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## CHAPTER 10 – OBJECTIVES, POLICY AND SCOPE OF OPERATION

### MISSION STATEMENT

The principal mission of the Northern Rockies Coordination Center (NRCC) is to provide safe, cost effective, and timely mobilization of national and geographic area resources and to promote efficient operations through interagency cooperation and standardized procedures.

### Total Mobility

Cooperating agency administrators, through their respective fire chiefs as identified within this Chapter, have delegated authority to the NRCC Center Manager to move resources throughout the Northern Rockies Geographic Area (NRGA) and between other national geographic areas to accomplish the mission of the NRGA coordination system. Resources are mobilized to meet existing and anticipated needs for preparedness, severity, wildland, and prescribed fire needs. Resources may also be mobilized in support of non-wildfire emergencies and all-hazard incidents in a manner consistent with the providing agency's mission and management objectives.

The NRCC Center Manager will:

- Dispatch personnel, equipment, aircraft, and supplies to and from emergency incidents, between administrative units, between dispatch zones, and between participating agencies.
- Maintain availability status on the number and location of specified personnel, equipment, aircraft, crews, and supplies.
- Determine geographic area priorities for personnel, equipment, aircraft, and supplies in multiple wildland fire situations and all-hazard incidents. Fill resource requests according to priorities.
- Keep all agency administrators and the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) informed of current fire potential and any critical fire situations.
- Provide a focal point for predictive services for the geographic area. Collect, distribute, and post information concerning the national/area fire situation; including meteorological, fuels, fire danger, fire potential, fire and resources status products, and any other special conditions that warrant distribution.
- Encourage and practice close cooperation in the sharing of resources with other geographic areas and between protection agencies.

### Priorities

The Northern Rockies Center Manager establishes incident priorities in coordination with the Northern Rockies Operations Specialist until a Geographic Area Multi-Agency Coordinating (GMAC) Group is activated. Incident priorities will be established according to the incident prioritization process found in the Northern Rockies Geographic Area Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (GMAC) Operating Handbook:

[https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/agreements\\_operating\\_plans/NRCG\\_MAC\\_Plan.pdf](https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/agreements_operating_plans/NRCG_MAC_Plan.pdf) and through completion of the NRGA Incident Prioritization Worksheet (IPW):  
[https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/agreements\\_operating\\_plans/IPW.pdf](https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/agreements_operating_plans/IPW.pdf).

### **Local and Geographic Area Drawdown Levels and National Ready Reserve**

Geographic area drawdown is established by the Geographic Area Multi-Agency Coordination (GMAC) Group and implemented by the Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC). The GACC will notify the local/zone dispatch centers and NICC of geographic area drawdown decisions and actions.

## **SCOPE OF OPERATION**

### **General**

The Northern Rockies Interagency Mobilization Guide contains dispatching procedures and organizational structure. This Guide includes various chapters for personnel, crews, equipment, aircraft, supplies, predictive services and a telephone directory. Organizational units (forests, districts, parks, land offices, field offices, etc.) will maintain and supplement the Northern Rockies Interagency Mobilization Guide through their local/zone dispatch center by publishing a local/zone mobilization guide per the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Management Operations.

### **Fire Management Assistance Requests (under FEMA)**

The Stafford Act authorizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAGs) to states for the suppression of any wildfire on publicly or privately-owned forest or grassland that threatens such destruction as would constitute a major disaster. The Forest Service has the primary responsibility to provide Principal Advisors (PAs).

The role of the PA is to provide FEMA with an assessment of the wildfire situation; the threat posed to individuals, improved property or other values and the prognosis for the future course of the fire.

The primary Principal Advisor for the Northern Rockies Geographic Area may be contacted at 406-329-3409 or 406-370-0000 or alternate Ryan Patrick 406-241-6176.

FEMA Region X Headquarters is responsible for disaster support for Idaho. FEMA Region VIII covers Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

### **National Response Framework (NRF)**

The NRF identifies the Forest Service as the primary and coordinating agency for implementing the Emergency Support Function (ESF) #4, firefighting with the scope of coordinating firefighting activities and providing personnel, equipment, and supplies in support of State, Tribal, and local agencies involved in wildland, rural and urban firefighting operations. The NRF also identifies the Department of Interior (DOI) as Primary Agency, along with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), for implementing ESF #11, Agriculture and Natural Resources. The Forest Service and Department of Interior also provide support to other emergency support functions.

Activation:

- The National Forest Service ESF4 Branch Director in coordination with the appropriate FEMA Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) will contact the R1 FS ESF4 Lead that ESF #4 has been activated. The NRGAs ESF4 Lead (ESFL) coordinator is vacant, 406-329-3409 or 406-370-0000 or alternate Ryan Patrick 406-241-6176. In the event neither can be reached, the Regional Fire Director should be the next contact via the NRCC to determine appropriate personnel to work with.
- The regional ESFL works with the FEMA RRCC to determine the correct and most appropriate Mission Assignment (MA), timeframes and resources needed.
- Documentation is via FEMA program WebEOC that identifies contacts, duration with dates of MA and amount obligated.
- The ESF #4 Coordinator will contact the Regional Incident Business Coordinator and provide them with the above information. The Regional Incident Business Coordinator is Tracey Nimlos, 406-329-3331 or 406-370-7152.
- The Regional Incident Business Coordinator will contact Albuquerque Service Center incident finance and issue the F code. They will also provide a copy of the signed MA when received.
- Resource ordering follows established FS dispatch mobilization processes and will need the F code information before being placed.
- The Regional Incident Business Coordinator will provide a copy of the signed MA to the appropriate agencies, if their resources are mobilized. All agencies will establish their own financial codes, based upon the signed MA, through their established process.
- The ESFL will notify NRCC that ESF#4 has been activated. If needed, a resource order will be placed for an ESF #4 Primary Leader and support positions as deemed necessary for the scope of the incident. A copy of the MA will be provided to NRCC to document the request.
- NRCC will create and fill the resource order for the ESF #4 Primary Leader from within the NRGAs, to the extent possible.

#### Resource Ordering:

- The Northern Rockies Coordination Center (NRCC) will serve as the local ordering point for the incident.
- All resource ordering to meet ESF #4 MAs or tasking's will go from the ESF #4 Primary Leader or ESF#4 coordinator to the NRCC.
- NRCC will fill all resource orders with appropriate resources using established dispatch channels. Resource orders will include the assigned charge codes and MA numbers.
- Incident Management Teams (IMTs) will order incident resources specific to their MA directly through NRCC.
- Name requests for incident resources are permissible for dispatching/mobilizing members of assigned teams and for the purpose of acquiring specialized experience not available within the area.
- Mobilization and demobilization of all resources will be in accordance with established policies for incidents as described in the national, geographic and local area interagency mobilization guides.

**Response to Non-Fire Incidents**

Without a Presidential Declaration, agencies must respond within the limits of their own authorities and agency funds. Appropriations bill language and Comptroller General (CG) decisions exist which can be used to guide the limits of response in individual situations. Mobilization and demobilization of all resources will be in accordance with established policies for incidents as described in the national, geographic and local area Interagency Mobilization Guides.

**Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

**Disaster and Emergency Plans**

*Reference the Agency-specific emergency pay plan for the hiring of additional forces.*

**Bureau of Indian Affairs** – Direction for disasters and emergency situations is under the Agency Superintendent's (line officer) responsibility for their BIA Agency (Reservation).

**Bureau of Land Management** - Direction for disasters and emergency situations falls under the State Director on BLM lands.

**Fish and Wildlife Service** – Disaster and emergency operations are the responsibility of the Refuge Manager.

**Forest Service** – Policy and direction for disasters and emergency situations can be found in FSM 1590. The Northern Region Disaster and Emergency Plan contains Region 1 objectives to (1) render authorized, timely physical assistance whenever necessary for the immediate protection of life and property, (2) provide an orderly means for coordinating Forest Service efforts with those of other agencies engaged in disaster relief, and (3) provide assistance to State and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities for alleviating suffering and damage resulting from major disasters and emergencies.

**Idaho Department of Lands** – Reference the Idaho Emergency Operations Plan, Emergency Support Function #4, Fire Fighting Annex.

**Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)** – Policy and direction for non-fire disasters and emergencies is established through the Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Division of the Department of Military Affairs. Reference the Montana Disaster and Emergency Coordination Plan.

**National Park Service** – Disaster and emergency operations are the responsibility of the Park Superintendent and usually delegated to the Chief Park Ranger. Priority is life and safety of (1) employees, (2) victims, and (3) saving of personal or government property. The National Park Service has administrative and legislated authority and responsibility to assist other local non-federal agencies with natural, civil, or fire emergencies.

**North Dakota State Forest Service and Division of Emergency Management** – *Reference the North Dakota State Emergency Operations Plan, Fire Annex.*

## **MOBILIZATION/DEMOBILIZATION**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

NRCC coordinates the movement of resources between zone dispatch centers within the geographic area. Zone dispatch centers may coordinate directly via the neighborhood policy. Resources mobilized will be ordered through established ordering channels.

### **Work/Rest, Length of Assignment, and Days Off**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

The monitoring of crew, overhead and support personnel fatigue to assure safe, productive fire suppression and management activity is a basic responsibility of fire management personnel. Use the guidelines in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations, Chapter 7, Safety and Risk Management to assure adequate rest for fire suppression crews, overhead and support personnel. The standard 2:1 work/rest ratio is a minimum of 1 hour of sleep and/or rest for every 2 hours of work or travel. The standard incident assignment length is 14 days, exclusive of travel, from and to home unit.

Type 2 crews will not normally be extended past 14 days.

### **Incident Operations Driving**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

Night Driving: Employees may drive for official business between the hours of 22:00 and 05:00 only if the mental and physical condition of the driver(s) is such that travel can be performed in a safe manner, and the following conditions can be met:

- The destination can be reached within two hours; or
- Drivers can be changed every two hours; and drivers have had eight hours in off-shift or non-duty status prior to beginning of travel.
- Individual agency driving policies shall be followed, if established.

Employees responding to emergency incidents shall include all driving and/or travel time in the 2:1 Work/Rest ratio.

### **Initial Attack Definition**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

Where formalized agreements, operating plans or memorandums of understanding are in place, Northern Rockies dispatch centers have the authority to utilize the initial attack resources of adjoining units and centers across adjacent geographic area boundaries. These requests will be followed up with a courtesy phone call notifying NRCC. Resources involved will be formally ordered through IROC. Adjacent is defined as having adjoined or sharing a common

border. Dispatch centers will provide the NRCC with copies of Initial Attack Mutual Assistance Plans or Agreements.

### **Resource Mobilization**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

Requests for resources will only be accepted from recognized agents of agencies with protection responsibilities within the scope of existing agreements and memorandums of understanding. Resource orders will be maintained on a calendar year basis. No incident project order number will be duplicated within a calendar year.

From May through September, personnel whose primary responsibilities include wildland fire response must be ordered on a resource order for all types of incidents.

### **Resource Mobilization Priorities**

The policy of the NRGBA is to ensure that qualified and available agency employees and/or cooperators (i.e. state/local government) are dispatched for all incident positions prior to dispatching AD/EFF/Casual or private contract resources whenever possible. NRCC and all other Northern Rockies dispatch centers will fill orders from the best, most logical source as determined based on urgency, availability, delivery time, reasonable cost, and operational impact on the units.

### **Out of Area Mobilization Procedures**

Orders from NICC will be placed with NRCC. NRCC will coordinate requests for resources on all out-of-area incidents to insure that out-of-area dispatches do not negatively affect the geographic area's ability to meet resource needs during existing conditions. Notify NRCC when local unit boundary agreements for out-of-area assistance are activated.

### **Night Mobilization**

As a general practice and due to safety considerations, the Northern Rockies Geographic Area will not mobilize resources between 22:00 to 05:00.

### **States Compact Mobilization Procedures**

*Reference Appendix B for specific Compact and Agreements.*

The States of Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and federal agencies exchange resource assistance in suppressing wildland fires through master agreements between the states and federal agencies.

In addition, the States of Idaho, Montana, Washington, Oregon, Alaska and the Canadian Provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Yukon and Northwest Territories are members of the Northwest Wildland Fire Protection Agreement (Northwest Compact). The States of North Dakota and South Dakota are members of the Great Plains Interstate Forest Fire Compact (Great Plains Compact) along with Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming and province of Saskatchewan.



Compact members may order directly from each other. All requests for Montana DNRC resources to be mobilized under the Northwest Compact must be coordinated and placed via NRCC. Similarly, all requests by DNRC for Northwest Compact resources must be placed via the local DNRC Land Office and zone dispatch center to NRCC. Requests for Idaho Department of Lands resources to be mobilized via the Northwest Compact are coordinated by the Coeur d'Alene Dispatch Center. Mobilization requests for the Great Plains Compact are processed between the member states.

### **Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation IA Mobilization**

In the course of wildland fire initial attack, DNRC Land Offices may make arrangements for the use of local government fire suppression resources by DNRC or other cooperating fire suppression agencies. This is accomplished via an initial attack or state/county cooperative agreement signed by state and local government officials (RFD, VFD, county, etc.). If USFS resources are involved, the participating forest has the option to agree to the terms of assistance with local cooperators as an agent of the DNRC Land Office. Alternately, the USFS or other federal agency may elect to enter into an IA agreement directly with local government cooperators. In this case DNRC will have no direct financial, administrative, or management involvement.

To receive DNRC suppression assistance not covered by prior agreement, the local cooperator must place an order through a state Land Office and its associated dispatch center. *Reference Mobilization of Local Government Firefighting Resources*, <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/fire-and-aviation/fire-business/agreements-plans-and-guides>.

### **Wildland Fire Entrapment/Fatality**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, for product description and submission requirements.*

### **National Resources**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

### **Notification of Commitment of National Resources**

Northern Rockies dispatch centers will notify NRCC of commitment of national resources within their local unit within **15 minutes** of commitment. Notification will be done over the phone, electronic email or instant message service. Notifications will be done when the following occur:

- National resources or resources who are prepositioned on an NRGAs preposition are committed internally to an incident or are no longer available for dispatch.
- National resources are status available (on duty and available for dispatch).
- National resource location changes.

NRCC will send COMMIT messages for Incident Management Team mobilizations via email or text to appropriate recipients.

**Unable to Fill (UTF) Procedure**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

Confirmation with NRCC that a resource order can be filled must take place within 30 minutes of receipt of the resource order by the receiving dispatcher. If time permits, the filling organization may negotiate additional time to locate a resource.

**Standard Cubes, Weight and Gear Policy for All Personnel**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

**Strike Teams/Task Forces**

Ordering organizations in the NRGBA are required to order suppression forces as single resources on individual requests rather than as Strike Teams. The individual resources may then be organized on site as a Strike Team or Task Force as required by the incident. The exception being the Northern Rockies Heavy Equipment Task Force.

**Demobilization Guidelines**

NRCC requires at least 24-hour advance notice of any planned release of resources. This allows the NRCC time to prioritize needs, coordinate reassignments, and arrange for transportation. There may also be additional requirements for out-of-area crews.

Inclement weather any time of year may require expediting demobilization or staging of some resources. This would particularly affect high elevation fires, remote fires, or spike camps. With this in mind, fires and dispatch centers should be prepared to take care of crews and other personnel by pre-planning for additional shelter and transportation.

The following guidelines for demobilization apply:

- Hold crews at fire camps or staging areas until travel arrangements have been made.
- To minimize transportation costs, group crews and overhead together for common destinations. To facilitate their release, group personnel on the same shift 24 hours prior to release.
- Ensure that area and local unit priorities for release are met.
- Ensure that personnel will arrive at their home station by 2200 local time. This may require the postponement of the release until the following day.
- Provide eight hours of rest for all personnel prior to beginning travel

Generally, local initial attack resources assigned to large fires should be released as quickly as possible to their home units. The following release priorities will apply unless the fire unit is notified of changes by the NRCC Center Manager.

**Crews:**

1. Crews that have been extended beyond their initial 14-day assignment
2. Out-of-area Type 1 crews
3. Northern Rockies Geographic Area Type 1 crews
4. Out-of-area contract and AD pay crews

5. Out-of-area agency regulars
6. In-area agency regulars
7. In-area organized crews (such as Native American crews)

Crews should be grouped to facilitate charter air travel to the same locations whenever possible. Plan to hold crews at the incident or local unit for 24 hours after release notification has been given to NRCC and until travel arrangements have been confirmed. **For out-of-area crews that were flown into the NRGAs, five days' notice of release is requested.**

**Overhead:**

1. Portal-to-portal pay personnel
2. Initial attack support and in-area overhead resources

Have lists of re-assignable overhead to the NRCC at least 24 hours prior to their release. These lists should include all qualifications for each individual and the number of days they have been out on assignment.

**Helicopters:**

1. Military helicopters
2. In-area exclusive use helicopters to home units for initial attack
3. Out-of-area exclusive use initial attack helicopters needed by home unit
4. Out-of-area CWN helicopters
5. In-area CWN helicopters

**CWN Type 1 and 2 helicopters ordered via the NICC are national resources and may not be reassigned, even to another incident on the ordering unit, without the NRCC first obtaining concurrence from the NICC.**

Give 24 hours advance notice prior to release of Type 1 and 2 helicopters, modules and managers.

**Engines &/or Water Tenders:**

1. Agency and local government engines/tenders required for initial attack/preparedness on home unit
2. Any portal-to-portal pay engines/tenders
3. Out-of-area contract engines/tenders
4. Out-of-area local government engines/tenders
5. Engines/tenders hired under Incident-Only Emergency Equipment Rental Agreements
6. Engines/tenders hired under NRGAs competed pre-season agreements
7. Out-of-area agency (state and/or federal) engines/tenders
8. In-area agency local, state and federal engines/tenders

**Be aware that some states Department of Transportation restrictions for highway transport of heavy equipment on holidays and weekends.**

**Other Equipment:**

1. National caterers, showers and radios may not be reassigned unless agreed to by NICC/NRCC.
2. Demobilization of NIICD radios and kits should follow these guidelines:
  - a. National Preparedness Level 2 - Equipment can be shipped ground freight in an expedited trackable mode.
  - b. National Preparedness Level 3- Ship air freight with no less than 2-day service. If ground freight can guarantee 2-day service, you may use it.
  - c. National Preparedness Levels 4 and 5– Consider overnight air charter, or ground delivery if within same-day delivery distance.

**WILDLAND FIRE WEATHER FORECASTS**

The National Weather Service will post morning wildland fire weather forecasts, afternoon updates, wildland fire weather watches, and red flag warnings as specified in the annual operating plan (<https://www.weather.gov/media/mso/fire/NRfwop.pdf>). All dispatch/coordination centers and unit dispatchers are responsible for communicating wildland fire weather information in a timely manner to firefighters and incident management personnel at initial attack bases, staging areas, field locations and to firefighters on all wildland fires.

**FIRE BEHAVIOR**

During periods of high fire activity, general wildland fire behavior information will be distributed to dispatch centers through the NRCC (*by staffing a Fire Behavior Analyst*). Dispatch centers will disseminate this information to firefighting personnel. If no Fire Behavior Analyst is available at NRCC, local agency administrators will distribute wildland fire behavior information as deemed necessary.

**COST CODING**

All wildland suppression orders for federally employed resources must be assigned an interagency four (4) character alpha-numeric financial code. The code will be generated by the ordering dispatch center through The FireCode System, an internet-based system used by federal fire suppression agencies. However, state and local resources working within their own state and local fire protection may not require a federal fire code, unless federal resources are ordered.

Resource orders for state and local resources for use within the ordering organization's own state and local fire protection responsibility may not require a FireCode.

**Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)**

IDL's resource order numbering system requires each state unit to assign an incident number for every incident. This number is composed of the unit's assigned three-digit number followed by a sequential number. For example, incident number 42010 would designate Maggie Creek Area Fire Protection District (FPD)'s tenth fire.

| UNIT            | NUMBER |
|-----------------|--------|
| Priest Lake FPD | 110    |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Kootenai Valley FPD                               | 210 |
| Mica FPD  | 220 |
| Pend Oreille FPD                                  | 230 |
| Cataldo FPD                                       | 310 |
| West St. Joe FPD                                  | 320 |
| Ponderosa FPD                                     | 410 |
| Maggie Creek Area FPD                             | 420 |
| Craig Mountain Area                               | 430 |
| Southwest Idaho FPD                               | 610 |
| Southern Idaho Timber Protection Association      | 980 |
| Clearwater-Potlatch Timber Protection Association | 990 |

Table 1: Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)

### Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC)

NRCC will assign Statewide Accounting Budgeting & Human Resources System (SABHRS) codes for incidents involving State of Montana resources that are dispatched out-of-state and for miscellaneous non-local SABHRS accounts. New SABHRS codes must be assigned to any new incident where DNRC resources have been reassigned within the IROC system, with proper paperwork to reflect changes. Because this new incident may not be visible in IROC to dispatch centers within the NRGAs, DNRC personnel reassigned while on an out-of-state assignment must provide their home dispatch unit sufficient fire (Incident Project Order Number/Name) and accounting (FireCode) information to assign this new SABHRS number.

The ordering/requesting zone dispatch center will assign the SABHRS number for most incidents located within the State of Montana. If you are filling a request with a DNRC resource on an order received with no SABHRS number, contact the ordering/requesting zone for the SABHRS number assignment. This data should be posted in the financial codes section of the IROC Incident Screen. Within the Montana Fire Code Generator, all SABHRS created are visible within the program.

To see current year pre-assigned numbers and numbering matrix go to:

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/fire-and-aviation/fire-business/agreements-plans-and-guides> (Scroll to the bottom of page, under **Dispatch Info** click on **20XX Fire Number Sheet**).

### Severity Authorization

Cooperator fire situations and status of forces must be considered prior to requests for severity action. Requests must include a summary of current and forecasted wildland fire severity, including weather, fuel moisture, and wildland fire danger.

### Bureau of Land Management

All requests for BLM fire severity funding for the NRGAs must be processed through the appropriate State Office, Branch of Fire and Aviation Management. Requests should, as a minimum, include fire danger, additional resource needs, what each unit is planning, cost targets associated with the plan, and approximate duration of the plan. Fire severity funding includes all costs of escalated fire preparedness over and above approved Fire Management

Plan levels due to abnormally high or extreme fire danger. Charges made against fire severity funds must be appropriate and contained in an approved fire severity fund plan. Requests should be processed to allow for timely review and approval through all levels of the Bureau of Land Management including the National Level Office. All charges against fire severity funds require a project code (Fire Number) that is assigned at the time of request from the requesting office.

### **Forest Service**

When additional resources are needed for severity purposes, they may come from two sources. The first source is from program financed resources pre-positioned or moved into an area experiencing the above normal (90+ percentile) fire activity. The second source is from the Fire Severity Authorization. Severity funded resources exceeding the funded program are acquired utilizing the fire severity authorization. Before this source may be utilized, the process described in the Northern Region Forest Fire Severity Authorization process must be completed and approved. The intent of the fire severity authorization is to offset increased costs by authorizing the expenditure of funds to strengthen prevention, detection, initial attack and reinforcements when fire season activity is expected to exceed the average planned fire season severity. Since this process takes time, it must be proactive and start well in advance of the 90+ percentile burning conditions. The request covers the next 14 days, so fire severity conditions must be based on the best available information forecast for this period.

### **Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation**

Authority to acquire resources for contingency purposes is obtained from a Fire Severity Authorization (FSA) issued at the discretion of the Bureau Chief, DNRC Fire Protection Bureau. FSA expenditures are documented using the DNRC SABHRS Responsibility Center assigned at the time. The intent of the FSA is to increase funding for fire prevention, fire detection and the reposition of initial attack and reinforcement resources. A Fire Severity Authorization will cover a maximum period of 7 days. The decision to issue an FSA must be based on the best available information regarding existing and predicted fire conditions (ERC, BI, 1000-hour fuel moisture, fire behavior, annual precipitation deficit, & others). Following a verbal request by a Land Office to the Chief of DNRC, FPB, all FSA's must be documented in writing listing the conditions that warrant this authorization.

## **NATIONAL FIRE PREPAREDNESS PLAN**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

### **Why Preparedness Levels Are Established**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

To identify the level of wildland and prescribed fire activity, severity, resource commitment and availability within the Northern Rockies Geographic Area.

To identify actions to be taken by Agency Administrators, Geographic Area Coordinators, and Unit Dispatchers of respective agencies to assure an appropriate level of preparedness/readiness for the existing and potential situation.

To modify or curtail Zone fire management activities when essential to assure preparedness or response capabilities for situations with the Zone. Zones are defined as the geographical zones located throughout the Northern Rockies Geographic Area.

### **Geographic Area Preparedness Levels**

The Geographic Areas will monitor the Area wildland fire situation and determine Preparedness Levels. Response and support to non-fire incidents requiring a significant commitment of resources may also affect Geographic Area Preparedness Levels.

As preparedness levels increase, all management considerations from each previous level will automatically be continued at the next higher level.

Geographic Area preparedness levels are determined from the ground up, and at the higher levels may constrain activities on a single unit not experiencing similar activity. This assures that sufficient resources will be available for Area and National situations. Area preparedness levels must also be responsive to the National Preparedness Levels which identify amounts of wildland fire activity, severity, and resource commitment nationally.

The NRCC Center Manager in consultation with the Northern Rockies Operations Specialist establishes geographical area preparedness levels throughout the course of the calendar year based upon current and forecasted burning conditions, wildland fire activity and resource availability. Situations and activities described in preparedness levels consider both wildfire and prescribed fire.

The NRCC Center Manager has delegated authority to determine Preparedness Levels 1 and 2. The NRCC Center Manager will coordinate with the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCCG) or Multi-Agency Coordinating (MAC) group, when the MAC is activated, to determine Levels 3, 4 and 5. Coordination may be accomplished through emails, conference calls or formalized meetings. Rational for changing preparedness levels will be documented and maintained by the NRCC Center Manager.

Certain circumstances may arise where it is necessary to make exceptions to management considerations specified in the preparedness levels. Since the National Preparedness Levels are designed to ensure that sufficient resources are available for the National situation, management considerations at higher levels may constrain activities in the Geographic Areas not experiencing significant activity. In such situations, the NRGAs may have activity occurring at a lower level than is reflected by the National Preparedness Levels. NRGAs will continue those activities that will not detract from an appropriate level for National response.

The NRCC Center Manager will document changing preparedness levels utilizing the Criterium Decision Plus software. Preparedness Levels (PL) in the NRGAs are derived from 2-tiered approach. These can be summed up by measuring the following:

1. **What is occurring?** This includes measuring fire business such as fire activity, Incident Management Team (IMT), and Operational Resource commitments.

2. **What could occur?** This includes measuring significant fire potential and fire danger indices within Northern Rockies Geographic Area Zones (NRGA Zones), Northern Rockies Predictive Service Areas (PSA's) and how these relate to the probability of fire occurrence and fire danger.

The Criterion Decision Program model uses the criteria below that are weighted by importance to their contribution to the overall PL for the NRGAs. "What is occurring" will initially govern the PL; however, "What could occur" has an important influence on shifts in PL either up or down but can also play an important role even in the absence or change in fire business. The following are guidelines in how to measure these criteria for input into the model and are to be used as a tool only. Other factors, mostly of the "political" nature, may also affect PL decisions and are at the discretion of the NRCG or NR MAC if convened.

### What is occurring?

Fire Activity (within the NRGAs):

- *Minimum* – Minimal fires occurring across the GACC. Number and size of fires are within normal range for time of year.
- *Low* – Wildland fire activity is increasing. Light Initial Attack occurring across the GACC. 1-2 NRGAs experiencing large fire activity.
- *Moderate* – Daily IA in some NRCG Zones. 3 NRGAs have large incidents burning more than 2 burning periods.
- *High* – Large fire activity is increasing. Four or more NRCG Zones are experiencing large incidents. Initial Attack (50+) activity is heavy across the GACC.
- *Maximum* – There is a high level of unsuccessful IA across the geographical area. New incident IA capability is compromised due to ongoing large fire activity. 5 or more NRCG Zones are experiencing large fire activity.

Operational Resource Commitments (within the NRGAs):

- *Minimum* – Little or no commitment of other than local resources.
- *Low* – Resources within the NRGAs appear adequate to manage the situations.
- *Moderate* - 50% of the NRGAs National resources are committed. Additional resources may be mobilized from outside the NRGAs.
- *High* – Initial Attack resources are committed. All NRGAs National resources are committed. Resources are being mobilized from outside the NRGAs.
- *Maximum* – Incident resource needs are not being met. Significant competition for resources is occurring.

IMT Commitments (within the NRGAs):

- *Minimum* – No IMT Commitment
- *Low* – Some commitment of Type 3 Incident Management Teams (IMT), 1-2 IMT2s may be committed.
- *Moderate* – Northern Rockies Type 1 and all NRCG Type 2 IMTs are committed or on order to manage large incidents.
- *High* – IMTs from outside the NRGAs may be on order



- *Maximum* – Four NREGA zones requiring multiple IMTs. NRCG Zone requests for IMTs are not being met.

### **What could occur?**

#### Fire Potential Trend (NRCC 7-day product):

- *Minimum* – All NRCG Zone classifications reflect little (green) to low (yellow) risk with no increase in potential forecasted over the next 7 days.
- *Low* – 1 NRCG Zone reflects and is expected to continue to reflect a moderate (brown) risk with no or very few high (red) risk events forecasted over the next 7 days.
- *Moderate* – 2-3 Zones reflect and are expected to continue to reflect a moderate risk (brown) or occasional high-risk events are forecasted over the next 7 days.
- *High* – 4 NRCG zones reflect and are expected to continue to reflect moderate (brown) or occasional high (red) risk events are forecasted over the next 7 days.
- *Maximum* – 5 or more NRCG zones reflect and are expected to continue to reflect a moderate (brown) risk or frequent high-risk events are forecasted over the next 7 days.

#### Fire Danger Thresholds (within NREGA Zones based on PSA's within the Zone):

- *Minimum* – All NRCG zone classifications below the 90th percentile for ERC and are forecasted to remain so for the next 7 days
- *Low* – 1 NRCG zone is currently and is expected to remain above the 90th percentile for ERC over the next 7 days.
- *Moderate* – 2-3 NRCG zones are currently and are expected to remain above the 90th percentile for ERC over the next 7 days.
- *High* – 4-5 NRCG zones are currently and are expected to remain above the 90th percentile for ERC over the next 7 days.
- *Maximum* – 5 or more NRCG zones are currently and are expected to be above the 90th percentile for ERC over the next 7 days.

*NRCG zone classifications for dryness level and ERC values are based on the average value of the significant PSAs represented within that zone.*

### **Unit Preparedness Level Descriptions**

Unit preparedness levels shall be determined in accordance with state / agency / bureau / tribal direction through Agency Directives. A similar preparedness process should take place for interagency and unit dispatch centers.

The following are Preparedness Levels for the Northern Rockies Geographic Area:

## Northern Rockies - All Preparedness Levels

**Description: The following activities apply regardless of the level of fire activity.**

| Management Consideration   | Responsibility                            |
|--|---|
| 1. Report all “planned” (prescribed fire) and “unplanned” (all other fires) fire activity via the Interagency Situation (SIT) Report program.  | Unit Administrator                        |
| 2. For all incidents which meet the large fire criteria (100+ acres in timber, 300+ acres in brush or grass, or T1 or T2 Team assignment) and other incidents meeting the reporting requirements, prepare an ICS-209 and Decision Support documentation (WFDSS or WFSa) and submit a copy to the NRCC by 1800 daily in accordance with reporting guidelines outlined in the Northern Rockies Interagency Mobilization Guide. | Incident Commander/<br>Unit Administrator |
| 3. Provide the NRCC with timely intelligence on existing and emerging situations.  | Unit Administrator                        |
| 4. Via the Interagency SIT Report program and NRCC website, provide a report of area fire activity as appropriate.   | NRCC Coordinator                          |
| 5. Staff all dispatch centers in accordance with the level of fire activity and resource order workload not only at the local level but also the geographic and national levels. This will range from providing an after-hours contact to staffing the center on 24 hours/7 days a week basis.   | Agency Administrator                      |

Table 2: All Preparedness Levels

**Northern Rockies - Preparedness Level 1**

| <b>Management Considerations</b>  | <b>Responsibility</b>                                 |
|---|---|
| 1. All Units will be staffed at their budgeted initial attack level.  | Unit Administrator                                    |
| 2. Report status of all fires daily (wildland and prescribed).  | Unit Administrator                                    |
| 3. Units status resource availability in IROC.  | Unit Dispatcher                                       |
| 4. Coordinator/fire duty officer roster established and distributed to land/area offices and cooperators.     | DNRC/IDL/NDS Fire Suppression Supervisor              |
| 5. Implement prevention sign program and inspect agency facilities & structures in meeting Uniform Fire Code. | Unit FMO/Prevention specialist                        |
| 6. Establish Media Contacts and inform public about prescribed fire and wildfire activity.                    | Unit FMO/Public Affairs Officer/Prevention Specialist |

Table 3: NR Preparedness Level 1

## Northern Rockies - Preparedness Level 2

Previous Preparedness Level Actions remain in effect.

| <b>Management Considerations</b>  | <b>Responsibility</b>                                 |
|---|---|
| 1. Prepare for limited mobilization facilities at appropriate locations.  | Local agencies with consultation of NRCC Coordinator  |
| 2. Agency fire qualified personnel are ready for fire assignments (trained, fitness tested, red carded).  | Agency Administrator                                  |
| 3. Evaluate expanded dispatch needs.  | Unit Dispatchers & Unit Fire Managers                 |
| 4. Ensure prescribed fires are in compliance with individual prescribed burn plans and appropriate mop-up standards are being applied.                          | Unit Administrator                                    |
| 5. Target specific prevention problems or areas, ignition causes or activities (Fireworks, exploding targets, campgrounds and campfires, hunting season, etc.). | Unit FMO/Prevention Specialist                        |
| 6. Coordinate press releases with zone partners about fire danger and fire weather conditions and provide a brief outlook.                                      | Unit FMO/Public Affairs Officer/Prevention Specialist |
| 7. National Weather Service forecasts and GACC Predictive Services products including the Interagency GACC Situation Report are produced daily or as requested. | NRCC Coordinator                                      |

Table 4: NR Preparedness Level 2

### Northern Rockies - Preparedness Level 3

Previous Preparedness Level Actions remain in effect.

| <b>Management Considerations</b>  | <b>Responsibility</b>  |
|---|--|
| 1. Alert the NICC of possible need of specific resources.   | NRCC Coordinator   |
| 2. Staff Coordination Center/Dispatch Centers 7 days a week from 0900 to 1800 or longer if fire situation requires.   | Unit Administrator and NRCC Coordinator  |
| 3. Provide the NICC with timely intelligence on existing and emerging situations.   | NRCC Coordinator   |
| 4. Ensure Agency fire qualified personnel are available for fire assignments  | Agency Administrators  |
| 5. Coordinate the prepositioning of Resources as may be appropriate.  | NRCC Coordinator   |
| 6. Monitor prescribed fire activities and suppression requirements to maximize efficient resource utilization for identified priorities. Review contingency plans.  | Unit Administrator   |
| 7. Canvass units for severity needs and take appropriate action. Evaluate needs of fire prevention into requested severity funding.   | Agency Fire Operations Specialists, Agency Fire Chiefs / Unit FMO/ Prevention Specialist   |
| 8. Consider ordering additional positions (FBAN, Frequency, Airspace, GISS, EDSD, PIO, Decision Support etc.) for NRCC.   | NRCC Coordinator   |
| 9. Increase interagency prevention actions, review restriction/closures procedures. Establish coordination and communication channels about fire conditions, activity, and restriction needs with zone partners. Consider a regional fire prevention team. Consider media briefings on fire suppression activity. | DNRC Fire Prevention Section Zone Coordinator, Unit Administrators/County Commissioners/Tribal Administrator/Unit FMO/ Restriction Coordinator/Zone MAC Groups/Public Affairs/Prevention Specialists |

Table 5: NR Preparedness Level 3

### Northern Rockies - Preparedness Level 4

Previous Preparedness Level Actions remain in effect.

| Management Considerations  | Responsibility  |
|--|---|
| Prescribed fire application may be continued or initiated. Approval by an agency at the regional or state office level may be set into place by official memo at the discretion of the agency. Approvals will be based on a valid risk assessment, impacts to area resources, and will include feedback to the GMAC group. The final decision to implement resides with the implementing agency. | Agency<br>Administrators/NRCC<br>Coordinator/NRMAC  |
| Units will be prepared to operate their dispatch centers 24 hours per day, 7 days per week as needed.  | Unit Administrators/<br>NRCC Coordinator  |
| Consider daily GMAC conference calls or MAC (Area or local level) activation when resource competition and agency interests indicate a need.   | Agency Fire Chiefs/<br>NRCC Coordinator   |
| Daily briefing at the NRCC.  | NRCC Coordinator  |
| Evaluate and coordinate interagency restriction and media releases. Consider ordering Regional Prevention Team to assist with prevention efforts.  | DNRC Prevention/ Unit<br>Administrators/ Area<br>Restriction Coordinators/<br>County Commissioners/<br>Tribal Administrators/<br>Unit FMO's/ Zone<br>MAC/Prevention<br>Specialist |
| Evaluate need to preposition resources (Aircraft/Crews/Equipment/Overhead).  | Agency Fire Chiefs/ DNRC<br>Chief Pilot   |
| Evaluate need to train National Guard resources for fire support   | Agency Fire Chiefs  |
| Evaluate need for ID/MT/ND Statewide Emergency Declaration.  | Chief Fire & Aviation<br>Management/Suppression<br>Supervisor, State D&ES   |

Table 6: NR Preparedness Level 4

## Northern Rockies – Preparedness Level 5

Previous Preparedness Level Actions remain in effect.

| <b>Management Considerations</b>   | <b>Responsibility</b>   |
|--|---|
| 1. GMAC activated.   | Agency Fire Chiefs  |
| 2. Hold a daily GMAC briefing and strategy meeting.  | Agency Fire Chiefs  |
| 3. Provide for liaisons with military and international resources.   | Agency Administrators/<br>NRCC Coordinator  |
| 4. Prescribed fire applications may be continued or initiated if the proposed action is approved by an agency at the regional or state office level. This approval must be based on an assessment of risk, impacts of the proposed action on area resources and activities and include feedback from the GMAC group. The final decision to implement resides with the implementing agency. Include decision in Daily Situation Report. | Agency Administrators/<br>GMAC  |
| 5. Develop interagency contingency actions to address anticipated situations or events.  | GMAC  |
| 6. Evaluate need to train additional crews.  | GMAC  |
| 7. Identify and staff additional staging areas as needed.  | GMAC  |
| 8. Preposition critical resources where needed.  | Agency Fire Chiefs/<br>NRCC Coordinator   |
| 9. Consider extended staffing of GACC prepositioned aircraft.  | NRCC Coordinator/NR<br>Ops Specialist   |
| 10. Daily/weekly briefing of DNRC/IDL/NDS, Fire & Aviation Management Bureau, DES, Governor's Office. Implement Restrictions. If all other prevention measures have been exhausted, consider closures when needed for public or firefighter safety.  | Chief Fire & Aviation<br>Management/ Agency<br>Administrators/ Area<br>Restriction Coordinators |
| 11. Increase Media Effort – Consider an Information Center to coordinate multiple fire and/or complex urban interface situation media needs.   | Agency Administrators/<br>GMAC  |

Table 7: NR Preparedness Level 5

### Montana DNRC Preparedness Levels, Pre- and Post- Legal Fire Season

Prior to May 1 and after September 30, or legal extension of fire season (normally fall, winter and spring months):

**No Fires in Progress** – Land offices/Zone at mobilization level 1, Staffing class and ERC Class 1. Potential for fires is normally very low.

**Fires in Progress** – Land offices/Zone at mobilization level 1. Potential is high on BI days. A staffing class and ERC of 1 and 2 recorded.

Montana DNRC preparedness levels (PL) may be established by the State Fire Coordinator in conjunction with the NRCC Coordinator throughout the calendar year. DNRC PLs exist in addition to the NRCC PLs and are established to mandate specific DNRC actions.

| Management Considerations   | Responsibility  |
|---|---|
| 1. Fire Duty Officer, call down list established and distributed.   | DNRC Fire Program Managers                                    |
| 2. Report Land Office mobilization levels to DNRC/NRCC, if there is a change.   | DNRC Fire Program Managers                                    |
| 3. Land Offices submit "Severity Requests" as needed to Chief, Fire Protection Bureau   | DNRC Fire Program Managers                                    |
| 4. DNRC aircraft resources available through NRCC and Interagency Dispatch Centers, dependent on aircraft/pilot availability (2-4 hours). CWN aircraft dependent on contractor availability. National Guard aircraft availability (2-12 hours). | NRCC and Interagency Centers                                  |
| 5. Review and update Unit Prevention Plans and Area Restriction Plans.  | Unit FMO /Prevention Specialist/Area Restriction Coordinators |
| 6. Complete Preparedness Review including prevention program.   | Interagency Review Teams/Unit FMO                             |
| 7. Develop Community Awareness Programs; School Programs; County Fairs, etc.  | Prevention Specialist/Conservation Education specialists      |

Table 8: DNRC PL Pre & Post Fire Season

### Northern Rockies Resource Drawdown Levels

The matrix below is intended to GUIDE Northern Rockies management personnel through a decision-making process to determine, in a timely manner, the need to maintain or increase resource availability within the NRGAs and potentially preposition resources to areas having current or increased potential for fire activity. The NR Operations/MAC may determine an alternate resource drawdown baseline for NRGAs prepositioned resources based on the actual need to support current fire activity or future fire potential.



## NRGA Resource Drawdown Levels Matrix

| <b>RESOURCE<br/>DRAWDOWN<br/>LEVELS</b>                          | <i>NRGA</i><br><b>Planning<br/>Level 1</b> | <i>NRGA</i><br><b>Planning<br/>Level 2</b> | <i>NRGA</i><br><b>Planning<br/>Level 3</b> | <i>NRGA</i><br><b>Planning<br/>Level 4</b> | <i>NRGA</i><br><b>Planning<br/>Level 5</b> |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>National Resources* (not under the control of NRGA)</b>       |  |  |  |  |  |
| IMT1   | On-call                                    | On-call                                    | On-call                                    | On-call                                    | Staged^                                    |
| Type 1 Crews#  | 0  | 1  | 3  | 4  | 6  |
| Airtankers/Scoopers  | 0  | 2  | 3  | 4**  | 5**  |
| Lead Planes/ASM  | 0  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 3  |
| Type 1 Helicopters   | 0  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| Type 2 Helicopters   | 0  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 5  |
| Smoke Jumpers  | 16   | 24   | 24   | 32   | 40   |
| Smoke<br>Jumper<br>Aircraft                                      | 2  | 3  | 3  | 4  | 4  |
| 4390 Starter System  | 1  | 2  | 4  | 4  | 4  |
| <b>Non-national resources (may be under the control of NRGA)</b> |  |  |  |  |  |
| IMT 2  | On-call                                    | On-call                                    | On-call                                    | Staged^                                    | Staged^                                    |
| IMT 3  | On-call                                    | On-call                                    | Consider                                   | Staged^                                    | Staged^                                    |
| Type 2IA Crews#  | 0  | 3  | 5  | 10   | 15   |
| Engines***   | 0  | 0  | ***  | ***  | ***  |
| SEAT ****  | 0  | 5  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| Air Attack**   | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| Type 3 Helicopters   | 2**  | 2**  | 4**  | 5**  | 5**  |
| NG Helicopters   | 0  | 0  | 0  | Alert                                      | Alert                                      |
| Cache Vans 250   | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 5  |
| Mobilization Centers   | 0  | 0  | Consider                                   | Area                                       | Area                                       |

Table 9: NRGA Resource Drawdown Levels Matrix

\* National resources are allocated at the national level.

^ Staging of IMTs will be a GMAC decision at PL4 & PL5. If there is a need to stage an IMT when the GMAC is not activated, the NRCG will be consulted for approval.

\*\* The helicopters, airtankers and air attack can be CWN or exclusive use contracts. Consider that some agency exclusive use helicopter contracts may have minimum flight hours.

\*\*\* Determine availability and capability of engines on a geographic area basis.

\*\*\*\* State contracted SEATs are normally mobilized only to incidents within their respective state boundaries unless pre-approved otherwise.

# NRCC will fill crew orders outside of the geographic area based on strategic needs within the geographic area as determined by NR Operations and NRCC Center Manager at PLs 1/2/3 or as determined by the NR MAC at PLs 4/5. T2IA contract crews may be dispatched out of the geographic area before agency crews to maintain crew capability at draw down.

The above matrix typically reflects the NRGA core fire season (June through September).

Resource drawdown levels fluctuate and are subject to change based on additional influences.

## NATIONAL MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATING GROUP (NMAC) ORGANIZATION

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

### National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) Decisions

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (MAC) Organization

Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

As number and complexity of wildland fires increase, involvement and/or impact on agencies increase, and competition for resources increase, it becomes necessary to expand the normal coordination system to ensure efficient use of critical personnel and equipment. This is not an expansion of positions under the Incident Command System (ICS) but rather a group to coordinate and manage incident support activities.

The NRCC Coordinator will implement and/or communicate the approved strategy.

### Northern Rockies Multi-Agency Coordination Group (GMAC) Decisions

All Northern Rockies GMAC decisions affecting the Geographic Area and/or providing management guidance will be documented on the NRCC web site.

### Northern Rockies Multi-Agency Coordinating (GMAC) Group

The Northern Rockies MAC Group will be comprised of the following:

| Agency   | Agency Fire Chief Position   |
|--|--|
| Bureau of Indian Affairs                               | Rocky Mountain and/or Pacific Northwest and/or Great Plains Region FMO |
| Bureau of Land Management                              | State FMO  |
| United States Forest Service                           | Director, FA&A   |
| Idaho Department of Lands                              | Bureau Chief, Fire & Aviation Mgmt.                                    |
| Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation | Chief, Fire Protection Bureau  |
| National Park Service                                  | Intermountain Region Operation's Specialist                            |
| North Dakota State                                     | ND Forest Service Fire Coordinator                                     |
| Montana Disaster & Emergency Services                  | Administrator  |
| U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service                           | Montana State Fire Mgmt. Officer                                       |
| Montana County Fire Wardens Association                | Representative   |
| Montana Fire Chiefs Association                        | Representative   |
| Montana Sheriffs & Peace Officers Association          | Representative   |
| Idaho Fire Chiefs Association                          | Representative   |

Table 10: NRCC GMAC Group

These individuals have delegated authority from their respective agency administrator to reallocate critical resources when necessary and to perform the same functions as national

level MAC (NMAC). Refer to the Northern Rockies Multi-Agency Coordinating Group Operating Handbook: <https://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/Agreements&OperationsPlans.htm>

### **Zone MAC Group**

The Northern Rockies Coordinating Group has implemented a management strategy in which the zone MAC groups function, within each zone, much the same as the Northern Rockies MAC group functions for the entire geographic area. Advantages of this strategy are improvement on span of control issues at all levels of our fire organizations, implementation of the prioritization process and decision making closer to the ground level and strengthening of our neighborhood sharing abilities.

Basic expectations of Zone MAC groups:

- Zone MACs will become active as needed locally and when the GMAC is activated, generally at PL 4 and 5.
- Zone MAC members will have the appropriate delegation of authority in place from zone agency administrators. This delegation should mirror the delegation each GMAC member has in place.
- Fires within each zone will be prioritized daily using the geographic area prioritization software or worksheet and forwarded to NRCC.
- The GMAC will allocate critical resources to the zones and the zone MACs will allocate and reallocate resources between fires within the zone and share resources with neighboring zones.
- Ensure initial attack capabilities are maintained within the zone.
- Ensure drawdown plans are developed and maintained for the zone and that severity resources are used most effectively.
- Conduct IC calls within the zone.
- Increase capability of managing Type 3 incidents.

### **INCIDENT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

#### **Northern Rockies Incident Support Organization (ISO)**

The NRCC Coordinator is responsible to expand incident support operations as wildfire activity increases. Offices and individuals affected by ISO operations will be notified as positions are identified and filled. During initial buildup, one person may be assigned two or more jobs. The NRCC Coordinator will keep field units informed as operations expand and when a GMAC and ISO are implemented.

*For additional details, refer to Appendix 3 of the Northern Rockies Multi-Agency Coordinating Group Operating Handbook:*

<https://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/Agreements&OperationsPlans.htm>

Each unit should prepare a plan to meet the increased demand for support staff to meet increased activity, with positions and assignments identified.

**Local Incident Support Organization**

When a local unit has an unusual number of fires burning simultaneously, or when large fires have depleted firefighting resources, there may be the need for a high degree of coordination to establish priorities that exceeds the capabilities of the normal organization. This local ISO generally is a lateral expansion of the normal fire organization and not intended to impose additional layers of supervision.

**MOBILIZATION PROCEDURES FOR MILITARY ASSETS AND INTERNATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS****Established Resource Ordering Process**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide and Military Use Handbook.*

National Guard assets may be utilized, particularly to provide assistance with crews, security, aviation, and logistical support. Release of units will follow mobilization procedures in reverse.

**Idaho National Guard**

Within the State of Idaho, Idaho Department of Lands will serve as the liaison/contact for any request for Guard assets.

All units within Idaho will order through the Boise Interagency Dispatch Center (ID-BDC) utilizing established dispatch channels. The ordering dispatch center will then notify the NRCC regarding the order.

ID-BDC will contact the Idaho Department of Land's Fire Bureau Duty Officer to place the order.

**Montana National Guard**

All units within Montana will order through NRCC utilizing established dispatch channels.

*Reference National Guard Memorandum of Agreement*

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/fire-and-aviation/fire-business/agreements-plans-and-guides>

**Civilian Support**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

**Demobilization Procedures**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

**International Operations**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

**Canada Support**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

Montana DNRC and Idaho Department of Lands have authority to mobilize Canadian resources through the Northwest Compact. *Reference* <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/fire-and-aviation/fire-business/agreements-plans-and-guides>.

### **Australia and New Zealand Support**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

### **Mexico Support**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

### **Other Nations Support for Large Scale Mobilizations**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

## **ORDERING CHANNELS**

### **Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs)**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

#### **Northern Rockies Coordination Center**

The Northern Rockies Coordination Center (NRCC) is the Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) for North Idaho, Montana, Yellowstone National Park, North Dakota and NW South Dakota. NRCC acts as a focal point for non-local resource ordering both within and outside the geographic area. Specific information on NRCC operational procedures is discussed in the Northern Rockies Coordination Center Dispatch Operating Plan.

#### **Zone Dispatch Centers**

The Northern Rockies Geographic Area (NRGA) is divided into fourteen (14) zone dispatch centers. The dispatch centers are responsible for coordinating the mobilization of resources and the collection and dissemination of intelligence information on the incidents within their local areas of jurisdiction. These dispatch centers serve as the link between NRCC and their agency managers and cooperators. Standardized procedures will be used at each dispatching level within the NRGA.

The Units and Agencies each center dispatches for are as follows:

#### **Billings Interagency Dispatch Center (MT-BDC)**

- Billings Field Office, BLM (MT-BID)
- Billings Fire Cache, BLM (MT-BFK) (Personnel and Supplies dispatch)
- Billings Weather Service, NWS (MT-BLW) (Personnel dispatch)
- Custer-Gallatin National Forest, Beartooth Ranger District, USFS (MT-CGF)
- Crow Agency, BIA (MT-CRA)
- Montana/Dakotas State Office, BLM (MT-MSO) (Personnel dispatch)
- Rocky Mountain Regional Office, BIA (MT-RMA) (Personnel dispatch)
- Southern Land Office, MT DNRC (MT-SOS)

#### **Bitterroot Dispatch Center (MT-BRC)**

- Bitterroot National Forest, USFS (MT-BRF)
- Lee Matcalf National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (MT-LMR)

#### **Bozeman Interagency Dispatch Center (MT-BZC)**

- Central Land Office - Bozeman Unit, MT DNRC (MT-CES)
- Custer-Gallatin National Forest, USFS (MT-CGF)
- Yellowstone National Park, NPS (WY-YNP)

#### **Coeur d'Alene Interagency Dispatch Center (ID-CDC)**

- Cataldo Area Office, IDL (ID-CAS)
- Coeur d'Alene Fire Cache, IDL (ID-CDK) (Personnel and Supplies dispatch)
- Coeur d'Alene Staff Office, IDL (ID-CDS) (Personnel dispatch)
- Coeur d'Alene Tribe (ID-CDT)
- Coeur d'Alene Field Office, BLM (ID-COD)
- Idaho Department of Lands, IDL (ID-IDS) (Personnel dispatch)
- Idaho Panhandle National Forest, USFS (ID-IPF)
- Kootenai Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ID-KOR)
- Kootenai Valley Area Office, IDL (ID-KVS)
- Mica Area Office, IDL (ID-MIS)
- Priest Lake Area Office, IDL (ID-PLS)
- Pend Oreille Area Office, IDL (ID-POS)
- West St Joe Area Office, IDL (ID-SJS)

#### **Dillon Interagency Dispatch Center (MT-DDC)**

- Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, USFS (MT-BDF)
- Big Hole National Battlefield, NPS (MT-BHP)
- Butte Field Office, BLM (MT-BUD)
- Central Land Office - Dillon Unit, MT DNRC (MT-CES)
- Dillon Field Office, BLM (MT-DFD)
- Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, NPS (MT-GKP)
- Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (MT-RLR)
- Southwest Land Office - Anaconda Unit, MT DNRC (MT-SWS)

#### **Grangeville Interagency Dispatch Center (ID-GVC)**

- Craig Mountain Area Office, IDL (ID-CMS)
- Clearwater Potlach Timber Protective Association, IDL (ID-CTS)
- Cottonwood Field Office, BLM (ID-CWD)
- Clearwater Area Office, IDL (ID-CWS)
- Maggie Creek Area Office, IDL (ID-MCS)
- Nez Perce - Clearwater National Forest, USFS (ID-NCF)
- Nez Perce National Historic Park, NPS (ID-NPP)
- Nez Perce Tribe (ID-NPT)
- Ponderosa Area Office, IDL (ID-PDS)

**Great Falls Interagency Dispatch Center (MT-GDC)**

- Blackfeet Agency, BIA (MT-BFA)
- Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (MT-BLR)
- Central Land Office - Conrad Unit, MT DNRC (MT-CES)
- Fort Belknap Agency, BIA (MT-FBA)
- Great Falls Weather Service, NWS (MT-GFW) (Personnel dispatch)
- Helena - Lewis and Clark National Forest, USFS (MT-HLF)
- Rocky Boy Agency, BIA (MT-RBA)

**Helena Interagency Dispatch Center (MT-HDC)**

- Central Land Office -Helena Unit, MT DNRC (MT-CES)
- Helena - Lewis and Clark National Forest, USFS (MT-HLF)
- Southwest Land Office - Lincoln Field Office, MT DNRC (MT-SWS)

**Kalispell Interagency Dispatch Center (MT-KIC)**

- Flathead National Forest, USFS (MT-FNF)
- Glacier National Park, NPS (MT-GNP)
- Northwest Land Office - Kalispell, Plains, Stillwater and Swan Lake Units, MT DNRC (MT-NWS)

**Kootenai Interagency Dispatch Center (MT-KDC)**

- Kootenai National Forest, USFS (MT-KNF)
- Northwest Land Office – Libby Unit, MT DNRC (MT-NWS)

**Lewistown Interagency Dispatch Center (MT-LEC)**

- Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (MT-BWR)
- Charles M Russell National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (MT-CMR)
- Fort Peck Agency, BIA (MT-FPA)
- Glasgow Weather Service, NWS (MT-GGW) (Personnel dispatch)
- North Central District Office, BLM (MT-NCD)
- Northeastern Land Office, MT DNRC (MT-NES)

**Miles City Interagency Dispatch Center (MT-MCC)**

- Charles M Russell National Wildlife Refuge – Jordan Field Station, USFWS (MT-CMR)
- Custer-Gallatin National Forest - Ashland and Sioux Ranger Districts, USFS (MT-CGF)
- Eastern Land Office, MT DNRC (MT-EAS)
- Miles City Field Office, BLM (MT-MCD)
- Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (MT-MLR)
- Northern Cheyenne Agency, BIA (MT-NCA)
- North Dakota Field Office, BLM (ND-NDD)
- South Dakota Field Office, BLM (SD-SDD)

**Missoula Interagency Dispatch Center (MT-MDC)**

- Flathead Agency, BIA (MT-FHA)
- Lolo National Forest, USFS (MT-LNF)
- Missoula Field Office, BLM (MT-MFD)
- Missoula Weather Service, NWS (MT-MSW) (Personnel dispatch)
- Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, MT DNRC (MT-MTS) (Personnel dispatch)
- National Bison Range, USFWS (MT-NBR)
- Northern Rockies Fire Cache, USFS (MT-NRK) (Personnel and Supplies dispatch)
- Northern Region, USFS (MT-R01) (Personnel dispatch)
- Missoula Fire Lab, RMRS USFS (CO-RMRF) (Personnel dispatch)
- Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, USFS (CO-RMRF) (Personnel dispatch)
- Southwestern Land Office, Missoula and Clearwater Units (MT-SWS)
- Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, USFS (DC-WOF) (Personnel dispatch)
- Missoula Technology and Development Center, USFS (DC-WOF) (Personnel dispatch)

**North Dakota Interagency Dispatch Center (ND-NDC)**

- Audubon National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ND-ADR)
- Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge USFWS (ND-AWR)
- Bismarck Weather Service, NWS (ND-BMW) (Personnel dispatch)
- Crosby Wetland Management District, USFWS (ND-CDR)
- Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ND-CLR)
- Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ND-DLR)
- Dakota Prairie National Grasslands, USFS (ND-NPF)
- Devil's Lake National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ND-DVR)
- Fort Berthold Agency, BIA (ND-FBA)
- Fort Totten Agency, BIA (ND-FTA)
- Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site, NPS (ND-FUP)
- Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery, USFWS (ND-GDR)
- Grand Forks Weather Service, NWS (ND-GFW) (Personnel dispatch)
- International Peace Gardens, NPS (ND-IPP)
- J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ND-JCR)
- Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, NPS (ND-KRP)
- Lake Ilo National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ND-LIR)
- Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ND-LLR)
- Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ND-LWR)
- North Dakota Forest Service, NDS (ND-NDS)
- Sullys Hill National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ND-SHR)
- Turtle Mountain Agency, BIA (ND-TMA)
- Theodore Roosevelt National Park, NPS (ND-TRP)



- Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS (ND-USR)
- Valley City Wetland Management District, USFWS (ND-VCR)
- Valley City National Fish Hatchery, USFWS (ND-VFR)

### Ordering Procedures

Resource order requests to meet incident, preparedness, severity, wildland, or prescribed fire needs will be processed using the Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC). Unique requirements or specifications of any request will be identified in the special needs section of the resource order.

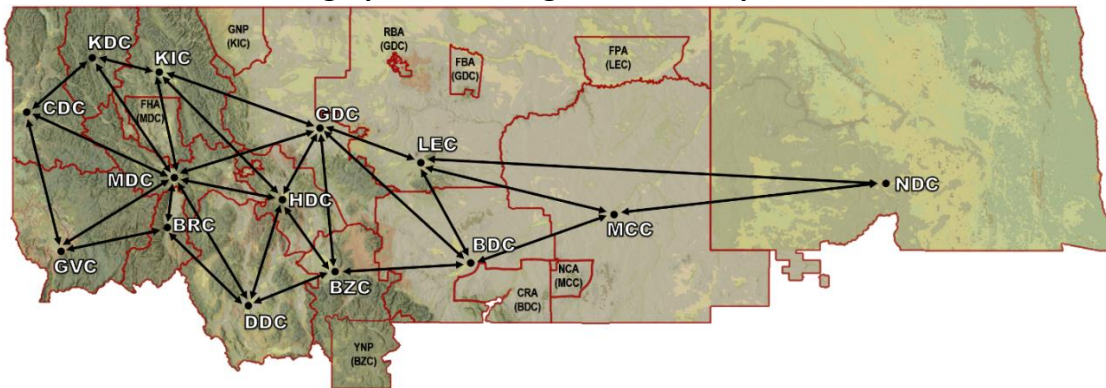
### Neighborhood Ordering

All dispatch centers may order resources directly from their neighbor(s). The following table defines the neighborhood for each dispatch center: *(Note: Out of Area IROC selection areas are not shown.)*

| DISPATCH   | CAN ORDER DIRECTLY FROM ...            |
|------------|--|
| <b>BDC</b> | BZC, GDC, LEC, MCC                     |
| <b>BRC</b> | DDC, GVC, MDC                          |
| <b>BZC</b> | BDC, DDC, GDC, HDC                     |
| <b>CDC</b> | GVC, KDC, MDC                          |
| <b>DDC</b> | BRC, BZC, GDC, HDC, MDC                |
| <b>GDC</b> | BDC, BZC, DDC, KIC, HDC, LEC, MDC      |
| <b>GVC</b> | BRC, CDC, MDC                          |
| <b>HDC</b> | BZC, DDC, KIC, GDC, MDC                |
| <b>KIC</b> | GDC, HDC, KDC, MDC                     |
| <b>KDC</b> | CDC, KIC, MDC                          |
| <b>LEC</b> | BDC, GDC, MCC, NDC                     |
| <b>MCC</b> | BDC, LEC, NDC                          |
| <b>MDC</b> | BRC, CDC, DDC, GDC, GVC, HDC, KDC, KIC |
| <b>NDC</b> | MCC, LEC                               |

Table 11: NRCC Direct Order

### Northern Rockies Geographic Area Neighborhood Map



**BDC – Billings Dispatch Center – Neighbors: BZC, GDC, LEC, MCC**

(Billings, MT) dispatches for CRA, RMA, BID, MSO, SOS, BLW, BFK, and CGF-Beartooth RD

**BRC – Bitterroot Dispatch Center – Neighbors: DDC, GVC, MDC**

(Hamilton, MT) dispatches for BRF, LMR

**BZC – Bozeman Dispatch Center – Neighbors: BDC, DDC, GDC, HDC**

(Bozeman, MT) dispatches for CGF, CES-BZN, and YNP

**CDC – Coeur d’Alene Dispatch Center – Neighbors: GVC, KDC, MDC**

(Coeur d’Alene, ID) dispatches for IPF, CDS, CAS, KVS, MIS, PLS, POS, SJS, CDT, COD, KOR, and CDK

**DDC – Dillon Dispatch Center – Neighbors: BRC, BZC, HDC, MDC**

(Dillon, MT) dispatches for BDF, CES-DLN, SWS-ANA, BUD, DFD, RLR, BHP, and GKP

**GDC – Great Falls Dispatch Center – Neighbors: BDC, BZC, KIC, HDC, LEC, MDC**

(Great Falls, MT) dispatches for HLF, CES-CON, BFA, FBA, RBA, BLR, and GFW

**GVC – Grangeville Dispatch Center – Neighbors: BRC, CDC, MDC**

(Grangeville, ID) dispatches for NCF, CMS, CTS, CWS, MCS, PDS, NPT, CWD, and NPP

**HDC – Helena Dispatch Center – Neighbors: BZC, DDC, KIC, GDC, MDC**

(Helena, MT) dispatches for HLF, CES-HLN

**KDC – Kootenai Dispatch Center – Neighbors: CDC, KIC, MDC**

(Libby, MT) dispatches for KNF, NWS-LIB

**KIC – Kalispell Interagency Dispatch Center – Neighbors: GDC, HDC, KDC, MDC**

(Kalispell, MT) dispatches for FNF, GNP, NWS-PLS, NWS-SWN, NWS-KAL, and NWS-STW

**LEC – Lewistown Dispatch Center – Neighbors: BDC, GDC, MCC, NDC**

(Lewistown, MT) dispatches for NCD, NES, BWR, CMR (West Side), FPA, GGW

**MCC – Miles City Dispatch Center – Neighbors: BDC, LEC, NDC**

(Miles City, MT) dispatches for CGF (Sioux & Ashland RD), NDD, SDD, MCD, EAS, CMR (East Side), MLR, NCA

**MDC – Missoula Dispatch Center – Neighbors: BRC, CDC, DDC, GDC, HDC, KDC, KIC, GVC**

(Missoula, MT) dispatches for LNF, R01, WOF, INT, MTS, SWS, FHA, MFD, NBR, MSW, and NRK

**NDC – North Dakota Dispatch Center – Neighbors: MCC, LEC**

(Bismarck, ND) dispatches for DPF, NDS, FBA, FTA, TMA, ADR, AWR, CLR, CRR, DLR, DVR, GDR, JCR, LIR, LLR, LWR, SHR, USR, VCR, VFR, FUP, IPP, KRP, TRP, SLT, BMW, GFW

The following conditions must be met when resource ordering via the neighborhood:

- The filling dispatch center will post resource identification data and travel information in the travel component of IROC. Reference Units Operating without IROC in this chapter for travel reporting procedures used by centers not using IROC. The same notification procedures also apply for resource demobilization.
- Dispatch centers may not reassign their neighbors' resource outside the zone if that resource was ordered with the understanding that the resource's home dispatch center could recall them on short notice (on a short leash). If this is the case, dispatch centers must obtain approval from the resource's home dispatch center. (E.g. MDC cannot reassign a KIC engine to DDC without first getting approval from KIC) prior to reassignment.
- Dispatch centers should place orders for available resources with their neighbors prior to placing an order with NRCC. **NRCC will NOT normally place orders to a center's neighbors, unless the neighborhood policy has been terminated by NRCC as outlined below.**
- The NRCC Center Manager may terminate the neighborhood policy if the geographic/national fire situation dictates and after consultation with zone dispatch center managers.

### States of Idaho and Montana Direct Ordering

- The State of Idaho is in two geographic areas (Northern Rockies and Great Basin). For the movement of ONLY Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) resources, Idaho state compacted resources; Idaho Fire Service Organizations and IDL exclusive use contractors (All referred to as IDL resources); Local dispatch centers in the Great Basin (Boise, East Idaho, Central Idaho and South Central Idaho) will send requests for North Idaho IDL resources to the Northern Rockies Coordination Center (MT-NRC), Local dispatch centers in the Northern Rockies (Coeur d'Alene and Grangeville) will send requests for Southern Idaho IDL resources to the Great Basin Coordination Center (UT-GBC). All dispatch centers ensure that the special needs block clearly states for "IDL Resource". Only IDL resources may be dispatched through this ordering process. Resource requests for non-IDL resources must follow conventional ordering procedures.
- The State of Montana DNRC allows the direct ordering of state resource helicopters from the aircraft's host dispatch center. *Reference Chapter 50, Ordering DNRC Statewide Helicopters.*

### Support to Border Fires

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

### Ordering Between Dispatch Centers across GACC Boundaries

- 3rd tier dispatch centers adjacent to one another in the Eastern, Great Basin, Northwest, Rocky Mountain, and Northern Rockies Geographic Areas may engage in resource ordering across GACC boundaries. Formal agreements or MOUs will be required if there is any exchange of funds or a need for cross-billing authorities. Adjacent is defined as having adjoined or sharing a common border.

- NREGA 3rd tier dispatch centers will work with their GACC and local fire management organizations on an annual basis to determine the types of resources (for example, single overhead resources, hand crews, equipment) and/or types of incidents (for example, initial attack/mutual aid, prescribed burning activities) to support neighboring zones and document in standard operating procedures.
- The sending GACC must grant approval to the local center before any National or Geographic type resources are sent across GACC boundaries. Additional approval will be required as dictated by geographic and national preparedness levels and incident/resource prioritization.
- Only local agency or cooperator resources from each zone will be used. Resources sent across GACC boundaries cannot be reassigned without prior approval from the sending GACC and the sending local unit. All requests will be placed through the Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC). Dispatch centers will work with local managers to determine the length of commitment for dispatched resources.
- Greater Yellowstone Area Neighborhood ordering: Ordering within the GYA will cross three geographic area boundaries. The neighborhood and closest forces concepts will be followed. When a local dispatch center determines that the closest resource is within the GYA, but outside of their selection area they must document in special needs: “Name request based on the GYA agreement”, and process according to normal dispatch channels. Only Federal Agency owned resources maybe ordered. National and Contracted resources are not part of this ordering process without GACC approvals being obtained.

### **Mobilization and Demobilization Information**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

All zone dispatch centers in the NREGA will use IROC to pass travel information between zones and to NRCC. IROC travel options are as follows:

- **No Travel** - Used when a resource has no documented travel.
- **Set Travel ETD/ETA** (Estimated Time of Departure/Arrival) – Used when travel is short, and a travel itinerary is not required.
- **Set Travel ATD/ETE** (Actual Time of Departure/Estimated Time En route) – Used for tactical aircraft resources.
- **Travel to Be Arranged** – Resource requires travel to be arranged, but that travel is not being documented at this time
- **Travel Itinerary** – Used when a detailed itinerary consisting of multiple travel legs is documented. Use standard airline abbreviations as feasible:

AS – Alaska Airlines

AA – American Airlines

DL – Delta

UA – United

NW – Northwest

WN – Southwest

FE – Frontier

G4 – Allegiant

Dispatch centers must monitor the travel screen closely to identify resource departures and arrivals. IROC Cognos reports are also available to obtain additional travel information

**Electronic Travel Notifications**

Dispatch centers will relay travel information via electronic data transmission methods. This will be accomplished via IROC or other suitable electronic data communications system, including government email.

In addition to posting travel in IROC, all information regarding tactical aircraft travel will be relayed by telephone. Information regarding administrative aircraft travel will be communicated by telephone in addition to relaying an Aircraft Flight Request/Flight Schedule.

Emergency release requests notifications will be confirmed via telephone.

**Non-incident Related Ordering**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

**Northern Rockies Lend/Lease of Resources**

The Northern Rockies Lend/Lease of Resources is an informal agreement between incidents that provides an avenue to share critical resources for short periods of time to fill critical operational needs. This is an effective and efficient way of managing resources that are either unavailable or where incidents only need these resources for a limited time. Incidents that are within close proximity can lend (share) resources for periods of 1 to 3 days without reassigning the resources in IROC.

Lend/Lease is not appropriate for resources that are assigned on a Severity, Prepositioning, Staging or other support order, then mobilized to an incident for initial or extended attack hosted by a different jurisdictional agency where interagency billing is likely to occur. Those resources should be assigned to the incident, regardless of length, then reassigned or released back to the original incident when the operational need is resolved. Lend/lease is for incident-to-incident use only.

*Reference the NRCG Incident Business Committee Lend/Lease of Resources document for additional information:*

<https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/committees/business/toolbox/miscellaneous/LendLeaseNRsuggestions2018.pdf>

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