**Expanding the Use of Contracted Suppression Resources for Fuels Work-CREWS**

**What’s New?** On December 21, 2022, Deputy Chief Jaelith Hall-Rivera issued a letter, link here: [*Expanding the Use of Contracted Resources for Priority Fuels Work*](https://www.fs.usda.gov/business/incident/vipr.php?tab=tab_d), (click on RX tab) that provides a temporary solution to access the use of contracted resources to implement prescribed fire.

**Why Was This Needed?** To meet the Chief’s 10-year Wildfire Crisis Strategy and implement near term recommendation 8b from the National Prescribed Fire Program Review, additional capacity is needed to augment agency personnel in implementation of prescribed fire projects.

**What’s Available?** Type 2 and Type 2 IA crews.

**Who Can Order?** Currently US Forest Service organizations may order these resources. There is work in progress to establish processes that may allow ordering by the Department of Interior, and State agencies.

**When to Order?** When no agency resources are available, and your standard, established processes for prescribed fire resource procurement have been exhausted, or to fill a special need unavailable elsewhere.

**Who Pays?** For resources ordered outside the 21 Wildfire Crisis Landscapes, funding for contracted resources will be covered by local/regional shorthand codes. For contracted resource orders within the 21 Wildfire Crisis Landscapes, units should use their WCSL shorthand code.

For those resources which require invoice packages sent to ASC-IF, it is the ordering unit’s responsibility to create and submit these packages. Contract administration and logistical support positions can be ordered through IROC, but they must charge their salary to the appropriate salary and expense code.

See (FY24 FAM Toolbox) <https://usfs.box.com/s/cec2wcuqoqwcyozrbx28n3rn2um6wt10>

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| **Example Crew Rates, per person per hour** | | |
| Type 2 agreements (BPA) [Type 2 crew rates](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffsweb.wo.fs.fed.us%2Fpps%2Fstatic%2Fpages%2Fincident%2Flogistics%2F2022%2520Type%25202%2520Crews-%25201449%2520%26%2520Rate%2520Sheet.pdf&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cbbf8720b50584a200ca708daf4e26127%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638091551418661215%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Zv50HV6mGtJaFymoREFH4DdOyggUnp%2FWlAVbrtP%2BT%2BM%3D&reserved=0) | | |
| Maximum | Average | Minimum |
| $53.50 | $50.13 | $41.90 |
| Type 2 IA contracts (IDIQ) [T2IA crew rates](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffsweb.wo.fs.fed.us%2Fpps%2Fstatic%2Fpages%2Fincident%2Flogistics%2FCrews%2520Type%25202IA%25201449%2520%26%2520Summary%25202022.pdf&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cbbf8720b50584a200ca708daf4e26127%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638091551418817437%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4LAV7oATNKCFQTsbCNw8aTIXVUv8vRGz%2F4xqROG9r6Q%3D&reserved=0) | | |
| Maximum | Average | Minimum |
| $50.26 | $45.63 | $42.00 |

**What are the Rates?** Rates will vary depending on the vendor. The table at right provides some example crew rates that may be used for project planning, and links to specific crew rates.

**Can I select the cheapest crew available?** No. You must place a resource order and the crew you receive will be filled by the National Interagency Coordination Center, following the Dispatch Ordering Procedure for crews on the Type 2 BPA.

**When to use crew BPAs versus local established contracts?** Local contracts provide familiar vendors, are generally located within the local commuting area, and have non-suppression rates, which may provide an economical alternative. When local contracts are not established or are unavailable during the needed window then Type 2 Crew BPA resources can fill that need provided funds are available to cover expected costs.

**What Type of Activities are Appropriate?** These contract resources can be used for prescribed burn unit preparation, ignition, holding, and contingency. They cannot be used for fuels projects such as thinning where not directly in support of prescribed fire planned on the landscape. Use your approved prescribed fire plan for guidance on specific activities, specifically Element 9-pre-burn considerations.

**Can I Move Resources Between Projects?** No. They can however be moved between different burn units within the same WCL project area. Resources ordered for a WCL project area must be de-mobilized and a new request must be submitted for the new project area.

**How Does Ordering Work?** Ordering will follow the already established process for wildland fire.

**How Long Does It Take?** Response time is similar to a wildland fire order with a date and time specified when inputting the resource order. There may be a delay in mobilization during the off-season as resources adjust to being mobilized outside of normal fire suppression season. Also, dispatch centers may only be open during regular business hours, and not on weekends.

**Questions?** Questions may be directed as follows:

* **Type 2 and Type 2IA crews:**
  + Bryce Pitchford, Contracting Officer, (208) 991-7639 or [bryce.pitchford@usda.gov](mailto:bryce.pitchford@usda.gov)
  + Mary Fields, Contracting Officer Representative, (406) 370-7312 or [mary.fields@usda.gov](file:///C:\Users\epetterson01\Documents\mary.fields@usda.gov)
  + Shane Greer, National Crew Program Manager, (720) 315-5626 or [richard.greer@usda.gov](file:///C:\Users\epetterson01\Documents\richard.greer@usda.gov)
* The [National Mobilization Guide](https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/mobguide/) and the [NWCG Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management](https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/902) provide guidance on established ordering procedures and incident business practices.
* [PPS Incident Procurement](https://www.fs.usda.gov/business/incident/vipr.php?tab=tab_d)