

**2010 OPERATING PLAN  
BETWEEN  
ALASKA FIRE SERVICE  
AND  
USFS REGION 1 FIRE, AVIATION AND AIR**

This annual operating plan is tiered to the agreement that was developed between Forest Service Region 1 (R1 FAA) and Alaska Fire Service (AFS) in 2009. Both Party's recognize that partnering on a formal basis will afford opportunities to markedly improve wildland fire management efficiency for each agency. Since 2001, the two Parties' have informally exchanged resources on an individual, as available basis. In 2009 these organizations began exploring a more formal and comprehensive resource sharing arrangement; because there was a need for technical expertise that one Party lacked and the other possessed, frequent low-conflicting fire seasons, and mutual recognition of benefits received.

The overall goal of this plan outlines operating procedures, organizational contacts and ordering procedures. The intent is to maintain or increase each Party's individual wildland fire management capability in a flat or declining budget situation. The focus will be on sharing resources rather than transferring money. Resources ordered under the agreement will be ordered utilizing regular program dollars. Resources will be utilized and managed at the receiving unit as a home unit resource, available for assignment to the full spectrum of fire management activities.

**ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN**

Typically fire season in Alaska begins around April 15<sup>th</sup> and slows in mid-July. Fire season in the Northern Rockies begins about mid July and normally runs to mid September. AFS will prioritize surplus resources to support R 1 when Alaska fire danger has moderated and national BLM needs are accounted for. R 1 resources are available in April to support AFS and will be balanced with the spring burning needs of R1.

**Smokejumpers**

The Alaska Fire Service and the Forest Service R1 Smokejumper Program have agreed to share 5 positions on an ongoing annual basis. R1 will provide 5 smokejumpers to AFS from May 1 through mid-July or the end of the Alaska fire season (start and end dates negotiable). AFS will then provide 5 smokejumpers to R1 from on or about July 15 to October 1 or the end of the Northern Rockies fire season (start and end dates negotiable). Specific individuals and/or qualifications will be negotiated by the base managers. Outside of fire and project support funding, receiving unit will cover all costs. The Alaska Fire Service and the Forest Service Region 1 Smokejumper Program have agreed to detail 10 to 15 smokejumpers (negotiable) each direction on an ongoing annual basis. The start and end dates of the detail will be based on fire season and need. Specific qualifications will be based on need and negotiated by the base managers. The home unit will pay travel costs. The hosting unit will pay subsistence/per diem.

Base Managers will coordinate on the needs of each area. All smokejumper needs and orders will be coordinated through these base managers

### **Smokejumper Aircraft**

Alaska Fire Service and the Forest Service R1 agree to continue looking for opportunities to share the cost of 1 smokejumper aircraft. The aircraft requirement will include in-flight rear door capability, like the Casa 212. It is anticipated that AFS will work with the National BLM aviation office to extend the length of one of AFS's current smokejumper aircraft contracts when contract renewals are open for solicitation. The availability for the aircraft will be paid for by AFS when it is in Alaska, and will be paid for by R1 when it is located there.

### **Air Attack Detail**

R1 will host 1 ATS position detail from mid-July through mid-September. Additionally, R1 may request an ATGS position in times of need to facilitate the training of R1's ATS qualified employees and help create depth in the R1 ASM program. The start and end dates of the detail will be based on fire season and need and have the ability to rotate every 21 days or as needed. The home unit will pay travel costs.

### **R1 Fuels Program**

The Alaska Fire Service and the Forest Service R 1 agree to share resources for, but not limited to, prescribed fire and fuels program support. The home unit will pay travel costs.

### **All above Resources:**

Before an order is placed, both units need to communicate to ensure that the proper order is processed and the resource is available. No resources will be dispatched without a resource order. This applies to replacement/rotation resources as well. Both units should be in agreement on the job code and the length of the tour, prior to documenting a resource order and actually sending the resource.

The ordering process will go through the proper dispatch channels. Resources will be name requested with all of the resource identifiers listed on the resource order. For fire preparedness the resource home unit will cover base salaries. The receiving unit will cover overtime. Once a resource is at a host unit, it will be managed as a local resource at the receiving unit. When the resource is utilized on an incident it will charge its time to that incident. Resources that are ordered for project work will charge their time to that project. Details and agreements will be worked out between the two parties. There is not a guarantee of extra hours. Resources will be managed by the receiving unit as a home resource and hours will be determined by local unit needs to meet fire management demands.

Resources filling orders shall be qualified for the position being filled. Personnel are expected to act in a professional manner. If performance or discipline problems are encountered, the home unit of the resource needing attention will be notified and the issue will be resolved within administrative procedures to the satisfaction of both sending and receiving units. Unprofessional behavior will result in a person being sent back to the home unit and appropriate documentation will be provided.

**ICT3 Team**

The Alaska Fire Service and the Forest Service R1 agree to share Type 3 Incident Management Teams ICT3 or any portion thereof, for but not limited to: fire support or prepositioning of resources as needed. The Ordering unit will pay mobilization costs. Team availability will occur within the coordination center for each geographic area

The following Points of Contact are responsible to track the performance of this operating plan. Any changes to the plan will be negotiated at an annual pre-season meeting. To assist in identifying needs, Regional Operations Specialists and Base Managers will participate in regional FMO conference calls and may be contacted by any Forest FMO or FAA Regional Assistant Directors. Fire Aviation and Air (FAA) Assistant director and Regional Fire Operations Specialist will assist and coordinate with the Chief, AFS Fire Operations.

**POINTS OF CONTACT**

Northern Region:	Alaska Fire Service:
Bob Gilman Northern Rockies Operations Fire Operations 5765 West Broadway Missoula, Montana 59808 Office: 406-329-4961 Cell: 406-691-0380 Fax: 406-329- 4891	John Gould Manager Alaska Fire Service P.O. Box 35005 Ft. Wainwright, AK 99703 Office: 907-356-5506 Cell: 907-378-4615 Fax: 907-356-5517

**Modifications to Operating Plan**

Modifications shall be made by mutual consent of the parties by the issuance of a written modification, signed and dated by both parties, not less than 30 days prior to the desired implementation date and must be agreed to and approved in writing by both parties.

Any significant changes to the provisions of this Operating Plan will be made in writing via a formal modification to the plan signed by the AFS and R1 contacts.

No verbal statement by any person and no written statement by anyone other than the AFS and R-1 contacts will be interpreted as modifying or otherwise affecting this Operating Plan..



## Region-1 and AFS Contacts

### AFS

Position	Name	Work Phone	Cell Phone
Coordinator	David Curry	(907) 356-5677	(907) 388-2861
Ass't Coordinator			
Chief, Fire Operations	Dave Whitmer	(907) 356-5642	(907) 322-3007
Operations Ass't.			
Aviation Manager	Chip Houde	(907) 356-5523	(907) 388-2872
Aviation Management Specialist (Helicopter)	Wes Stark	(907) 356-5525	
Aviation Management Specialist (Fixed Wing)	John Softich	(907) 356-5520	
Chief, Smokejumpers	Bill Cramer	(907) 356-5541	(907) 347-8859
Deputy Chief, Smokejumpers	Gary Baumgartner	(907) 356-5536	(907) 388-0104
Chief, Fire Specialists and IHC	Mike Roos	(907) 356-5568	(907) 378-2030

### Region 1

Position	Name	Work Phone	Cell Phone
GAC Coordinator	Kathy Elzig	(406) 329-4709	(406) 544-2433
Ass't Coordinator	Gary Boyd	(406) 329-4708	(406) 370-9707
NRCG Operations	Bob Gilman	(406) 329-4961	(406) 691-0380
Aviation Safety Officer	vacant	(406) 329-4918	(406) 370-3341
Helicopter Ops Specialist	Bob Quirino	(406) 329-4915	(406) 370-3343
Fixed Wing	Ken Wabaunsee	(406) 329-4914	(406) 370-5896
Jumper Operations	Eddie Ward	(406) 329-4893	(406) 544-4056
Assistant Jumper Ops.	Mike Fritsen	(406) 329-4942	(406) 370-5871
Ground Safety	Steve Zachry	(406) 329-3422	(406) 370-3379
Incident Business	Tracy Nimlos	(406) 329-3331	(406) 370-7152
Coop, Fire Prevention	Cathy Scofield	(406) 329-3409	(406) 370-0000
Fuels, Fire Use	Pat Garbutt	(406) 329-3266	(406) 370-5757
Planning, Budget	Shari Miller	(406) 329-3232	
Director FAM	Patti Koppenol	(406)329-3402	(406)241-1136
Deputy Director	Bill Avey	(406) 329-3296	
Regional Aviation Officer	Margaret Doherty	(406)-329-4903	(406) 370-3340