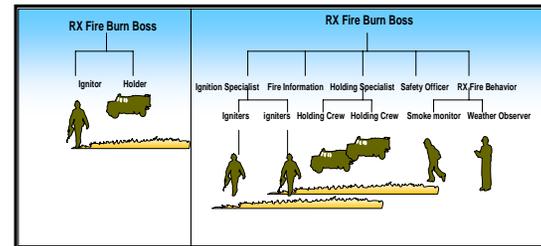


Interagency Prescribed Fire

Planning and Implementation Procedures Reference Guide



March 2006



PRESCRIBED FIRE PLAN

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT(S): _____

PRESCRIBED FIRE NAME: _____

PREPARED BY: _____ DATE: _____
Name & Qualification

TECHNICAL REVIEW BY: _____ DATE: _____
Name & Qualification

COMPLEXITY RATING: _____

APPROVED BY: _____ DATE: _____
Agency Administrator



PURPOSE:

To Support Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation.

- 
- Provide consistent Interagency policy
 - Establish common terms and definitions
 - Describe prescribed fire planning and implementation procedures



DIRECTION

- Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy.
- Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan.
- Interagency Strategy for the Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy.





- National Interagency Fuels Group oversight.
- Developed by representatives from BIA, BLM, FWS, NPS, USFS.

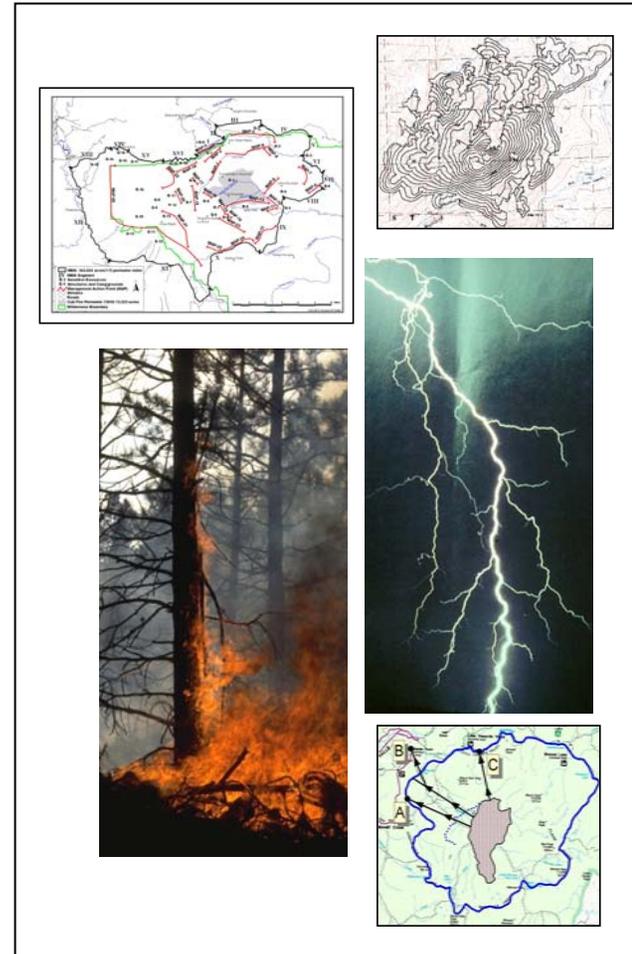
Developed simultaneously with the **Wildland Fire Use Implementation Procedures Reference Guide.**

Replaces the original Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy Implementation Procedures Reference Guide (1998).



Wildland Fire Use

Implementation Procedures Reference Guide



- Agencies may elect to require more restrictive standards and policy direction but must adhere to the minimums described in the guide.



- This guide provides policy and direction to implement existing federal policy

- National Interagency review completed November 2, 2005.
- Development group reviewed 47 pages of comments.
- Made some modifications based on comments and concurrence with National IA Fuels Group.

CONTENTS

- Prescribed Fire Planning Process



- Organization and Qualifications Requirements
 - Includes RxB3

■ Responsibilities

- Describes 13 responsibility positions related to prescribed fire.
- Every Prescribed Fire Plan must receive a technical review.
- The Technical Reviewer and Prescribed Fire Plan Preparer must be qualified or have been previously qualified as a Prescribed Fire Burn Boss at an experience level equal to or higher than the complexity being reviewed.
- **Either the Prescribed Fire Plan Preparer or Technical Reviewer must be currently qualified.**
- Only a RXB1 can review plans at high complexity. An RXB2 can review plans of moderate to low complexity. An RXB3 is not allowed to function as a Prescribed Fire Plan Preparer

■ Amendments

- When changes are necessary, plans must be amended to identify the affected sections; the reason for the change(s); and have the changes clearly identified.
- The same standards for Prescribed Fire Plan preparation, review, and approval apply.
- To avoid having to amend the Prescribed Fire Plan, flexibility should be built into the plan that will allow for a range of adjustments during the prescribed fire. When building flexibility, the range of identified options must remain within the scope of the Complexity Analysis.

■ Includes Project File requirements.



■ Escaped Fire Review guidance.

NOV 19 2003

Elements

- Identifies 21 elements that will be included in a Prescribed Fire plan.
- Guide addresses minimum planning requirements and the implementation policy for each element.



- Includes a prescribed fire plan template that will be required to be followed by all agencies.
 - Both PDF and Word Template
- Elements are to be addressed in the order as identified in the guide and template. This will ensure Interagency prescribed fire plan consistency.

1. **Signature Page**

1. Administrative Unit Name
2. Prescribed Fire Unit/Project Name
3. 3 Dated Signatures:
 1. Plan Preparer
 2. Technical Reviewer
 3. Agency Administrator
4. Complexity Rating

2. Go/No-Go Checklists

1. Agency Administrator

- Establishes the expiration date for the implementation of the prescribed fire plan
- If a plan is amended, a review and re-validation of the AA Go/No-Go is required

2. Go/No-Go

- For each day of active ignition a separate checklist is required

3. Complexity Analysis

- The Complexity Analysis Summary is attached to the plan following the Go/No/Go Checklists
- Emphasis; The Summary Complexity Rating Rationale must identify the risks from the analysis that are rated high and can not be mitigated and will provide a discussion with the risk(s) associated.

4. Description of the Prescribed Fire Area

A. Physical Description

- Project Boundary: The area where fire will be ignited and may be allowed to burn (previously called MMA or Allowable)

B. Vegetation/Fuels description

- Four Specific elements

C. Unique Features

D. Maps

- Vicinity
- Project

5. **Goals and Objectives**

- A short summary description will be developed that identifies the purpose and desired future conditions of the project

6. **Funding**

7. Prescription

- Plan prescription will describe a range of low to high limits for the environmental and fire behavior parameters.
- The Burn Boss must ensure that the prescriptive parameters and fire behavior characteristics as identified in the plan are not exceeded.
- Empirical evidence (historical evidence, researched data, and judgment) may be utilized to identify or calibrate prescriptions

7. Prescription contd.

- Holding and contingency plans must be developed with the consideration of the predicted fire behavior outside the boundary
- Fire behavior for fuel models within the maximum spotting distance and/or adjacent to the project boundaries must be modeled using worst-case fire behavior predictions
 - Hottest, driest, and windiest prescription limits identified in the plan, along with the most extreme environment conditions (slope, aspect)

8. Scheduling

9. Pre-Burn Considerations

- Describe on and off-site actions and considerations that need to be conducted and completed prior to implementation
- Requires a notification list
- Spot Weather or local area forecasts are required
 - Prior to ignition
 - On all ignition days
 - Days the fire is actively spreading

10. Briefing

- All assigned personnel must be briefed
- Briefing checklist is required
 - Required to cover 10 specific elements.
- Requires an aerial ignition briefing if utilizing aerial ignition

11. Organization and Equipment

- Specify the minimum required organization to meet the capabilities

12. Communication Plan

13. Public and Personnel Safety, Medical

- Described Safety provisions
- Specify Emergency medical procedures, evacuation methods, and emergency facilities to be used.

14. Test Fire

- On multiple-day projects, evaluation of current active fire behavior may be substituted for test fire (basis for continuing must be documented)

15. Ignition Plan

16. Holding Plan

- Describe general procedures to be used for operations to maintain the fire within the project area and meet the objectives until the fire is declared out.
- Describe minimum capabilities needed for all phases of implementation

17. Contingency Plan

- Contingency planning is intended for more than just a response to an escaped fire.
- Contingency planning is the determination of initial actions and additional resources needed if the prescribed fire is not meeting, exceeds, or threatens to exceed:
 - Project or unit boundary
 - Objectives
 - RX Parameters
 - Smoke impacts
 - Other elements of the Prescribed Fire Plan

Contingency Contd.

- It will establish trigger points or limits that indicate when additional holding resources and actions are needed.
- Includes the maximum acceptable response time for the resources (based on fire behavior outputs tied to worst case fire behavior scenario)
- Verify and document the availability of the identified contingency resources and response times on the day of ignition
- If identified contingency resources availability falls below plan levels, actions must be taken to secure the operations until they are replaced.

Contingency Contd.

- Once a contingency resource is committed to a specific wildland fire action (wildfire, wildland fire use, prescribed fire), it can no longer be considered a contingency resource and a suitable replacement must be identified or the ignition halted.
- The Agency Administrator will determine if and when they are to be notified that contingency actions have been initiated or taken.
- If contingency actions are not successful by the end of the next burn period then the prescribed fire will be converted to a wildfire.

18. Wildfire Conversion

- The Prescribed Fire Plan will specify who has the authority to declare a wildfire
- A wildfire will be declared when
 1. It is determined that contingency actions have failed or are likely to fail
 2. Events cannot be mitigated by the end of the next burn period by on site holding resources and contingency resources
 3. Fire spread is outside the project boundary or is likely to do so and cannot be contained by the end of the next burn period.
- Describe in the plan the actions that are to be taken when a prescribed fire is declared a wildfire.
- A prescribed fire can be declared a wildfire for reasons other than an escape.

19. Smoke Management & Air Quality

- Compliance with local community, County, State, Tribal, and federal regulations
- Permits to be Obtained
- Smoke Sensitive Areas
- Impacted Areas
- Mitigation Strategies and Techniques to Reduce Smoke Impacts

20. Monitoring

- Describe the monitoring that will be required during all phases of the project to ensure that Prescribed Fire Plan objectives are met.
- For the prescribed fire, at a minimum specify
 - Weather
 - Fire behavior and fuels information (forecast and observed)
 - Smoke dispersal monitoring required
- Procedures for acquiring the data, including who and when.

21. Post-Burn Activities

- Describe the post-burn activities that must be completed. This may include
 - Post-burn report
 - Safety mitigation measures
 - Rehabilitation needs including those as a result of pre-burn activities undertaken.

■ Appendices

- Complexity Analysis
- Maps
- Technical Review Checklist
- Job Hazard Analysis
- Fire Behavior Modeling
Documentation or Empirical
Documentation
- Other (Aviation Plans etc...)



Policy Changes

- Each Land Management Agency has some changes to prescribed fire planning and implementation policy as a result of this Interagency effort.



Where We Go From Here.

- Edited by Mid Feb.
- Review and signed by Fire Directors by Mid March.
- Review and signed by Agency Directors: 30, 60, 90, ... Days.





- Implementation scheduled for April, 2006???
- New prescribed fire plans will be required to utilize the burn plan template format.
- Existing prescribed fire plans will have until FY 2008 to be modified or replaced.

■ The end

