

**GREAT PLAINS INTERSTATE FIRE COMPACT  
OPERATING PLAN**



**Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota,  
South Dakota, Wyoming, and the Province of Saskatchewan**

*Effective: October, 2024*

## Table of Contents

Section	Title	Page(s)
I.	Authority	3
II.	Purpose	3
III.	Administration of Compact	4
IV.	Compact Officers and Duties	4 - 5
V.	Terminology and Command Systems	5
VI.	General Procedures	5 - 6
A.	Request	6
B.	Personnel	6 - 7
C.	Equipment and Supplies	7
D.	Aircraft	8
E.	Recall	8
F.	Billing and Payment	8 - 9
G.	Review	9
	Agency Signatures	10
Appendix A.	Authorized Member Agency Officials and/or Duty Officers	11 - 12
Appendix B.	Authorized Member Agency Reimbursement / Business Contacts	13 - 14

## **I. Authority**

Interstate compacts for the prevention and control of wildland fires are authorized by the Weeks Law of 1911, Public Law 110-79, and supporting agreements to the States Emergency Management Assistance Compacts. The Colorado Legislature authorized participation in CRS 24-60-3301; the Kansas Legislature authorized participation in HB2140; the Nebraska Legislature authorized participation in Neb. R.S.S. 35-201; the New Mexico Legislature authorized participation in the compact in NMSA 1978, Section 68-3-1; the North Dakota Legislature authorized participation in NDCC 18-14-01; the Saskatchewan Legislature authorized participation under the Wildfire Act Section 76(2); the South Dakota Legislature authorized participation in SDCL 34-35-20; the Wyoming Legislature authorized participation in WSA 36-2-110.; the Arizona State Legislature authorized participated in HB-2751. This Interstate Compact for the Prevention and Control of Wildland Fires is referred to as the Great Plains Interstate Fire Compact or Compact. Compact authorities and legislation are located in the Compact User Guide.

## **II. Purpose**

This Operating Plan (OP) facilitates assistance in prevention, pre-suppression, control of wildland fires, management of prescribed fires, training and mitigation, and recovery activities between the member agencies of the Compact. This OP does not override or supersede any existing cooperative wildland firefighting arrangements, such as federal/state/provincial agreements, nor does it prohibit future cooperative agreements. Compact resource exchanges are not part of the national mobilization process, but need to be coordinated as soon as possible for strategic planning purposes. Compact members may negotiate within their respective States and Provinces. Member Agencies include the States of Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming, and the Province of Saskatchewan.

All Compact resources from Sending Agencies ordered through the Compact will be managed according to the protocols of the Ordering Agency provided these protocols do not impede on Sending Agency rules, agreements, and protocols.

Pursuant to Public Law 110-79 Article 8, the Great Plains Fire Compact will render aid to member states including, but not limited to, the Northeast, Big Rivers, Mid-Atlantic, South Central, Southeast, and Great Lakes Compacts in accordance with the Compact User Guide.

Local, cross jurisdictional operating plans developed under the authority of the Compact may also be developed for local geographic areas that incorporate the closest forces concept to facilitate initial attack.

## **III. Administration of the Compact**

Each participating Compact member shall have the right to designate up to three Compact administrators to an interstate compact board to be known as the Great Plains Interstate Fire Compact Board. The administrators from each Compact member are listed in Appendix A of this OP.

The Compact became effective upon the adoption of laws by two of the Compact members and when ratified by Congress and signed by the President. Additional Compact members may request to join when their legislatures adopt such laws that approve and ratify participation. This is subject for approval by the current Compact members when a request is made to join.

At an annual meeting, the duly designated administrators shall review and revise if necessary this OP and the User Guide containing the required provisions for enabling the board to carry out the purpose of this OP.

At such meeting or at any subsequent meetings, the administrators composing such board (three from each Compact member) shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among their members and such other officers as seem expedient and shall prescribe the duties of such officers. A quorum is a simple majority of the compact members. A two-thirds majority of administrators present, representing all Compact member agencies, shall be sufficient to form a quorum for the transaction of business. The Compact board shall meet from time to time and at such places or locations as it shall deem necessary and proper or shall meet upon the call of the chair and such call shall designate the time and place of meeting and the purpose thereof. Meetings will be held by methods as Compact members deem appropriate.

The board shall keep a written record of its meetings and proceedings and shall annually make a report thereof to be submitted to the duly designated official of each compacting party. Each party to the Compact shall pay for the expenses of its administrators on the board.

#### **IV. Compact Officers and Duties**

##### **A. Compact Chairperson is responsible for:**

1. Serving a two-year term, to expire on an even numbered overlap year; Chairperson will transition with the incoming chair at the first meeting of said overlap year;
2. Calling, at a minimum, one meeting per year to review and update the OP;
3. Being the point of contact and representing or arranging for representation for the Compact in all matters; and
4. Representing the Compact at the annual Alliance of Forest Fire Compacts meeting, or any other meeting or function that deals in whole or in part with problems, program, or issues in which the Great Plains Interstate Fire Compact (GPIFC) has an interest and would benefit from such representation; if unable to make travel, meeting, or conference obligations, the Chairperson will appoint a representative in his or her place.

##### **B. Compact Vice Chairperson is responsible for:**

1. Serving a two-year term, to run from first meeting of the calendar year that his or her term expires of odd numbered years;

2. Serving as the Chairperson in the absence or disability of the elected Chairperson, with all the power and authority of the Chair's office;
3. Documenting and distributing minutes from all meetings called by the Chairperson;
4. Receiving, storing, and making available all correspondence or communiqués regarding Compact business; and
5. Composing an annual report for distribution as needed.

Transfer of office, for both Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will occur at the first meeting of the calendar year that their term expires. Records kept by the outgoing officer will be transferred to the incoming officer and will be permanently housed on the GPIFC Google Drive or successor system.

An established succession rotation will be followed to determine the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, the incoming Chairperson, and incoming Vice Chairperson. A table of the succession plan can be found in the Compact User Guide.

## **V. Terminology and Command Systems**

To establish a “common” understanding, words and phrases as used in this OP are defined in the Compact User Guide. The member agencies recognize and accept command structures of each Agency. Resources may be defined or configured differently by each Member Agency.

## **VI. General Procedures**

Ordering of Compact resources may be initiated by designated agency officials or duty officers as listed in Appendix A. No federal employees or federal equipment can be ordered through this Compact.

Ordering of Compact resources between compact members will be executed by phone call from one Compact Member Agency to another Member Agency, with follow-up documentation via e-mail as outlined in Section VI., Part A (Request) section of this OP.

If any one of the Compact Member Agencies are contacted by a member state of another Compact state/province/territory or compact administrator with a request for assistance to another compact, the Chairperson of the Compact will immediately set up a conference call or email with all the Compact member states and discuss what aid can be provided to the requesting compact (see Compact User Guide for list of other compacts).

### **A. Request**

1. Requests for assistance will be channeled by the most expeditious means to the appropriate authorized official as listed in Appendix A.
2. Each Member Agency will be responsible for providing the Compact members with the names and phone numbers of the authorized Compact Member Agency officials or duty officers by the first meeting of the year.

3. The Ordering Agency may complete a Letter of Authorization to be used by both parties.
4. Reimbursement of resources ordered will be agreed upon at time of request and may be based on established rates or mutually beneficial arrangements.
5. Each Member Agency's resource order forms are acceptable for resource order requests. The Ordering Agency assigns the billing number. A resource order template has been included for optional use (see Compact User Guide), or the interagency Incident Resource Ordering Capability (IROC) system may be utilized.
6. The Compact administrator providing resources will notify the appropriate dispatch center of resources requested/assigned as appropriate.
7. The ordering Compact administrator will document details of the Compact resource request and submit documentation to the Compact Vice Chairperson.

## **B. Personnel**

1. Reimbursement for personnel will be on the following basis: All costs submitted for payment by the Sending Agency will be reimbursed by the Ordering Agency, in accordance with the salary schedules or union contracts in existence with the Sending Agency unless resource rates are established prior to resource mobilization. An Agency may prefer to set a flat fee for service.
2. At their discretion, Sending Agencies may choose not to charge the Ordering Agency for base hours of State or Provincial employees.
3. When appropriate, an Agency may request a liaison. The Ordering Agency will reimburse the costs of the liaison.
4. In general, the Ordering Agency agrees to accept the Sending Agency's standards for training, fitness, personal protective equipment, and workers compensation. If the Ordering Agency must meet additional safety equipment/supply standards than the Sending Agency standards, it is the Ordering Agency's responsibility to supply the required equipment, supplies, and associated training (i.e. fire shelter training). Should the resources be transferred to another incident, those standards may not apply (i.e. fires under federal agency jurisdiction).
5. Each Agency assigning personnel to a resource order certifies that the personnel assigned meet the requirements of the position ordered.
6. Personnel (*e.g.* trainees) may be ordered for a position in which they are not fully qualified. The assignment specifics shall be negotiated between the Sending and Ordering Agencies. Personnel assigned as part of a resource order will receive an incident briefing by the Ordering Agency prior to fireline deployment and should be debriefed prior to demobilization. Evaluations will be provided to the Sending Agency.
7. Agencies will comply with customs clearing procedures as applicable.
8. The Sending Agency will ensure that its personnel are adequately covered

- for any hospital or medical costs incurred while on assignment.
9. Notwithstanding item number 8, the Ordering Agency will ensure that immediate medical services be afforded any member of the personnel on assignment regardless of the nature of the requirement or the type of medical aid required.
  10. Any accident or serious incident involving personnel on assignment must be immediately reported to the Sending Agency's authorized official. The Sending Agency may request to participate in the investigation, or may, at its own expense, and with the assistance of the Ordering Agency, undertake its own investigation.
  11. The Sending Agency shall identify the length of assignment and rest and rotation for personnel at the time of request. Daily work hours will consist of a minimum of twelve-hour days, unless otherwise determined. Any extension of assignment will be by mutual agreement of the involved Compact Administrators.
  12. Ordering Agencies can redeploy resources within their State or Province as long as they remain under the operational control of that Ordering Agency. Notification to the Sending Agency is not required prior to reassignment, but should be completed when practicable.

### **C. Equipment and Supplies**

1. Expendable supplies and materials shall be considered purchased on delivery and the Ordering Agency will reimburse full replacement costs. Items shall be considered expendable if they are not reusable.
2. Non-expendable and accountable equipment and supplies will be credited to the Ordering Agency upon return to the Sending Agency. The cost of refurbishing is reimbursable to the Sending Agency unless the Sending Agency agrees that the Ordering Agency will perform the work.
3. Any equipment or supplies damaged beyond repair or not returned will be either replaced by the Ordering Agency with new equipment or supplies of the same quantity to the Sending Agency's standard or the Ordering Agency will reimburse the full replacement costs as per written documentation. Fiscal reimbursement is the preferred method for replacing lost or damaged equipment when crossing international borders.
4. Providing communications equipment is the Ordering Agency's responsibility, or as otherwise specified by agreement by the Ordering and Sending Agencies.
5. The Ordering Agency will pay for and obtain for any permits required for interstate travel for equipment.

### **D. Aircraft**

1. Costs for aircraft being obtained through this Compact operating plan are defined by the Sending Agency. These costs may include:
  - a. hourly flight time;

- b. daily availability;
  - c. fuel and oil (if purchased by the Sending Agency);
  - d. landing fees;
  - e. mechanic/fuel truck mileage;
  - f. extended hourly rate on pilot and driver; and
  - g. suppressing agent (foam, retardant, gel, etc.)
2. Air crew wages are included in the hourly flight time or hourly/daily availability, unless otherwise specified by the Sending Agency.
  3. Crew meals, accommodations, and ground transportation are reimbursable if not supplied by the Ordering Agency.
  4. Normal, routine maintenance is the responsibility of the aircraft contractor or owner and is not reimbursable.
  5. The Ordering Agency will follow Sending Agency contract stipulations.
  6. The Order Agency is responsible for damage to an aircraft caused as a direct result of its personnel's actions and are reimbursable.
  7. Length of assignment and recall conditions will be defined at the time of deployment. Any extension of assignment will be by mutual agreement of the involved Compact Administrators.
  8. Special considerations will be mutually agreed to prior to dispatch.

#### **E. Recall or Release**

Forty-eight hours recall or release notice for resources will be given from the Sending Agency whenever possible. The Ordering Agency will make every effort to meet the 48-hour notice.

#### **F. Billing and Payment**

1. Ordering Agency will respect Sending Agency's billing guidelines.
2. All billings will include the Ordering Agency's resource order number and request number if applicable, and shall be itemized by incident and by sectional provisions of this guideline.
3. Member Agencies will not normally bill each other for administrative costs (indirect cost), or as agreed to at time of order.
4. Bills shall be submitted to the billing addresses listed in Appendix B within 180 days from the end of an assignment, but may be extended when agreed upon between both Ordering and Sending Agencies.
5. Invoices for goods and services provided by Canada to the U.S. will be paid for in the equivalent Canadian dollars. Invoices for goods and services provided by the U.S. to Canada will be paid for in the equivalent U.S. dollars. It is the intent that the Sending Agency receive full payment of its bill, regardless of the current exchange rate. The rate shall be the exchange rate at the date resources are deployed and will not fluctuate. If an invoice is revised, the exchange rate will be at the date that the original resource order was issued, unless mutually agreed to otherwise.
6. Incidental Communication Recovery Rate (ICRR) - As employees are

often required to report back to their state/province/territory, an ICRR of \$150.00 per deployment may be included on resource orders and invoices submitted to the Ordering Agency. The ICRR includes those costs incurred by the Sending Agency Representative, Air Attack Officer (Nationally Certified) or designate including single resources, from the time the Sending Agency personnel depart and return to their home base. The ICRR costs may include, but may not be limited to: internet usage, telephone costs, data service fees, satellite, and cellular phone charges. Any extenuating circumstance where additional deployment costs are incurred by the Sending Agency while mobilizing personnel or demobilizing personnel to their home state/province/territory may be negotiated between the Sending Agency and the Ordering Agency as a separate expenditure in addition to the ICRR.

#### **G. Review**

This OP shall be reviewed annually and updated as appropriate. This OP was last reviewed and updated in October of 2024. Contact information in Appendices A and B can be updated and added to the currently approved version of the OP as needed.

[Signatures begin on next page.]

**Agency Signatures**

*John Truett* 10/22/2024  
Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management Date

**Vaughn T. Jones** Digitally signed by Vaughn T. Jones  
Date: 2024.09.30 08:54:08 -06'00'

Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control Date  
**Matthew M. McCombs** Digitally signed by Matthew M. McCombs  
Date: 2024.10.24 13:55:57 -06'00'

Colorado State Forest Service Date

*Jason M. Hartman* 10/11/2024  
Kansas Forest Service Date

Nebraska Forest Service Date

*[Signature]* 10/01/2025

New Mexico, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department Forestry Division Date

*Tom Clays* 2-11-2025  
North Dakota Forest Service Date

*A. Roberts* Vice President - Operations 2-30-2024  
Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency Date

*Jerod DeLay* 11/06/2024  
South Dakota Department of Public Safety, Wildland Fire Date

**Jerod DeLay** Digitally signed by Jerod DeLay  
Date: 2024.09.30 16:07:10 -06'00'  
Wyoming State Forestry Division Date

**Appendix A**  
**Authorized Member Agency Officials or Duty Officers**  
**(as of May 24, 2024)**

<b>State / Province</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Cell</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Arizona	John Truett	(602) 771-1409	(619) 204-6196	jtruett@dfm.az.gov
Colorado - DFPC	Vaughn Jones	(303) 909-5735	(303) 239-5887	Vaughn.Jones@state.co.us
Colorado - DFPC	Duty Officer	(720) 460-9367	(303) 239-5881	dfpcdutyofficer@gmail.com
Colorado - CSFS	Dan Beveridge	(970) 491-8755	(970) 556-2352	dbeverid@colostate.edu
Kansas	Bill Waln	(785) 532-3314	(620) 899-6604	bwaln@ksu.edu
Kansas	Duty Officer	(785) 532-3321	N/A	kfsfdo@ksu.edu
Kansas	Rodney Redinger	(620) 728-4464	(316) 706-5965	rodney2@ksu.edu
Nebraska	Irv Portis	(402) 471-7401	(402) 540-2238	irv.portis@nebraska.gov
Nebraska	John Erixson	(402) 472-6601	(402) 853-8717	jerixson2@unl.edu
Nebraska	Matt Holte	(402) 472-6060	(307) 287-9125	mholte2@unl.edu
New Mexico	Vernon Muller	(505) 476-3337	(505) 690-1069	VernonJ.Muller@state.nm.us
New Mexico	Robert Brown	(505) 476-3350	(505) 660-5705	Robert.Brown@state.nm.us
New Mexico	Michael Gonzales	N/A	(505) 681-6613	Michael.M.Gonzales@emnrd.nm.gov
North Dakota	Ryan Melin	(710) 328-9985	(701) 220-1475	Ryan.Melin@ndsu.edu

North Dakota	Hunter Noor	(701) 328-9723	(320) 339-3622	Hunter.Noor@ndsu.edu
North Dakota	Aaron Bucholz	(701) 328-9946	(701) 934-4149	Aaron.Bucholz@ndsu.edu
Saskatchewan	Steve Roberts	(306) 953-2206	(306) 961-2964	Steve.Roberts@gov.sk.ca
Saskatchewan	Bryan Chartrand	(306) 953-3429	(306) 425-0185	Bryan.Chartrand@gov.sk.ca
Saskatchewan	Provincial Duty Desk	(306) 953-3430	(307) 214-7853	FFMBDispatch@gov.sk.ca
South Dakota	SDWF Duty Officer	N/A	(605) 301-0563	sdwfdutyofficer@gmail.com
South Dakota	Cody Griffie	(605) 584-2300	(605) 641-7035	Cody.Griffie@state.sd.us
South Dakota	Jay Wickham	(605) 393-4232	(605) 415-5422	Jay.Wickham@state.sd.us
Wyoming	Jerod Delay	(307) 777-3368	(307) 286-6315	Jerod.Delay@wyo.gov
Wyoming	Chris Fallbeck	(307) 777-8017	(307) 631-2594	Chris.Fallbeck@wyo.gov
Wyoming	Nathan Butler	(307) 746-4436	(307) 631-1676	Nathan.Butler@wyo.gov

**Appendix B**  
**Authorized Member Agency Reimbursement / Incident Business Contacts**  
**(as of May 24, 2024)**

<b>State / Province</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Cell</b>	<b>Email and Mailing Addresses</b>
Arizona	John Truett	(602) 771-1409	(619) 204-6196	jtruett@dfm.az.gov
Colorado DFPC	Erin Claussen	(720) 544-2262	(303) 263-5937	Erin.Claussen@state.co.us 7385 Greendale Road Windsor, CO 80550
Colorado CSFS	Keith Lippwe	(970) 491-5488	(970) 491-7736	Keith.Lippwe@colostate.edu 5060 Campus Delivery, Building 1050 Fort Collins, CO 80523
Kansas	Aimee Hawkes	(785) 323-0330	N/A	aimeeh2@ksu.edu 2610 Claflin Road Manhattan, KS 66502
Nebraska	Matt Holte	(402) 472-6060	(307) 297-9135	mholte2@unl.edu 101 B Forestry Hall P.O. Box 830815 Lincoln, NE 68583-0815
New Mexico	Francine Cordova	(505) 476-3312	(505) 629-8318	<a href="mailto:Francine.Cordova@state.nm.us">Francine.Cordova@state.nm.us</a> 1220 South St Francis Dr Santa Fe, NM 87505
North Dakota	Loretta Forsberg	(701) 228-5486	N/A	loretta.forsberg@ndsu.edu 307 - 1st Street East Bottineau, ND 58318

Saskatchewan	Steve Roberts	(306) 953-2206	(306) 961-2964	steve.roberts@gov.sk.ca P.O. Box 55005, Hwy #2 North Prince Albert, SK S6V 6W9
South Dakota	Brenda Even	(605) 393-8115	(605) 430-0044	Brenda.Even@state.sd.us 3305 West South St Rapid City, SD 57702
Wyoming	Sheliah Esterholdt	(307) 777-7060	(307) 241-2757	sheliah.esterholdt@wyo.gov 5500 Bishop Blvd Cheyenne, WY 82001