

**Forest Service Manual
National Headquarters - Washington Office
Washington, DC**

**Forest Service Manual 5100 – Fire Management
Chapter 5120 – Preparedness**

Amendment: 5100-2016-1

Effective date: September 29, 2016

Duration: This amendment is effective until superseded or removed.

Approved by: Patricia F. Hiram, Acting Deputy Chief, S&PF

Date approved: September 13, 2016

Responsible Staff:

Last Change: 5100-2015-1 to FSM 5160

Superseded Document(s): 5120, Amendment 5100-2005-2, July 7, 2005

Digest: Following is an explanation of the changes throughout the directive by section.

5120: Revises chapter in its entirety.

5122: Establishes code, caption, and direction for cooperation, previously set out in chapter 5170.

Table of Contents

5120.2 - Objectives	4
5120.3 - Policy	5
5120.4 - Responsibility	5
5120.41 - Chief	5
5120.42 - Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry	6
5120.43 - Washington Office, Director, Fire and Aviation Management,.....	6
5120.44 - Regional Foresters	7
5120.45 - Regional Directors, Fire and Aviation Management	8
5120.46 - Forest Supervisors.....	9
5120.47 - District Rangers.....	10
5121 - Planning and Decision Support	11
5121.02 - Objective	11
5121.1 - Plans	11
5121.11 - National, Geographic, and Unit Preparedness Plans.....	11
5121.13 - Fire Management Planning Guide	11
5121.2 - Decision Support	11
5121.21 - Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS)	11
5121.22 - Predictive Services	12
5122 - Cooperation.....	12
5122.02 - Objective	12
5122.03 - Policy.....	12
5122.1 - Agreements with Federal Agencies	13
5122.2 - State and Local Agreements	13
5122.3 - International Agreements.....	14
5123 - Coordination and Mobilization of Wildland Fire Assets.....	15
5123.02 - Objective	15
5123.03 - Policy.....	15
5123.1 - Dispatch Organizations.....	15
5123.2 - Mobilization Guides.....	16
5124 - Fire Weather Monitoring, Forecasting, and Fire Danger Rating	16
5124.01 - Authority	16
5124.02 - Objective	16
5124.03 - Policy.....	16
5124.1 - Weather Monitoring and the National Fire Danger Rating System.....	17
5124.2 - Fire Danger Pocket Cards.....	17
5125 - Training, Qualifications, and Certification for Wildland Fire and Emergency Operations	17
5125.02 - Objective	17
5125.03 - Policy.....	17
5125.1 - Job Corps and Non-Federal Organized Suppression Crews.....	18
5126 - Fire Management Assets, Equipment and Supplies	18

Forest Service Manual 5100 – Fire Management

Chapter 5120 – Preparedness

Amendment: 5100-2016-1

Effective date: September 29, 2016

5126.02 - Objective	18
5126.03 - Policy	18
5127 - Reviews	20
5127.02 - Objective	20
5127.1 - Regional Activity Reviews	20
5127.2 - National Program Reviews.....	20

Preparedness is a continuous process that includes all fire management activities conducted in advance of wildland fire ignitions to ensure an appropriate, risk informed and effective wildland fire response to meet National and Agency goals. Activities include:

1. Developing Agency strategy, doctrine, and standards;
2. Developing Fire Management program and budget proposals; the composition and location of unit, State/Regional, and National level firefighting infrastructure and assets;
3. Working with partners and cooperators to develop an effective, risk-based cooperative readiness program that includes community wildfire mitigation and adaptation;
4. Training; certifying, and managing records; and equipping fire management assets;
5. Detecting fires;
6. Assessing risk; developing, maintaining, and implementing systems to analyze risk, and acquire geospatial information on current and historical fire occurrence, weather, hazard, and fire danger;
7. Developing, maintaining, and implementing systems to mobilize, coordinate, and prioritize the use of firefighting and mitigation personnel and equipment;
8. Evaluating Agency performance to improve future operations.

5120.2 - Objectives

Preparedness objectives include the following:

1. In collaboration with Federal, State, Tribal, and local cooperators and partners, provide the capability to implement appropriate, risk informed and effective wildland fire management decisions, including community mitigation efforts, and respond to wildland fire in a manner to redeem the Agency's role and responsibilities in the interagency fire community, and support Agency goals and management objectives identified in strategic plans and Land and Resource Management Plans (FSM 1920).
2. Provide managers with relevant information and procedures based on the best available science to develop strategy and implement actions that reduce the number of human caused unplanned ignitions, maximize mitigation opportunities, and support timely and effective risk-based decisions for all wildland fires.
3. Safely and effectively coordinate personnel, equipment, and supplies in support of wildland fire, mitigation, and emergency management activities.
4. Assess Agency performance to determine program capability and readiness to meet Agency wildland fire management objectives; implement actions to eliminate deficiencies.

5. Complete preseason planning efforts to ensure Line Officers and stakeholders understand, accept, and support alternative risk-based decisions

5120.3 - Policy

The goal of preparedness policy includes the following:

1. Develop a suite of nationally available, locally-assigned wildland fire preparedness and mitigation outreach assets.
2. Base the National program on USDA and Forest Service strategic plans and agreements.
3. Recognize the interdependence of wildland fire jurisdictions at all geographic levels in managing wildland fire. Develop and implement mutually beneficial fire management agreements to conduct wildland fire and mitigation activities collaboratively with the proactive engagement of cooperators, partners, and the public.
4. Apply appropriate management oversight and support at each fire organizational level to coordinate, plan, fund, train, staff, and equip, a safe, cost-efficient Fire Management and mitigation program.
5. Plan, implement, and maintain a detection program sufficient to promptly detect fires and allow an effective response to wildfire.
6. Plan, implement, and maintain a mitigation outreach/guidance program sufficient to support community efforts which benefits effective wildfire response.
7. Prepare and maintain a workforce (Line Officers, Supervisors, support personnel, and firefighters), trained and qualified to make and implement fire management and mitigation decisions applying situational awareness, risk assessment, doctrine, training, and experience.
8. Gather and maintain information on fire weather, climatological assessments, wildland fire activity and severity, risks and hazards, mitigation activities, and other factors to provide up-to-date information at the initial response level, the Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACC) level, and national levels in order to support collaborative priority setting, resource deployment, contingency development, and ensure adequate management, supervision, and response to predicted changes in fire severity and activity.

5120.4 - Responsibility

5120.41 - Chief

The Chief reserves authority to execute all Service-wide agreements with other Federal agencies and approve or reject agreements with foreign countries.

5120.42 - Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry

The Deputy Chief has the responsibility to:

1. Ensure Agency capability is sufficient to meet the Chief's goals.
2. Coordinate with the Regional Foresters to develop a unified Agency program to implement Agency wildland fire management goals.
3. Recommend for approval to the Chief, all Service-wide agreements with other Federal agencies and agreements with foreign countries.

5120.43 - Washington Office, Director, Fire and Aviation Management,

The Director, Fire and Aviation Management plans, organizes, and implements the National preparedness program to:

1. Develop the doctrine, National strategies, and risk management principles for the Wildland Fire Program.
2. Provide counsel to the Deputy Chief on the Fire Management program and its capability in meeting the Chief's goals.
3. Recommend the establishment or revision of all Service-wide agreements with other Federal agencies and foreign countries to the Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry (S&PF). The goal is to collaboratively develop National preparedness plans, Mobilization Guides, procedures, standards, and systems, to train, qualify, equip, and mobilize personnel and assets to meet National and international wildland fire and emergency needs (FSM 5121.1).
4. Consult with the Deputy Chief (S&PF) annually to determine and approve the following:
 - a. The number of all Agency wildland fire response assets;
 - b. Their period of availability, location, and funding; and
 - c. The implementation of the Chief's wildfire preparedness, mitigation, and response goals.
5. Develop and maintain the capability to mobilize wildland fire assets by maintaining, and operating the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) in collaboration with interagency cooperators (FSM 5123).
6. Establish standards for firefighting assets and qualification requirements for fire support and fire management personnel.

7. Ensure oversight of the development, operation, and maintenance of networks and systems to:
 - a. Assess weather, fire behavior, and fire danger;
 - b. Report fire occurrence;
 - c. Mobilize firefighting personnel and assets;
 - d. Maintain accountability of firefighting equipment and supplies;
 - e. Monitor suppression actions;
 - f. Track training and certifications for fire management personnel;
 - g. Evaluate effectiveness of alternative fire management programs; and
 - h. Assess risk in making strategic and tactical decisions for fire incidents.
8. Conduct National level preparedness reviews to monitor accountability and performance, correct deficiencies, and improve overall operations (FSM 5127.2).
9. Ensure strategic assessments (for example, Cohesive Strategy, Quadrennial Fire Review) are developed to position the Agency to meet both current and future conditions.
10. Ensure National Fire and Aviation Management leadership is trained, equipped, and directed to provide an appropriate, risk-based, and effective response.
11. Certify, recertify, or decertify Agency personnel located in the National Office possessing Area Command and Type 1 position qualifications.

5120.44 - Regional Foresters

Regional Foresters have the responsibility to:

1. Coordinate with the Deputy Chief to create a unified Agency Wildland Fire program and establish Regional capability to implement the Chief's wildland fire management goals.
2. Ensure establishment of State-wide agreements that clearly define the responsibilities of all interagency partners in wildland fire activities.
3. Establish supplemental Regional direction (Manual or Handbook) when State or local laws or regulations require additional standards. Examples include requirements related to blood borne pathogens, first responders, emergency vehicle operations, and hazardous materials.

4. Certify, recertify, or decertify Agency personnel located within the Region possessing Area Command and Type 1 position qualifications, or delegate this responsibility to the Regional Fire Director.
5. Ensure that field units plan and budget fire protection assets are within allocated budgets.
6. Ensure fire management objectives are integrated with Land Management Plan objectives
7. Ensure proper accountability of firefighting tools and equipment.
8. Ensure that Regional Activity Reviews are conducted (FSM 5127.1).

5120.45 - Regional Directors, Fire and Aviation Management

Regional Directors, Fire and Aviation Management have the responsibility to:

1. Plan, organize, and implement, the Regional Wildland Fire Management program.
2. Establish State-wide agreements covering the use of interagency, National Guard, State, and local cooperator forces, and the coordination of Regional interagency wildfire response and mitigation support activities.
3. Provide oversight and conduct preparedness reviews of Forest, Grassland, and Interagency Fire Management programs to ensure units are prepared to make well informed risk based decisions on all wildland fires that consider objectives within Land Management Plans.
4. Provide oversight, maintain, and ensure effective operation of GACC in collaboration with interagency cooperators (FSM 5123.1).
5. Provide oversight, maintain, and ensure effective operation of all Agency wildfire response assets (see National Mobilization Guide NFES 2092).
6. Provide oversight to ensure and certify weather, fire danger rating, and risk assessment systems meet National standards and deliver accurate, current, and timely information (Weather Information Management System (WIMS), Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS), National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS), Fire Danger Pocket Cards, Fire Behavior Alerts, and so forth); see Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (NWCG, NFES 2724) and Interagency Wildland Fire Weather Station Standards & Guidelines (PMS 426-3).
7. Develop and recommend supplemental Regional direction (Manual or Handbook) to the Regional Forester when State or local laws or regulations require additional standards. Examples include requirements related to blood borne pathogens, first responders, and hazardous materials. Establish supplemental Regional policy for emergency vehicle operations (FSH 5109.16)

8. Enable the availability of trained and qualified fire management personnel by:
 - a. Ensuring the availability of training programs are compliant with National, State, and local standards to train and qualify personnel for fire management and emergency assignments.
 - b. Establishing a Regional (or GACC) Qualification Review Committee to recommend certification, recertification, or decertification of personnel to the Regional Forester or designee. This requires an annual review of the qualifications for all Agency personnel located within the Region possessing Area Command and Type 1 position qualifications. (Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide, Chapter 2 Part1) (<http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/publications/index.html>).
 - c. Certifying, recertifying, or decertifying Agency personnel located within the Region possessing Area Command and Type 1 position qualifications if so designated by Regional Forester.
9. Determine Regional fire management equipment and supply need. Only obtain equipment and supplies meeting National standards and maintain accountability of these items.
10. Schedule and conduct annual preparedness reviews to identify organizational, operational, procedural, personnel, or equipment deficiencies, and recommend specific corrective actions.

5120.46 - Forest Supervisors

Forest Supervisors have the responsibility to:

1. Collaborate with appropriate Federal, State, and local partners to plan, organize, and implement a preparedness and mitigation program for the National Forest or Grassland.
2. Ensure appropriate agreements cover the use of interagency and local cooperator forces, and the coordination of wildfire response activities. Establish and maintain cooperative wildland fire management agreements that accurately reflect current conditions, budget, or other significant considerations.
3. Establish a Forest Qualification Review Committee to annually review and recommend certification, recertification, or decertification of personnel (Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide, Chapter 2 Part 1).
4. Certify, recertify, or decertify all unit individuals possessing Type 2 or lower position qualifications.
5. Provide oversight and conduct preparedness reviews of District Fire Management programs, to ensure units are prepared to make well informed risk based decisions on all wildland fires that consider objectives within the Land Management Plan.

6. Ensure spatial fire planning and the Fire Management Reference System is updated and provides guidance, based upon the Land and Resource Management Plan, to respond to unplanned ignitions and support wildland fire decisions and analysis (see the Fire Management Planning Guide at <http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/fire/fmp/>).
7. Ensure dispatch centers are prepared with mobilization and initial response plans to detect and respond to wildfires with effective coordination and mobilization of wildland fire management assets.
8. Ensure that adequate plans, hardware, software, qualified personnel, and facilities are available to coordinate, support, and process the timely and accurate assessment of weather conditions (RAWS network and WIMS), NFDRS), and risk (Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS)).
9. Ensure Fire Danger Pocket Cards accurately depict current conditions and trends, and are:
 - a. Certified Regionally;
 - b. Posted on the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) website (<http://fam.nwcg.gov/fam-web/pocketcards/default.htm>);
 - c. Distributed to each Fireline Supervisor on Type 3, 4, and 5 wildfires.
10. Designate Administratively Determined (AD) hiring official(s) (see Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook (NWCG Handbook 2, NFES 2160, and FSH 5109.34)) <http://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pms902.pdf>.
11. Determine Forest and Grassland fire management equipment and supply needs. Only obtain equipment and supplies meeting National standards and maintain accountability of these items.
12. Implement Regional emergency vehicle operation policy (5109.16).

5120.47 - District Rangers

District Rangers have the responsibility to:

1. Maintain an organization to meet Agency standards to achieve wildland fire management objectives described in Land and Resource Management Plans. Implement applicable actions identified in unit level and GACC mobilization initial response systems and plans.
2. Provide oversight and ensure employees understand their professional and legal responsibilities and are given timely and accurate information of the latent and emerging risks in the wildland fire environment.

5121 - Planning and Decision Support

5121.02 - Objective

Provide managers with relevant information and procedures based on the best available science to develop strategy and implement actions that reduce the number of unplanned ignitions from human causes, provide timely and effective mitigation/fire adaptation information and assistance, and support timely and risk-based decisions to prepare an effective response to all wildland fires.

5121.1 - Plans

5121.11 - National, Geographic, and Unit Preparedness Plans

1. Preparedness plans and resultant activities produce coordinated actions based on the fire situation, to ensure units are prepared to appropriately react to wildfire incidents. Outputs from the Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP) process are used to support decisions found in many components of preparedness plans, including but not limited to staffing/step-up plans, prevention plans, mitigation/fire adaptation plans, preparedness level plans, closure/restriction, and initial response plans. The actions within preparedness plans must be based on and consistent with the Land and Resource Management Plan and can be loaded into Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems (refer to Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (NWCG, NFES 2724) and the National Interagency Mobilization Guide (NFES 2092) for detailed information and guidance).
2. Preparedness level Plans are required at National, GACC, and unit levels and will be documented in Mobilization Guides, operating plans, and other plans and guides. Plans and guides may be organized into a wildfire operations plan to comprise the Fire Management Reference System (refer to the Fire Management Planning Guide, FSM 5121.13).

5121.13 - Fire Management Planning Guide

The broad direction for guiding response to unplanned ignitions must be displayed in the Spatial Fire Planning process and documented in Fire Management Reference System plans and guides. More information can be found at <http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/fire/fmp>. Prepare and update Spatial Fire Planning to upload into WFDSS and the Fire Management Reference System to ensure that information is provided to support the wildland fire decision and analysis process based upon desired condition in the Land and Resource Management Plan.

5121.2 - Decision Support

5121.21 - Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS)

The Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS):

1. Must be used to assist Line Officers and fire managers to make strategic and tactical decisions for wildfire incidents that exceed initial attack or response or include a resource management objective.
2. Regions, Forests or Grasslands, and Districts must coordinate the acquisition and maintenance of the Land and Resource Management Plan data in WFDSS to allow its effective use in supporting the wildfire decision process.

5121.22 - Predictive Services

Predictive Service Units:

1. Must be maintained at National and Geographic levels.
2. Will collect, analyze, and disseminate information about fire activity, resource status, weather, fuels, fire danger, and fire potential in order to provide decision-support for wildland fire management operations.

5122 - Cooperation

5122.02 - Objective

Develop and implement mutually beneficial fire management agreements with other Federal agencies, State, Tribal, local and territorial authorities, and adjoining countries.

5122.03 - Policy

1. Establish agreements with interagency partners in advance of wildfire response to clearly define the responsibilities of all partners. Forest Service responsibilities generally involve mutual aid, initial response, extended wildfire incident management, or large fire support. Agreements typically:
 - a. Authorize and document the coordination among military, State, Tribal, local, and Federal agencies for wildfire response activities;
 - b. Clarify the Agency's structure protection policy; see FSM 5135 for structure protection requirements;
 - c. Establish the method and rate of reimbursement and payment. Refer to the Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook (NWCG Handbook 2, NFES 2160, FSH 5109.34) and the Grants and Agreements Manual and Handbook (FSM 1580 and FSH 1509.11, chapter 30) for further direction on Cooperative Fire Protection Agreements.
2. Annually review and update cooperative wildland fire management agreements (FSM 3170), and reference them in Mobilization Guides, local preparedness plans, or other Fire Management Reference System plans and guides.

3. Do not prepare trespass reports or bill other Federal agencies for suppression costs or for damages from fires caused by activities of other Federal agencies. Refer to FSM 6511.82 for interdepartmental waiver doctrine.

5122.1 - Agreements with Federal Agencies

The Forest Service has the following agreements with other Federal agencies. Refer to FSM 1530 for details of the actual agreements. Refer to FSH 1509.11 for standard and sample agreements. Further information on interagency agreements can be found in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 40 Cooperation <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/mobguide>.

1. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture provides authority for agency level fire management agreements, 1943.
2. The MOU between the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and the National Weather Service allows for joint operation of the Boise Interagency Fire Center (BIFC), 1972.
3. The MOU between the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture established the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), 1976.
4. The Interagency Agreement between the Department of the Interior land management agencies and the Forest Service describe cooperative fire management, 1982.
5. The MOU between the National Environmental Satellite Service (NESS) and the Forest Service concerns the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES) data collection systems program, 1980.
6. The agreement between the National Weather Service and the Federal land management agencies concerns meteorological services, 1983.
7. The MOU between the Department of Defense, Department of the Interior, and the Department of Agriculture concerns the Department of Defense fire emergency assistance, 1975.
8. The MOU between the USDI, Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service, and the Defense Logistics Agency concerns wildfire suppression equipment and supplies, 2014.

5122.2 - State and Local Agreements

State and local agreements will be available for reference in the unit Fire Management Reference System and/or Geographic Preparedness plans.

5122.3 - International Agreements

The Forest Service has the following agreements with Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Mexico as authorized by Public Law 84-46, May 27, 1955 (42 U.S.C. 1856 - 1856d) and the Emergency Wildfire Suppression Act as Amended, U.S. Public Law 100-428 (42 U.S.C. 1856m). See FSM 1550 for details of actual agreements. Further information on international agreements can be found in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 40, Cooperation <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/mobguide>.

1. Canada.

- a. Forest Fire Fighting Assistance Arrangement between the United States and Canada, 1982.
- b. Exchange of Notes between the United States Department of Agriculture and Environment Canada concerning cooperation in forestry related programs, 1982.

2. Mexico.

- a. Agreement between the United States and Mexico concerns cooperation in cases of natural disasters, 1980.
- b. Wildfire Protection agreement between the United States Department of Agriculture and the Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources, Mexico, concerns scientific and technological cooperation in forestry, 1999.

3. Australia. Agreement between the United States and the Australian Participating Agencies, 2002.

4. New Zealand. Agreement between the United States and the New Zealand Participating Agencies, 2002.

5. Fire Management Working Group of the North American Forest Commission. This commission was chartered to study and report on wildfire problems that are common to the North American nations. Meetings are rotated among the three countries at a 12 month frequency. United States membership is made up of the U.S. Forest Service Director of Fire and Aviation Management, the U.S. Forest Service Director of Forest Management Science, the U.S. Department of the Interior Director of the Office of Wildland Fire, and the National Association of State Foresters Fire Committee Chair. The U.S. Forest Service Director of Fire and Aviation Management serves as the leader of the United States delegation.

5123 - Coordination and Mobilization of Wildland Fire Assets

5123.02 - Objective

Safely and effectively coordinate and mobilize personnel, equipment, and supplies in support of wildland fire and emergency management activities to best meet the Agency's established priorities.

5123.03 - Policy

1. The Washington Office, Director, Fire and Aviation Management staff, can direct any wildfire response asset to meet Regional or National priorities.
2. Establish and maintain effective coordination organizations and systems to pre-plan responses and effectively respond to wildland fire.
3. In cooperation with partner agencies, develop and implement interagency dispatching and mobilization procedures (see Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (NWCG, NFES 2724) and the National Interagency Mobilization Guide (NWCG, NFES 2092)).

5123.1 - Dispatch Organizations

1. The wildland fire dispatch system will be comprised of only three levels (tiers). Any unit using a dispatch system outside the three-tier system must justify why a non-standard system is being used and request written authorization from the USFS National Office.
 - a. National. The National Interagency Coordination Center collaboratively develops and implements the National Mobilization Guide (NWCG, NFES 2092).
 - b. Geographic. The Geographic Area Coordination Centers collaboratively develops and implements Geographic Area Mobilization Guides.

The GACC coordinates GACC level activities with the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) and provides timely submission of intelligence information and fire reports as specified in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (NWCG, NFES 2724) and the National Interagency Mobilization Guide (NWCG, NFES 2092).

- c. Local. The principal mission of a local dispatch center is to provide safe, timely, and effective coordination of emergency response for all incidents within its specified geographic area.

Local dispatch centers have the responsibility to supply intelligence information related to fires and resource status to their GACC and to their Agency managers and cooperators.

2. All dispatch centers provide services to National Forest lands and must follow procedures as outlined in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide (NWCG, NFES 2092).

5123.2 - Mobilization Guides

Mobilization Guides must be developed and used at the National, geographic, and local levels. Responsibilities for development and approval of these guides are in FSM 5120.4.

5124 - Fire Weather Monitoring, Forecasting, and Fire Danger Rating

Accurate and nationally consistent weather monitoring and forecasting are essential elements that enable the best decisions to be made as it relates to the coordination and implementation wildland Fire Management programs and activities.

5124.01 - Authority

Congress authorized the National Weather Service to provide fire weather services to Federal agencies through a National Weather Agreement referenced in FSM 1532.14. This agreement is authorized under the Economy Act, 31 U.S.C. 1535 15 U.S.C. 313; and 49 U.S.C. 1463; and the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act 16 U.S.C. 2101, et. seq.

5124.02 - Objective

Establish and maintain fire weather analysis and monitoring capability to support the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS). Provide consistent current and predicted fire danger information at local, Regional, and National levels to assess risk, guide preparedness, and prevention actions; effectively use fire management assets; and safely and effectively implement wildland fire management activities.

5124.03 - Policy

1. Provide all personnel who manage or engage in wildland fire management activities with timely and accurate weather information and assessments of fire danger.
2. Establish Joint Annual Operating Plans for fire weather services with the National Weather Service and local forecast offices at National and Geographic Area levels.
3. Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) Predictive Services Meteorologists will coordinate with local National Weather Service fire weather Meteorologists to provide timely NFDRS forecast outputs.
4. Operate and maintain a system of weather stations, to support the timely and effective operation of the NFDRS, in order to ensure effective coverage of all National Forests System lands. See NWCG NFDRS Weather Station Standards (PMS 426-3, FSM 5120.6).

5. Use NFDRS outputs to guide unit preparedness actions and plans for all National Forest System lands.

5124.1 - Weather Monitoring and the National Fire Danger Rating System

1. Each National Forest System unit will be covered by a Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP) which will document the establishment and management of the local unit fire weather station network and describe how fire danger ratings are applied in local unit preparedness plans to guide fire management decisions. (Refer to Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (NWCG, NFES 2724) for development of fire danger rating documentation).
2. Weather information to cover all National Forest System lands will be processed daily into the WIMS and stored in the National Fire Management Web Data Base (FAMWEB). Refer to the WIMS User's Guide.
3. The Western Regional Climate Center is the National data base for storing all weather data generated by the Remote Automatic Weather Stations (RAWS) network.

5124.2 - Fire Danger Pocket Cards

1. Fire Danger Pocket Cards will be used as a communication tool to provide a greater awareness of fire danger index values provided by the NFDRS.
2. Fire Danger Pocket Cards must accurately depict current conditions and trends and be certified regionally. Refer to Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (NWCG, NFES 2724).
3. Fire Danger Pocket Cards must be posted on the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) web site (<http://fam.nwcg.gov/fam-eb/pocketcards/default.htm>); and
4. Fire Danger Pocket Cards must be distributed to each Fireline Supervisor on Type 3, 4, and 5 wildfires.

5125 - Training, Qualifications, and Certification for Wildland Fire and Emergency Operations

5125.02 - Objective

The Forest Service will train and prepare its workforce to safely, effectively, and efficiently participate in emergency response in support of the Agency's role in local, National, and international emergencies.

5125.03 - Policy

1. Provide training adequate to meet fire, mitigation, and aviation management needs.
2. Employees shall meet qualifications and certification standards established in the Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (PMS 310-1) and FSH 5109.17 (Forest

Service Fire and Aviation Management Qualifications Guide) prior to being certified for wildland fire organization positions (FSM 5120.43, 44, and 45). Once they are certified in Incident Qualification and Certification System (IQCS), they must be issued an Incident Qualification Card (NWCG, NFES 1528, PMS 310-3) annually.

3. Leaders will have demonstrated fitness for command and will possess commensurate knowledge of fire and emergency operations for their area of responsibility (see FSH 5109.17).
4. Every Forest Service employee will identify, with their Supervisor, their role and future goals in supporting the Agency's emergency response effort.
5. Every Supervisor has the responsibility to ensure employees receive training and on the job experience to meet IQCS standards, as agreed to with the employee.
6. Every Supervisor has the responsibility to ensure employees receive training and on the job experience to meet the Interagency Fire Program Management (IFPM) and Forest Service Fire Program Management (FS-FPM) qualification standards.
7. Units must use the IQCS as the Forest Service's fire qualifications and certification record keeping system. (See Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide, Chapter 2 Part 1). The employee master file report generated by IQCS meets the Agency requirement for maintaining electronic fire qualification records.

5125.1 - Job Corps and Non-Federal Organized Suppression Crews

Job Corps and non-Federal organized suppression crews must meet the same age, physical fitness, and training requirements as organized firefighting agency crews (see PMS 310-1 and FSH 5109.17).

5126 - Fire Management Assets, Equipment and Supplies

5126.02 - Objective

1. Provide at reasonable cost, the quantity, type, and quality of standardized, firefighting equipment, chemicals, and supplies to facilitate the interchange between fire management agencies for total mobilization and accomplish the Agency's wildfire response mission.
2. Establish standards for developing, obtaining, maintaining, storing, accounting for, and inspecting fire management equipment, chemicals, and supplies.

5126.03 - Policy

1. All wildfire response assets and equipment must meet established Forest Service and interagency standards, availability dates, and staffing levels. Regional Fire and Aviation Management Directors must obtain written agreement from the Washington Office, Director, Fire and Aviation Management staff, for any proposed deviations from National

standards, availability, and funding; see the National Interagency Mobilization Guide (NWCG, NFES 2092).

2. The purchase of new mobile fire equipment must meet the requirements as established in the applicable Forest Service National fire vehicle specifications. These requirements can be found at the Fire and Aviation Management Fire Equipment webpage: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/equipment/index.html#std>. Follow the policy in FSH 5109.16 chapter 30 regarding the installation of emergency lighting and siren equipment, training, certification, and use.

3. National wildfire response assets which have National utilization, and are typically in high demand, will be delineated in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide (NWCG, NFES 2092).

4. All Forest Service fire equipment development, evaluation, and testing will be conducted within the framework of the equipment and materials development, testing, evaluation, and standards program (FSM 7120).

5. Properly maintained firefighting tools and equipment will be available on-hand in sufficient quantities to meet planned needs for a normal fire year.

6. Loan of emergency equipment and supplies to other agencies and private entities (FSM 1590) is allowed during major fire emergencies and for disaster response. Plans and cooperative agreements must be developed to implement loans, except in case of extreme emergencies.

7. Standards to establish appropriate accountability of firefighting tools and equipment will be developed and implemented.

8. Actively participate in the interagency National Fire Equipment System (NFES) with the objective of improving existing NFES standards, developing new NFES standards, stocking fire caches to NFES standards, and participating in the interagency network of NFES-recognized caches managed in accordance with the National Interagency Support Cache Management Plan.

9. Actively participate in the Interagency Cache Business System (ICBS) with the objective of implementing and administering a single computer-based inventory system to assist in the effective management of the NFES fire caches.

10. The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) or other designated agency will be used as the primary and mandatory source of supply for wildland fire suppression equipment, supplies, and protective clothing (FSH 6309.32, Part 4G08--Required Sources of Supplies and Services).

11. Use of other sources should be infrequent and must follow the requirements listed in FSH 6309.32, Required Sources of Supplies and Services and FAR 8.002, Priorities for Use of Government Supply Sources.

12. If a situation calls for purchases that require alternate equipment for specific or exceptional working conditions, or a need to fit specific individuals who cannot use the equipment in the catalog a Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) or Risk Assessment (RA) signed by the applicable Line Officer must be completed.

13. Follow the policy and guidance in FSH 5109.16, Fire and Aviation Management Equipment, Supplies and Chemicals Handbook.

5127 - Reviews

5127.02 - Objective

Assess application of program standards, provide oversight, and improve performance through learning.

5127.1 - Regional Activity Reviews

1. As a minimum, activity reviews will be conducted in accordance with FSM 1410 and include a review of fire management financial activities. Such reviews will be scheduled on a rotating basis as required by FSM 1410.
2. These reviews will examine the alignment between fire planning and staffing plans, financial operating plans and documents, and actual staff and equipment in place. The review team may include a representative from the Strategic Planning, Budget, and Accountability Staff. The Regional Forester will approve the preparation and documentation of Regional reviews to be kept on file for National reviews.

5127.2 - National Program Reviews

The Washington Office, Director, Fire and Aviation Management staff, will select Regional units for an annual program compliance review. In addition to representatives from the Fire and Aviation Management staff, the review team may include a representative from the Strategic Program Planning and Budget and Accountability staff. The Director of Fire and Aviation Management will:

1. Document the compliance reviews in the annual management review schedule (FSM 1410);
2. Forward the activity review results to the Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry, Deputy Chief for Business Operations, and Chief Financial Officer; and
3. Forward the final report to the Director, Financial Reports and Analysis Staff.