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Date: February 6, 2014

Route To:

Subject: Chief's Letter of Intent: 2014 Fire Management

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director and Deputy Chiefs

We anticipate 2014 to be another challenging year to manage fire. We will successfully manage fire on the landscape, while considering land management objectives, the Forest Service mission, and the Federal Fire Policy. We fully evaluate risks with a broad perspective for both planned and unplanned ignitions while considering the people we serve and landscapes we protect. In accordance with the goals of the Cohesive Strategy, we seek to create resilient landscapes, fire-adapted communities, and provide safe, efficient wildfire response. This dovetails with our five broad focus areas of Safety, Inclusiveness, Ecological Restoration, Fire, and Communities.

Success continues to be defined as safely achieving reasonable objectives with the least firefighter exposure necessary, while enhancing stakeholder support for our management efforts.

The fundamental principles we continue to embrace for success are:

- Everyone returns home safely every day.
- Safety is not just a consideration in how we do our work; it is the essence of how we make decisions.
- We assess, analyze, communicate, and share risk before, during, and after incidents.
- We do not accept unnecessary risk or transfer it to our partners or future generations.
- Every fire is managed with strategy and tactical decisions being driven by the probability of success to meet reasonable objectives and receives a safe, effective, and efficient response.
- Before, during and after every fire we enhance relationships.
- We create a respectful work environment for everyone involved in fire.
- We learn from every experience and use that knowledge to improve.

Implementing the Forest Service 2014 Wildland Fire Risk Management Protocols will help us achieve success.

We have outstanding employees who work in and who support wildland fire management. I am encouraged and committed to the continuous improvements we are making. These improvements will provide value to the people we serve. Thank you for your commitment and service towards making 2014 a successful fire season.

/s/ **Thomas L. Tidwell**

THOMAS L. TIDWELL

Chief

Enclosures

