAPH 1



The previous graph was created in FireFamily+ software to display historical fire records.

2. Preparedness Actions

a. Fire Prevention Program

The Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area and visitor information staff groups accomplish fire prevention activities on the Forest. A typical range of program efforts is undertaken including signing, press releases and public service announcements, educational programs targeting school children and forest visitors and coordination with local cooperators during periods of high fire danger.

The Dixie National Forest receives moderate visitor use in dispersed backcountry settings as well as at developed recreation facilities. Recreational use resulting the potential for human caused fire begins typically after Memorial Day and continues through the big game hunting seasons in October and November.

i. Annual Prevention Program

The Forest participates in the Smokey Bear Program to maintain public awareness of the need to prevent wildfires. Smokey Bear related fire prevention materials are distributed at agency offices as well as through educational programs that focus on local school children. Forest employees dressed as Smokey Bear participate in local festivals and parades throughout the Forest.

Contacts with Forest visitors at the office locations across the Forest provide information regarding current fire danger and tips for camping and backcountry use. Recreation staff including wilderness rangers and personnel staffing developed recreation sites make frequent one on one contact with recreationists.

Indirect contacts are made through radio, television, newspapers, and signing. Press releases, informal contacts, and feature articles are also used to get the message to the public.

The Forest and Zone Fire Management Officers routinely coordinate fire prevention activities with Federal, State and local cooperators and communities. The Color Country Fire Management Area unitizes an interagency committee to coordinate fire prevention and education. This committee coordinates and cooperates in the prevention and education activities directed by the Color Country Fire Management board.

ii. Special Orders and Closures

Authority – The Regional Forester and Forest Supervisor have authority to issue restrictions and closures of National Forest Lands. The District Rangers, who are responsible for implementation and enforcement of the restrictions, will be contacted to ensure that proposed restrictions are coordinated across the Unit as appropriate.

iii. Industrial Operations and Fire Precautions

Zone Fire Management staff and/or Facility Managers or their appointed representatives make inspections of all Forest facilities periodically. Measures to reduce the risks of and hazards from wildfire are to be taken immediately whenever problems are noted.

Rights-of-way in the form of roads and powerlines must be periodically reviewed to minimize the potential for fire starts. This is an integral part of the special use inspection process.

Public roads are numerous, offer many attractions, and are the primary means of public access into and through the Forest. Fuel loading along major roads is treated in accord with Land and Resource Management Plan direction.

Powerlines traverse the Forest at numerous locations. Inspections and follow through in removing vegetation that could fall across the line are start fires is required. (Powerline Fire Prevention Handbook FSH 5109.21)

The Timber Sale Administrator is responsible for completing fire prevention inspection of the Timber Sale Contractor's equipment and sale area. The Forest Service Representative and/or Sale Administrator will enforce all requirements of the contract related to fire prevention precautionary measures.

Inspection of and requirements placed on Special Use operations will include fire prevention considerations.

All internal combustion engines that operate on the Forest must have properly working spark arresters. Agency personnel conduct spark arrester inspections. The inspection procedures are listed in the spark arrester guide. (Spark Arrester Guide – General Purpose and Locomotives, Volume 1, PMS 430-2 and Spark Arrester Guide – Multipurpose Small Engine, Volume 2, PMS 430-2)

Compliance inspections area completed in accordance with contract requirements or per manual direction in the case of special use permits. Inspections are for the protection of the Forest and the operators.

b. Annual Fire Training Activities

All agency personnel having wildland fire qualifications in Operations are required to attend an annual fire refresher. This refresher includes fire shelter deployment and recurrent safety topics such as Standards for Survival; Look Up, Look Down, Look Around; or similar safety oriented training (ref. FSM 5109.17). Attendance at refresher training along with successful completion of the appropriate level of work capacity testing is a pre-requisite for receipt of a red card prior to June 15th annually.

All employees with support roles in fire suppression in a camp setting, drivers, resource specialists and Line Officers are encouraged to attend annual fire refresher training.

The Six Minutes for Safety program is incorporated on a daily basis for all fire management staff members at the Zone level.

Basic Firefighter training (S-130, S-190) is offered annually to new employees and interested members of local cooperating agencies and fire departments.

Zone Fire Management Officers are the primary point of contact for agency employees from other resource disciplines or support functions to coordinate training needs.

i. Qualifications and Needs Assessment

The Dixie National Forest Red Card committee reviews the list of personnel qualified by position to undertake assignments in support of wildfire or prescribed fire. The Qualification Committee also identifies positions where insufficient personnel are qualified to meet short-term and mid-term wildland fire management needs.

The needs assessment is forwarded to the Geographic Area Training Coordinator for discussion at the Area level.

c. Fire Season Readiness

i. Annual Preparedness Reviews

The Forest Fire Management Officer, in conjunction with the District Ranger and District or Zone Fire Management Officer, annually conducts readiness inspections for all suppression modules. This will be completed by **July 1st** after all modules are fully staffed and training has been completed. Areas that are covered include safety drills, knowledge of standard fire orders and watch out situations, hose-lay and line construction skills, station maintenance, training records, and equipment knowledge and maintenance. Format for annual review including the previous years review documentation is included in appendices.

ii. Season start and stop criteria with typical dates

Established on-dates for fire modules are based on NFMAS funding levels. This also authorizes employment of seasonal personnel that will continue through the end of fire season. The NFMAS fire season as determined by historical analysis of fires is June 1 through September 30. This corresponds to the period of time when approximately 95% of all fire starts occurred.

The District Ranger shall assure that the fire management staff provides staffing needed for supervision of fire activities.

iii. Administrative Units Fire Cache considerations

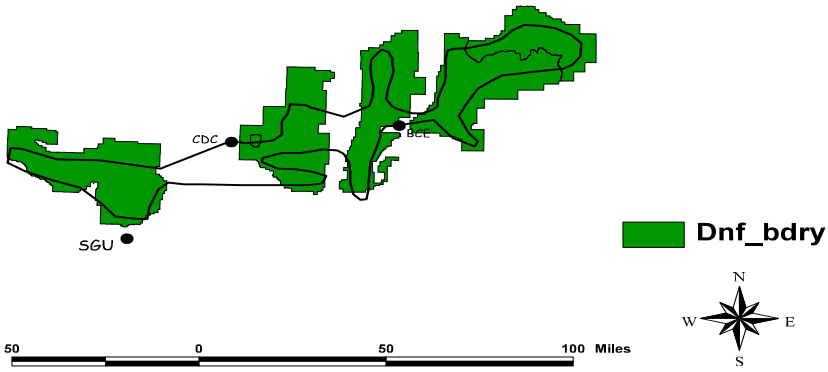
The purpose of the Supervisors office fire cache in Cedar City is to support extended attack and (1) type 3 fire organization for up to 48 hours without support from geographic area caches. This Cache is designed to work in concert with interagency cooperators and store supplies to meeting Color Country fire management extended attack/type 3 organization support and storages of specialty items. This is a change from 2003 and a list of cached items is in development.

The purposes of District fire caches are to support re-supply for initial response and the equipping of local militia.

d. Detection

Aerial Patrols: Aerial patrol will be set up after each lightning storm or when the planning level is III or above. Aerial patrols can be requested at anytime by duty officers and filled at the discretion of the Fire Center Duty Officer and Forest Duty officer. After the flight is set up, each District duty officer will be informed of the flight times.

Traditional Detection Flight Path



Routes: Aerial patrol routes will be confirmed with the local fire person on the ground and verified with the BLM Lightning Detection System for number of strikes in the patrol areas.

Discovery: Upon discovery on any fire, wildfire, or unreported controlled burn, the following information will be given to the Dispatch Office:

- Geographic location with Longitude / Latitude coordinates
- Size of fire
- Type of fuel
- Road access
- Person reporting fire
- How to contact reporting person reporting. (Phone # or radio)
- Potential for fire growth
- Improvements threatened
- Time of discovery

Notification: The District Duty Officer will be notified of fires immediately upon discovery. When the fire is a class C or larger fire, the Dispatch Office will notify the Forest Duty Officer.

e. Fire Weather and Fire Danger

The Color Country National Fire Danger Rating plan (see attachment) contains a detailed analysis of fire danger indices and relative planning levels.

The National Weather Service in Salt Lake City issues Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings to advise land management agencies of the possible development of or actual occurrence of fire weather conditions of concern.

The National Weather Service defines conditions that warrant Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning. Conditions that may require the National weather service to issue a fire weather warning or watch.

- General dry thunderstorm activity (LAL-6), i.e. considerable lighting but little or no measurable precipitation.

- The combination of strong winds (usually 25 mph or more), low humidities (15% or lower), and high temperatures (usually 80 degrees and above).

- Fire danger in the "Very High" or "Extreme" category.

- In the judgment of the forecaster, weather conditions and fire danger combine to indicate a severe fire weather episode.

Fire Weather Watch – will be issued whenever the potential for Red Flag conditions exists. A watch will normally be issued 12 to 36 hours in advance of the expected onset of Red Flag conditions. If dry lightning is the only condition expected in the 0 to 12 hour time frame, a Fire Weather Watch may be issued or continued in place of a Red Flag Warning.

Red Flag Warning – will be issued whenever Red Flag conditions are imminent or occurring. A warning will generally be issued within 12 hours of the expected onset of Red Flag conditions, or whenever the forecaster becomes aware of an ongoing Red Flag event.

Fire Weather Watches will most likely be issued with the morning or afternoon forecast while Red Flag Warnings may be issued at any time. The Watch or Warning will be headlined in the forecast with information on the affected area, the valid time of the watch or warning, and a description of the expected severe fire weather conditions included. Both Watches and Warnings will continue to be highlighted in the routine fire weather forecast until threatening conditions cease.

Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings will be entered into WIMS and the affected agencies notified by telephone usually before, but always after a Watch or Warning has been issued. The forecaster will cancel a Watch or Warning when the conditions are no longer expected to occur. During the off-season, if very warm, dry and windy conditions are expected, the NWS will notify the Eastern Great Basin Coordination Center by phone.

The National Weather Service Fire Weather Watch/Red Flag Warning program is used to warn land management agencies of the onset or occurrence of critical fire weather conditions. The NWS does not make any management decisions as a result of the Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning. Specific actions are determined by user agencies. Preparedness levels will be adjusted commensurate with the Red Flag Warning and Weather Watches based on existing local conditions.

Spot weather forecasts - are required for all prescribed burning and are commonly needed to assist with plans for wildfire suppression. The procedures for obtaining a spot forecast are as follows:

1. Fire (or prescribed fire) personnel take weather observations at site of fire.

2. Observation data is transmitted to Color Country Interagency Dispatch Center (CCIFC) who in turn forwards the information to the National Weather Service (NWS).

3. NWS formulates a forecast and posts it on the INTERNET (http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Saltlake/fire/) site or sends a FAX copy to CCIFC Dispatch.

CCIFC forwards the spot weather forecast to the Incident Commander or responsible Duty officer via FAX or radio and confirms receipt of spot weather forecast.

i. Weather stations

See Dixie National Forest NFDRS plan in appendices.

ii. National Fire Danger Rating System

See Dixie National Forest NFDRS plan in appendices.

f. Policy and Forest Service Manual and Handbook direction

i. Work/Rest Guidelines

National Wildfire Coordination Group is finalizing national work/rest standards The Dixie National Forest will follow those statndards when finalized. Until that time the attachment is the Forest Work/Rest Policy DNF work/rest

ii. Forest Travel Policy

See NWCG and Forest handbook supplement

g. Aviation Management

i. Dixie National Forest Aviation Plan

3. Initial Attack

Initial attack is an aggressive suppression action consistent with firefighter and public safety and the values to be protected.

Initial attack forces are made up of the first suppression personnel to arrive at a fire plus reinforcements arriving during the first burning period. The most qualified individual on scene will assume command of the incident and identify themselves as the Incident Commander (IC) to resources on scene, the local duty officer and Color Country Dispatch. This will be communicated over the radio to Dispatch as well as to the remaining initial attack personnel on scene.

Should the fire complexity increase to a level exceeding the qualifications and capability of the Initial Attack IC, that individual will advise Dispatch via the radio that a more qualified Incident Commander is required along with recommendations for additional resources and overhead positions.

a. Information used to set initial attack priorities

Interagency resources in the Color Country Interagency fire management are typically able to handle multiple initial attack actions simultaneously between zones. In instances where multiple wildfire starts require prioritization, the Forest Duty officer will consider the following criteria in assigning incident priorities (adopted from the National Mobilization Guide):

1. Potential to destroy or harm human life.
2. Potential to destroy

- Communities
- Community infrastructure (including long term effects to economic sustainability and viability)
- Historically significant cultural resources
- Commercial business
- Principle residence (year round homes)
- Non-principle residence (seasonal homes, cabins, etc.)
- Out-buildings (barns, unattached garages, utility buildings, etc.)
- Potential to adversely impact cultural and natural resource values
- Probability of meeting incident objectives

The appropriate suppression response will be based on the current and predicted weather and fire behavior. However, it may be necessary at times for certain individuals or groups to be exempt from fire suppression activities in order to meet targets, critical deadlines, or accomplish other high priority jobs. For coordination purposes, it is necessary that the work supervisor notify the Fire Management Officer of the specific individual and what time periods are involved.

b. Criteria for the appropriate initial attack response

All suppression actions will be based on the Forest and District Direction Summaries and Action Plans for that Fire Management Unit. The decision that determines an appropriate response should also use the following criteria:

- Safety
- Threat to life or property
- Current and predicted fire behavior
- Current and predicted weather
- Suppression resource availability
- Suppression costs
- Resource damage or loss (from fire and suppression actions)
- Environmental impacts (of fire and suppression actions)
- Smoke management considerations
- Political considerations

Suppression of new fires will take priority over other work. However, it may be necessary at times for certain individuals or groups to be exempt from fire suppression activities in order to meet targets, critical deadlines, or accomplish other high priority jobs. For coordination purposes, it is requested that the work supervisor notify the District or Forest FMO of the specific individual and what time periods are involved.

Procedure for initial suppression response that is other than "control":

While all initial suppression responses are appropriate, options other than control (i.e. confine, contain) require additional short-term strategy documentation. To "monitor" a wildland fire with no documented strategy is unacceptable.

Forest Policy

Forest policy:

When a fire is detected and the suppression strategy is other than "control", a WFSA must be completed to document this strategy. If a wildland fire is detected and adequate information to complete a stage I assessment cannot

be obtained, then a maximum of 24hrs may elapse before the WFSA documentation is completed.

All fires will remain staffed until declared controlled or out. The IC will determine continued staffing procedures. At a minimum, regular burning period checks will be made until the IC declares the fire out.

Night travel and work will be a standard practice, except where deemed unsafe because of conditions such as weather, fire behavior, difficult or unfamiliar terrain, or lack of adequate radio contact.

Firefighters will maintain radio contact with the Color Country Interagency fire center while suppressing fires, and will check in at regular intervals. If the fire is in a location with poor or no radio communications (a 'dead spot'), a relay will be set up and maintained while firefighters are in that area.

c. Confinement as an initial attack strategy

A confinement strategy may be implemented as the initial action as long as it is not used to meet resource objectives.

Confinement can also be a strategic selection through the Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) process when the fire is expected to exceed initial attack capability or planned management capability.

d. Response times

See specific FMU descriptions in appendices.

e. Restrictions and special concerns

See specific FMU descriptions in appendices.

f. Social and political concerns

See specific FMU descriptions in appendices.

4. Extended attack and large fire suppression

a. Determining extended attack needs

A wildfire is considered to be in extended attack status when:

- Suppression efforts have not succeeded or are not expected to reach containment within 24 hours.
- The Initial Attack Incident Commander (ICT4 or ICT5) requests additional resources that result in fire complexity attaining Type III status within or following the first 24 hours after the arrival of the first suppression resources.

Extended analysis needs will be determined by the following factors and FMU objectives. The District and Zone Duty officer will consult with the Forest Duty officer to determine appropriate strategy, Wildland Fire Situation Analysis development and current resource needs.

- Current and predicted fire behavior
- Current and predicted weather

- Suppression resource availability

b. Implementation plan requirements – WFSA development

The Zone Fire Management Officer will prepare a Wildland Fire Situation Analysis for all wildfires that escape or are expected to escape initial attack. Preparation of the Wildland Fire Situation Analysis will be coordinated with the responsible sub-Unit Line Officer or designee.

The sub-unit Line Officer (District Ranger) is responsible to select the preferred management strategy for the incident. Selection of the preferred management strategy will not consider positive resource benefits resulting from wildfire as an objective.

Alternatives developed through the Wildland Fire Situation Analysis process must be consistent with the goals of the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and must address the following:

- Firefighter and public safety
- The alternative can be implemented
- Each alternative must be accompanied by a strategic plan of action
- The probability of success and consequences of failure must be assessed and displayed
- Each alternative will display the estimated numbers of acres burned, times for containment and control, suppression costs and resource damage

Every WFSA will have a least cost alternative. See criteria for approval in the appendices (Large Fire Cost Containment).

c. Complexity decision process for incident management transition

The Interagency Standards for fire and Fire Aviation Standards appendix "G" and "H" will be used to determine incident complexity.

A Type III Incident Commander will manage incidents that reach a Type III complexity level and associated command and general staff positions as appropriate for the incident. Individuals qualified and current at the Section Chief or Unit Leader level are included on the Type III cadre.

An incident complexity analysis is used to document the rationale of the fire management staff and responsible Line Officer in determining whether an extended attack incident is expected to, or has increased in complexity to warrant ordering a Type II or Type I Incident Management Team.

The following elements will be completed prior to the arrival of a Type 2 or Type 1 Incident Management Team on the Unit:

- Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) complete with applicable incident objectives and a selected alternative to guide tactical suppression actions. The Forest Supervisor (or acting) will select the preferred alternative and sign the wildland fire situation analysis.
- Agency Administrator Briefing guide completed
- Delegation of Authority completed and signed by the Forest Supervisor

The Unit FMO and Forest Supervisor will conduct a formal briefing covering the above items for the incoming incident management team.

The extended attack incident commander will conduct an operations briefing for incoming operations staff onsite at the incident.

Copies of the above briefing items are included in the appendix.

d. Example delegation of authority to incident commander

See Appendices

5. Exceeding existing incident management strategy

A new Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) is required when the objectives of the existing WFSA have been compromised (or are expected to be compromised). The revised WFSA will include a new set of objectives and a range of alternatives and associated fallback strategies and worst-case outcomes.

All Dixie National Forest Wildland Fire Situation Analysis's will have a least-cost alternative.

Given the inherent inaccuracies in developing estimated costs associated with each alternative, exceeding the cost estimate for the preferred alternative should not in and of itself generate a need to the revise the existing WFSA.

6. Minimum impact suppression requirements

Implementation of the appropriate management response for all wildfires within and external to designated wilderness areas will utilize appropriate suppression tactics to minimize ground-disturbing activities (Land and Resource Management Plan Guideline).

Providing for firefighter and public safety will be prioritized over use of minimum impact suppression tactics in all cases.

7. Other fire suppression considerations

a. Type I or Type II Incident Management Team

When a situation is beyond Forest capabilities, an ICS overhead team is brought in at the request of the Forest Supervisor to manage the incident (generally a project size fire). The type ordered depends on the complexity and severity of the situation.

The ordering unit should do the following prior to the arrival of the incoming team:

- Determine the fire camp location.
- Order supplies and equipment (pre-order), as directed by the Logistics Section Chief.
- Make an ample supply of topographic maps, base maps, etc.
- Determine transportation needs of incoming fire teams (from ordering unit mobilization point to fire, and on the fire).
- Determine line officer briefing time and location.
- Obtain necessary information for the line officer briefing.
- Order communication equipment for the fire.

There should be TWO briefings of the incoming fire team. The first briefing should be by the line officer at a site away from the fire. The second briefing should be by the current Incident Commander and staff at the fire site.

The Line Officer briefing should be as soon as possible after the arrival of the team's Incident Commander and his chief staff. It is impossible to list everything a team needs to know, however, as a minimum the Wildland Fire Situation Analysis and Line Officer Briefing Checklist should be completed.

The local Incident Commander briefing shall take place when the incoming team arrives at the fire. The incoming team will not assume responsibility for the fire until they are thoroughly briefed and comfortable with the situation. Both Incident Commanders shall determine the exact time of command change. After the briefing, the team should start phasing into their areas of responsibility, but shall not assume control until the predetermined time.

The local unit's suppression forces may continue to work on the fire in various functions but should be relieved as soon as possible so that they can be rested and ready for Initial Attack or as reinforcements on other parts of the Forest.

b. Dispatching Resources

Initial Attack remains an Interagency Dispatch Center responsibility. In most cases when an Incident Management Team has been ordered, the Dispatch Duty Officer in consultation with the Unit FMO will initiate an expanded dispatch plan to support the incident management team. The initial attack responsibilities of the team will be determined at the time an incident management team is delegated by the Forest Supervisor.

c. Demobilization

Demobilization shall be carried out in an orderly manner to accomplish a cost effective program commensurate with efficient and effective organization practices.

i. Demobilization Planning

Planning for demobilization shall begin while the fire is being mobilized. Adequate records of personnel, transportation, and equipment used or being moved during mobilization are necessary. In many instances, demobilization occurs at the same time mobilization is occurring elsewhere. Good coordination can cut costs.

All dispatchers and coordinators involved in the mobilization – demobilization effort have a responsibility to assist the fire team in maintaining accurate records for the demobilization planning.

Communications for demobilization shall be through established dispatch channels. All release orders shall be recorded in the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS).

ii. Demobilization Responsibilities

Incident Management Team

- Demobilization plan prepared by Plans Chief jointly with Logistics Chief and coordination with the Forest Duty Officer.
- Distribute the plan to applicable team members, Forest dispatchers, and the Regional Coordinator 12 – 24 hours prior to any releases.
- Hold all resources in fire camp or staging area until travel arrangements can be made or cleared by Expanded Dispatch and/or Demob Unit Leader.
- Group crews and overhead for common destination as much as possible to minimize transportation costs. Place grouped resources on same shifts 24 hours prior to intended release.
- See that Regional and Forest priorities for release are met.
- Insure that demobed personnel shall arrive at their home station before 2200 home station time. This may require postponement of the release until the following day. This requirement may be waived if approved by the Regional Coordinator.

Expanded Dispatch

- Assist fire team in demobilizing planning.
- See that Forest and Regional priorities for release are met.
- Keep IMT informed of demobilization plans, progress, and any changes.
- Arrange staging and transportation as necessary.
- Arrange to have agency representatives at departure/arrival points to keep the dispatcher informed of problems and progress.
- All releases will be recorded in ROSS.

Regional Coordinator/Dispatcher

- Set Regional priorities for demobilization of resources and notify CCIFC.
- Relay demobilization plan to NIFC and/or home units.
- Keep NIFC and/or home units currently informed of demobilization process.
- Arrange for transportation as necessary.

Home or Support Unit Dispatchers

- Arrange for 24-hour communications if necessary.
- Schedule transportation as required.
- Arrange to have agency representatives at departure/arrival points to keep the dispatcher informed of progress.
- Notify CCIFC dispatcher when resources have arrived at home so order can be closed.

iii. Release Priorities

The following release priorities shall normally apply unless the Forest are otherwise notified by the Regional Coordinator:

Crews

Out-of-Region agency regulars (Cat. II)
Region 4 agency regulars (Cat. II)
Out-of-Region Hotshot crews (Cat. I)
Organized crews both out-of-region and in-region (Cat. II)
Region 4 Hotshot crews (Cat. I)

Helicopters

'CWN' or rental agreement
Within Region helicopters required for initial attack at home unit due to fire activity or potential thereof
Out-of-Region helicopters
Within Region helicopters **not** required home for initial attack

Radios

Assemble National Fire Cache Radio Systems and ship to Boise via air freight or charter aircraft as soon as possible. Coordinate with Regional dispatch on transportation. DO NOT hold radios on Forest. They must be returned to cache for refurbishing for next fire.

Fire Cache Equipment and Supplies

Local unit cache items
Local cooperator cache items
Regional cache items
Out-of-Region cache items

Engines and Water Tenders

Local units needed for initial attack
Local cooperators and other units needed for initial attack
Out-of-Region engines
Local cooperator and other units not needed for initial attack
Local Units not needed for initial attack

Heavy Equipment

Same as Engines. National Guard equipment should be released as soon as local resources can handle or replace National Guard equipment.

Overhead

Overhead releases shall be as required by the fire team and the local unit's needs. Strive to consolidate overhead in groups of common destinations.

iv. Release of Interagency Incident Team

A line officer or a designated representative must approve the date and time of team release. The transition must be as smooth as possible and Forest fire team members should be assigned to start working with interagency team members at a predetermined time. The local fire team should be rested and off fire duty 24 hours prior to takeover.

The Interagency team should begin phasing in the Forest team as soon as demobilization planning is complete and implementation is started. Fire management activity should be at a level and workload that Forest personnel can reasonably handle.

Criteria to be considered before the release of an Interagency team:

- Fire must be contained.

- Most line crews should be released that are not needed for patrol and/or mop up.
- Base fire camp shut down, reduced, or in the process.
- Plans Chief has prepared a narrative fire report and individual fire report as part of the final fire package.
- Finance Chief should have all known finance problems resolved. Contact made with Forest Budget and Finance personnel. (Finance and/or Logistics Chief may have to stay longer or return to resolve problems.)
- Fire rehabilitation work completed to Forest's satisfaction or plan written to satisfaction.
- Overhead ratings completed and submitted to Forest as final package.
- Return of all cache and real property

v. Debriefing

The Forest Supervisor (or Forest Fire Management Officer) should debrief the interagency team and prepare an evaluation.

Forest Supervisor should give overall team performance evaluation in writing considering the following:

- Were incident objectives met?
- Was Firefighter and Public Safety the top priority?
- Were incident operations conducted in a cost effective manner?

Identify outstanding or poor performance of individuals, crews, or others involved in the suppression, mobilization, and demobilization of the fire.

Were there any special problems or recommendations to be brought to the attention of the Regional Fire Director and Great Basin Coordinating group.

d. Safety

SAFETY IS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY FOR ALL PERSONNEL ENGAGED IN OR SUPPORTING FIRE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES ON THE FOREST.

Fire management work is one of the most hazardous jobs encountered by Forest Service personnel. The Incident Commander and all supervisors will always put the safety of his/her personnel first. **There is no fire situation so serious that the life of anyone should be risked in order to get to the fire sooner, get the fire out quicker, or to keep the burned areas smaller.**

All employees will abide by the **'Safety First'** policy. Each employee has a responsibility for his/her personal safety and that of fellow employees. It is also everyone's responsibility to call attention to any unsafe practice that is observed.

- All fire personnel will follow the '10 Standard Fire Fighting Orders' and the '18 Watch-Out Situations' and shall practice the principles of "Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, Safety Zones (LCES)." These basics of fire fighting survival will be utilized as a checklist for supervisory personnel on the fire, and as a source for other fire line personnel to pose questions to supervisory personnel whenever they have concerns about their personal safety.

- All Type III and more complex incidents will be staffed with a qualified safety officer.
- Seat belts and headlights shall be used at all times while traveling in any vehicle.
- Required personal protective equipment (PPE) will be worn at all times. Job Hazard analyses will dictate appropriate PPE to be utilized for fire management activities other than suppression.
- Fire shelters and PPE will be worn by all firefighters at all times on all wildland fires.
- Speed limits and other traffic laws will be obeyed at all times.
- Safety rules, standards and accepted procedures will be adhered to at all times.
- Personnel will be fully qualified and current for the position they fill.

C. Wildland Fire Use

Wildland Fire Use (WFU) refers to the management of naturally ignited wildland fire to accomplish specific resource management objectives as described in each Fire Management Unit.

1. Objectives

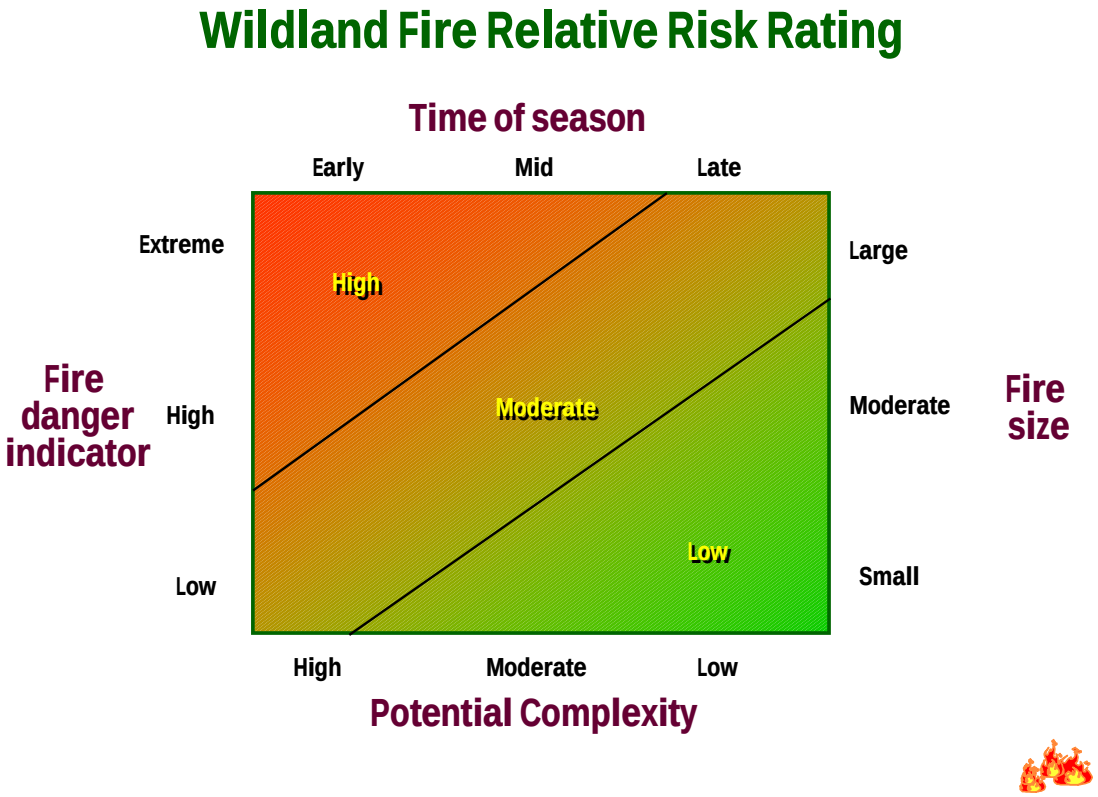
The objective of wildland fire use on the Dixie National Forest is to restore and maintain ecosystems consistent with land uses and historic fire regimes. This relates directly to the Dixie Forest Plan Forest wide goals for wildland fire.

2. Factors affecting decision criteria for wildland fire use

The decision to manage a wildland fire for resource benefit on the Dixie NF will be guided by several parameters including such things as time of year (seasonality), position of the ignition within the FMU, the fire danger indicator (ERC), and the relative risk of the fire creating negative economic values (cost + net value change) and potential impacts to Dixie LMP fire suppression areas. These areas can be located and assessed by through the use of GIS and the general and specific risk layers. An analysis of the relative risk associated with any given wildland fire will be assessed using Figure 2 which considers the following four variables:

- Time of Season - An indicator of potential duration of newly ignited fires. The earlier in the season the ignition occurs, the longer the potential duration of the fire.
- Fire Danger Indicator - Derived from components or indices from NFDRS. The Dixie NF will use Energy Release Component (ERC) as the fire danger indicator.
- Potential Complexity - An estimate of complexity. Refer to Implementation Guide (Chapter 4, page 43) for elements that may be considered to estimate complexity.
- Fire Size - Represents the current fire size.

Figure 2 Wildland Fire Relative Risk Rating



3. Preplanned implementation procedures

The Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) will be initiated for all wildland fires on the Dixie NF. The Stage I: Initial Fire Assessment, which includes the Fire Situation and Decision Criteria Checklist, will be completed by the appropriate line officer.

Wildland Fire Implementation Plan Preparation
Concurrent with the appropriate line officers decision to manage a wildland fire for Resource Benefit, an analysis team will be activated to begin preparation of the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan. (FSM 5142.2). The site specific WFIP will be prepared in accordance with criteria, direction and timeframes outlined in the "Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy Implementation Procedures and Reference Guide." The guide will determine the required stages of analysis to complete. In addition, the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan section of the WFSA99 software will be used.

The analysis team will normally include the, District Ranger, Forest Duty Officer, Resource Specialist, Forest Archeologist, Fuels Specialist and Fire Use Manager. Other specialists may be included as appropriate.

Between the initial decision and the completion of the proposed WFIP, the approving officer will revalidate the initial decision on a daily basis. The WFIP will be completed within 48 hours of the Wildland Fire Use declaration.

Stage 1, Initial Fire Assessment will include:

- Fire Name and number
- Jurisdiction and Administrative Units
- Geographic Area(s)
- G-code
- Start date/time
- Discovery date/time
- Current size
- Location
- Cause
- Fuel Model
- Current and forecasted weather
- Current and forecasted fire behavior
- Availability of resources
- Decision criteria checklist
- Recommended response action

Stage 2, Short Term Implementation Actions includes:

- Short term fire behavior predictions for different scenarios
- Risk assessment
- Short term implementation actions which include;
    - Objectives
    - Safety Considerations
    - External Concerns
    - Environmental concerns
    - Threats
    - Short term implementation actions
    - Estimated Costs
- Complexity Rating Worksheet
- Stage III need assessment chart

Stage 3; Long Term Implementation Actions

- Objectives and risk assessment consideration, Natural and cultural resource objectives and constraints consideration.
- Maximum Management Area (MMA) definition and map
- Fire projections and MMA
- Weather season/ drought discussion and prognosis
- Long-term risk assessment
- Probability of success and consequences of failure
- Threats
    - Threats to MMA
    - Threats to public use and firefighter safety
    - Smoke dispersion and effects
- Monitoring actions
- Holding actions
- Resources needed to manage the fire
- Estimated costs of long term implementation
- Contingency actions
- Information plan
- Post-burn evaluation
- Signatures and date
- Periodic Fire Assessment
    - Part 1: Revalidation
    - Part 2: Stage 3 Need Assessment Chart
    - Signature page

The WFIP will specify how often the fire must be revalidated by the line officer. Regardless of the duration specified, any significant increase in fire activity and possible consequences will be reviewed by the appropriate line officer.

4. Impacts of plan implementation

Fire use will be designed to provide protection for life, property, public safety and natural resource management. All programs will be planned with these concerns, along with cost effectiveness, as primary factors.

5. Required personnel

The number of personnel required for an incident will vary. Management could range from a Fire Use Manager (FUMA) and Fire Effects Monitor to a full Fire Use Management Team (FUMT). Staffing levels will be re-evaluated on a daily basis and adjusted based on potential trigger points, numbers of ignitions and size of fires, predicted weather, etc.

At a minimum, a FUMA will be assigned to every wildland fire used to achieve resource benefit (FSH 5145.3). Every wildland fire used to achieve resource objectives requires that the line officer designate a FUMA who is directly responsible for all aspects of the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP). The FUMA may individually manage multiple fires that do not require significant staffing, external communication, or holding resources for plan implementation, or the FUMA may be the leader of a specialized team needed to manage one or more complex fires. An individual FUMA must be assigned for each wildland fire requiring Stage III analysis described in the Implementation Guide (FSM 5143.32).

Qualified FUMA

Brett Fay (Forest Fire Management Officer)
Kim Soper (East Zone Fire Management Officer)

Implementation and management of a wildland fire use program will generally consist of the following staffing:

Low complexity events

- Fire Use Manager (FUMA2 or FUMA1)
- Type 3 IC
- Information officer
- Long-term Fire Analyst

High complexity events:

- Fire Use Manager (FUMA) or properly trained type 2 IC
- Operations Section Chief Type 2
- Logistics Section Chief Type 2
- Planning Section Chief Type 2
- Long-term Fire Analyst (Formerly Prescribed Fire Behavior Analyst)
- FUMTs can have three trainee positions
- Fire Effects Monitor

Staff positions responsible for initiating and implementing steps in the decision process necessary to support the appropriate management response include, but are not limited to:

- District Duty Officer
- District Ranger
- Archaeologist
- Wildlife Biologist
- Wilderness Resource Advisor (only when in Wilderness)

Current draw down levels will be adhered to as established by the Dixie National Forest NFDRS Plan in appendices. Draw down levels can fluctuate on a daily basis. Decision makers need to contact the Color Country Interagency dispatch center for the current level.

6. Public Information

Initial news queries on wildland fires will be directed to the Dixie NF Public Affairs Officer (PAO). Prompt reply to such queries is essential and should include interpretation of the wildland fire use program. The Forest Duty Officer, IC or FUMA will provide periodic fire information update to the Forest PAO.

Current information should be transmitted by telephone to the PAO at least once a day, preferably in the morning to satisfy most morning newspaper and broadcast deadlines throughout the day. Special situations and live taped reports for radio will require additional reports.

Requests for media visits will be directed to the PAO and coordinated with the Fire Use Manager (FUMA) or Incident Commander.

A list of key agency, interagency, state and congressional delegation contacts for inclusion in each WFIP at the Stage III level will be made available.

7. Records

A permanent project record will be kept at the Color Country interagency Fire Center for each wildland fire use application. The minimum documentation will include:

- The approved planning documents including all amendments and revisions (WFIP, WFSA, Risk Analysis, etc.)
- Monitoring reports and summaries of findings, along with a summary of all monitoring activities. Monitoring Forms can be found in the Appendix.
- Revalidation and certification documents.
- Funding codes and cost accounting.
- Project maps for all fires will be mapped for the Forest fire history GIS layer.
- Fire behavior information.
- Other information as appropriate for the situation, such as photo points and photos.

8. Cost tracking

Wildland fire managed for resource objectives (natural ignitions) will record the work with a "G" code that permits tracking of resource benefit target accomplishments. "G" codes are used for a lightning ignited fire if it is being managed for resource benefits. If the response changes to suppression, then charging must be to a "P" code. Duty officers are responsible for short term cost reporting.

Forest Policy
All re-supply for any individual wildland fire must be completed with 30 days.

D. Prescribed Fire

1. Planning and documentation

a. Annual activities to implement the program

Annually to prepare for the prescribed burning season, the Forest reviews prescribed fire qualifications and previous year implementation accomplishments.

b. Long-term prescribed fire strategy

The long term prescribed fire strategy is to use prescribed fire to maintain a vegetation profile that is consistent with the fire ecology of the vegetation type. Prescribed fire will also be used long term to protect values at risk from unplanned wildland fire.

c. Personnel necessary

The prescribed fire program needs two complex burn bosses, 6 intermediate burn bosses and 4 experienced burn plan writers to implement prescribed fire operations annually.

d. Weather, fire behavior, and fire effect monitoring

Weather, fire behavior and prescribed fire effects monitoring are described in the project specific NEPA decision, the vegetation prescription and the individual burn plan.

e. Format for project critiques

- Informal reviews and after action reviews:
  A daily onsite post-burn debriefing to assess how implementation went each day and any suggestions for improvement is part of the Dixie National Forest Prescribed Fire Burn Plan (see appendices).

  Burn plan documentation requires a post burn evaluation including assessment of objective achievement, an informal unit log and after action review.

- Formal Prescribed Fire reviews:
  Formal prescribed fire reviews will be conducted when a prescribed fire escapes and an injury occurs that requires medical treatment. These reviews are completed by the Forest Duty Officer and associated team and chartered by the local line officer. Elements of these reviews may consist of the following:

Effectiveness	Safety
Organization	Qualifications
Policy implementation	Smoke monitoring
Job hazard analysis effectiveness	Information dissemination

f. Reporting and documentation requirements

- Daily report to the Color Country interagency fire center with acres treated.
- Perimeters will be mapped to the standard described in the monitoring guide.
- Report through the appropriate accounting system (i.e. MAR)
- Initial report of an escape prescribed fire is to appropriate dispatch center and the responsible line officer
- Hazard fuels is report to the Supervisors office for input into NFPORS
- The wildland fire situation analysis (WFSA) is the format for documenting any prescribed fire escape.

g. Historic fuel treatment map

Dixie National Forest Fuels Treatment History

h. Prescribed fire burn plan format

All burn plans will be written under the agreed standard burn plan format. Elements required in the prescribed fire burn plan can be found in the implementation guide. These elements are reflected in the Region 4 Standard burn plan (see appendices).

For high complexity prescribed fires, the burn plan will be developed by or in conjunction with a Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist (FSM 5145.21). A Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2 (RXB2) may develop intermediate and simple burn plans. Subordinates may prepare a burn plan as part of a developmental training project with assistance and review by the appropriate, qualified fire management staff.

Forest Policy
The technical review process for burn plans is detailed in chapter 3.a.5 of The Interagency Prescribed Fire Handbook.

Information gathered from the Sanford prescribed fire escape review (2002 Sanford Review Report) highlights the importance of ERC in the relative risk when igniting prescribe fires. All prescribed fires that are to be ignited when the seven-day average ERC from the Enterprise weather station is at or above the 90th percentile require Forest Supervisor approval. This approval may be verbal and subsequently documented on the burn plan.

Line officer review will include a checklist that must be reviewed prior to approving a burn plan. Reviews will include a discussion of risk locally and at a program level.

Delegation of authority for burn plan approval is detailed in appendices. District Rangers are delegated approval authority for basic and intermediate prescribed fire burn plans dependent upon fire management experience and training. The Forest Supervisor or designee will approve prescribed fire burn plans that are determined to be complex.

2. Exceeding existing burn plan

Any prescribed fire that exceeds the designated MMA (maximum manageable area), contingency area or exceeds prescription constraints will be considered an escaped fire if not able to be returned to prescription within 48 hours (see FSM 5140). Following designation of an escape, a Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) will be completed and approved by the appropriate Line Officer.

Considerations used when developing the WFSA for an escaped prescribed fire are similar to a fire that escapes initial action from an unplanned wildland fire. They include:

Fire fighter and public safety
Risk to improvements
Risk to resource values
Cost of Suppression

Other considerations related to the escape prescribed fire include:

NEPA decision objectives and project analysis
Effects analysis from the NEPA decision

3. Air quality and smoke management

a. Air quality issues

i. Location of Class I Airsheds

Class 1 air sheds near (<100 miles) the Dixie National Forest include:

- Zion National Park
- Bryce Canyon National Park
- Capital Reef National Park

ii. Smoke sensitive areas

Smoke sensitive areas are defined as schools, hospitals, nursing homes, major roads such as interstates and major state highways and communities. Individual Fire Management Units descriptions define smoke sensitive areas.

b. Smoke management guidelines

The approved Utah Smoke Management Plan (SMP) manages smoke management and air quality. The Utah SMP meets the requirements of the Clean Air Act. Implementation of the SMP is the responsibility of the state of Utah. All Dixie National Forest Wildland Fire use projects follow the Utah SMP. . Potential emissions, critical receptors, Class I airsheds and any mitigations are detailed in the burn approval application process and in individual burn plans. Approval to burn for each project will be obtained from the Utah SMP website, the 1-800 number or the state smoke program coordinator prior to ignition each day. Submissions for fire use projects follow the same procedures.

E. Non-fire fuel applications

1. Mechanical treatment and other applications

a. Annual activities to implement the program

Annually approximately percent of the total treatment acres on the Dixie National Forest are completed with non-fire or mechanical treatment. In 2004 the mechanical treatments will increase over the historical average based on the

emphasis on treatment in the wildland urban interface. These treatments occur using both Federal employees and contractors. Techniques used include chain saw felling, lop and scatter, whole tree removal, tractor pilling, hand pilling, chipping and use of on site micro milling.

b. Equipment and seasonal use restrictions

Equipment use to treat fuels may be restricted by a variety of factors. Sensitive species, erosive soils are examples of mechanical treatment restrictions. These restrictions are described in project specific NEPA analysis.

c. Effects monitoring required

Effects monitoring requirements for mechanical fuels treatment are described in the project specific NEPA decision and the vegetation prescription.

d. Format for project critiques

Formal prescribed fire reviews will be conducted when a prescribed fire escapes and an injury occurs that requires medical treatment. These reviews are completed by the Forest Duty Officer and associated team and chartered by the local line officer. Elements of these reviews may consist of the following:

- ✓ Effectiveness
- ✓ Safety Organization
- ✓ Policy implementation
- ✓ Job hazard analysis effectiveness
- ✓ Contract specification met

e. Cost accounting

Cost accounting was accomplished through the use of specific job codes for each individual project.

f. Reporting and documentation requirements

- Perimeters will be mapped to the standard described in the monitoring guide.
- Report through the appropriate accounting system (i.e. MAR)

g. Annual planned project list

See appendices for this years fuels implementation projects (WFHF)

F. Emergency Rehabilitation and Restoration

Site-specific burned area rehabilitation plans will be completed as needed. Rich Jaros (Forest Hydrologist) is the Forest coordinator for burned area rehabilitation and all projects will be coordinate with him and the Forest Supervisor.

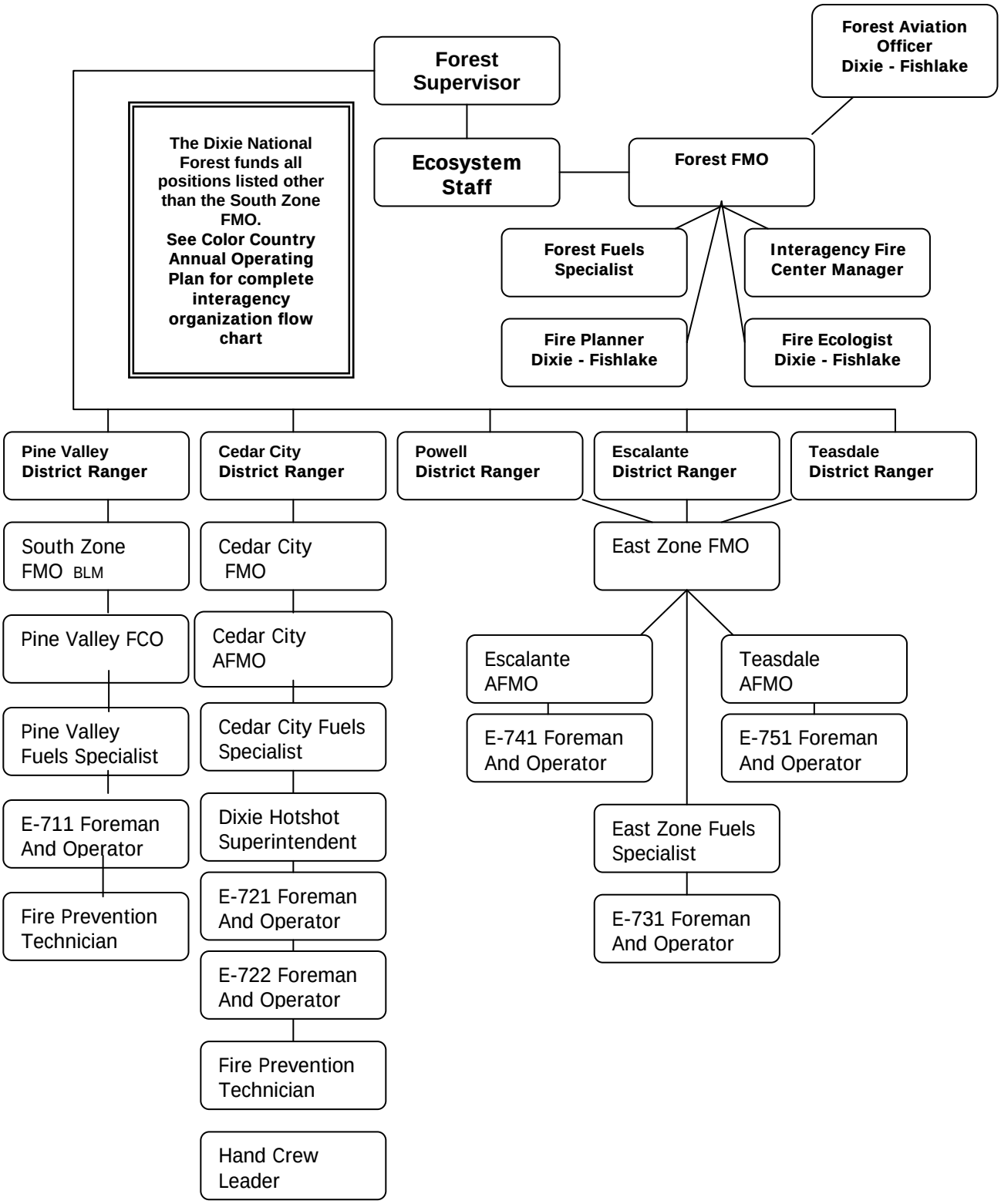
SECTION V: Organizational and Budgetary Parameters

A. Current fiscal year budget

WFHF Hazard Fuels Budget

WFPR Preparedness Fuels Budget (5100-2)

Organization chart



B. Cooperative agreements and interagency contacts

Interagency cooperation and agreements are integral to wildland fire operations on and around the Dixie National Forest. The Color Country Annual Operating Plan (see appendices) describes this cooperation and is authorized by the Utah State wide interagency fire management agreement (Interagency Agreement, No 97-SIA-004, FS# R401-F1-11046000-0188 Effective February 20, 2001)

C. Equipment rental agreements

Equipment rental agreements are stored and updated at the interagency fire center and District offices.

D. Contract suppression and prescribed fire resources

The Navajo Nation Division of Forestry and the Dixie National Forest have an agreement in place to use employees of the Navajo Nation for prescribed fire and seasonal employment. The Forest supports two National wildland fire contracts. Information on these contracts may be obtained from the Color Country Interagency Fire Center. Other local agreements exist with the Navajo Nation and Paiute Nation.

E. Wildland Fire Duty Officer

1. Wildland Fire Duty Officer

A duty officer is responsible for all aspects wildland fire management for their assigned unit as delegated by the appropriate line officer. Duty officers are delegated by the line officers annually (see attachments). The Dixie National Forest has four separate types of duty officers with specific responsibilities. Duty officers have oversight responsibilities to sub-unit Duty Officers. The Forest and Dispatch Duty officers are delegated by the Forest Supervisor and have oversight responsibility to the Zone and District Duty effacers when appropriate.

1. Forest Duty Officer – Delegated by the Forest Supervisor.
2. Zone Duty Officer – Delegated by the Zone board of District Rangers.
3. District Duty officer – Delegated by the District Ranger.
4. Color Country Dispatch Duty Officer - Delegated by the Forest Supervisor and administrator from interagency cooperators

Each duty officer has a defined level of competency and is delegated by the Line Officer to carry out the described duties.

Each level of duty officer must be staffed and available during the wildland fire and prescribed fire season (May 1st to December 1st.). At other times of the year the Unit FMO or Center Manager is responsible to maintain duties as described.

Only qualified, delegated duty officers may function in those positions.

2. Duty Officer Experience and Qualifications

Every level of duty officer requires a delegation of authority from an appropriate Line Officer to perform as a wildland fire duty officer. The qualifications listed below are outlines to consider when line officers are delegating responsibility to

Duty officers, but should not be used as the sole criteria. Duty Officers must have the experience and training to recognize hazardous fire situations. Duty officers must also be able manage personnel to avoid hazardous situations.

1. Forest Duty Officer

The Forest Duty officer must have qualifications and experience that have demonstrated proficiency safely managing wildland fire incidents and resources at the Forest Level. The experience determined effective to manage Forest Duty Officer responsibilities include managing multiple incidents (10-30), setting incident priorities, working with cooperators, geographic coordination centers and the Intermountain Regional Office. Wildland fire qualifications useful to recognize hazardous conditions and include, Incident Commander Type 3 (ICT3) Fire Behavior Analyst (FBAN), Operations Branch Director (OPBD), Type 1 prescribed Fire Burn Boss (RXB1), Wildland Fire Use Manager (FUMA) and Safety Officer (SOF1).

2. Zone Duty Officer

The Zone Duty officer must have qualifications and experience that have demonstrated proficiency safely managing incidents and resources at the Zone Level. The experience determined effective to manage Zone Duty Officer responsibilities include managing multiple incidents (3-7), setting incident priorities and working with District Rangers and Forest Supervisors Office. Wildland fire qualifications useful to recognize these conditions include, Incident Commander Type 3 (ICT3), Division Supervisor (DIVS) and Type 2 prescribed Fire Burn Boss (RXB2) and Safety Officer (SOF2).

3. District Duty Officer

The District Duty officer must have qualifications and experience that have demonstrated proficiency safely managing incidents and resources at the District Level. The experience determined effective to manage District Duty Officer responsibilities include managing single and multiple incidents (2-4), setting incident priorities locally, working with a District Ranger, Zone FMO and the Forest Supervisors Office. Wildland fire qualifications useful to recognize these conditions include, Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4), Strike Team/task Force Leader (STLC), Type 2 prescribed Fire Burn Boss (RXB2) and Safety Officer (SOF3).

4. Color Country Dispatch Duty Officer

The Color Country Dispatch Duty Officer must have qualifications and experience that have demonstrated proficiency to safely dispatch wildland fire incidents and resources at the Interagency level (equivalent to multi-Forest). The experience determined necessary to effectively perform as the Color Country Dispatch Duty Officer include coordination of complex resources on multiple incidents (10-30), facilitating the assignment of those resources to priority incidents, prioritizing incidents based on real-time intelligence and agency policy, coordinating with agency and interagency Fire Management Officers and administrators and geographic coordination centers. Wildland fire qualifications useful to recognize conditions that are developing and need consideration include: Expanded Dispatch Coordinator (CORD), Supervisory Dispatcher (EDSP), and current or previous qualifications as ground wildland fire resource (i.e. FFT2)

3. Responsibilities of Duty Officers

i. Forest Duty Officer Responsibilities:

The Forest Duty Officer is responsible for implementation of the Forest wide Wildland fire program as defined by this Fire Management Plan. Including priority setting of wildland fire responses and prescribed fire implementation between the Dixie National Forest Ranger Districts and recommending actions to the Forest Supervisor, District Rangers and fire managers.

Specific Responsibilities

a. Review and document 10% of the wildland fire responses and reporting this information to the Forest Supervisor.

b. Monitor Forest wide fire behavior conditions and request severe condition assistance through the Intermountain Region Office (severity funding).

c. Assess fire management fatigue by monitoring work – rest guidelines.

d. Assist Line officers in the completion of Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFAS) and Wildland Fire Implementation Plans (WFIP).

e. Coordinate daily with Color Country Interagency Fire Management cooperators during planning level 3-5.

f. Monitor fires that are in the transition phase to ensure plans are complete and incident command system is clear and functioning.

g. Assess complexity of escaped fires and facilitates the ordering of incident management team that is appropriate for the situation.

h. Monitor the Dispatch, Zone and District Duty Officers in the area, assessing their performance and level of fatigue.

i. Monitor incidents to ensure that the incident complexity matches the IC qualifications.

j. Is aware of the over-all Forest fire and fuels condition and is prepared to brief Forest Supervisor or Regional office on a moments notice.

k. Assess prescribe fire operations (conditions, multiple ignitions and contingency force availability)

l. Monitor fire management operations to ensure the 10 Standard Orders and 18 Situations that shout watch-out are followed.

m. Assess after action reviews for trends and implement corrective actions.

Forest Duty Officer Responsibilities by planning level

Responsible Party	Suggested Action	PL 1	PL 2	PL 3	PL 4	PL 5
Forest Duty Officer	If preparedness level is decreasing, consult with FMOs/AFMOs/ Fire Center Manager and consider release of pre-positioned or detailed personnel.	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

	Evaluate season severity data (BI and ERC trends for season, fuel loadings, live FM, drought indices, and long term forecasts).	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
	Evaluate crew and staff work/rest requirements.	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
	Brief agency administrators, Regional office on burning conditions and fire activity.		✔	✔	✔	✔
	Review geographical and national preparedness levels and evaluate need to suspend local prescribed fire or wildland fire use activities.			✔	✔	✔
	Ensure Prevention Officer has initiated media contacts and public notification.			✔	✔	✔
	Ensure field office and forest staff is briefed on increasing fire activity.			✔	✔	✔
	Brief Regional Fire Director on fire activity.			✔	✔	✔
	Consider enacting a local MAC group			✔	✔	✔
	Consider fire severity request and pre-positioning of resources including: suppression resources, aerial support, aerial supervision, command positions, dispatch, logistical support, and prevention.			✔	✔	✔
	Evaluate need for possible fire restrictions or closures.				✔	✔
	Request the Forest Supervisor to issue guidance to Forest office staff regarding the need for increased availability for fire assignments.				✔	✔
	Consult with the Regional Office regarding potential need to pre-position a Type 3 organization and/or additional resources.				✔	✔

ii. Zone Duty Officer Responsibilities:

The Zone Duty Officer is responsible for implementation of the Zone Wildland fire program as defined by this Fire Management Plan. Including priority setting of wildland fire responses between the Zone Ranger Districts while coordinating with Color Country cooperators. The Zone Duty Officer will also advise the Zone District Rangers and fire managers.

Specific Responsibilities

a. Monitor fire management fatigue by monitoring work – rest guidelines.

b. Assist Line officers in the completion of Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFAS) and Wildland Fire Implementation Plans (WFIP).

c. Monitor the District Duty Officers in the Zone and assess performance and level of fatigue.

d. Monitor fires that are in the transition phase to ensure plans are complete and incident command system is clear and functioning.

e. Monitor incidents to ensure that the incident complexity matches the IC qualifications.

f. Monitor fire management operations to ensure the 10 Standard Orders and 18 Situations that shout watch-out are followed.

g. Assess after action reviews for trends and implement corrective actions.

Zone Duty Officer Responsibilities by planning level

Responsible Party	Suggested Action	PL 1	PL 2	PL 3	PL 4	PL 5
Zone Duty Officer	If preparedness level is decreasing, consider releasing pre-positioned and detailed resources.	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
	Evaluate work/rest needs of IA crews.	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
	Consider aerial detection flights as needed.		✔	✔	✔	✔
	Evaluate need to change or shift duty hours of IA resources. Coordinate with Forest Duty officer and county fire wardens			✔	✔	✔
	Evaluate drawdown levels for suppression, command, and overhead positions.			✔	✔	✔
	Brief Forest Duty Officer on severity of conditions and consider severity request.			✔	✔	✔
	Consider pre-positioning and/or detailing of additional IA resources.			✔	✔	✔
	Consider patrols and pre-positioning of local IA resources in high-risk (Red) areas.			✔	✔	✔
	Consider pre-positioning additional resources.				✔	✔
	Consider bringing in local IA resources from scheduled days off.				✔	✔
	Consider suspending prescribed fire operations.				✔	✔
	Consider automatic dispatch of heavy air tankers for IA				✔	✔

iii. District Duty Officer Responsibilities:

The District Duty Officer is responsible for implementation of the District Wildland fire program as defined by this Fire Management Plan, including setting priorities for wildland fire responses, informing the Ranger District and coordinating Color Country cooperators. The District Duty Officer will also advise the Zone Duty Officer.

Specific Responsibilities

a. District Duty Officer is responsible to make initial recommendation for either appropriate suppression response or potential candidate Wildland Fire Use to the responsible Line Officer

b. Maintain cost tracking for every wildland fire and provide this information to the Color Country Interagency Fire Center within 72 hours from extinguishment.

c. Insure fire management work – rest guidelines are followed.

d. Assist Line officers in the completion of Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFAS) and Wildland Fire Implementation Plans (WFIP).

e. Complete transition plan for fire changing from the initial response phase to the extended attack phase.

f. Is responsible to insure district incident command system is clear and functioning.

g. Is responsible to ensure that the incident complexity matches the IC qualifications.

h. Is responsible to direct a “pull off” or “disengagement” of an incident if it exceeds the qualifications of the incident commander.

i. Monitor fire management operations to ensure the 10 Standard Orders and 18 Situations that shout watch-out are followed.

j. Complete after action reviews

District Duty Officer Responsibilities by planning level

Responsible Party	Suggested Action	PL 1	PL 2	PL 3	PL 4	PL 5
District Duty Officer	Ensure IA crews are briefed on local preparedness level, burning conditions, and availability of additional IA resources and air support.	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
	Evaluate work/rest needs of crew. Ensure days off are taken and request relief personnel if needed.	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
	Ensure incoming pre-positioned or detailed personnel are briefed on local conditions and fire behavior.	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
	Consider need for aerial detection flights and or ground detection patrols.	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
	Provide Zone or Forest duty officer with feedback regarding unique/unexpected fire behavior and severity conditions and the need to increase IA capabilities.	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
	Consider patrols in camping and recreation areas.			✔	✔	✔
	Consider suspension of project work away from station.			✔	✔	✔

iv. Color Country Dispatch Duty Officer Responsibilities:

The Color Country Dispatch Duty Officer is responsible for dispatching of the Color Country wide Wildland fire incidents as defined by this Fire Management Plan and cooperators Fire Management Plans. This includes assigning and prioritizing resources based on the wildland fire responses and prescribed fire implementation. These include all the administrative areas included in the Color Country Fire Management area:

Specific Responsibilities

a. Provide adequate staffing to operate the Dispatch center to meet current and predicted wildland fire workload.

b. Monitor fire behavior conditions and recommend staffing levels to Fire Management officers.

c. Assess fatigue of Dispatchers by monitoring work – rest guidelines and enforce time off to ensure adequate rest.

d. Monitor fire weather conditions and communicate those indices to all field personnel. Especially fire weather warnings and watches. Document all notifications.

e. Ensure consistent daily input of fire weather data into WIMS.

f. Coordinate daily conference calls with Color Country Interagency Fire Management officers during planning level 3-5.

g. Monitor fires that are in the transition phase to ensure plans are complete and incident command system is clear and functioning.

h. Act independently to avert any unsafe wildland fire operations.

i. Monitor incidents to ensure that the incident complexity matches the IC qualifications; communicate any discrepancies to the appropriate Duty Officer.

j. Is aware of the over-all Color Country wildland fire conditions and incident status is prepared to brief Duty Officers and Administrators on a moments notice.

k. Monitor fire management operations to ensure the 10 Standard Orders and 18 Situations that shout watch-out are followed.

l. Is aware of agency policies related to dispatching to inform appropriate Duty officers of potential conflicts.

m. Track and display Dispatch, Forest, Zone and District duty officers

n. Orchestrate aviation resources across the Color Country

Color Country Dispatch Duty Officer Responsibilities by planning level

Responsible Party	Suggested Action	PL 1	PL 2	PL 3	PL 4	PL 5
Dispatch Duty Officer	Track preparedness level and disseminate information.	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
	Evaluate season severity data and communicate potentials to Color Country FMOs. Track and disseminate ERC values	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
	Evaluate Dispatch staff work/rest requirements.	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
	Suggest to the Color Country FMOs the amount and type of additional resources needed to meet situation		✔	✔	✔	✔
	Brief agency administrators, State area manager on burning conditions and fire activity.		✔	✔	✔	✔
	Review geographical and national preparedness levels and evaluate need to order additional dispatchers.			✔	✔	✔
	Facilitate daily conference call with the Color Country FMOs.			✔	✔	✔
	Ensure all fire status information is available in the Color Country Dispatch.			✔	✔	✔

Brief Eastern Great Basin Coordination Center on fire activity and request heavy air tankers as needed			✔	✔	✔
Initiate local MAC group			✔	✔	✔
Order Expanded Dispatch				✔	✔
Coordinate the ordering of buying teams with agency officials when warranted				✔	✔
Order relief Dispatch Duty Officer				✔	✔

SECTION VI: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

A. Annual monitoring requirements

Monitoring is accomplished on all hazardous fuels projects as well as all treatments completed in support of resource management activities on the Forest (wildlife habitat improvement, site preparation, etc). Monitoring plans for each project are developed during the project-planning phase and are included in each prescribed fire burn plan or project folder.

Monitoring requirements are outlined in the Land and Resource Management Plan.

B. Reporting requirements

The Forest completes the following reporting requirements:

- Individual Fire Reports – FSM 5182.1
- Annual Fire Report - FSM 5183.2
- NFPORS data base
- Incident Status Summary (209) for wildfires that exceed 100 acres in timber cover types or 300 acres in mixed shrub/grassland cover types.
- Management Attainment Reports (MAR):

MAR FP- FFPC: Fire Fighting Production Capability (FFPC) at the annual budget

MAR FP-FUELS-APP: Acres of hazardous fuels treated by prescribed fire and mechanical treatment