

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

**Forest Service Manual 5100 – Fire Management
Chapter 5140 – Hazardous Fuels Management and Prescribed Fire**

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Approved by: John Phipps, Deputy Chief, S&PF

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Responsible Staff:

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Superseded Document(s): 5140, Amendment 5100-2017-4, August 28, 2017

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

Incorporates expiring Interim Directive id 5140-2018-1.

5140.1: Adds Prescribed Burn Approval Act of 2016 to list of authorities.

5140.3: Updates Policy section to reference The National Strategy: The Final Phase of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and the companion National Action Plan (April 2014) and remove policy statement related to greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration as directed by Executive Order issued March 28, 2017.

5140.31: Reference to FSM 2320 which describes conditions when hazardous fuels treatment or prescribed fire may be permitted within Wilderness.

5142.3: Modifies language related to wildfire declarations to better align with Guidelines for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Policy (2009) and updates references to FSM 5130.

5142.4: Revised in its entirety to reflect the changed authorities required by the Prescribed Burn Approval Act of 2016

5142.51: Reference to Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (NFS 2724) for details on the Line Officer prescribed fire qualification and certification program.

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5142.53: Adds direction and expectations for cooperators conducting prescribed fire operations on NFS lands under Good Neighbor Authority.

5143: Provides clarification that Administrative Burning continues to be exempt from the requirements of FSM 5140 including the approval and reporting requirements from the Prescribed Burn Approval Act (2016).

5144: Updates reference and website information for Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring (FTEM) database which has been upgraded and incorporated into the Interagency Fuels Treatment Decision Support System (IFTDSS).

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5140.1 - Authority

See FSM 5101.

Prescribed Burn Approval Act of 2016 – Places limitations on the Secretary of Agriculture for the approval of prescribed burns.

5140.2 - Objectives

Provides direction on mitigating hazardous fuels and using fire to achieve desired landscape conditions and attain Land and Resource Management Plan objectives:

1. Understand the role of fire on the landscape in order to integrate fire, as a critical natural process, into land and resource management plans, and develop achievable and sustainable Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) objectives that provide for landscapes which are resilient to fire related disturbances and climate change.
2. In cooperation with partners, strategically plan and implement on a landscape scale, risk-informed, and cost-effective hazardous fuel modification and vegetation management treatments (use of wildland fire (wildfire and prescribed), mechanical manipulation, biological, and chemical) to attain management objectives identified in Land and Resource Management Plans, to protect, sustain, and enhance resources and where appropriate, emulate the ecological role of natural fire. Planning should incorporate the best available science to identify risks and the ability to reduce and manage those risks to inform the prioritization of the hazardous fuels projects.

5140.3 - Policy

Plan and implement a hazardous fuels management and prescribed fire program applying:

1. Principles and policy elements described in FSM 5103 and Wildland Fire Doctrine (FSM 5131).
2. Principles, goals and strategic measures identified in the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy effort (The National Strategy: The Final Phase of the Development of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, April 2014 and companion National Action Plan: An Implementation Framework for the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, April 2014; see <https://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy/thestrategy.shtml>).
3. Guidelines and direction from The Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide (NWCG, PMS 484, July 2017; see <https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pms484.pdf>).

5140.31 - Hazardous Fuels and Prescribed Fire in Wilderness

1. Forest Service Managers may ignite a prescribed fire in wilderness to reduce unnatural buildups of hazardous fuels only if necessary to meet at least one of the wilderness fire management objectives set forth in FSM 2324.21 and if all of the following conditions are met (FSM 2324.22):
 - a. The use of prescribed fire or other fuel treatment measures outside of wilderness is not sufficient to achieve fire management objectives within wilderness.
 - b. An interdisciplinary team of Resource Specialists has evaluated and recommended the proposed use of prescribed fire.
 - c. The interested public has been involved appropriately in the decision.
 - d. The use of lightning-caused fires will pose serious threats to life and/or property within wilderness or to life, property, or natural resources outside of wilderness.
2. Do not use prescribed fire in wilderness to benefit wildlife, maintain vegetative types, improve forage production, or enhance other resource values. Although these additional effects may result from a decision to use prescribed fire, use fire in wilderness only to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM 2324.22).
3. Do not use management ignited fire to achieve wilderness fire management objectives where lightning-caused fires can achieve them (FSM 2324.22).

5140.4 - Responsibility

5140.41 - Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry

The Deputy Chief must communicate with the Regional Foresters to establish priorities and create a shared vision for the hazardous fuels management and prescribed fire program.

5140.42 - Washington Office, Director, Fire and Aviation Management

The Director, Fire and Aviation Management must coordinate implementation of the hazardous fuels management and prescribed fire program by:

Collaborating with Federal and non-Federal partners to:

1. Develop qualification standards for personnel implementing hazardous fuels management and prescribed fire programs;
2. Develop National standards and procedures for planning, establishing program priorities, and implementing hazardous fuels management and prescribed fire programs.
3. Recommend to the Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry, National strategies, program priorities, and implementing measures to attain the National Cohesive Strategy

vision “To safely and effectively extinguish fire, when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and as a Nation, live with wildland fire.”

4. Develop, provide oversight, and maintain systems to monitor the impacts and effectiveness of hazardous fuels management and prescribed fire programs to achieve the Agency goals and objectives.
5. Utilize a National risk assessment model to inform the identification and prioritization of hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System lands.
 - a. The results of the National risk assessment model will inform the allocation of funds and resources to the Regional level.
 - b. The National risk assessment model will function as both a baseline assessment for the Regions, and as a consistency check against the Regional assessment models to compare the results.
6. Review and approve Regional risk assessments to ensure consistency with the National risk assessment model.

5140.43 - Regional Foresters

Regional Foresters must:

1. Establish direction that supports the risk-based, strategically planned, prioritized, and cost-effective application of hazardous fuels management and prescribed fire practices to achieve Land and Resource Management Plans objectives.
2. Ensure that Forests and Grasslands coordinate planning and implementation of hazardous fuels management and prescribed fire practices with State, local and tribal cooperators and partners.
3. Manage and provide oversight of the Regional hazardous fuels management and prescribed fire program and ensure that Forests and Grasslands implement hazardous fuels management and prescribed fire practices in compliance with National and Regional policies and standards.
4. Develop a Regional risk assessment model which identifies and prioritizes hazardous fuels reduction projects consistent with the National risk assessment model. This Regional risk assessment model shall inform hazardous fuels allocations.

5140.44 - Regional Directors, Fire and Aviation Management

Regional Directors, Fire and Aviation Management must:

1. Coordinate and provide oversight of the Regional hazardous fuels management and prescribed fire program to monitor Forests and Grasslands compliance with National and Regional fire management policies and standards.

2. Coordinate the Regional hazardous fuels management and prescribed fire program with the National program, ensuring accurate and timely reporting of all hazardous fuels management and prescribed fire activity.

5140.45 - Forest Supervisors

Forest Supervisors must:

1. Establish fire management direction in the Land and Resource Management Plan to integrate the role and use of wildland fire and hazardous fuels management in defining and achieving resource objectives.
2. Ensure that the Fire Management Reference System (see the Fire Management Planning Guide, (<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/fire/fmp>) is current and accurately reflects hazardous fuels management, wildfire response and prescribed fire implementation procedures and standards (sec. 5141).
3. Ensure a fuel treatment effectiveness assessment is conducted on all wildfires which start in or burn areas where hazardous fuels were treated (sec. 5144).
4. Utilize the National, Regional, or locally developed landscape level risk assessment process to inform the identification and prioritization of hazardous fuels reduction projects.
5. Document the project selection process.

5140.46 - District Rangers

District Rangers must:

1. Integrate the role and use of wildland fire and establish fire management direction to meet resource objectives in the Land and Resource Management plan and other applicable forest-level plans.
2. Assess conditions, plan, and implement a fuels program meeting National standards and Land and Resource Management Plan objectives.
3. Collaborate with State, local and tribal partners to coordinate hazardous fuels management and prescribed fire projects and activities.

5140.5 - Definitions

Administrative Burning - The burning of debris (forest vegetation) at administrative sites, sites under special use permit, or sites covered under formal agreements. The debris being burned is generated by routine administrative activities, such as fall leaf and needle raking, right-of-way clearing, and trimming or removal of trees and shrubs adjacent to structures for defensible space.

Hazard Fuel - A fuel complex defined by kind, arrangement, volume, condition, and location that presents a threat of ignition and resistance to control.

For additional definitions of terms used in this chapter, refer to FSM 5105.

5140.6 - References

Operational procedures contained in publications listed in FSM 5107 and the documents listed below are used by Forest Service personnel in the conduct of prescribed fire activities. The nature of the wildland fire environment is often dynamic, chaotic, and unpredictable and in such an environment, reasonable discretion in decision-making may be required. Thus, the body of procedures, best practices, concepts, and principles described in the listed publications should be considered the best guidance available for the majority of circumstances. Forest Service employees shall use their best judgment in applying the guidance contained in these references to real-life situations.

1. Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide (NWCG, PMS 484).
2. The guidance in the Fire Management Reference System (see the Fire Management Planning Guide, <http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/fire/fmp>) (formerly FSH 5109.19).
3. Prescribed Fire Complexity Rating System Guide (NWCG, NFES 2474, PMS 424).
4. Prescribed Fire Smoke Management Guide (NWCG, NFES 1279, PMS 420-1).
5. NWCG PMS 310-1 Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire Qualifications System Guide (NWCG PMS 310-1 and FSH 5109.17).
6. National Mobilization Guide (NFES 2092, <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/mobguide/index.html>).
7. Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, February 13, 2009.
8. Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review, Final Report, December 18, 1995.
9. Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (NWCG, NFES 2724).
10. Basic Smoke Management Practices. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Forest Service Technical Note, October 2011. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1046311.pdf
11. Forest Service Fire & Aviation Qualification Guide (FSFAQG). <https://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/fire/publications>

5141 - Hazardous Fuels Management and Prescribed Fire Planning

1. Overall direction for hazardous fuels management and prescribed fire is provided by the Land/Resource Management Plan. The LRMP serves as the document to initiate, analyze, and provide the basis for implementing hazardous fuels management and prescribed fire projects to meet resource management objectives.
2. The broad direction for implementing the hazardous fuels management and prescribed fire program is documented in the Fire Management Reference System (see the Fire Management Planning Guide, (<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/fire/fmp>)).
3. Resource objectives for specific hazardous fuels management and prescribed fire projects are derived from the NEPA analysis. The entire project area must be analyzed under NEPA. Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Environmental Assessments (EA), and Categorical Exclusion (CE) will be used to identify objectives and analyze the effects of hazardous fuels management and prescribed fire projects.

5142 - Prescribed Fire

5142.3 - Policy

1. When appropriate, use prescribed fire in a safe, carefully planned, and cost-effective manner to achieve desired conditions and attain management objectives identified in Land and Resource Management Plans (FSM 1920).
2. The NWCG Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide (PMS 484) is Forest Service policy (incorporated by reference at: <https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pms484.pdf>).
3. Declared wildfires.
 - a. Review all prescribed fires that result in the declaration of a wildfire. Use FSM 5137.1 and guidelines from the Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide (NWCG, PMS 484) to dictate the nature and intensity of the review.
 - b. Wildfire response with Agency assets may be implemented without reimbursement if a Forest Service-initiated prescribed fire escapes onto non-National Forest or Grassland System lands (FSM 5135.01).
4. Weather conditions must be monitored during all phases (including mop up) of prescribed fire implementation.
 - a. Long-term weather conditions such as drought must be considered in all phases of prescribed fire planning and implementation.

b. A project-specific spot weather forecast must be obtained prior to ignition; for each day that ignition continues; on any day the fire is actively spreading; or when conditions adversely affecting the prescribed fire are predicted in the general forecast.

c. The authorizing Line Officer may make an exemption from the spot weather forecast requirement using criteria listed below. When daily spot weather forecasts are exempted, the general weather forecast must be reviewed daily until the prescribed burn is declared “out” to ensure prescribed fire and smoke management requirements are met. The Line Officer need only approve such an exemption once and it can be documented separately or on the Agency Administrators Ignition Authorization. The burn boss may then invoke the exemption after documenting that the conditions meeting the criteria have been observed.

(1) The general fire weather forecast for the Fire Weather Zone in which the prescribed burn is occurring is usually the same as any spot forecast within the Fire Weather Zone. This situation may occur in Fire Weather Zones which have little topographic relief.

(2) There is a low threat of escape due to weather/fuel moisture conditions. This exemption is intended for situations such as burning piles with snow on the ground where fire cannot spread outside the burning pile on the day of the exemption.

5142.4 – Responsibility

5142.41 - Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry

The Deputy Chief must ensure coordination with the State Foresters, relevant State, Federal and Tribal agencies, cooperators and partners to communicate the goals and objectives of the prescribed fire program.

5142.42 - Washington Office, Director, Fire and Aviation Management

The Director, Fire and Aviation Management must:

1. Advise regions of National conditions (for example, asset constraints, broad scale weather patterns, wildland fire activity, and so forth) that may compromise the ability to support prescribed fire activities.
2. Develop and support training to qualify personnel to implement prescribed fire programs.
3. Ensure collection and analysis of Regional, Unit, and project Prescribed Fire Reviews to improve policy and implementation practices.
4. Collect documentation from all Regions of all Regional Forester approved prescribed fires ignited for the fiscal year when National Fire Danger Rating System adjective rating for the county or contiguous county(s) where the project is located was forecasted as “extreme”.

5142.43 - Regional Foresters

Regional Foresters must:

1. Certify all Forest Supervisors, District Rangers, other Line Officers and delegated “acting’s” to approve Prescribed Fire Burn Plans on Forests and Grasslands in accordance with the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (NFES 2724, Chapter 5).
2. Establish guidance for the authorization of prescribed fire ignition based on Regional conditions and resource capability; and authorize the initiation of new prescribed fires or continuation of existing prescribed fire at National Preparedness Levels IV and V.
3. Establish a process for Forest Supervisors and District Rangers to request Regional approval for the ignition of prescribed fires when National Fire Danger Rating System forecasted adjective rating for the county or contiguous county(s) where the project is located is “extreme”. Approval may only be granted after coordination with applicable State government and local fire officials has occurred.
4. Conduct reviews (and report review results to the Chief or Deputy Chief within 90 days) of all prescribed fires resulting in serious or multiple personal injuries; that are converted to wildfire status and result in significant cost or social impacts, particularly to private or other agency lands; or result in the issuance of an air quality regulatory Notice-of-Violation from the State, air pollution control district, and/or county.

5142.44 - Regional Directors, Fire and Aviation Management

Regional Directors, Fire and Aviation Management must:

1. Provide oversight to ensure the Forests and Grasslands application of prescribed fire is safe and cost effective to achieve Land and Resource Management Plans objectives.
2. Provide recommendations to the Regional Forester to establish guidance for approval of prescribed fire initiation based on Regional conditions and resource capability; and whether to approve or disapprove new prescribed fires or continue existing prescribed fire at National Preparedness Levels IV and V or when National Fire Danger Rating System adjective rating is “extreme” in the county or contiguous county for which the prescribed fire project is located.
3. Monitor conditions and advise Forests and Grasslands of conditions which may compromise successful implementation of prescribed fire activities.
4. Provide recommendations to the Regional Forester on the qualifications and certification of Forest Supervisors, District Rangers, other Line Officers or their delegated “acting’s” to make prescribed fire decisions on forests and grasslands. See sec. 5142.5.

5. Ensure forests complete a fuel treatment effectiveness assessment (see sec. 5144) (and enter assessment results in the Fuel Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring database within 90 days of control of the fire) on all wildfires which start in or burn into a fuel treatment that has been completed within the last 10 years (within the last 3 years in the Southern Region or in portions of other Regions designated by the Regional Forester).
6. Monitor prescribed fire activity and ensure accurate and timely reporting (tabular and spatial) of all Forest or Grassland prescribed fire activity.
7. Ensure that all prescribed fire ignitions authorized by the Regional Forester when National Fire Danger Rating System forecasted adjective rating is “extreme”, are documented and reported to the Washington Office, Director, Fire and Aviation Management.

5142.45 - Forest Supervisors

Forest Supervisors must:

1. Approve Prescribed Fire Plans as qualified and certified to do so by the Regional Forester; ensure that Prescribed Fire Plans are designed to achieve Land and Resource Management Plan objectives, and meet service-wide and Regional requirements found in FSM 5140 and the Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide (PMS 484).
2. Authorize the ignition of new prescribed fire according to procedures found in the Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide (PMS 484) and the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (NFES 2724, Chapter 5).
3. Request Regional Forester approval for new prescribed fire as required by Regional direction, or National direction for Preparedness Levels IV and V or when National Fire Danger Rating System forecasted adjective rating is “extreme” for the county(s) or contiguous county(s) in which the prescribed fire is to be conducted; ensure that coordination with applicable State and local officials has occurred prior to requesting Regional Forester approval.
4. Ensure and document the relevant training and experience that demonstrate that personnel implementing Prescribed Fire Plans meet service-wide and regional requirements found in FSM 5140 and the Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide (PMS 484).
5. Ensure accurate and timely reporting of all Forest or Grassland prescribed fire activity and report all wildfires resulting from prescribed fire actions to the Regional Forester within 12 hours of the wildfire declaration. Report any exceedance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to the Regional Forester as soon as practicable.

6. Conduct reviews of all prescribed fires that are converted to wildfire status that do not meet criteria for a Regional Forester review (sec. 5142.43). Report the results of the review to the Regional Forester within 60 days after the wildfire declaration.
7. Ensure that prescribed fire personnel are trained in the After Action Review (AAR) process and that they routinely complete AARs after prescribed fire operations.
8. Conduct an administrative review or facilitated learning analysis on causes of any exceedance of the NAAQS associated with prescribed fire within three months of notification.

5142.46 - District Rangers

District Rangers must:

1. Approve Prescribed Fire Plans as qualified and certified to do so by the Regional Forester; ensure that Prescribed Fire Plans are designed to achieve Land and Resource Management Plan objectives, and meet service-wide and Regional requirements found in FSM 5140 and the Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide (PMS 484).
2. Authorize ignition of new prescribed fire according to procedures found in the Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide (PMS 484; PMS 484-1) and the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (NFES 2724, Chapter 5).
3. Request Regional Forester approval for new prescribed fire as required by Regional direction, or National direction for Preparedness Levels IV and V or when National Fire Danger Rating System forecasted adjective rating is “extreme” for the county(s) or contiguous county(s) in which the prescribed fire is to be conducted; ensure that coordination with applicable State and local fire officials has occurred prior to requesting Regional Forester approval.
4. Ensure that personnel implementing Prescribed Fire Plans meet service-wide and Regional qualifications (sec. 5142.5) and the Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide.
5. Ensure adequate oversight and status reporting of all prescribed fires at the district level; reporting all wildfires resulting from prescribed fire actions to the Forest Supervisor within 4 hours.
6. Report potential and actual exceedance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) as soon as practicable.

5142.5 - Qualifications for Implementing Prescribed Fire

5142.51 - Agency Personnel

1. Minimum qualifications for Forest Supervisors, District Rangers, other Line Officers, and “Acting” Line Officers to approve Prescribed Fire Plans and authorize ignition are described in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (NFES 2724, Chapter 5).
2. Certifications for prescribed fire plan approval must be issued in writing and may be limited based upon the complexity of the prescribed fire. Certifications should be based on successful completion of the minimum training and experience as well as demonstrated ability. Document relevant training and experience that demonstrates sufficient prescribed fire management knowledge.
3. Additional qualification standards for operational prescribed fire implementation positions are described in the Forest Service Fire & Aviation Qualification Guide.

5142.52 - Contractors

Include qualifications requirements for any specific skill position that the Contractor must provide in any contracts for prescribed fire operations. Qualification clauses in contracts must require Contractors to meet requirements listed in NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications (PMS 310-1) or NWCG Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide (PMS 484). See PMS 310-1 Federal Supplement for positions not included in NWCG PMS 310-1 or PMS 484 (such as, RXB3).

5142.53 - Cooperators

1. Good Neighbor Authority does not explicitly allow for prescribed fire to be conducted by applicable entities without adherence to federal laws, policies and guidelines; an applicable entity may enter into an agreement to conduct prescribed fire on NFS lands under Good Neighbor Authority only if they adhere to all applicable United States Forest Service (USFS) statutes, regulations, directives, and policies including NWCG training and qualification standards for the planning and implementation of prescribed fire.
2. For prescribed fire projects where USFS and cooperators will be working jointly under applicable agreement authorities, USFS personnel will adhere to all applicable USFS standards and will work with the cooperating entities to agree to mutually acceptable standards and practices to ensure safe and efficient prescribed fire operations.

5142.6 - Prescribed Fire Plans

1. Prepare a site-specific Prescribed Fire Burn Plan as described in the Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide (PMS 484; PMS 484-1) for each prescribed fire in advance of the ignition. If more than one year has elapsed

since approval, a burn plan will be reviewed, updated, as necessary, and approved before implementation.

2. The Agency Administrator Ignition Authorization (NWCG PMS 484-1, Element 2A) is required to be completed prior to ignition.
3. The Prescribed Fire Plan will specify who has the authority to declare a wildfire.

5142.7 - Prescribed Fire Operations and Organization

See the Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide (PMS 484) as referenced in section 5140.3.

5142.8 - Smoke Management

1. Coordinate prescribed fire program activities with Regional air quality specialists and Federal, State, Tribal, air pollution control district or county regulatory authorities to ensure compliance with their regulations supported by the Clean Air Act.
2. When multiple wildland fire events are occurring within an airshed, or any airshed is impacted by ongoing wildland fire events, fire managers will consider the cumulative impact to air quality. Management actions may cause and implement prescribed fire only if compliance with air quality regulations can be maintained.
3. All prescribed fires should be conducted using Basic Smoke Management Practices. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Forest Service Technical Note (2011). http://www.airquality.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1046311.pdf

5143 - Administrative Burning

Administrative burning is exempted from the requirements of FSM 5140. This type of burning will adhere to local government debris burning requirements, air quality regulations or codes, and follow additional requirements as determined by the Forest Supervisor or other delegated Line Officer. Authority to permit or restrict ignition is determined by the local government entity that oversees open-burning regulations in the State or county where the burn is conducted and as such, is not subject to the approval or reporting requirements stipulated in the Prescribed Burn Approval Act of 2016.

5144 - Assessing and Reporting Hazardous Fuels Treatment Effectiveness

All wildfires which start in or burn into a fuel treatment completed within the last ten years (within the last three years in the Southern Region) must have a fuel treatment effectiveness assessment conducted and results entered into the Fuel Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring (FTEM) database. All fuel treatment effectiveness assessments must be entered into the FTEM database within 90 days of control of the fire. Individual forests have the option of documenting interactions between wildfire and fuel treatments that are older than the ten years (three in Southern Region), where applicable.

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Qualifying fuel treatments include all activities reported as fuels accomplishments in the Forest Activity Tracking System (FACTS). This includes management implemented activities (prescribed fire, mechanical thinning, and so forth) as well as unplanned events (such as wildfires, or portions of wildfires that were reported as accomplishment). Optional documentation such as written reports, photos, video, and such, may also be entered for archive in the database.

The Fuel Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring (FTEM) database is a component of the Interagency Fuels Treatment Decision Support System (IFTDSS) and can be found at the following website: https://iftdss.firenet.gov/landing_page/.

Links to optional reporting templates and other information related to the FTEM reporting requirement can be found at: <http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/fire/fam/fuels/hazardous.html>.