

**File Code:** 5100**Date:** July 7, 2023**Route To:****Subject:** International Mobilization of Administratively Determined (AD) Employees**To:** Regional Foresters

The Chief's June 15, 2023, Letter of Intent for Wildfire – 2023, notes that increased wildfire activity continues to challenge the Forest Service. This year increased and ongoing wildfire activity is also challenging our international partners in Canada. The Chief's intent included commitments to do all we can to protect communities, critical infrastructure, and natural resources, and to collaborate with partners to achieve mutually beneficial goals across boundaries and in all landscapes. Increasing our response capabilities is necessary to both meet both the agency's and our international partners' wildland fire suppression needs.

Canada's current extreme wildfire situation has strained their resource capabilities. At Canada's request, the Forest Service has been assisting in their wildfire suppression response since May 8, 2023. These resource requests continue to be met; however, until now, the agency has not had the authority to mobilize the AD workforce internationally.

This letter notifies you that the Forest Service has received confirmation from the Office of General Counsel that the restriction of hiring AD employees for international assignments has been lifted. Both AD and federal employees may now be mobilized under established agreements with interagency and international partners. This applies to the current [AD Pay Plan](#), issued on May 8, 2023, as Interim Directive Number 5109.34-2023-3. Hiring of AD employees under this plan will follow all other provisions of the plan including rates of pay for these assignments. When the AD Pay Plan is reissued for 2024, the restrictive language will be removed, and the remainder of the plan will be updated as necessary.

Our AD employees provide an invaluable service and a demonstrated commitment to wildland fire management. We are grateful for this change to ensure that we can continue to provide support to our interagency and international partners when they need it most.

If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Fisher, Deputy Director, Aviation and Operations, WO Fire and Aviation Management by phone at 208-914-0882 or by email at [sarah.fisher@usda.gov](mailto:sarah.fisher@usda.gov).

**Jaelith HALL-RIVERA**

Deputy Chief, State, Private, and Tribal Forestry

cc: Jerome Perez, Sarah Fisher, David Haston, Anthony Bethas, Adam Mendonca, Regional Fire Directors and Deputy Regional Fire Directors, Bonny Johnson, Heather Good

