

2011
Fire Management Plan
Review and Update
For
Grand Teton National Park & John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway

Effective as of April 9, 2009, all National Park units were authorized to implement the policy changes described in the 2009 *Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy* to the extent the guidance is not inconsistent with existing requirements or restrictions contained in existing park Land/Resource and/or Fire Management Plans. Any management response to a wildland fire on federal land will continue to be based on objectives established in the Fire Management Plan. Also, there is no change in the objective for initial attack actions on human-caused wildfire. We will continue to suppress fire to minimize negative consequences with respect to firefighter and public safety. The following elements in the 2009 guidance document will direct the implementation of Federal wildland fire policy:

- The 1995/2001 *Federal Fire Policy* is affirmed to be sound, and the Guiding Principles and Policy Statements provide clear direction for the Federal wildland fire management program.
- Any management response, guidance, clarification, implementation direction, or decision support processes provided in an existing Land/Resource and/or Fire Management Plan, including those developed under the earlier 2004 document, “Interagency Strategy for the Implementation of the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy,” continues to be allowed under the revised guidance.
- There is no change in the objective for initial actions on human-caused wildfire; these fires will continue to be suppressed in order to minimize negative consequences with respect to firefighter and public safety.
- It reaffirms the need to work collaboratively with state, local, and tribal fire managers, as well as public and nongovernmental organizations in the management of wildland fire.

Further, it is important to note that in the 2009 *Guidance for Implementation of the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy* document:

- Terminology has changed - Wildland fire is a term describing any non-structural fire that occurs in the wildland. Wildland fires are now categorized into two distinct types:
 - Wildfires = Unplanned ignitions, as well as planned ignitions that are declared wildfires. The wildfire term is to be applied to all unplanned ignitions, including events formally termed wildland fire use.
 - Prescribed fires = Planned ignitions.
- A wildland fire, or portions of a wildland fire, may be concurrently managed for one or more objectives (e.g., cost, safety, resource benefits). Those objectives, and the ability of a fire to meet those objectives, can change as the fire spreads across the landscape, encountering new fuels, weather, social conditions, and governmental jurisdictions.
- Emphasizes the need to conduct fire management planning which is intergovernmental in scope and at a landscape scale, and to plan for the possibility of wildland fire crossing jurisdictional boundaries.
- Every wildland fire will be assessed following a decision support process that examines the full range of potential responses. The decision support process currently being developed and used is known as Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS).

The ecological role of fire in Grand Teton National Park, and its history, frequency, and behavior are important factors that guide decision making in the Fire Management Units (FMUs). Whenever possible, the desired future conditions for the park's vegetation are aligned with historic conditions. Resource protection and safety priorities dictate objectives of fire management activities. The ability of a fire to meet those objectives can change as the fire spreads across the landscape, encountering new fuels, weather, and social conditions, and governmental jurisdictions.

The FMP establishes an FMU that is designated as "Wildland Fire Use" with the direction that unplanned natural ignitions are allowed to fulfill their role in the ecosystem, provided they stay within predetermined boundaries, meet prescription objectives, and pose acceptable risk to people or developments. Portions of these fires may be concurrently managed for one or more objectives (e.g., cost, safety, resource benefits).

The "Conditional" FMU is designated and located in areas where the risk of fire escape beyond park boundaries is higher than in the wildland fire use unit. Management actions attempt to balance restoration and perpetuation of fire dependent ecosystems while protecting life and property within and beyond park boundaries. Prescription parameters are more conservative than in the wildland fire use unit and candidate fires are suppressed if identified risks are unacceptable to the agency administrator and cannot be adequately mitigated. Portions of these fires may be concurrently managed for one or more objectives (e.g., cost, safety, resource benefits). Mechanical treatments and prescribed fire are used to protect values at risk.

The "Protection" FMU is designated where private inholdings, adjacent jurisdictions, developed areas, and visitor use areas are located. Fires will be managed for multiple objectives only if they meet prescriptive criteria and if objectives can be accomplished in a safe and effective manner. All unwanted wildland fires within this unit receive a prompt, safe, and cost effective suppression response causing the least possible damage if they do not meet prescriptive criteria for obtaining resource benefits. Mechanical treatments are frequently used along with prescribed fire to protect values at risk.

If initial action is ineffective on any fire or a fire continues beyond the initial attack stage, an appropriate decision support process will be utilized (WFDSS) to guide development of a management strategy.

The activities defined in the FMP will be implemented in accordance with agency and departmental policy, including recent procedural updates contained in the following documents, but not limited to:

- Guidance for Implementation of the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (February, 2009)
- Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Reference Guide (September 2006)
- Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (January 2011)

Compliance

The following three (3) environmental compliance documents are still valid:

- **NEPA - Environmental Assessment (EA) & Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**
- **NHPA - Section 106 & Concurrence letter from SHPO**
- **ESA - Section 7 & signed Biological Opinion from USFWS for formal consultation**, with additional guidance regarding plan implementation's effects to Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) being developed on a project by project basis

Updates for 2011

Fire Management Plan Appendices (that have been updated)

- A. Glossary
- F. Annual Fire Checklist
- G. FMO, Duty Officer Delegations and IMT documents
- J. Preparedness Plan, Staffing Guide, and Pre-Planned Dispatch Run Cards
- L. Interagency Agreements (current for 2011)
- M. Interagency Contacts
- Q. WFDSS Guidelines

Fire Management Plan and Appendices have been updated and will be distributed to park staffs and interagency cooperators.

**2011
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Prepared by: _____
Fire Management Officer Date

Approved by: _____
Superintendent Date