Chapter 3. FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

The primary purpose of developing FMUs in fire management planning is to assist in organizing information in complex landscapes. FMUs divide the landscape into smaller geographic areas to more easily- describe safety considerations, physical, biological, social characteristics and to frame associated planning guidance based on these characteristics.

The following information, including the summaries of fuels conditions, weather and burning patterns, and other conditions in specific FMUs, helps determine the management response to an unplanned ignition and provides a quick reference to the strategic goals in the forest's LMP.

3.1. Fire Management Considerations Applicable to All Forest Fire Management Units

3.1.1. Land and Resource Management Plan Guidance

Rogue River-Siskiyou NF Specific Direction

Goals

- Manage wildland fires in a cost efficient, timely and safe manner consistent with land management objectives and current fire management direction.
- Use prescribed fire and unplanned natural ignitions considered the Use of Wildland Fire (UWF) for Resource Benefit to obtain and enhance the ecological characteristics of the area

Objectives

- Conduct prescribed burning in such a manner that it will conform to applicable provisions of the Federal Clean Air Act and the Oregon Smoke Management Act.
- Burning will be planned so as to have a minimum impact on use of the recreation opportunities in the area.
- For Research Natural Areas (Management Strategy 25), prohibit prescribed fire unless approved by the Director of the Forest and Range Experiment Station.
- In Restricted Riparian (Management Strategy 26) areas, avoid high intensity prescribed fire on soils that are highly erodible and/or are subject to the development of hydrophobic conditions.

Bureau of Land Management and ODF SW District Specific Direction

On private, state, and local government lands residing in the FMUs, wildland fire protection responsibilities are carried out by ODF SW, rural fire district resources, and DFPA.

Goals

Because ODF SW and DFPA provide the suppression services for Medford BLM lands, the resource advisor becomes an important figure in providing direction that may differ from the suppression effort when property and jurisdictional lines are crossed. ODF SW and DFPA management objectives for wildland fire on private lands within the bounds of the Medford BLM and ODF SW Districts jurisdictional boundaries are:

- Provide for the health, welfare, and safety of the public and fire personnel.
- Protect valuable resources from damage due to wildland fire.
- Protect private property from damage to wildland fire.
- Suppress, with aggressive action, all wildland fire to provide least monetary cost and safest work environment.
- Use a suppression strategy on all ignitions, containing 94% of them to 10 acres or less in size.

Objectives

- Protect the environment from adverse effects of suppression actions.
- Provide for the health, welfare, and safety of the public and fire personnel.
- Protect private property from damage due to wildland fire.
- Protect resource values from high severity and large scale wildland fire.
- Provide for rehabilitation of sites affected by suppression actions and adverse fire effects.
- Use a suppression strategy on all ignitions, containing 94% of them to 10 acres or less in size.
- Use prescribed fire and hazardous fuel reduction throughout the District to reduce impacts from large scale disturbance. Use prescribed fire for restoration of desired vegetation condition, management of habitat, and silvicultural treatments. Initiate hazardous fuels treatments, in the form of prescribed burning, mechanical or manual manipulation of forest vegetation, to modify fuel profiles in order to lower potential of high intensity, stand replacing wildland fires.
- To meet Resource and Management objectives for all BLM lands within the administrative boundaries of the Medford District, the following principles should be followed unless they would impede public or fire personnel safety or protection of private property values.

- Locate incident bases, camps, helibases, staging areas, and other centers for incident and other fire management activities outside of riparian reserves.
- Minimize delivery of chemical retardant, foam, or other additives to surface water. Standards for retardant application in reference to stream location can be found in the aviation plan.
- Locate and manage water drafting sites to minimize adverse effects on riparian habitat and water quality as consistent with Aquatic Conservation Strategy.
- When riparian reserves are significantly affected or damaged by wildland fire, establish emergency rehabilitation team to conduct an assessment and design plan for recovery that follows the Aquatic Conservation Strategy and riparian reserve objectives.
- Design fuel treatment and fire suppression strategies, practices, and activities to meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy and riparian reserve objectives and to minimize disturbance of riparian ground cover and vegetation.
- Consider rapid extinguishment of coarse woody debris and duff during fire management operations to protect these attributes to habitat and ecosystem values.
- Wash vehicles and equipment involved in fire management activities to reduce the spread of noxious weeds, and pathogens.
- A wide range of cultural resources, including archeological and historic sites, can be found within the Medford District. These site types include the earliest known archeological or pre-historic site in SW Oregon. These include rock shelters, rare rock art sites, and National Register listed historic sites. All cultural resources are fragile, non-renewable resources. Once damaged, these sites cannot be replaced. Therefore, all cultural resources are at risk from ground disturbing fire fighting operations. All of these cultural resources are also at risk from collection activities of fire fighting personnel. The collection of artifacts, both archeological and historic, from federal land is prohibited by the Archeological Resources Protection Act which determines monetary fines for infractions. Those cultural resources with a wooden component, usually a historic site, are at risk from the fire itself. Known cultural resource sites will be considered and protected in the tactical decisions and actions made by fire resources through the advice of the resource advisors. The location of newly discovered artifacts will be reported to the resource advisor for consideration.
- Avoid aircraft travel routes and activities for fire management incidents and projects that may interfere with nesting, roosting, mating, and activity of threatened and endangered bird species.
- 100 acre Spotted Owl Core, Bald Eagle, and Great Grey Owl Areas are located throughout the Medford District jurisdiction. Core Areas may be located in any Fire Management Unit. The same resource

and management objectives will apply for all Owl Core Areas as designated for LSR in the Medford District RMP (see FMU LSE for specific stipulations for Late Successional species habitat).

- Protect snags and large down wood to the extent possible in all fire management activities on federal lands within the Medford District jurisdiction. Use water, foam, or buffers to protect them where practical. If snags must be felled, consider cutting them away from the area where they may burn, as to retain them for future down wood.
- Protect water sources, seeps, springs and streams from surface disturbance. Maintain as much vegetation next to these areas as practical. Avoid mechanized equipment in waterways.
- Do not feed or bait animals, leave trash, or food of any kind outside of food storage areas. Do not harass or handle wild animals found in or near fire area.
- Avoid disturbance activities in sensitive areas such as: caves, mines, and wildlife protection areas.
- Special Management Areas (ACEC's RNA's) exist throughout the administrative boundary of the Medford District. These are areas of critical environmental concern or uniqueness and are designated by their inclusion in FMU Special. Impacts from suppression related activities may endanger the qualities of these areas more than the effects of a wildland fire. A listing of locations and constraints for activities within these areas are included for the resource advisors in each resource area within the jurisdiction of the Medford District and ODF protected areas.
- Some sensitive botanical species and their habitats are located outside these specially designated areas and exist throughout the other FMUs. Locations of known sites of listed and sensitive plant populations will be available to resource advisors and fire personnel for protection from ground disturbing FMU activities.

3.1.2. Specific Range of Management Options

U.S. Forest Service – Human-Caused Planned and Unplanned Ignitions

- **The Rogue River National Forest LRMP (1990), and The Siskiyou National Forest LRMP (1989)** amended by the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, **Forest Fire Amendment, Record of Decision (2010)** Proposed Action states that for all Management Areas, Management Strategies, Standards and Guidelines the following applies.
  1. Aggressive suppression of all unplanned human-caused wildfires will continue.
  2. Aggressive suppression action will be taken to protect adjoining lands from fires threatening to cross National Forest boundaries.

3. Aggressive action will be taken to protect areas under contract (timber sales, thinning contracts, and stewardship contracts etc.).
4. **Emergency consultation** on the actions taken to manage and wildland fire would continue pursuant to the requirements of the Endangered Species Act.
5. Management requirements of other amendments to the Forest Plans (e.g., the Port-Orford cedar root disease Record of Decision) will be followed.

U.S. Forest Service: Natural Unplanned Ignitions

The Forest Service's response to an natural unplanned fire (wildfire) is intended to support the land management direction within the Forest Plan and to protect other ownerships from fires originating on National Forest System lands. The response can include both protection and resource benefit objectives with the full range of potential tactical actions on the ground. The full range of potential responses spans monitoring a fire to minimizing the acres burned through intensive suppression actions. Forest Service policies and rules currently require a land management plan decision to recognize resource benefits from naturally-ignited fires.

The agency's response to any unplanned fire is intended to:

- Keep both firefighters and the public safe during and after the fire;
- Avoid or prevent damage to or loss of private property and resources;
- Maximize the resource benefits that may occur; and
- Manage wildland fires at a reasonable cost.

The response to an unplanned, naturally ignited fire includes a full range of tactical actions ranging from monitoring to complete perimeter control, which may be applied on any given fire. The Fire Management Plan (FMP) identifies the decision criteria and implementation procedures to use for determining the management objectives and the agency's response to a given ignition and gives general direction and guidance on how it is to be managed. In a given year, the area available for the complete range of potential responses varies based on a number of factors such as specific values at risk, fuel conditions, time of year, current and expected fire behavior, and so forth.

When considering these proposed amendments, it may be helpful to have an understanding of Federal fire policy and current implementation direction. For policy, a good source of information may be found at **NWCG - Federal Fire Policy**. For implementation of policy, go to the **Policy Implementation Guide**.

- **The Rogue River National Forest LRMP** (1990) as amended by the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Fire Amendment Record of Decision (2010) states that for all Management Areas, Management Strategies, Standards, and Guidelines the following Management Options are available for implementation.
  1. The use of wildland fire is allowable to obtain desired ecological characteristics of the area. (pg. II – 4)
  2. Each wildfire will have a management response, including consideration of the use of wildland fire. (pg. II – 4)
  3. **Wilderness (MS-13):** Provide for the natural role of fire in Wilderness. Use of wildland fire is allowable to meet wilderness management objectives consistent with the 1964 Wilderness Act, legislation establishing each designated wilderness area, and Forest Service wilderness management regulations. (pg. II – 10)
  4. **Restricted and Managed Watershed (MS-22/23):** Protection of the watershed resource will be highest priority. Wildfires with in or which may burn into the watershed will receive a management response, including consideration of the use of wildland fire. (pg. II – 13/14)
  5. **Research Natural Areas (MS-25):** Each wildfire will have a management response, including consideration of the use of wildland fire. High impact methods will be used only to prevent a total loss of the Research Natural Area (FSM 4063.45). (pg. II-14)
  6. **Restricted Riparian (MS-26):**
     - The use of wildland fire is allowable to obtain the desired ecological characteristics of the area
     - Protection of the riparian resource will be highest priority. Wildfires with in or which may burn into the riparian area will receive a management response, including the consideration of the use of wildland fire (pg. II – 15).
  7. **Red Buttes Wilderness:** (pg. II - 15/16)
     - The long-range objective is to allow fire in Red Buttes Wilderness to play, as nearly as possible, its natural, ecological role -- while, at the same time, not compromising public safety or resource values outside of the Wilderness. Fire responses (strategies and tactics) should be sensitive to wilderness values.
     - Each wildfire will have a management response, including consideration of the use of wildland fire.
     - Use of prescribed fire in the Red Buttes Wilderness will be based on fire's natural, ecological role. Although additional beneficial effects may result from a decision to use prescribed fire, fire in wilderness will be used only to meet approved wilderness management objectives.
     - Manage wildfires within the Wilderness in accordance with applicable Forest Service policies
  8. **Sky Lakes Wilderness:** policies (pg. II – 17/18)

- The objective is to allow fire in Sky Lakes Wilderness to play, as nearly as possible, its natural, ecological role -- while, at the same time, not compromising public safety or resource values outside of the Wilderness. Responses to unplanned, natural ignitions will take into consideration the need to maintain natural ecosystems in the Wilderness and reduce the risk presented to Wilderness and adjacent resources. Fire responses (strategies and tactics) should be sensitive to wilderness values.
- The use of wildland fire is allowable to obtain desired ecological characteristics of the area.
- Manage wildfires within the Wilderness in accordance with applicable Forest Service).

- **The Siskiyou National Forest LRMP** (1989) amended by the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Forest Fire Amendment Record of Decision (2010) states that for all Management Areas, Management Strategies, Standards, and Guidelines the following Management opportunities are available for implementation.
  1. **WILD RIVER (MA-2), BOTANICAL (MA-4), UNIQUE INTREST (MA-5), BACKCOUNTRY RECREATION (MA-6), SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCE - MA-7, SCENIC/RECREATION RIVER (MA-10), RIPARIAN (MA-11), RETENTION VISUAL (MA-12), PARTIAL RETENTION VISUAL (MA-13), GENERAL FOREST (MA-14):** All wildfires will have a management response, including consideration of the use of wildland fire for resource benefit.
  2. All wildfires shall receive a management response, including consideration of the use of wildland fire. This shall be safe, timely, and cost efficient while meeting management objectives for the specified area (pg. II – 18).
  3. The use of wildland fire is allowable to reduce fire hazard by enhancing horizontal and vertical diversity in fuels; to enhance diversity in the structure and composition of plant communities; to enhance the production and protection of commercial timber yields; and to enhance other resource outputs such as wildlife habitat, forage, and browse. (pg. II – 19).
  4. The use of wildland fire is allowable in all areas of the forest to obtain desired ecological characteristics of the area (pg. II – 19)
  5. **SPECIAL WILDLIFE SITE (MA-9):**
     - All wildfires will have a management response, including consideration of the use of wildland fire. (pg. 11-26)
     - The use of wildland fire is appropriate for meadow restoration and enhancement. (pg. 11-26)
  6. **Grassy Knob Wilderness (MA-4): (pg. 11-30)**
     - The principle objective for fire management is to manage wildfires using a management response that is appropriate, which includes consideration of the use of wildland fire to obtain desired

ecological characteristics for the area. The protection of water quality and associated fish habitat, and maintenance of the natural functioning of this tanoak/Douglas fire ecosystem area are the primary goals.

- Each wildfire will have a management response, including consideration of the use of wildland fire. The selected response should consider the need to maintain natural ecosystems in the wilderness as well as the need to reduce the risk potential to wilderness and adjacent resources caused by the unnatural accumulation of fuels.

7. **Kalmiopsis Wilderness (MA1-12):**
   - A fire management program commensurate with wilderness values, including the use of wildland fire when appropriate, should be used to:
     1. reduce the adverse consequences of wildfire within the Wilderness, or escaping from the Wilderness and
     2. allow fire to play its natural ecological role. (pg. II-22)
   - Each wildfire will have a management response, including consideration of the use of wildland fire. The selected response should consider the need to maintain natural ecosystems in the wilderness as well as the need to reduce the risk potential to wilderness and adjacent resources caused by the unnatural accumulation of fuels. (pg. II-31)
   - All wildfires will have a management response, including consideration of the use of wildland fire. (pg. II-31)
8. **Wild Rogue Wilderness (MA1-13):**
   - A fire management program commensurate with wilderness values, including the use of wildland fire when appropriate, should be used to:
     1. Reduce the adverse consequences of wildfire within the Wilderness, or escaping from the Wilderness and
     2. Allow fire to play its natural ecological role.
   - All wildfires will have a management response, including consideration of the use of wildland fire. Because of the relatively small size and the narrow shape of this Wilderness and the presence of the Wild and Scenic River, opportunities to use wildland fire to maximize resource benefits may be limited, but should still be considered and taken advantage of when appropriate. (pg. 11-32
   - Fire response strategies and tactics should provide for a high degree of public safety and the least amount of operational impairment. Closure of the Rogue River Corridor to use by the public should be avoided in all but the extreme cases. (pg. II-31)
9. **Red Buttes and Siskiyou Wilderness (MA1-15):** A fire management program including the use of wildland fire may be used

to maintain a fuels complex commensurate with wilderness values. (pg. II-23)

10. **Research Natural Area (MA-3):** All wildfires will have a management response, including consideration of the use of wildland fire. In suppressing fires, chemicals fire retardants and ground disturbing activity should be avoided.

Decision Criteria for Implementation of the Use of Wildland Fire for Resource Benefit.

The following section contains criteria and information regarding how and when fire mangers make the decision to allow for the use of wildland fire. A number of decision criteria will be used, although which criteria serve to best identify which responses are suitable for a specific fire situation may vary between land allocations and over time as conditions change. In addition, the RRSNF will need to test various criteria to determine which specific criteria work best.

The following factors are taken into account by managers prior to and during wildfire operations:

- **Firefighter and Public Safety** – the ability to keep people safe at all times;
- **Time of Year** – when the fire is ignited, how much time is left in fire season, and weather predictions help managers determine if a naturally-ignited wildfire can meet resource objectives;
- **Location** – the wildfire's proximity to the forest boundary, to private lands, to recreation sites, to habitat for Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive species, to archaeology sites, to ongoing operations (like timber sales) and overall proximity to other capital investments across the forest;
- **Availability of Firefighting Resources** – are there resources available should conditions change or are all resources across the region committed;
- **Predicted Fuel Conditions** – local knowledge of fuel moistures and fuel profiles in the area where the fire ignites and is predicted to burn;
- **Air Quality** – smoke management concerns for human health and welfare; and,
- **Socio-Political Climate** – ongoing analysis of local, state, regional and national concerns.

All of these factors go into management's confidence and risk assessment regarding the ability to meet resource objectives.

The full range of tactical actions is available for application on all wildfires, regardless of the management strategy and objectives. There may be no

apparent difference in the actions taken between a wildfire managed primarily for resource benefits and a wildfire managed primarily with protection objectives. Tactical actions ranging from monitoring to complete perimeter control may be appropriate to consider for any wildfire.

The intent is to provide the line officer and incident commander with information *before* unplanned (emergency) fire management activities so that they can appropriately address resource and social concerns. Any action taken must be based on direction in the Land and Resource Management Plans and/or Fire Management Plan objectives with respect to the protection of adjoining lands. The Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) is utilized to aid the line officer/incident commander in selecting the response to a wildfire.

Bureau of Land Management

Management of Wildland Fire for all Land Use allocations.

- Minimize direct negative impacts of wildfire suppression on ecosystem management objectives.
- Respond to all wildland fires by taking appropriate suppression responses. Responses will generally consist of aggressive initial attack to extinguish fires at the smallest size possible. Confinement of fires in multiple fire situations at low fire intensity levels ranges, or due to fire fighter safety may be employed on Medford District BLM jurisdiction.

Key considerations for Wildland Fire:

- Protection of specific attributes of each land use allocation
- Coordination of wildland fire suppression activities to avoid causing adverse impacts on federal and nonfederal lands.
- Appropriate use of suppression tools and clear definitions of any restriction to their use.
- Guiding principle is to provide for firefighter and public safety.
- Full suppression on all fires except for management ignited for accomplishing resource objectives.
- Fire suppression considerations:
  1. Aviod the use of mechanized equipment in the stream channels.
  2. Avoid the application of retardants in riparian areas.
  3. Waterbar firelines and catroads upon completion of the incident.
  4. Develop a rehabilitation plan through the IDT process.
  5. Consider POC restrictions and Best Management Practices.

Fuels Treatment:

Prescribed Fire: for all land use allocations

- Use prescribed fire to meet resource management objectives. This will include – but not be limited to – fuels management for wildland fire hazard reduction, restoration of desired vegetation conditions, management of habitat, management of fire dependent/adapted species, and silvicultural treatments.
- Modify fuels profiles to lower the potential of fire ignition and rate of spread: protect and support land use allocation objectives by lowering the risk of high intensity, stand replacement wildfires.
- The use of prescribed fire will be based on an interdisciplinary evaluation.

Non-fire Applications: for all land use allocations

- Modify fuels profiles to lower the potential of fire ignition and rate of spread; protect and support land use allocation objectives by lowering the risk of high intensity, stand replacing wildfires.
- Hazard reduction can be attained through methods such as mechanical or manual manipulation of forest vegetation and debris; removal of forest vegetation and debris; and combinations of these methods.

Wilderness Study Areas:

- Soda Mountain Wilderness is located on the Medford District within the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM). Nationally there are interim guidelines for fire management activities in these designated lands. The CSNM Record of Decisions addresses fire management direction for the Soda Mountain Wilderness and the rest of the Monument (**see Appendix J**).

Oregon Department of Forestry

Management Response to Wildland Fire Suppression for all land use allocations.

Wildland fire suppression for all protected lands:

- The objective is to control all wildland fires in an efficient, cost effective, and timely manner. This will be accomplished while providing public and firefighter safety. Suppression priorities, as established by state law, are life, resource values, and property values.
- Responses will consist of aggressive initial attack to extinguish fires at the smallest size possible, with consideration for minimizing total cost. This will be accomplished with emphasis on aggressive and safe direct attack, utilizing aggressive nighttime suppression when burning conditions are less intense.

- Respond to all wildfires by taking appropriate response in accordance with state law (ORS Chapter 477), Oregon administrative rules, Board of Forestry policy, and ODF directives and guidance.
- All fires will be suppressed using ODF standards for initial attack, 94% of fires controlled at 10 acres or less.
- Landowner/agency considerations will be included in all fire suppression responses. This includes but is not limited to resource value, cultural sites, watershed and soil values, etc. Resource advisors are utilized on BLM lands when necessary to meet resource objectives in fire suppression activities.

Wildfire use:

- No state laws, policy, or directives exist that allow fire use.

Fuels treatment:

- A range of opportunities are available for landowners to meet land management objectives and to abate fire hazard liability generated by forest activities.
- A hazard rating system for assessing hazard following commercial forest activities is used to assign the responsibility for fire suppression costs in areas where an additional fire hazard has been created.
- Biomass utilization of hazardous fuels is encouraged by the Oregon Board of Forestry and the Protection from Fire Program.
- ODF works with federal and state agencies, counties, and legislators to accomplish the objective of reducing wildfire risk to communities within the wildland urban interface. Interface landowners are encouraged to mitigate hazardous fuels near structures by:
  1. The Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act of 1997.
  2. Administration of the National Fire Program and other grant programs.
  3. Senate Bill 360

Prescribed fire:

- Use prescribed fire to meet landowner resource land management objectives within the parameters of state law and Board of Forestry policy, including burning permits and the Oregon Smoke Management Plan.
- By Oregon administrative rule, landowners are encouraged to use alternatives to burning when feasible to minimize the impact of smoke.

Non-fire:

- Mechanical: Use mechanical treatments to meet landowner resource land management objectives within parameters of state law and Board of Forestry policy
- Chemical: Use chemicals treatment to meet private landowner resource land management objectives within parameters of federal and state law and Board of Forestry policy

Oregon Caves National Monument

Management Response to Wildland Fire For All Land Use Allocations.

Wildland Fire Suppression

- All wildland fires will be suppressed using the appropriate management response. The appropriate management response will vary from fire to fire and sometimes even along the perimeter of a fire.
- Appropriate management response options range from monitoring with minimal on-the-ground disturbance to intense suppression actions on all perimeters of the fire. The appropriate management response is developed from analysis of local situations. Factors such as values to be protected, management objectives, external concerns and land use need to be formally assessed.

Wildland Fire Use

- One management strategy not available to the Monument is wildland fires managed for resource benefits (wildland fire use). Wildland fire use is a strategy for allowing naturally ignited wildland fires, to burn as long as the fire meets pre-stated resource management objectives in the Maximum Manageable Area and prescriptive parameters are not exceeded. Due to the relatively small area involved in the park and the surrounding values, a wildland fire use program will not be implemented.

Prescribed Fire

- Prescribed fires are intentionally ignited under predetermined weather and fuel-moisture conditions allowing managers to exert substantial influence over the spread and intensity of the fire. Managers ignite these fires to accomplish resource management objectives and subsequently reduce hazard fuel as well. All prescription parameters, acceptable ranges, and objectives are clearly stated in a Prescribed Fire Plan for each prescribed fire conducted.
- Prescribed fire may be used for hazard fuel reduction within the Monument as needed. Projects will be documented with a written plan approved by the Park Superintendent. Each plan will describe the fuel hazard and the values at risk. The plan will specify proposed mitigation action with scope of work to be completed, and cost breakdown associated with the mitigation. Firefighter, public, and visitor safety associated with public use areas and travel corridors will be of highest priority, followed by protection of public and private property.
- Prescribed fire may also be used to meet objectives for hazard fuel management activities outside of developed areas, while maintaining

the fire dependency of the ecosystem treated. Managers may select mechanical removal of hazard fuel in areas with excess fuel loads. This program will reduce hazard fuel to levels that limit the probability of accidental ignition of fuels and that enable local wildland fire suppression forces to control fires with minimal loss of values to be protected, should fire occur.

- The focus of prescribed fire will be ecosystem management with reduction of hazard fuels as an additional benefit. Managers do not expect to use fire strictly for the purpose of hazard fuel reduction at Oregon Caves National Monument. Mechanical hazard fuel reduction may be necessary prior to a prescribed fire in the vicinity of cultural resources.

3.1.3. Wildland Fire Operations guidance

Standardized Federal agency specific guidance for operations in fire program management and ground operations, can be found in the **"Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations."**

The ODF and DFPA are bound by direction in State Law and Statute, which serve as the parent documents for these administrative units. ORS 477.005 provides the original framework for policy within these agencies by mandating the "Protection of the forest and the conservation of the forest resources through the prevention and suppression of forest fires." This statute also acknowledges the need for a complete and coordinated forest protection system to accomplish this purpose. This purpose is second only to the protection of life. The Oregon Department of Forestry is responsible under The Western Oregon BLM Protection Contract (Fire Protection Services Contract) for Medford District fire prevention, detection, initial attack, suppression, mop-up, rehabilitation, and reporting services. This contract is administered locally by the Douglas Forest Protection Associations as well as the Southwest Oregon ODF. Annually in compliance with the contract the protection associations and ODF provide both BLM districts an Operations Guide for federal lands they protect.

3.1.4. Preparedness

The FPU emphasizes a suppression strategy as the primary response for Initial Attack of wildland fires; this document also identifies resource concerns for protection (firefighter, public, resource) from high severity fire and adverse suppression effects.

To provide this protection, an assortment of fire and fuels management resources are staffed by the administrative jurisdictions. Pre-season reviews, training, and exercises focus on inter-related tiers of organizations, which are listed below:

a) Annual reviews are held with resource specialists along with fire managers to make recommendations, review best management practices, and discuss lessons learned on issues concerning suppression activities. These meetings are held in conjunction with local Type 3s team and other fire overhead to insure that direction for protection of resource values are understood and considered when those situations are appropriate.

b) For Incident Qualifications the Rogue River-Siskiyou NF will meet the requirements as outlined in the **FSH 5109.17 Fire and Aviation Management Qualifications Handbook**. ODF will meet the requirements as outlined in the **Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualifications System Guide (PMS 310-1)** and the ODF Training and Certifications Manual. The BLM and OCNM will meet the requirements as outlined in PMS-310 and updates as provided in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations. All federal agencies operating under the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations are directed to have an Incident Qualifications committee that reviews training needs (wildfire and prescribed fire) annually.

c) Managers are also involved in reviews and fire related training at approximately this same time. Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) training and refreshers are held with managers, resource specialists, and fire specialists.

d) Suppression resources hold a number of meetings and mandatory annual refreshers throughout the Planning Unit, to re-assert: fireline and job safety, leadership, fire behavior and weather, fire suppression tactics and strategy, equipment management, fire cache protocols, and organizational structure.

The agencies (State and Federal) coordinate annually on the availability of resources that may be used to manage fire in each jurisdiction. This coordination meeting occurs prior to fire season. The units discuss the qualifications of personnel, anticipated availability, funding opportunities, interagency support for fire and fuels management, and a critique of the previous operating season.

Annual firefighter training is coordinated between the agencies to facilitate an efficient and cost effective method of maintaining and updating qualifications. Notifications of training opportunities are shared between the units as well as through the normal training announcements and postings on the **South West Oregon fire-training**.

Coordination between agencies takes place if an ignition is managed within an adjacent FMU, or at any time an ignition begins to affect the neighboring agency with smoke or public concern. This will be accomplished by notifying the appropriate dispatch center.

When multiple fires occur within the FMU, the agencies coordinate priorities and resource availability as necessary, as outlined in the **PNW mobilization Guide**, ODF Mob Guide, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Mob guide, and local Operating Plans. Prioritization of suppression responses will be based on all agencies need for assistance. All suppression responses will be based on the appropriate management response for each FMU. As always, priorities for suppression actions will be based on responsible agency policy.

Formal requests for resources will be made through the appropriate dispatch center. Neighborhood policy as outlined in the **PNW Mobilization Guide** and the local mob guides will be used.

Pre-positioning of resources will be coordinated between the agencies. The resources will be used throughout the FPU and used on priority fires. The need for these resources and additional requests shall be coordinated by the Unit FMO (or delegate) and/or Unit Forester. Severity requests will be coordinated by the Deputy Fire Staff – Operations, Unit FMO and/or Unit Forester in conjunction with adjacent Units.

When it is determined that a need for a detection flight in the FPU, the initiating agency dispatch center will contact the neighboring agency with a courtesy call to provide detection assistance for the neighboring agency. A determination of need will be made at the time of the flight. It will be mandatory for each agency to maintain a set of neighboring agency maps and radio frequencies and carry them during each detection flight. Wilderness concerns for over flights will be observed.

For a complete list of current Forest-wide Standard and Guidelines, refer to the ***Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Fire Use Amendment Environmental Assessment (October 2010)*, pages II-3 to II-33**

3.1.5. Physical Characteristics that Apply to All Fire Management Units

Topography in southwest Oregon is rugged and varied and the antiquity of the area has allowed unusual speciation to occur. Winters are wet and warm toward the coast, and wet and cooler at higher elevations. Summers are characterized by long drought periods, which are occasionally punctuated by electrical storms. Historically, the summer lightning, which occurs from May through October, has resulted in fires. These natural, along with aboriginal ignited fires, have caused vegetation to evolve with frequent low-intensity fires on some areas of this FPU and they are considered fire adapted. Some landscapes are affected by autumn east winds that occur when stable air

pushes across a mountain range and then descends on the leeward side. The air becomes warmer and drier as it descends and can lead to increased, sometimes extreme fire behavior in lower lee side locations, especially on lands associated with the west side of this FPU.

Disturbances are an intrinsic part of ecosystem development (Cooper 1913, Raup 1957, Oliver 1981, Pickett and White 1985) and fire has been an important natural process in the maintenance of historic ecosystem health and diversity in the forests of the western United States. In southwest Oregon, ecosystems developed in concert with, and are subject to, a variety of natural, introduced, and altered fire regimes. Most forests in southwestern Oregon were part of a low- to moderate-severity fire regime. There are many forest types in this area where fire played an important ecological role (Agee and Huff, 2000).

3.1.6. Description of Wildland Fire Management Strategies by Land Use Allocation (LUA)

For purposes of further defining the fire management issues and missions of the primary jurisdictions within the FPU the area was divided into sections which have a direct bearing on the types of fire management approach and activities which may occur. These divisions are described as Land Use Allocations (LUA). The SWOFPU has 5 general land use allocations found in the federal agencies parent documents and Oregon State Department of Forestry delineation of Communities at Risk, along with the County Wildland Fire Protection Plans. These divisions were chosen to provide a means for resource specialists to apply management objectives and direction to fire management activities through the guidance of the LRMP's and RMP's of the Federal Agencies and through the recent direction of policy and law on private and intermixed lands.

The LUA's within the Planning Unit are:

1. **Wildland Urban Interface** areas where wildland fire has the potential or has in the past affected private property, residences, and communities. Areas mostly in the interior portion of the planning unit which are intermixed private and federal lands that correlate to the current State Communities at Risk determination. Included around the communities at risk is the WUI area which encompasses private and federal lands to watershed boundaries or other landscape features that would assist fire protection activities.
2. **General Forest**- Includes private land holdings primarily larger areas of industrial or commercial private lands, or other private lands not under the planning restrictions of federal land. Areas denoted in LRMP/RMP's of federal land plans as general or matrix forest lands with multiple use management objectives and directives are included in this LUA.

3. **Late Sucessional Emphasis Areas**- This LUA has the greatest portion of land mass designated as Late Successional Reserve by the NW Forest Plan and Federal LRMP/RMP's.
4. **Special Management Areas**- Areas mainly on federal lands with special designation due to a recognized unique trait and given special status. Some are congressional or administratively withdrawn. These include Wild and Scenic River Corridors, Research Natural Areas, Botanical Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, National Monuments and some camp grounds.
5. **Wilderness** – Federally withdrawn lands that are congressionally designated as Wilderness.

The boundaries of these LUA's may change as amendments or revisions are made to Land Management Plans, policy documents, or reviews of this document.

1. Wildland Urban Interface

Description: 1,959,481 acres. Spatially the coastal area and interior valleys are included based on the Resource Program Direction Rural Interface Areas within the Medford District RMP, the Communities at Risk designation from ODF, and CWPP definitions of WUI. Ownership patterns are typically interspersed tracts of Federal, private, and state lands.

Characteristics: Topographically steep drainages form from ridgelines at the mid and higher elevations and descend to narrow to broad drainage bottoms lands. The Federal jurisdiction is usually higher on the slopes and the private lands generally occupy the drainage bottoms.

Fire history: Recent large fire have occurred within and threatened this LUA from the edges. In general this LUA experiences frequent fires, many of which have grown large in size.

Fire Regime/ Condition Class (Defined): Historically this area was accustomed to frequent low to moderate severity fires in much of the LUA area. Fire regimes vary from 1 through 3 with most acres being in fire regimes 1, 2, and fewer lands in 3. Missed fire regimes and climatic variation have created landscapes within this LUA that are uncharacteristic compared to their historic condition. Condition classes range from 1 to 3 with the majority of the non urban/agricultural area in condition class 2 and 3.

Values at Risk: By long standing policy the federal agencies are required to prioritize protection values by threats to life, property, and resources. ODF prioritizes by life, resources, and property. This LUA addresses these policies and identifies the area where all three of these priority elements are concentrated and intermixed in a locality. This LUA has the highest

concentrations of population and private property values in the federal and ODF SW jurisdictions. Protection emphasis is for public safety and private property and resources. Other improvements exist on federally administered and private lands within this LUA as such as; recreation sites, watersheds important to the water quality of communities, and important ingress and egress routes in times of emergencies. Numerous spotted owl cores and reserved areas of Endangered Species Habitat exit in close proximity to populated area.

Protection Priority: Very High

Communities at Risk: 26 Communities at risk fall within the WUI LUA boundary. Communities will be specified in the FMU descriptions. The boundary for the areas covered by communities at risk is adopted from ODF mapping of population densities serviced by these communities (**Communities-At-Risk Assessments**, **Oregon Communities Reporting Tools**).

Wildland Fire Protection Objectives:

- An initial attack suppression response on all fire occurrence within this LUA will occur. Naturally ignited fires on Forest Service jurisdictions will be considered for the use of Wildland fire.
- On ODF protected lands, contain 94% of unwanted fire occurrence at 10 acres or less (on ODF protected lands).
- Insure fire is extinguished 100% on above incidents.
- Coordinate fire management activities in rural interface areas with local governments, fire departments, agencies, and landowners.
- Provide information and assistance to communities and publics for development of protection plans that include strategies for evacuation, defense from, and education in wildland fires role in ecosystem dynamics.
- Protection emphasis for public safety, private property and resources, public resources is very high.

Resource and management objectives on private and state lands under ODF protection will be negotiated with landowner at the time of the incident.

2. General Forest (Matrix)

Description: 569,028 acres. Spatially this LUA encompass landscapes that generally lie between the WUI and Late Successional Emphasis LUA. These landscapes are characterized by principally Forest Service lands with interspersed tracts of BLM and private land in-holdings consisting of mainly industrial timber lands. These are made up of areas within designated General Forest (GFMA) in the Medford BLM District RMP and Matrix as identified in the Northwest Forest Plan. This FMU directly relates to the protection direction for GFMA in the Medford BLM RMP and relates to ODF policy of resource protection. This FMU is less populated than WUI but the protection emphasis is still for public, private property and resources.

Characteristics: Landscapes within this LUA cover the elevation range throughout the southwest portion of the FPU. Management activities, such as logging and planting have taken place for the past 60-80 years.

Fire history: Recent large fire have occurred within and threatened this LUA from the edges. In general this LUA experiences frequent fires, many of which have grown large in size.

Fire Regime/ Condition Class: Historically this area was accustomed to frequent low to moderate severity fires in much of the LUA area. Fire regimes vary from 1 through 4 with most acres being in fire regimes 1 and 3a, 3b, and 3c. Condition class range from 1 to 3 with the majority of the natural stands in condition classes 2 and 3.

Values at Risk: GF landscapes occupy strategic ground with reference to WUI. Resource values are second only to protection of life for ODF SW protected private lands. Commercial timber values on federal lands are also important in this FMU. Other improvements exist on BLM administered and private lands within this FMU such as; recreation sites and important ingress and egress routes in times of emergencies.

Protection Priority: High

Communities at Risk: Communities at risk are within close proximity to GF FMU boundary.

Wildland Fire Protection Objectives:

- Provide an initial attack suppression response all fire occurrences within this LUA. Naturally ignited fires on Forest Service jurisdictions will be considered for the use of Wildland fire.
- With multiple ignitions consider prioritizing those within close proximity to private property boundaries or occurring on private lands.
- For ODF protected lands, suppress 94% of unwanted fire occurrence at 10 acres or less (on ODF protected lands).
- Insure fire is extinguished 100% on above incidents.
- On BLM lands resource objectives to protect ecosystem qualities are provided below. The resource advisor assigned to the incident will assist the suppression resources to consider them with respect to fire behavior and values at risk.
- Protection emphasis for public safety, private property and resources, public resources is high. Within the jurisdiction of ODF SW (private lands) private resources are the priority after protection of life.

  Resource and management objectives on private and state lands under ODF protection will be negotiated with landowner at the time of the incident.

3. Late Sucessional Emphasis Area (Late Sucessional Reserve)

Late Successional Emphasis Areas occur in this LUA in close proximity to communities at risk. The management and resource objectives for these areas will emphasize whenever possible:

- Retention of snags and coarse woody debris
- Protection of the area from large high severity fires
- Protection of the area from resource damage from suppression activities
- Emphasize protection of snags, large coarse wood, and duff from residual burning and suppression activities when practical.

Description: 1,020,830 acres. The LSE LUA comprises mid to higher elevation landscapes that had the least management activities within them historically. Some of these areas were identified and reserved by the Northwest Forest Plan of 1995. This LUA was delineated by broad areas that were designated by the NW Forest plan and the LRMP/RMP of the Forest Service and BLM. Some private lands were included into the FMU delineation due to the interspersed nature of the ownership pattern of the landscapes. Private lands are not represented by the resource and management objectives listed below. The BLM and Forest Service lands within this FMU will use the following resource and management to guide fire management activities.

Characteristics: Due to the wide-spread designation of habitat areas suitable for the Late Successional Reserves some portions of this land use allocation falls inside the WUI LUA because they exist next to communities at risk. In these cases the LSE designation has been delineated on the maps within the WUI LUA and the following resource and management objectives will be used to guide fire management activities within those specific areas on federal lands when practical. Due to federal policy prioritizing life and property over resources the WUI LUA was considered the priority for these areas and the LSE designation secondary when considering initial response to a wildland fire. The acreage figures given above do not include the LSE designated lands that reside in the WUI LUA but indicate the solid blocks of the LSE LUA.

Fire history: Recent large fire have occurred within and threatened this LUA from the edges. Wildland fires in this LUA are relatively frequent and have the potential to get large in size.

Fire Regime/ Condition Class 9 (Defined): Historically this area was accustomed to frequent low to infrequent mixed severity fires in much of the

LUA area. Fire regimes vary from 1 through 4 with most acres being in fire regimes 3a, 3b, 3c, 4a and 4b.

Values at Risk: Late Successional habitat areas are host to numerous threatened, endangered, and sensitive wildlife and botanical species. Laws, policy, the federal agencies parent documents, all provide and encourage protection of this type of habitat from wildland fire that may put their constituent elements at risk. Unwarranted suppression activities that may damage the habitat.

Communities at Risk: Aside from LSR areas that fall within the WUI LUA, which are tactically important ground for communities and private lands they are adjacent too, LSE FMU is strategically important ground to many of the communities at risk.

Wildland Fire Protection Objectives:

- Due to the interspersed land ownership patterns, the potential persistence of fire activity over long periods because of type and loading of fuel, and type and kind of fire fighting resources, all wildland fire incidents in this LUA will receive a suppression action. Naturally ignited fires on Forest Service jurisdictions will be considered for the use of Wildland fire.
- An initial attack suppression response will be initiated on all fire occurrence within this LUA.
- Suppress 94% of unwanted fire occurrence at 10 acres or less on ODF protected lands.
- Insure fire is extinguished 100% on above incidents.
- With multiple ignitions consider prioritizing those within close proximity to private property boundaries or occurring on private lands.
- On BLM lands resource objectives to protect ecosystem qualities are provided below. The resource advisor assigned to the incident will assist the suppression resources to consider them with respect to fire behavior and values at risk.
- A protection emphasis is desired to increase public safety, private property and resources, public resources. Within the jurisdiction of ODF SW (private lands) private resources are the priority after protection of life.

The following is a description of the protection levels and sensitivity of the activity (fire or suppression) in proximity of those sites. For the purposes of this document, a “site” is defined as a known location where a particular species is found. The physical size of a “site” varies by species and it is necessary to consult with a biologist to obtain species specific information.

- Category A: Sites that require complete protection when practical. Overstory and understory should be protected to the extent possible. Limit disturbance in the site area. In the case of bat habitat keep firefighting personnel out of caves and mines where they are located.

- Category B: These sites require overstory protection, light underburns are acceptable. Protection measures should emphasize retention of large trees, snags, logs, and canopy. These sites are most often associated with threatened and endangered bird species such as Northern Spotted Owls, Bald and Golden Eagles, Great Grey Owls, and Northern Goshawks. While the protection measures are desired for the area in the vicinity of where these species live, the nest trees on the site are of particular importance in terms of protection from fire and suppression activities.
- Category C: Protect site from surface disturbance. These sites are known to have species that exist at ground level or below. Ground disturbance from digging, driving of machinery, or severe sub surface heating from fire should be avoided. Firelines, mechanized equipment, fire camps should be excluded from these areas.

4. Special Emphasis Area

Description: The Special Management FMU denotes sites, located throughout the Rogue River Siskiyou NF and Medford BLM ODF SW jurisdiction mainly within BLM ownership, that have notable vegetation or other ecosystem qualities that set them apart from other areas. These sites have been formally designated through the legislative process or by administrative decree to set them aside and protect them from damage. Most of the above acreage are generally included in Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Research Natural Areas (RNA), or congressionally/administratively determined reserves such as Wild and Scenic River Corridor (Rogue) and the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument (fire management issues covered in CSNM EIS will supersede this FMP).

Characteristics: This LUA encompasses many diverse areas of the FPU. The largest single somewhat contiguous landscape is the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument. Soda Mountain Wilderness is located within the CSNM and the fire management direction pertinent to this area is discussed in the EIS. Many special status botany and wildlife sites are outside of the Wilderness.

Fire history: Recent large fire have occurred within and threatened this LUA from the edges.

Fire Regime/ Condition Class (Defined): Historically these areas were accustomed to a wide range of fire regimes. Frequent low to moderate severity fire regimes 1, 2, 3a represent many of the areas in this LUA, but they vary from 1 through 4 across the whole FMU.

Values at Risk: Sensitive, threatened, and endangered species and their habitats are critical values within the LUA. Critical elements of wildlife and botanical habitat may be threatened by uncharacteristic wildland fire and by

suppression activities. Areas of the LUA are in close proximity to private property, private improvements and may affect public safety during wildland fire incidents.

Communities at Risk: Aside from Special areas that fall within the WUI LUA, some more remote Special LUA areas are tactically and strategically important ground to many of the communities at risk.

Wildland Fire Protection Objectives:

- An initial attack suppression reponse will occur on all fire occurrence within this LUA. Naturally ignited fires on Forest Service jurisdictions will be considered for the use of Wildland fire.
- Suppress 94% of unwanted fire occurrence at 10 acres or less on ODF protected lands.
- Insure fire is extinguished 100% on above incidents.
- With multiple ignitions consider prioritizing those within close proximity to private property boundaries or occurring on private lands.
- On BLM lands resource objectives to protect ecosystem qualities are provided below, the resource advisor assigned to the incident will assist the suppression resources to consider them with respect to fire behavior and values at risk.
- Protection emphasis public safety, private property and resources, public resources. Within the jurisdiction of ODF SW (private lands) private resources are the priority after protection of life.

5. Wilderness

Description: 366,867 acres. Areas designated as Wilderness on the Rogue River – Siskiyou National Forest and Medford District BLM are considered pristine scenic landscapes that are preserved as vestiges of wild America, and provide and opportunity for solitude. These wildernesses must be managed by the Wilderness Act of 1964.

3.1.7. LUA Relationship to Federal Land and Resource Management Plans

These LUA's tie to the LRMP/LMP of the federal parent documents and Communities at Risk (CAR) State of Oregon determinations with defensible boundaries for fire protection.

LUA's were not designed to alter the land management goals, objectives and activities identified from their counterpart land use allocations within the Federal Agencies RMP / LRMP's. LUA's were designed to prioritize land use plan accepted fire suppression actions necessary to provide protection

of life, property and resources across (jurisdictional/ administrative) boundaries within the FPU.

In all LUA's throughout the planning unit, areas have attempted to capture the resource and management objectives for federal and state lands. The bulk of the LUA General Forest and Wildland Urban Interface are private property with intermixed federal lands. The protection objectives for these LUA's will address life, private property and federal and public resources.

On Federal lands, land use allocations that are different than LUA designation in this plan, will be displayed in Appendix B and have management objectives developed by resource specialists that follow the decisions made by the Land and Resource Management Plans when practical from a protection perspective. The most common example are Late Successional Reserve Areas (or spotted owl cores) designated by the Land/Resource Management Plan that reside within the LUA WUI. These areas will have resource objectives which address Late Successional Reserve and protection objectives that address the resource and the wildland urban interface. This delineation is done in order to not loose sight of protected habitats that exist close to communities which are threatened by wildland fire. While our highest priority is firefighter and public safety, the resource issues that are associated with these protected habitats will also be considered.

In general, the majority of the federal land base within a specific LUA delineation directly correlates to the land use allocation that is predominate for that area in the LRMP/RMP's and resource direction of the Federal Agencies.

The LUA's Late Successional Emphasis and Wilderness follow allocations developed in the Northwest Forest Plan and adopted by the Land and Resource Management Plans and from congressional reservation respectively. The LUA "Special" incorporates some executive/legislative withdrawn areas and identified areas with special needs due to rare plants, unique environmental locations, and improvements or developments on federal lands. It also includes the only National Park Service land within the FPU.

3.1.8. Resource and Fire Management Objectives Common to all LUA's on all Jurisdictions

The issues surrounding resource and fire management objectives within the FPU sometimes conflict, and final resolution of questions concerning activities to reduce the impacts from unwanted and uncharacteristic wildland fire many times are a tradeoff on federal and state lands. The inter-mixed ownership patterns between federal, private and state lands presents a distinct need for public safety and private property, and resource protection from unwanted wildland fire. While providing this protection is the highest priority, protecting the environment from adverse effects of some suppression actions is important to

maintaining the characteristics of the landscape. Since each incident has a different set of circumstances surrounding it, general sets of guidelines are provided for resource concerns by LUA and specific areas of resource concern will be addressed by FMU.

Often on federally administered lands, when fire management activities are necessary in an emergency situation, negotiation between ecosystem values and life and property values at risk are carried on between the agency administrators and fire managers. At times the environmental concerns of these activities are in conflict with general direction for protection purposes. Often the tradeoffs will involve allowing some limited adverse affects on a local site to protect larger areas from unwanted damage. During these instances a resource advisor, knowledgeable of the environmental concerns at the site, assists the fire managers and agency administrator balance adverse impacts to the site in relation to the threat to safety, property, and resource protection. For this writing of the FMP the protection emphasis within the jurisdiction of federal and state will remain constant throughout the LUA, the tactics and tools used to perform the suppression activities may change from one LUA to another to address the most pertinent concerns of the sites. The intensity of the suppression actions may vary due to the LUA's characteristics in relation to protection priorities and resource objectives and dependent on the situations surrounding the incident. This document is aimed at providing the line officer, fire management officer and resource advisor a concise collection of information to consider while giving input to tactical and strategic decisions made with respect to fire management activities on any given wildland fire site on federally administered lands. There are many resource and management objectives that would affect fire management activities throughout the federal lands regardless of LUA designation. As mentioned above these recommendations will be weighed against the fire situation and values at risk on a case by case basis.

Wildland fire protection objectives for all lands within the administrative boundaries of the SWOFPU are:

- Provide for the health, welfare, and safety of the public and fire personnel.
- Protect private property from damage due to wildland fire
- Protect resource values from high severity wildland fire
- Provide for rehabilitation of sites affected by suppression actions and adverse fire effects
- All wildfires will receive a management response
- Use prescribed fire throughout the FPU to reduce the impacts from large scale disturbance through hazard fuels reduction. Use prescribed fire for restoration of desired vegetation condition, management of habitat, and silvicultural treatments. Hazardous fuels treatments to modify fuel profiles in order to lower potential of high intensity, stand replacing wildland fires may come in the form of prescribed burning, mechanical or manual manipulation of forest vegetation.

- Avoid disturbance activities in sensitive areas such as: caves, mines, and wildlife protection areas.
- Special Management Areas (ACEC's RNA's) exist throughout the FPU. These are areas of critical environmental concern or uniqueness, and are designated by their inclusion in LUA Special. Impacts from suppression related activities may endanger the qualities of these sites more than the effects of a wildland fire.
- Some sensitive botanical species and their habitats are located outside these specially designated areas and exist throughout the other LUA's. Locations of known sites of listed and sensitive plant populations will be available to resource advisors and fire personnel for protection from ground disturbing activities.
- Air Quality issues in wildland fire situations have degraded to below the National Standards for Ambient Air Quality in the past. Notification to the public and health officials will be conducted during wildland fire activities in combination with atmospheric conditions that would degrade air quality in populated areas. All fuels reduction activities will follow smoke management guidelines found in the State Implementation Plan.

These principles should be followed unless they would impede public or fire personnel safety or protection of private property values.

- Locate incident bases, camps, helibases, staging areas, and other centers for incident and other fire management activities outside of riparian reserves.
- Minimize delivery of chemical retardant, foam, or other additives to surface water.
- Locate and manage water drafting sites to minimize adverse effects on riparian habitat and water quality as consistent with Aquatic Conservation Strategy.
- When riparian reserve are significantly affected or damaged by wildland fire, establish emergency rehabilitation team to make assessment and design plan for recovery and to attain Aquatic Conservation Strategy and riparian reserve objectives.
- Design fuel treatment and fire suppression strategies, practices, and activities to meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy and riparian reserve objectives and to minimize disturbance of riparian ground cover and vegetation.
- Consider rapid extinguishment of coarse woody debris and duff during fire management operations to protect these attributes to habitat and ecosystem values.
- Consider washing vehicles and equipment involved in fire management activities to reduce spread of noxious weeds, and pathogens. Follow guidelines in Port Orford Cedar EIS.
- A wide range of cultural resources, including archeological and historic sites are known to occur throughout the FPU. These site types include the

earliest known archeological or pre-historic site in SW Oregon, rock shelters, rare rock art sites, and National Register listed historic sites. All cultural resources are fragile, non-renewable resources. Once damaged, these sites cannot be replaced. Therefore, all cultural resources are at risk from ground disturbing fire fighting operations. All these cultural resources are also at risk from collection activities of fire fighting personnel. The collection of artifacts, both archeological and historic, from federal land is prohibited by the Archeological Resources Protection Act which provides monetary fines for infractions. Those cultural resources with a wooden component, usually a historic site, are at risk from the fire itself. Known cultural resource sites will be considered and protected in the tactical decisions and actions made by fire resources through the advice of the resource advisors. The location of newly discovered artifacts will be reported to the resource advisor for consideration.

- Avoid aircraft travel routes and activities for fire management incidents and projects that may interfere with nesting, roosting, mating, and activity of threatened and endangered bird species.
- 100 acre Spotted Owl Core, Bald Eagle, and Great Grey Owl Areas are located throughout the FPU. Core Areas may be located in any Fire Management Unit. The same resource and management objectives will apply for all Owl Core Areas as designated for LSR.
- Protect snags and large down wood to the extent possible on federal lands within the FPA. Use water, foam, or buffers to protect them when practical. If snags must be felled, consider cutting them away from the area where they may burn, as to retain them for future down wood.
- Protect water sources, seeps, springs and streams from surface disturbance. Maintain as much vegetation next to these areas as practical. Avoid mechanized equipment in waterways.
- Do not feed or bait animals, leave trash, or food of any kind outside of food storage areas. Do not harass or handle wild animals found in or near fire area.