



## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
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### Memorandum

To: All Regional Directors, All Regions  
Attention: Forestry/Fire Management

From: Acting Director, Branch of Wildland Fire Management

Subject: Wildland Fire Decision Support System

This memorandum provides additional guidance regarding the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS). Specifically, it is intended to clarify the language in Chapter 12 of the 2011 Wildland Fire and Aviation Program Management and Operations Guide (commonly known as the "Blue Book"), which states "As of October 1, 2009 all agency and tribes shall enter all unplanned wild fires into the WFDSS system." This clarification also applies to a memorandum issued on March 5, 2009, which defined the implementation goals for WFDSS and became the source for the language used in the Blue Book.

Under most circumstances, the BIA directive still requires all wildfires that originate on or burn onto Trust lands to be entered into WFDSS, ideally as soon as possible after discovery. This allows WFDSS to be used in its primary role to provide decision support, as needed, for the management of the incident. In addition, the incident information in WFDSS can be queried by fire managers, planners and coordinating groups to assess recent and current levels of activity and to help make decisions for prioritizing, ordering, and mobilizing resources.

However, in some special cases, the value of recording a wildfire in WFDSS "after the fact" is diminished, as there is no need for further incident decision support using WFDSS and/or the incident is no longer relevant for intelligence updates. For the circumstances described below, entering the corresponding wildfires into WFDSS will be optional, per the discretion of the Regional Office or local unit:

1. Natural outs (fires discovered after they have naturally extinguished).
2. Fires whose initial response was successfully provided by a cooperator, but whose presence (fire) was not known by the BIA Regional Office, Agency, or Tribe (i.e. unit responsible for entering fires into WFDSS) until seven days or more after all burning and management activities have ceased, including:

- a. Fires managed by a cooperator having no formal relationship with the BIA Wildland Fire program, such as volunteer fire department that is not under a formal agreement to provide protection for those trust wildlands.
- b. Fires managed by a cooperator under formal agreement for the protection of those trust wildlands. In such cases, emphasis should be placed on strengthening and enforcing the agreement to ensure timely notification and submission of fire reports by the cooperator.

Regardless of who provides the response, all fires that go into extended attack or are managed (longer duration) for resource benefits need to not only be entered into WFDSS, but also have the Decision Document portion developed and approved as well.

Questions regarding WFDSS should be directed to Nancy Wilson, BIA WFDSS Coordinator at [Nancy.Wilson@bia.gov](mailto:Nancy.Wilson@bia.gov) or 208.387.5558.