

South Dakota Statewide Operating Plan

Between

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Montana-Dakotas State Office

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Midwest Region

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Great Plains Region

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Mountain Prairie Region

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE**

Rocky Mountain Region

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE**

Northern Region

And

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Department of Public Safety, Wildland Fire

This Operating Plan is hereby made and entered into by and between the Parties pursuant to the current South Dakota Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (Agreement). This Operating Plan (OP), inclusive of any referenced attachments or Exhibits, is tiered to the Agreement. A formal modification to the Agreement is unnecessary but shall not contradict the Agreement.

All portions of this Operating Plan should be addressed. State if any item is not applicable, but do not remove the item. To facilitate review of this Operating Plan, do not change the format or delete sections. Items may be added as necessary to each of the sections.

I. PURPOSE

This is a Statewide Operating Plan (OP) applicable to all signatory parties within the State of South Dakota. Its purpose is to address statewide issues affecting cooperation, interagency working relationships and protocols, financial arrangements, sharing of resources, and joint activities/projects. The Rocky Mountain Area Mobilization Guide, Northern Rockies Area Mobilization Guide, Great Plains Interagency Dispatch Center Mobilization Guide and Miles City Dispatch Center Mobilization Guide are considered part of this Operating Plan. Local level operating plans may be developed and tier to Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement for the parties listed above and further define local level operational issues.

Nothing herein shall be interpreted as obligating agencies to expend funds, or as involving the United States or the State of South Dakota in any contract or other obligation for the future payment of money in excess of appropriations authorized by law and administratively allocated for the work contemplated in this Agreement.

II. RECITALS

Stafford Act responses and related National Response Framework (NRF) activities will be accomplished utilizing established dispatch coordination concepts. Situation and damage assessment information will be transmitted through established fire suppression intelligence channels. Jurisdictional Agencies are responsible for all planning documents, i.e., land use, resource and fire management plans and decision support documents, for a unit's wildland fire and fuels management program.

Protecting Agencies implement the actions documented and directed by the appropriate planning documents and decision support documents for initial and extended attack on wildfire incidents. They provide the supervision and support including operational oversight, direction and logistical support to Incident Management Teams (IMTs).

III. INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

Agencies party to this plan will operate under the concepts defined in the Department of Homeland Security's National Incident Management System (NIMS) and National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) guidance.

1. Interagency Dispatch Centers:

The primary dispatch center for Federal agencies and South Dakota Wildland Fire (SDWF) is the Great Plains Interagency Dispatch Center (GPC) located in Rapid City, SD. This dispatch center is the zone dispatch center for lands covered in this agreement, except for lands in Harding, Perkins and Corson Counties in South Dakota.

The primary dispatch center for lands within Harding County and all BLM personnel and resources, as well as local fire departments within Harding County is the Miles City Dispatch Center (MCC) located in Miles City, MT.

Lands managed by Dakota Prairie Grasslands in Perkins and Corson Counties will be dispatched by local 911.

The Great Plains Dispatch Center is a zoned dispatch center under the Rocky Mountain Geographic Area Coordination Center in Lakewood, CO.

- Rocky Mountain Geographic Area Coordination Center: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/>
- Great Plains Interagency Dispatch Center: https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2gpc/

The Miles City Dispatch Center is a zoned dispatch center under the Northern Rockies Coordination Center in Missoula, MT.

- [Northern Rockies Coordination Center: Northern Rockies Coordination Center \(NRCC\) \(nifc.gov\)](https://www.nifc.gov)
- Miles City Interagency Dispatch Center: [Miles City Interagency Dispatch Center \(nifc.gov\)](https://www.nifc.gov)

The Coordination Centers and the Interagency Dispatch Centers will have an operations plan as outlined in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Management:

https://www.nifc.gov/policies/pol_ref_redbook.html

Assistance from rural fire departments will be requested through the local county dispatch offices and/or GPC. Local fire departments in Harding County are dispatched through MCC. Per South Dakota Law, requests from South Dakota Counties for state fire resources on large prairie wildfires will only be made by those authorized and designated by the county commissioners. All resource orders for federal wildland fire suppression resources requested by counties through SDWF will be routed through GPC. DPG lands where assistance from rural fire departments is needed for fire suppression will be dispatched using local 911. Rural fire departments will notify DPG and SDWF that they've taken suppression action and submit documentation (CTRs and/or shift tickets) to SDWF.

2. Interagency Resources:

All wildland fire agencies within South Dakota are limited by current agency staffing and funding levels. Fire management suppression capability will vary by time of year.

The organization of federal and state resources, equipment, aircraft, and facilities which are available for cooperative use, subject to each agency's regulations and procedures, are shown in the current South Dakota Wildland Fire Division Annual Fire Management Plan, and the current GPC Mobilization Guide or MCC Annual Operating Plan (BLM).

Each agency is responsible for advising the other when initial attack commitments adversely affect the other's ability to meet additional initial attack needs, or the ability to meet interagency commitments. Each agency will provide representation to the Local Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (LMAC). Unless otherwise agreed, the agency providing resources for move-up and cover will pay for base 8 salaries of its assisting resources. Overtime will be paid by the agency requesting coverage or whose initial attack or extended activities precipitated move-up and cover action. Further guidance on move-up and cover can be found in GPC 2024 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) available from GPC Staff.

3. Standards:

Agencies agree on common standards and direction for land management and aircraft use. All personnel, as well as firefighters whose department has signed an agreement with the SDWF, will meet standards set forth in the most current version of National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) PMS 310-1 (Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide).

NWCG allows for accepting local qualifications within local jurisdictions during initial attack. During initial attack only, the agencies will honor local fitness standards of their departments when they respond on behalf of their constituencies in the protection of private or state lands adjacent or near federal lands. Such responding personnel and resources will be considered as cooperating resources of other jurisdictions and as such will not be considered as reimbursable resources having responded at the request of or on behalf of the protecting agency.

All cooperators dispatched outside of their local jurisdiction via the Interagency Dispatch System (IROC) will meet NWCG standards. NWCG allows agencies to require more stringent standards than the minimum for their agency specific personnel. <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/310-1>

When entering into cooperative fire response agreements, BLM will ensure the following minimum required elements are included in the agreement:

- RFPA/local fire department personnel responding to incidents on BLM lands must:
 - Be 18 years of age or older;
 - Have and use the required personal protective equipment (PPE) found in Chapter 7 of the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Red Book); and
 - *RFPA requirement:* Have a basic level of wildland fire training, identified as the NWCG course S-190 and S-130, which can be modified to fit local needs. I-100 is not required, but ICS must be thoroughly covered within the applicable section of S-190 and S-130; or
 - *Local fire department requirement:* Have a basic level of wildland fire training. The NWCG course S-190 and S-130 are recommended, both courses can be modified to fit local needs.
- Pre-identified incident communication protocols (e.g. frequencies plans, points of contact, and interoperable radio hardware) will be established and followed.
- The Incident Command System (ICS) will be used to manage all incidents.

(Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations, Chapter 2: Agreements with Cooperators)

4. Supplemental Fire Department Resources (Exhibit G Not Applicable):

There are situations when additional support personnel are necessary for national mobilization and the need can be filled by supplemental personnel available to the local fire agencies. When this situation arises, resources will be mobilized through a separate agreement managed by the State of South Dakota and Rapid City Fire Department.

5. Jurisdictional Roles:

The agency having jurisdiction has overall responsibility for that incident; multi-jurisdictional incidents will result in shared responsibilities.

It is intended that all agencies/jurisdictions that manage, or are threatened by, an extended attack wildfire should participate in the development and approval of a strategic decision document for management of the incident. Agencies/jurisdictions will provide an agency administrator or representative to participate in the development of the incident objectives, strategies, and delegations of authority. The representative will have the authority to make decisions regarding financial obligations, resource ordering and management objectives.

South Dakota Wildland Fire: South Dakota Wildland Fire will have jurisdictional fire protection responsibility for all state and private forested lands within South Dakota. However, the BLM is the protecting agency for SDWF land in Harding County, SD for fires up to 10 acres. “Forested Lands” means any land which is at least ten percent stocked with trees and is outside the limits of any incorporated municipality. In the event of an emergency declaration by the governor, SDWF would be the jurisdictional agency on any state or private lands in SD. SDWF provides direct and reimbursable supporting protection on all federal, state and private lands within the exterior proclaimed boundary of the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota (including exemption areas).

United States Department of Agriculture - Forest Service (USFS): The USFS is responsible for all management activities on National Forest and Grasslands. For this OP, the primary role of the USFS is wildland fire management, where the protection of human life is the overriding priority. Setting subsequent priorities will be based on the values to be

protected, human health and safety, and the cost of protection. The USFS will serve in a support role during structural fire protection operations and may assist in exterior structure protection measures where wildfires threaten improvements or where structures threaten wildland natural resources.

United States Department of the Interior - Bureau of Land Management (BLM): The BLM is responsible for wildland fire suppression activities on BLM lands. However, SDWF is the protecting agency for BLM land in SD outside of Harding County. The protection of human life is the overriding priority. Subsequent priorities will be based on values at risk, and cost of protection. BLM supports closest forces concept for initial attack on BLM lands.

United States Department of the Interior - National Park Service (NPS): The NPS is responsible for all wildland fire management activities on National Park lands. The NPS supports closest forces concept for initial attack within the park; however, the Incident Commander (IC) must coordinate with the park Duty Office for the appropriate decision for the management of the fire. Fire dispatching will be through the local Interagency Zone Dispatch Centers who will notify and/or coordinate with county and park as needed. Local communications or local Dispatch Center will notify the park of any reported fire affecting or threatening park land. For boundary fires, county communications or dispatch center will notify all affected agencies.

United States Department of the Interior - Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA): The BIA has jurisdictional responsibility on BIA Trust lands for all wildland fire management activities. This jurisdictional responsibility extends to tribal trust property. SDWF is the protecting agency for BIA land in the Black Hills Fire Protection District. The BIA supports closest forces concept for initial attack within BIA boundaries. The initial attack IC must coordinate with the BIA Duty Office for the Appropriate Management Response decision.

United States Department of the Interior - US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS): The FWS is responsible for all wildland fire management activities on National Wildlife Refuge and National Fish Hatchery lands in South Dakota. Currently all fire management activities on all FWS units in South Dakota are managed by a FWS Fire Management Officer. However, all FWS units participate as an interagency partner in local Service First/Blended Unit zone Fire Management organizations. The FWS supports closest forces concept for initial attack within FWS boundaries. Fire dispatching will be through the local Interagency Zone Dispatch Center, who will notify and/or coordinate with refuge/hatchery staff as needed.

IV. PREPAREDNESS

6. Protection Planning:

Preparedness planning will follow guidelines outlined in the GPC Fire Danger Operating Plan, updated annually.

a. State Agencies:

South Dakota Wildland Fire will have jurisdictional fire protection responsibility for all state and private forested lands within South Dakota. However, the BLM is the protecting agency for SDWF land in Harding County, SD for fires up to 10 acres. “Forested Lands” means any land which is at least ten percent stocked with trees and is outside the limits of any incorporated municipality. In the event of an emergency declaration by the governor, SDWF would be the jurisdictional agency on any state or private lands in SD. SDWF provides direct and reimbursable supporting protection on all federal, state and private lands within the

exterior proclaimed boundary of the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota (including exemption areas).

b. Federal Agencies:

The Black Hills National Forest (BKF) has jurisdictional responsibility for National Forest System lands shown on the latest land status maps of the Black Hills National Forest (including exemption areas). The BKF provides direct and reimbursable supporting protection on all Federal, state, and private lands within the exterior proclaimed boundary of the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota and Wyoming (including exemption areas). The BKF upon request and as able, provides suppression assistance in support of all agencies outside of the exterior proclaimed boundaries of the Black Hills National Forest.

The Nebraska National Forest (NBF) has jurisdictional responsibility for National Forest System lands shown on the latest land status maps of the Nebraska National Forest including the Buffalo Gap National Grassland, Fort Pierre National Grassland, Oglala National Grassland, and the Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest. The NBF provides direct and reimbursable supporting protection on all other Federal, state, and private lands within the exterior proclaimed boundary of the Nebraska National Forest in South Dakota and Nebraska. The NBF upon request and as able, provides suppression assistance in support of all agencies outside of the exterior proclaimed boundaries of the Nebraska National Forest.

The Dakota Prairie Grasslands (DPG) has jurisdictional responsibility for National Forest System lands shown on the latest land status maps of the DPG. The DPG provides direct and reimbursable supporting protection on all other Federal, state, and private lands within the exterior proclaimed boundary of the Dakota Prairie Grassland in South Dakota. The DPG utilizes local and rural fire protection districts to provide fire suppression support on DPG lands within South Dakota.

The Custer Gallatin National Forest is the Jurisdictional Agency for its lands in South Dakota. The BLM Eastern Montana/Dakotas District provides direct suppression protection only on those federal lands (BLM and Forest Service) within the boundaries of Harding County, SD through the Montana Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement. Harding County, SD is within the boundary of the Northern Rockies Geographic Area. The remainder of South Dakota is within the Rocky Mountain Geographic Area boundary.

The BIA provides direct and reimbursable supporting protection on all federal, state, and private lands within South Dakota. The BIA upon request and as able, provides suppression assistance in support of all agencies outside of the exterior proclaimed boundaries of BIA Trust lands.

7. Protection Areas and Boundaries:

The following maps are included in Appendix A.

- Map 1 illustrates Great Plains Dispatch and Miles City Dispatch Center Response Areas applicable to this agreement.
- Map 2 illustrates the Black Hills Fire Protection District boundary.
- Maps 3 & 4 show Surface Ownership for Tribal Lands, Allotted Lands, and Fee Lands. The State of SD will be the initial first responders on these tracts due to distance and time from Pine Ridge and/or Rosebud Agencies and because of their location within the Black Hills. These tracts of land will be and/or are placed under trust which is for the benefit of an individual Indian or Tribe:
 - Trust acquisitions provide Tribes the ability to enhance housing opportunities for their citizens.

- Trust acquisitions are necessary for Tribes to realize the tremendous energy development capacity that exists on their lands.
- Trust acquisitions allow Tribes to grant certain rights-of-way and enter into leases necessary for Tribes to negotiate the use and sale of the natural resources.
- Trust lands provide the greatest protections for many communities who rely on subsistence hunting and agriculture that are important elements of Tribal cultures and life ways.

8. Methods of Fire Protection and Suppression:

- **Reciprocal (Mutual Aid) Fire Assistance:**

All fires less than 10 acres (Class A and B fires) will be considered mutual aid.

For fire greater than 10 acres (Class C and above), unless otherwise defined, the mutual aid period is defined as the first 24 hours after the time of initial dispatch. The mutual aid period for SDWF cooperator resources per the South Dakota Department of Public Safety Wildland Fire Division Cooperative Agreement is defined as a three-hour mutual aid period in a twenty-four hour period. The mutual aid period for cooperator resources covered by individual Cooperative Fire Agreements between the Nebraska National Forest (NBF) and local fire departments is defined as a four-hour mutual aid period.

Each agency shall assume its own full cost of expenditures of initial attack resources during the mutual aid period. When a fire extends beyond the mutual aid period, all costs, including those incurred in the mutual aid period will be included when billing the jurisdictional agency, or when developing a cost share agreement. The jurisdictional agency will be determined as soon as possible. Flight time and aerial delivered suppressants from fixed and rotor wing aircraft are not part of mutual aid and the requesting agency will be responsible for those costs.

Routine patrols of contained fires will be included as part of mutual aid even in the event the patrol takes place after the defined mutual aid period. If requested by a Duty Officer or Incident Commander, SDWF and/or NBF cooperators may bill for patrol status outside of mutual aid.

Structure protection costs are not subject to mutual aid and such costs will be covered by the agency with direct structure protection authority. The cost of aviation resources including flight time and ordered standby outside of normal operating hours are not subject to mutual aid and will be covered by the benefitting agency.

Agencies that are not signatory to a specific Operating Plan are not obligated to provide Mutual Aid assistance for fires in that County.

- **Acquisition of Services:** Per an Interagency Agreement managed in the Northern Region, the BLM is the Protecting Agency for Custer Gallatin National Forest lands in South Dakota.

9. Joint Projects and Project Plans:

These projects may involve such activities as prescribed fire/fuels management, preparedness, fire analysis/planning, rehabilitation, training, prevention, public affairs, and other beneficial efforts in support of interagency fire management. When funding is being exchanged, implementation of such projects will require a separate, local agreement, or other appropriate written document, executed by the authorized signatories of the involved Parties. This may include a Supplemental Project Agreement, as in Exhibit I or other written document.

10. Fire Prevention:

Each party to the agreement will follow their own agencies policies and guidance as it pertains to prevention activities. The parties will look for opportunities to coordinate, share resources,

messaging, and cost share when appropriate. Parties will share any prevention plans with other parties that are signatory to this agreement within the identified dispatch zones.

SDWF and the BKF will be jointly responsible for coordinating annual fire prevention activities within their areas of responsibilities.

CGNF and EMDD coordinate Prevention efforts on all CGNF lands in South Dakota.

Smokey Bear Utilization: Refer to agency specific guidance for Smokey Bear activities including Forest Service Manual 3100, Chapter 3110, and Forest Service Manual 5100, Forest Service Handbook 5109.18-2019.1, Chapter 20, The Smokey Bear Act, P.L. 82-359, as amended by P.L. 93-318, regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (36 CFR 271), and The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.

Information and Education:

- Data Sharing and Methods: GPC and Zone/Unit FMOs will share data through mutually agreed methods as needed.
- INFORM: SDWF will certify fires that initiate on private land and burn onto federal lands. Federal agencies will certify fires that initiate on federal lands and burn onto private land. Agencies will follow their required process.
- Fire Danger: Fire Danger information is available on the GPC website.
- Fire Prevention Signs: Fire prevention signing is the responsibility of respective agencies for their jurisdictional areas.

Public Fire Information: Information duties are the responsibility of the protecting agency. The Great Plains Fire Information group is responsible for providing initial attack incident information. Blog posts and or social media are approved by the jurisdictional agency and issued by the group. News releases are issued through the jurisdictional public affairs offices of each agency. Coordination of news releases is encouraged for multi-jurisdictional incidents. Once an incident becomes complex, information duties will be specified in the appropriate delegation of authority.

Red Flag Operations: Red Flag warnings are issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) and disseminated through GPC and other agency processes.

Drought Information: Drought information and related fire prediction is provided by the NWS and Rocky Mountain Predictive Services.

Firewise: All agencies will incorporate common Firewise/Fire Safe terminology in all consultations with homeowners in relation to home protection and defensible space.

Land Use Planning - Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI): Land use planning is a function of local County government in cooperation with input from Federal and State fire management professionals.

Defensible Space and Fuels Treatment: Defensible space and fuels treatment within the WUI are collaborative functions of the respective jurisdictional agency representatives, and local property owners. SDCL 21-10-26 and 21-10-27 address the abandonment of untreated logging slash in a timber harvesting operation consisting of ten acres or more as a public nuisance. Abandonment of untreated logging slash in a timber harvesting operation of ten acres or more is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

11. Public Use Restrictions:

Restrictions are managed at the local/zone level through Zone Dispatch Area Boards and/or Local Multi-Agency Coordination (LMAC) Groups. Parties to this plan agree to support coordinated local/zone level restrictions. Restrictions and closures are coordinated with individual counties and through the GPC Board of Directors.

Parties to this agreement (CGNF, EMDD, SDWF) within the Miles City Restrictions Area coordinate Restrictions within the Miles City Zone. [The NRCG Restrictions Guide](#) is available online.

Imposing fire restrictions is the responsibility of the agency administrator of each agency. The decision to enter into Stage 1 or 2 fire restrictions is based on current and expected weather and fuel conditions, and the frequency of human caused wildfires and their cause. Should an agency or government impose fire restrictions within their jurisdiction, enforcement of those restrictions is incumbent upon the agency that imposes the restriction.

Restriction information for federal lands can be found at <http://blackhillsfirerestrictions.com/>

12. Burning Permits:

Burning permits are required for all open burning in the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District as provided for in South Dakota State law (SDCL. 34-35-16).

Burning permits for debris/slash pile burning are issued by GPC on behalf of SDWF or they can be obtained online. Burning permits for campfires are issued by the local SDWF Fire Management Officer.

Permits for campfires on BKF lands may be issued by agency administrators.

Broadcast burning, pile burning and campfire permitting on BLM administered lands, both within and outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District, is under the authority of the BLM South Dakota Field Manager.

13. Prescribed Fire (Planned Ignitions) and Fuels Management:

Agencies may enter into project and/or financial plans that define roles and conditions for participating and/or assisting in the planning and implementation of prescribed burns and other hazardous fuels reduction activities. Such participation and/or assistance will adhere to individual agency authority, policy, and business practices. The host agency (the agency that is jurisdictionally responsible for land management or the agency that has an agreement with the land-owning entity to provide for land management) will be responsible for initiating and developing the project and/or financial plans.

Cooperative Fuels Management Projects: Each project undertaken under the terms of this agreement will require an approved Prescribed Fire Burn Plan. The Prescribed Fire Burn Plan, signed by authorized line representatives of each agency cooperating on the project, shall briefly summarize the nature of and the reasons for the joint project and shall display the estimated project costs (including administrative costs), project benefits, suppression cost responsibilities should an escape be declared a wildfire, and the respective implementation costs to be assumed by each jurisdiction involved in the project.

SDWF will represent all other South Dakota state agencies that may be involved when their lands are involved in a joint prescribed burn. This representation includes coordination, signatory to burn plan, dispatching, processing bills and making payments.

Whenever possible, prescribed burn projects should be planned and responsibilities, costs, and benefits, other than suppression cost responsibility, apportioned so that the project can be conducted with a minimum monetary exchange.

The Prescribed Fire Burn Plan will include all standards and specifications for project execution as provided for or required by each respective agency. Each agency will determine and certify the qualifications of its own personnel and equipment for prescribed fire positions using jointly agreed upon interagency prescribed fire qualification standards.

Agencies agree to provide resources, subject to availability, in support of and as requested by the other agency for assistance in implementing fuels reduction and other fire or fuels related activities.

Fuels and Prescribed Fire Management Support: Agencies are encouraged to cooperate with one another in completing prescribed burning and fuel treatment projects. This support may be in the form of personnel and/or equipment assistance (paid or contributed) as provided for in this Agreement and other participating agreements.

In the case of fire management support, the cooperating agency may bill the receiving agency for all costs associated with providing assistance, exclusive of normal administrative and dispatch support (occurring during normal work hours). This includes but is not limited to vehicle costs (mileage or hourly), regular hourly wages (operations personnel), and over-time wages (operations personnel). Such reimbursable costs must be identified prior to implementation and documented through resource orders or other documentation.

Escaped Prescribed Fires: All protocols and procedures pertaining to wildfire response, suppression, and business practices will be followed from the point in time that a prescribed fire escapes control and is declared a wildfire.

14. Smoke Management:

Parties to this operating plan agree to follow federal and South Dakota State Law and Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources procedures along with any associated permitting requirements.

15. Structure Protection: The operational role of the federal agencies as partners in the wildland urban interface are wildland firefighting hazard reduction, cooperative prevention, education, and technical assistance. Structural fire suppression is the responsibility of tribal, state, or local governments. Federal agencies and SDWF may assist with exterior structural fire protection activities under each agency's authority. Refer to the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations for the following agencies:

- NPS: Chapter 3, Structural Fire and Hazardous Materials Response
- BLM: Chapter 1 (page 2), Clause 7 Wildland Urban Interface, 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy
- USFS: Chapter 5, Structure Exposure Protection Principles
- FWS: Chapter 4, Structure protection not notated in red book

V. OPERATIONS

16. Fire Notifications:

Each Party will promptly notify the appropriate Protecting Agency of fires burning on or threatening lands for which that Agency has protection responsibility. Likewise, Protecting Agencies will promptly inform Jurisdictional Agencies whenever they take action on fires for which the Protecting Agency is responsible.

GPC or MCC will notify the jurisdictional agency of fires on or threatening their jurisdictional lands as soon as possible after the arrival of initial attack forces. Contacts within the GPC Mobilization Guide and MCC Annual Operating Plan will be used for notifications.

Follow agency standards for submission of final fire reports. Agencies agree to share final fire reports as requested.

Agencies will mutually agree to communicate with neighboring jurisdictions regarding the management of all wildland fires, especially those with multiple objectives.

17. Boundary Line Fires:

A fire adjacent to a protection boundary or located in an area of undetermined jurisdiction will be the initial attack responsibility of protecting agencies on both sides of the boundary. If multiple agencies are engaged in a fire on or near common boundaries, the agency representatives shall convene as soon as possible to mutually agree upon the fire strategy and delegate an Incident Commander (IC). If the fire is confined to a single jurisdiction, that agency will designate an IC. It shall be the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency to provide or mobilize replacement forces.

Initial attack procedures for fires within the jurisdictional areas of all agencies are defined by SOP's. Resources responding within the operational guidelines of these SOPs including any additional resources ordered through GPC by the fire command will be included as reimbursable assistance to the jurisdictional agency excluding the agreed upon mutual aid period.

Resources responding on behalf of any other agency or cooperator, whether or not a party to this Operating Plan and parent agreement, which respond independent of the agreed to dispatch procedures defined for GPC will be considered as having responded as a cooperator with a vested interest. For purposes of this Operating Plan such cooperative assistance will not be reimbursed and is considered a cost borne by the cooperator based on their vested interest.

The first arriving suppression resource regardless of agency will assume command of an incident and will remain in command until such time that a qualified replacement is on scene and a formal transfer of command has occurred.

18. Independent Action on Lands Protected by Another Agency:

Independent actions are discouraged. Parties to this Operating Plan agree to cooperate under the terms of the Master Agreement.

19. Response to Wildland Fire:

- A. State Agencies** - Fires originating on non-Federal land will be suppressed by the Jurisdictional Agency. Fires will be suppressed using commonly accepted suppression tactics including but not limited to direct attack, indirect attack, point protection and combinations of all tactics with consideration to the values at risk and the health and safety of the public and firefighters.
- B. Federal Agencies** - Management response to a wildland fire on federal land is based on objectives established in the applicable Land and Resource Management Plan and/or Fire Management Plan.

Response to wildland fires can be based upon ecological, social and legal consequences of the fire. The appropriate response to the fire is dictated by:

- The circumstances under which a fire occurs
- The likely consequences to firefighter/public safety and welfare
- Values at risk:
 - a. The natural/cultural resource values to be protected
 - b. The risk to personal property, structures and infrastructure

BIA – All unplanned fires will be suppressed on all Trust land with local resources through GPC or the local BIA agency dispatch center. The local BIA dispatch center will make contact with GPC.

Initial attack dispatch levels will be determined by the GPC SOP as approved by the GPC Board of Directors (BOD) for all Response Zones in the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District. Run cards have been developed for all response areas and will be validated annually by the GPC Operations Committee. Jurisdictions may augment initial responses as deemed necessary and coordinate such action through GPC.

Dispatching and resource order process will be determined by the GPC SOPs approved by the BOD for initial attack areas and for extended attack operations.

Initial attack dispatch levels for CGF lands within Harding County will be determined by the EMDD and described in the Miles City Dispatch Operating Plan.

All agencies support and use the Incident Command System (ICS) or National Incident Management System (NIMS). All fires will have an incident commander who is in control of the incident. Unified command may be employed on fires that involve multiple protection jurisdictions. Jurisdictions declaring a vested interest in suppression operations are encouraged to participate within the unified command structure.

C. Special Management Considerations:

Areas requiring special management considerations are areas such as wilderness areas, wetlands, archaeological sites, botanical areas, road less areas, research natural areas, or other areas identified in land management planning documents, urban interface areas and all other areas which by their uniqueness, require special fire management procedures for protection. These will be identified by the local jurisdictional agency representatives responding to the incident. Any requests for surveys, inspections, or restorations of any areas requiring special management considerations will be a cost born by the jurisdictional agency. Suppression costs in these areas will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis and documented in a cost-share agreement if required.

BLM – Primary areas which require special consideration include:

- Fort Meade Recreation Area ACEC in Meade County. Heavy equipment and retardant use must be authorized by the agency administrator.
- Fossil Cycad ACEC in Fall River County. Heavy equipment and retardant use must be authorized by the agency administrator.
- Sage-grouse habitat in Butte and Harding Counties. Guidance for suppression strategies and tactics in sage-grouse habitat as well as a map of sage-grouse priority and general habitat management areas are included in Appendix B.

BIA - Primary areas which require special considerations can be found in the BIA Fire Management Reference System. Maps of identified archaeological sites are not made public but may be obtained from the agency administrator if needed.

USFS - Primary Black Hills National Forest areas which require special considerations include the Black Elk Wilderness, Inyan Kara Mountain, Fort Meade VA Hospital Watershed, Black Hills Experimental Forest, Spearfish Canyon, Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway, Sturgis Experimental Watershed, Norbeck Wildlife Preserve, Research Natural Areas (as designated) and botanical areas consisting of: Upper Sand Creek, Dugout Gulch, Bear/Beaver Gulches, Higgins Gulch, Englewood Springs, Black Fox Valley, North Fork Castle Creek, and the McIntosh Fen and other areas identified as Retardant Avoidance Areas. Reference BKF Land and Resource Management Plan.

Primary Nebraska National Forest areas which require special considerations include the Red Shirt Recommended for Wilderness Area, the Indian Creek Recommended for Wilderness Area, the West Wall Research Natural Area, munitions disposal sites associated with the former Black Hills Army Depot, and other areas identified as Retardant Avoidance Areas.

Primary Custer Gallatin National Forest areas within Harding County which require special considerations include Castles National Landmark and Riley Pass reclamation area, and other areas identified as Retardant Avoidance Areas. Reference CGF land and Resource Management Plan.

20. Decision Process:

Federal Agencies will use the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) for this purpose. The non-federal agencies are encouraged to participate in the WFDSS for supporting decisions during multi-jurisdictional incidents.

State Agencies - If not utilizing WFDSS, utilize the current state process for analysis and complexity for all state responsibility fires, including fires that receive a FEMA declaration.

21. Cooperation:

Collaboration between agencies should occur early in the incident, on strategy and tactics to be used to prevent an unwanted wildland fire from crossing the jurisdictional boundary, and in developing mitigations which would be used if a wildland fire does cross jurisdictional boundaries. If the reason the fire spreads to another jurisdiction is attributed to a strategic decision, versus environmental conditions (ex. weather, fuels, topography, fire behavior) or tactical considerations (ex. firefighter safety, resource availability) that preclude stopping the fire at jurisdictional boundaries, the managing jurisdiction may be responsible for wildfire suppression costs.

22. Communication:

Close and timely communications are required with neighboring jurisdictions regarding the management of all wildland fires, especially those with multiple objectives. Communications should occur annually and during the early stages of wildland fires. Agencies managing fires, especially those with multiple objectives, should consider firefighter and public safety, predicted weather conditions, resource drawdown, proximity to values at risk, smoke, current and anticipated fire activity and time of year. Neighboring jurisdictions should provide prompt notification to agencies when concerns exist about fires that are managed strategically and have the potential to impact adjacent jurisdictions.

23. Cost Efficiency:

Jurisdictions will identify conditions under which cost efficiency may dictate where suppression strategies and tactical actions are taken (i.e., it may be more cost effective to put the containment line along an open grassland than along a mid-slope in timber). Points to consider include loss and benefit to land, values at risk, resource, social and political values, and existing legal statutes. Federal Agencies will use the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) for this purpose. The non-federal agencies are encouraged to participate in the WFDSS for supporting decisions during multi-jurisdictional incidents. If not utilizing WFDSS, utilize the current state process for analysis and complexity for all state responsibility fires, including fires that receive a FEMA declaration.

24. Delegation of Authority:

Parties to this Operating Plan accept that each agency has their own procedures for delegation of authority. Policy of the Federal Agencies requires that for all fires which escape initial suppression action, a Delegation of Authority will be used to transfer authority and manage actions on an incident from the Agency Administrator(s) to the Incident Commander. For all fires for which State Agencies

has assumed control, the State Agency will use a Delegation of Authority to transfer authority and manage actions to the Incident Commander.

Refer to the Delegation of Authority to Manage Type 3-5 Incidents within the Great Plains Fire Response Area. More complex incidents will require a new delegation of authority.

25. Preservation of Evidence:

Evidence will be preserved in accordance with applicable Agency regulations and policies. Agencies will notify each other whenever a fire on the other's jurisdiction is suspected to be person-caused. The jurisdictional agency will make a determination and be responsible for requesting a fire investigator on their lands, if warranted, through GPC. CGF coordinates with EMDD and Miles City Dispatch Center to request a fire investigator.

- BIA: On Tribal Trust Land, a BIA fire investigator should be ordered. If not available, a qualified fire investigator will be ordered.
- BLM: In the case of a human caused wildfire that originates on BLM managed lands within the SDFO, a fully qualified INVf (Cause and Determination Specialist) and BLM Law Enforcement Officer will be requested. For human caused wildfires ignited on adjacent land ownership and severely affecting BLM lands, an INVf and federal LEO will coordinate with local investigators and law enforcement officers.

Specific agency references to use for guidance in case of trespass fire on BLM lands in the SDFO are found in the NWCG Wildfire Cause and Determination Handbook, PMS 412-1 and the BLM Fire Trespass Handbook H-9238-1.

The costs of fire investigation will follow mutual aid guidelines or in the case of a multi-jurisdictional fire, based on the incident cost-share agreement. Generally speaking, fire investigation reports should be submitted to the jurisdiction(s) authority within 15 days following an investigation request. All investigation information is the property of the jurisdictional agency and will be shared between agencies when requested in a timely manner.

All agencies will be responsible for adjudicating criminal and civil fire trespass on their own jurisdiction. In the event that both or additional jurisdictions are involved, it may be a joint responsibility.

VI. USE AND REIMBURSEMENT OF INTERAGENCY FIRE RESOURCES

26. Cost Share Agreement (Cost Share Methodologies)

Involved agencies should discuss how costs will be shared when a fire spreads into another jurisdiction. The type of cost share methodology utilized will vary according to a great variety of environmental, resource, tactical, political, and other considerations. The following factors should be discussed in order to clarify how such factors will influence the ultimate selection of a cost share methodology for any given wildland fire.

- The cost sharing methodologies that will be utilized should wildfire spread to a neighboring jurisdiction in a location where fire is not wanted.
- The cost share methodologies that will be used should a jurisdiction accept or receive a wildland fire and manage it for multiple objectives.
- Any distinctions in what cost share methodology will be used if the reason the fire spreads to another jurisdiction is attributed to a strategic decision, versus environmental conditions (e.g., weather, fuels, topography, and fire behavior) or tactical considerations (e.g., firefighter safety,

resource availability) that preclude stopping the fire at jurisdictional boundaries. In such instances, the managing jurisdiction may be responsible for wildfire suppression costs.

Examples of cost sharing methodologies may include, but are not limited to:

- Each jurisdiction pays for its own resources – fire suppression efforts are primarily on jurisdictional responsibility lands.
- Each jurisdiction pays for its own resources – services rendered approximate the percentage of jurisdictional responsibility, but not necessarily performed on those lands.
- Cost share by percentage of ownership.
- Cost is apportioned by geographic division or percent of effort. Examples of geographic divisions are: Divisions A and B (using a map as an attachment); privately owned property with structures; or specific locations such as campgrounds.
- Reconciliation of daily costs (for larger, multi-day incidents). This method relies upon daily agreed to costs, using Incident Action Plans or other means to determine multi-Agency contributions. Reimbursements must be followed up by a final bill.
- For USFS, if the identified cost share methodologies are not used, then the Regional Forester will need to review and approve any of the cost share deviations.

Cost-share agreements for size Class C and above fires will be negotiated on a per fire basis regardless of selected strategies and tactics including those fires that may be managed for multiple objectives.

- The agencies agree that all reasonable and necessary costs incurred to meet the protection responsibilities within each agency's direct protection area will be the responsibility of that agency. The agencies agree that in the event a nongovernmental contract resource is used on an incident that the agency requesting the resource may make payment for services rendered directly to the contract resource under another agency's contract. Federal agencies can only pay from nonfederal contracts if a federal contracting officer reviews and cosigns the nonfederal contract. Typically, suppression actions and their associated costs are driven by perceived threats to values at risk. Values at risk may, in turn, require more intensive suppression efforts and therefore, higher suppression costs in one agency's direct protection area than in another. These situations will be considered when determining each agency's share of costs for an incident.
- For fires where values at risk are typically associated with natural resources on undeveloped lands and when those resources are uniform across jurisdictions it is usually appropriate to share costs based on the percentage of acres burned on each jurisdiction. Fires occurring within urban interface areas with high value improvement at risk or whenever resource values (natural or other) differ significantly across jurisdictions may require an assessment of suppression efforts (costs) directed at protection of respective resources/values are required. This assessment may provide the basis for identifying cost-shares in the agreement. Unless unusual circumstances exist, it is the intent of this Operating Plan that a cost-share agreement will be completed prior to the fire being declared contained for all extended attack fires.
- For temporary support level functions, pre-positioning of suppression resources, or facilities established during periods of extraordinary fire activity or as authorized under Fire Severity conditions defined by each jurisdiction, similar cost sharing procedures may be used.
- SDWF receives its procurement authority from state laws and is therefore not subject to federal procurement laws. Whenever SDWF is responsible for the management of an incident SDWF will comply with state laws and regulations covering procurement. Procurement costs by one

agency in support of another that are reasonable and prudent may be charged to the protecting agency as a condition of reimbursable assistance.

- Equipment loaned by one party to another shall be ordered through normal dispatching channels. Loaned equipment becomes the responsibility of the borrower and shall be returned in the same condition as when received, normal wear accepted. The borrower will repair damages in excess of normal wear and will replace items lost or destroyed.

The Dakota Prairie Grasslands will reimburse the SDWF for fire department resources used for initial attack on DPG lands in accordance with the established rates set forth in the current South Dakota Department of Public Safety Wildland Fire Division Mini Mobilization Guide.

27. Training:

The GPC Board of Directors and the Great Plains Zone Training Committee are responsible for coordinating fire training for agencies within the Great Plains Zone. All 100 and 200 level course offerings are coordinated by local agencies; and 300 and 400 level course offerings are coordinated through the Rocky Mountain Area Training Committee, a subcommittee of the Rocky Mountain Area Coordinating Group (RMCG). Training schedules will be shared and opportunities to combine training will be pursued.

All training classes offered by the respective agencies will be conducted according to standards set forth in the latest edition of the NWCG Field Managers Course Guide (PMS 901-1) and PMS 310-1 using the most current version.

28. Communication Systems:

All parties to this Operating Plan may use the other's radio frequencies as needed to conduct emergency operations. No party to this Operating Plan will use, or authorize others to use, another agency's radio frequencies for routine day-to-day operations.

Fire protection districts and fire departments on incidents, under the auspices of the county, are granted permission to use federal radio frequencies, if needed, to assure safety of the operation. All agencies to this plan are authorized to transmit on Interagency Air-to-Ground frequencies during wildfire incidents.

All agencies, fire protection districts and fire departments which use USFS and DOI frequencies for tactical or command purposes must have radios programmed with narrow band mode to facilitate clear transmission and reception. Incidents which exceed initial attack may utilize Zone plans for tactical or command radio traffic. The Type 3 Incident Communication Plan uses standardized frequencies available to all agencies and departments in each Zone.

Any resource dispatched in the Black Hills Fire Response area will utilize established analogue frequencies identified in the Fire Danger Operating Plan.

29. Fire Weather Systems:

Fire Potential/Fire Weather Products available at <https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/index.php>.

Rocky Mountain Area Predictive Services (RMAPS) and the National Weather Service (NWS) provide a variety of products that are designed to support strategic and tactical decisions.

[Northern Rockies Predictive Services](#) and the National Weather Service provide a variety of products that are designed to support strategic and tactical decisions on CGF lands in Harding County.

NWS products are designed for tactical decision support. These products include, but are not limited to: Fire Weather Forecasts, Spot Forecasts and Smoke Management Forecasts. Specific office locations and products can be found at: <http://www.weather.gov/>.

The Rocky Mountain Annual Operating Plan between Land Management Agencies and the National Weather Service can be found at: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/index.php>.

Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) locations can be found in Appendix C. When dialing into a station make sure you hold down the PTT button an extra second or the station may not pick up the Voice Activation trigger.

- Long: voice read out will include air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, wind direction, peak wind speed, peak wind direction, fuel moisture, fuel temperature, battery voltage, rain and solar radiation.
- Short: will list the station ID, air temperature, relative humidity, and wind speed.

The agency which owns the equipment is responsible for the maintenance and upgrades of equipment.

30. Incident Meteorological (IMET) Services:

Follow the ordering procedures outlined in the Rocky Mountain Area Mobilization Guide and the National Interagency Mobilization Guide for requesting and obtaining IMET services from the National Weather Service. The procedures shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the Interagency Agreement for Meteorological and Other Technical Services (IMET Agreement) and shall not conflict with the procedures of the Mobilization Guides. Reimbursement and expenditures for IMET Services shall follow the procedures detailed within the IMET Agreement.

SDWF in cooperating with South Dakota School of Mines will provide a meteorologist along with the National Weather Service.

31. Aviation Operations:

Aviation operations are governed by agency specific policies. Aircraft responding to fire suppression efforts will retain their own Agency's standards. Aircraft operating within the GPC area will be coordinated by GPC. Aircraft operating within Harding County, SD will be coordinated with MCC. Border fires or transfers will be coordinated between dispatch centers on a case-by-case basis.

Aircraft must be DOI/USFS approved for use on fires where federal resources are being used or where federal land is involved. Aircraft that are flying missions that have not received DOI/USFS inspections or approval, must remain under operational control of the agency who owns or has contracted the aircraft.

SDWF maintains agreements with South Dakota Department of Transportation and South Dakota National Guard for fire aviation resources.

Powder River MOA – Great Plains Dispatch will be the primary contact with Ellsworth Air Force Base for any fire aviation issues concerning the MOA.

VII. BILLING PROCEDURES

(Refer to Exhibit D of the South Dakota Statewide Agreement–Reimbursable Billings and Payments)

32. Suppression Billing:

A. Billing information, provide:

- a. Agency name and billing address
- b. Financial Contact (name, phone, email)
- c. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
- d. Billing timeframes – Provide contact information for written request for extensions

beyond timeframes established in Exhibit D, Reimbursable Billings and Payments.

- e. Indirect Cost Rates, if applicable
- f. Identify a process for handling any supplemental billing information, summary data or additional billing documentation may be requested and provided if agreed upon by the Parties. The process should include:
 - i. Points of Contact
 - ii. Process for handling requests
 - iii. Any standardized reports information

B. **Federal Billing Procedures:** Federal Agencies will not bill each other for fire suppression support. Federal agencies will submit bills for their reimbursable costs to STATE whenever a South Dakota State, county or local agency is the protecting agency and a billing is appropriate. Refer to Exhibit D.

C. **State Billing Procedures:** South Dakota Wildland Fire serves as the coordinator for inter-jurisdictional wildland fire billing in South Dakota between the federal agencies and South Dakota state, county and local cooperators. In this role, South Dakota Wildland Fire receives, reviews, and processes invoices between the federal agencies and South Dakota cooperators. Refer to Exhibit D.

SDWF will represent all South Dakota Fire Departments (cooperators) who have signed a current South Dakota Department of Public Safety Wildland Fire Division Cooperative Agreement. The terms and conditions including reimbursement for services will be in accord with that agreement.

D. **Billings Payable by STATE:** When the State of South Dakota is the jurisdictionally responsible agency for a fire pursuant to SDCL 34-35-15 and SDCL 5-18 and federal agencies provided resources, South Dakota Wildland Fire will receive reimbursement requests submitted by the federal agencies and review for appropriateness. After review, South Dakota Wildland Fire will reimburse the federal agency from state funds. Refer to Exhibit D of the Master Agreement.

E. **Billings Payable by County or Local Agencies:** When a County within the State of South Dakota is the jurisdictionally responsible agency and federal agencies provided resources, South Dakota Wildland Fire will receive reimbursement requests submitted by the federal agencies and review for appropriateness. After review, South Dakota Wildland Fire will reimburse the federal agency from state funds and submit a bill to the County fire pursuant to SDCL 34-35-15 and SDCL 5-18. Refer to Exhibit D in the Master Agreement.

Agencies will share their respective incident numbers for cross referencing purposes, if requested.

Billing Information

<p>South Dakota Wildland Fire Attn: Brenda Even 3305 West South St. Rapid City, SD 57702 Phone: 605-393-8011 Email: brenda.even@state.sd.us</p>	<p>Bureau of Land Management Attn: Brandi Van Kleeck Montana/Dakotas BLM State Office – Fire Business Lead Department of the Interior – Regions 5 & 9 1299 Rintop Drive Billings, MT 59105 Phone: 208-308-1050 Email: bvankleack@blm.gov</p>
<p>Bureau of Indian Affairs Attn: Heath Estey, (cc) Dawn Hernandez 115 4th Avenue SE, MC-301 Suite 400 Aberdeen, SD 57401 Phone: 605-226-7621 Email: heath.estey@bia.gov dawn.hernandez@bia.gov</p>	<p>National Park Service Attn: Julie A. Bennett NPS Incident Business Management Specialist FMPC 3833 S. Development Ave. Boise, ID 83705 Email: jabennett@nps.gov NIFC_Suppression_Invoices@nps.gov</p>
<p>Fish and Wildlife Service Attn: Brooke Malcom 134 Union Blvd Lakewood, CO 80228 Phone: 303-236-4305 Email: brooke_malcom@fws.gov</p>	<p>US Forest Service Attn: Regional Incident Business Specialist 1617 Cole Blvd, Bldg 17 Lakewood, CO 80401-2720 Phone: 720-467-4822 Email: Sm.fs.r2ibf@usda.gov</p>

33. Billing Timeframes:

It is clearly and respectfully understood that all agencies have specific and differing business rules and deadlines. All signatory parties agree to clearly convey those rules and deadlines early in the process so as to promote timely and respectful responses and attendance to cost recovery efforts. Final itemized invoices should be submitted to the reimbursing agency following the direction in the South Dakota Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement.

34. Indirect Cost Rates:

When indirect cost rates are applied to federal reimbursements, the Parties agree to the following:

- If the payment recipient has never received or does not currently have a negotiated indirect cost rate, they are eligible for a de minimis indirect cost rate up to 15% of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC). MTDC is defined as all salaries and wages, fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and contracts up to the first \$50,000 of each contract.
- For rates greater than 15%, the payment recipient shall provide either an applicable negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA) from a cognizant Federal Agency, or an indirect cost rate summary in a format that clearly defines the indirect cost rate and MTDC.
- The payment recipient must maintain adequate documentation to support the methodology and computation of the indirect cost rate. Documentation must be made available to the Federal Agency upon request.

- Failure to provide adequate documentation supporting the indirect cost rate, if requested, could result in disallowed costs and repayment to the federal agency.

35. Non-Billable Items:

The following items are NOT considered billable by the agencies:

- Agency overhead personnel performing agency specific duties and not assigned to the incident on a resource order.
- Non-expendable accountable property
- Agency specific Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) beyond suppression damage rehab
- Mutual aid costs unless otherwise stipulated in a cost share agreement

36. Billable and Shareable Items:

There are associated costs, not on resource orders, that both State and Federal Agencies incur in providing resources to an incident. Personnel, equipment, supplies or services provided by a supporting agency and essential to filling the resource order, which are necessary and reasonable, shall be considered as reimbursable. While, on the surface, they are not on an incident order, they are necessary to mobilize ordered resources or acquire services for the incident and are valid charges (i.e. mobilization of crews, equipment contractors, etc.). These associated costs that are a result of the incident are considered to be an added cost to the agency. While these activities may not be documented on a resource order, they will be billed using agency specific financial system reports. Examples include but are not limited to:

- **Dispatcher:** performing dispatch activity in support of the incident.
- **Airtanker personnel:** includes personnel working in support of the incident.
- **Warehouse personnel:** include local and regional cache/service center personnel performing activity in support of the incident.
- **May include Backfill:** reimbursement of backfill will be based on reimbursement guidelines and documentation submitted by requesting agency(s). Allowable backfill costs should be detailed in local Operating Plans, incident resource orders, and/or incident cost share agreements. The parties to this agreement recommend that appropriate backfill billable to the incident be limited to actual costs directly incurred by backfill resource.

37. Invoice Preparation: This category of expense is not allowable for reimbursement. A negotiated de minimis indirect rate fee is allowable and any changes to the rate or the process will include involvement from all parties and will not be retroactive.

38. Incident Cost Review: At a minimum, signatory agencies will meet as needed to discuss status of cost share agreements and inter-jurisdictional fires. Costs will be reviewed according to Federal and State review processes. Cost Share reconciliation spreadsheets will be presented and reviewed. A contact person for each agency will be identified and be responsible for ensuring costs to date are presented for their agency. Agency contacts will set dates and locations for meetings.

39. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT): The STATE shall designate a financial institution or an authorized payment agency through which a federal payment may be made in accordance with U.S. Treasury Regulations, Money, and Finance at 31 CFR 208, which requires that federal payments be made by EFT.

40. Billing Content: At a minimum, bills will contain:

- Cooperator name, address, phone number and agency financial contact
- Invoice or bill number
- Agreement number
- Resource order number
- Inclusive dates
- Name of incident and incident number
- Location and jurisdictional unit
- Appropriate incident number and agency job code
- Summary cost reports generated by the agency to support the billing
- Applicable cost share agreement(s)
- Signature and title of agency official

Cost source documents will not be required unless summary cost data is disputed or needed to fulfill review requirements (e.g., State Responsibility Fire or FEMA fire), or for determining allowable costs under a cost-share agreement. Summary cost data will include, but is not limited to, a list of personnel expenses including base, overtime, benefits and travel and a listing by vendor name and amount spent for supplies and services procured.

STATE – The Overhead Assessment Rate for STATE is a fixed percentage rate as determined by a process provided for under Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards to recover those costs that cannot be directly charged to the project. The rate and any percentage updates for the effective dates of this Operating Plan will be provided to the parties’ signatory to this Operating Plan.

USDA Forest Service – The Overhead Assessment Rate for the USFS is published in the Annual Program Direction. The rate for the effective dates of this Operating Plan will be provided to the parties signatory to this Operating Plan.

DOI Bureau of Land Management – The Overhead Assessment Rate for the BLM is published annually in a Washington Office Instruction Memo (IM). The rate for the effective dates of this Operating Plan will be provided to the parties signatory to this Operating Plan when the IM is published.

DOI National Park Service – The Overhead Assessment Rate for the NPS is published annually in the Assessment and Restoration Handbook. The rate for the effective dates of this Operating Plan will be provided to the parties signatory to this Operating Plan when the Assessment and Restoration Handbook is published.

DOI Fish and Wildlife Service – The Overhead Assessment Rate for the FWS is published annually in FWS Manual Part 274. The rate for the effective dates of this Operating Plan will be provided to the parties signatory to this Operating Plan when the FWS Manual Part 274 is published.

DOI Bureau of Indian Affairs – The Overhead Assessment Rate for the BIA is published annually. The rate for the effective dates of this Operating Plan will be provided to the parties signatory to this Operating Plan when published.

41. **Payment Due:** All bills will be paid in accordance with the paying agency’s prompt payment procedures. Voucher difference statements will accompany any payment made that is different than the amount billed.
42. **Contested Billings:** Written notice that a bill is contested will be mailed to the billing agency within 30 days of issuance of the final bill and will fully explain the area of dispute. Contested items will be resolved within the designated waiver period.
43. **Obligations:** For year-end obligation purposes, federal agencies will submit estimated unpaid obligation figures to STATE by June 1. STATE will submit estimated unpaid obligation figures to the federal agencies by September 1 for the current billing year. All obligations will be submitted by incident name, date, incident number and Fire Code.
44. **Fee Based Services** – Billings will be in accordance with separate written agreement or contract(s).
45. **Non-Suppression Billings:** As described in this Operating Plan, the Parties may jointly conduct cooperative projects and/or share resources to carry out non-suppression activities in support of interagency fire management. These joint projects or activities may involve sharing of costs and/or a transfer of funds between the Parties involved, at which time a separate, local agreement, procurement, or other appropriate written document will be required. Billing will be defined under the terms of that document.

Rates for SDWF cooperators will be consistent with those established in the South Dakota Department of Public Safety Wildland Fire Division Mini Mobilization Guide.

46. Stafford Act Billings

- Refer to Exhibit H of the South Dakota Statewide Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement – Use of and Reimbursement for Shared Resources in Stafford Act Response Actions.
- Billing timeframes – Provide contact information and process required for any written request for extensions beyond timeframes established in Exhibit H of the Statewide Fire Management and Stafford Act Response.

VIII. GENERAL PROVISIONS

47. **Principal Contacts:** Refer to Exhibit B of the South Dakota Statewide Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement – Principal Contacts.
48. **Personnel Policy (Not Applicable):** Exhibit G – Supplemental Fire Department Resources. List personnel to be mobilized under the terms of that Exhibit by name, position(s), and identified as Single Resource. While on assignment, these individuals are (XX) FD employees and the (XX) FD will be reimbursed for their actual costs.
49. **Modification:** Modifications within the scope of this Operating Plan shall be made by mutual consent of the Parties, through the issuance of a written modification signed and dated by all Parties prior to any changes being performed. Any Party shall have the right to terminate their participation under this Operating Plan by providing six months advance written notice to the other Parties.
50. **Annual Review:** This Operating Plan is reviewed annually by March 1 and revised, as needed.
51. **Duration of Operating Plan:** This Operating Plan is executed as of the date of last signature and remains in effect for five years unless modified or superseded.

If the current South Dakota Statewide Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement is superseded by a new Agreement, this Operating Plan may remain in effect to the extent that it does not conflict with provisions of the new Agreement, but only until such time that all activities and conditions

can be incorporated into a new Operating Plan.

52. Previous Instruments Superseded: List, as applicable.

53. Authorized Representatives: By signature below, all signatories to this Operating Plan certify that the individuals listed in this document are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this Operating Plan.

IX. REVIEW AND SIGNATURES

**USDI FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
MOUNTAIN PRAIRIE REGION**

ANNA MUNOZ Digitally signed by ANNA MUNOZ
Date: 2025.01.06 14:52:31 -07'00'

Regional Director Date

Contracting Officer FWS-19072 Date

**USDI NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MIDWEST REGION**

 Digitally signed by HERBERT
FROST
Date: 2025.01.22 16:43:40 -06'00'

Regional Director Date

**USDI BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MONTANA-DAKOTAS STATE OFFICE**

SONYA GERMANN Digitally signed by SONYA
GERMANN
Date: 2024.12.17 18:40:02 -07'00'

State Director Date

**USDI BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
GREAT PLAINS REGION**

OLIVIA STEVE Digitally signed by OLIVIA STEVE
Date: 2025.03.27 11:43:36 -05'00'

Regional Director Date

**USDA FOREST SERVICE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**

Andrea Delgado Digitally signed by Andrea Delgado
Date: 2025.04.15 13:26:51 -06'00'

Regional Forester Date

LISA STREET Digitally signed by LISA STREET
Date: 2025.04.17 14:20:54 -06'00'

USFS Agreements Specialist Date

**USDA FOREST SERVICE
NORTHERN REGION**

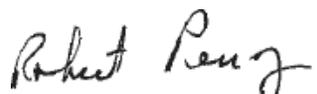
 Digitally signed by LEANNE
MARTEN
Date: 2024.12.19 07:07:08 -07'00'

Regional Forester Date

LINDSAY GILMAN Digitally signed by LINDSAY
GILMAN
Date: 2024.12.18 12:14:37 -07'00'

USFS Agreements Specialist Date

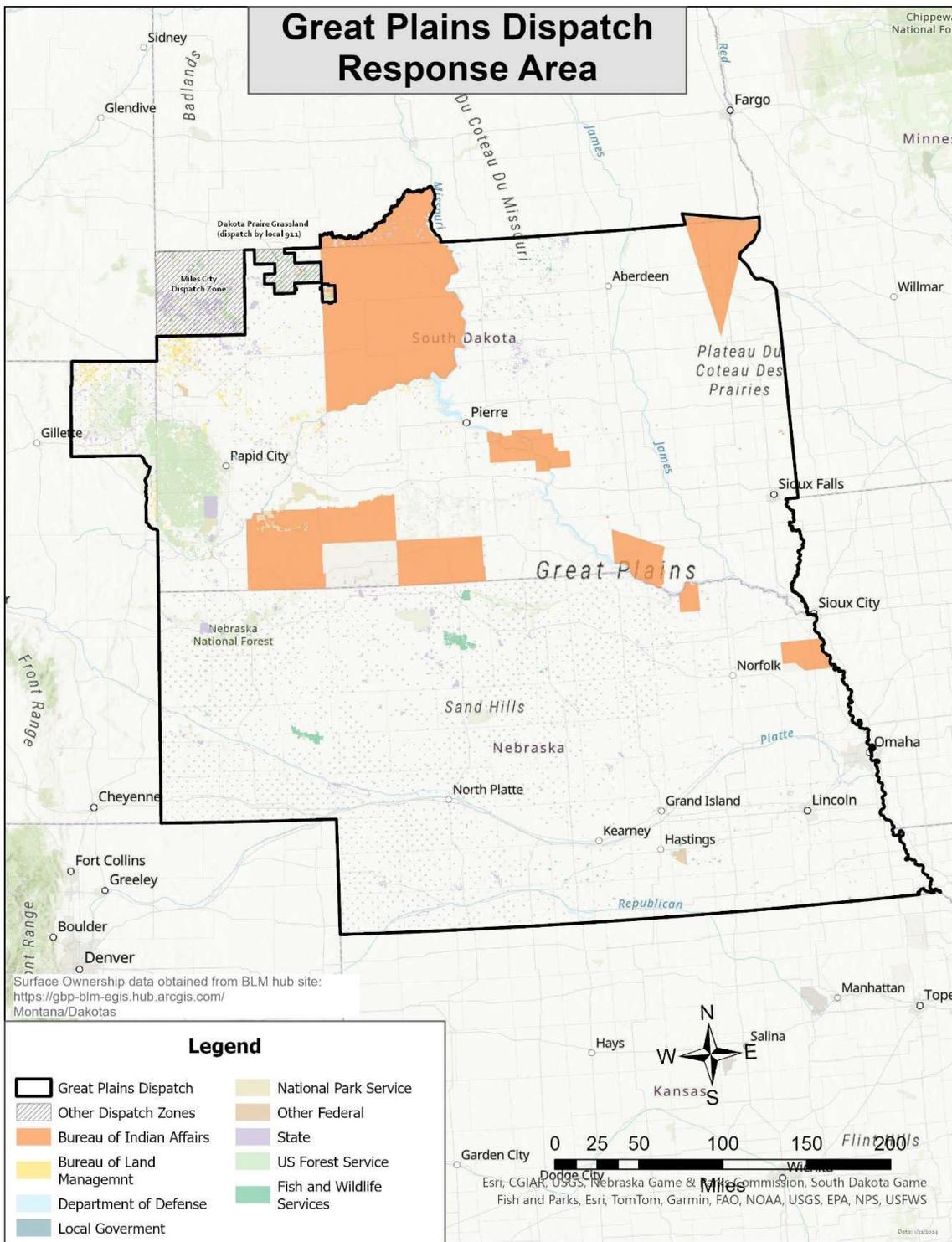
**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
WILDLAND FIRE, DEPT OF PUBLIC
SAFETY**

 2/10/2025

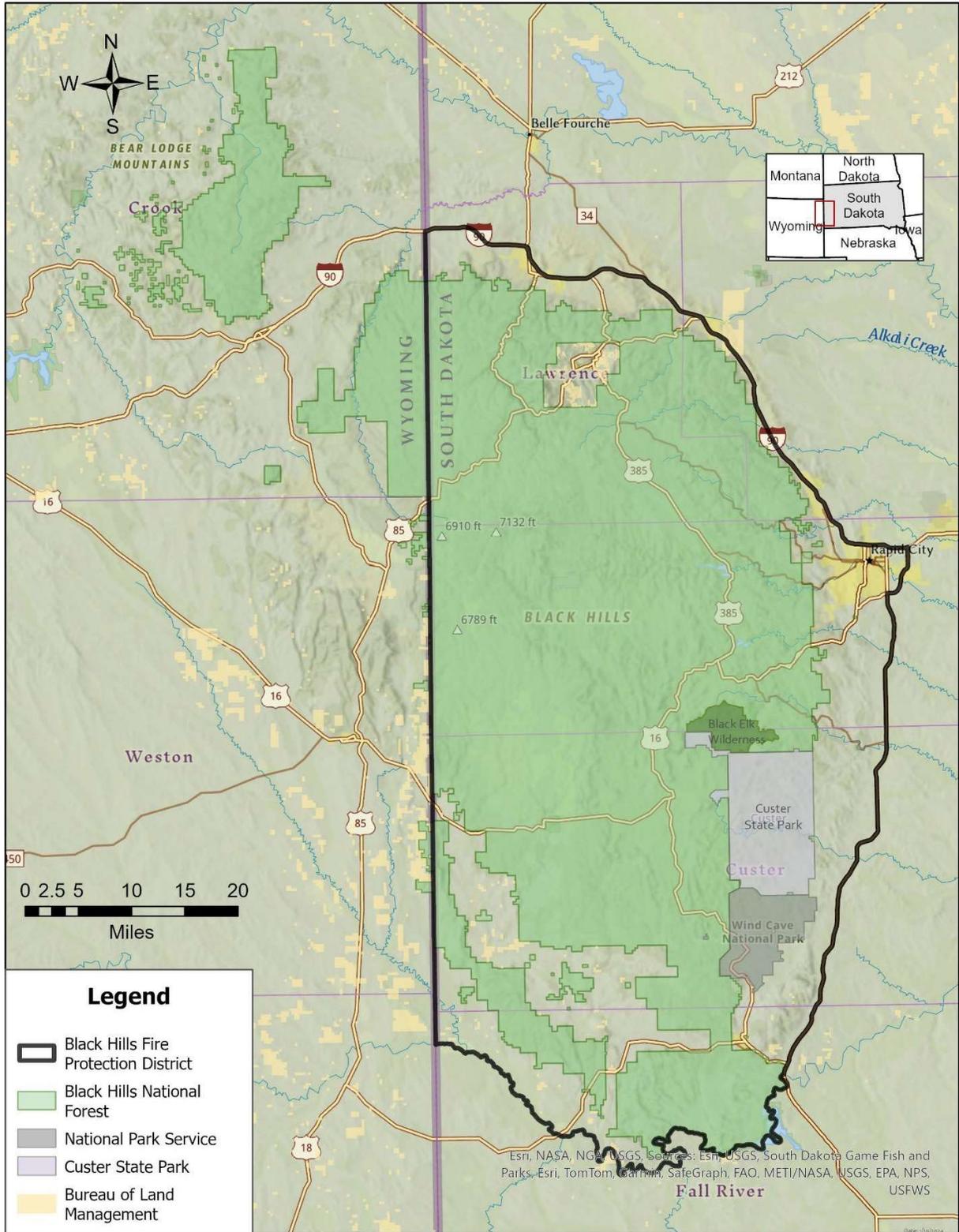
Cabinet Secretary Date

APPENDIX A

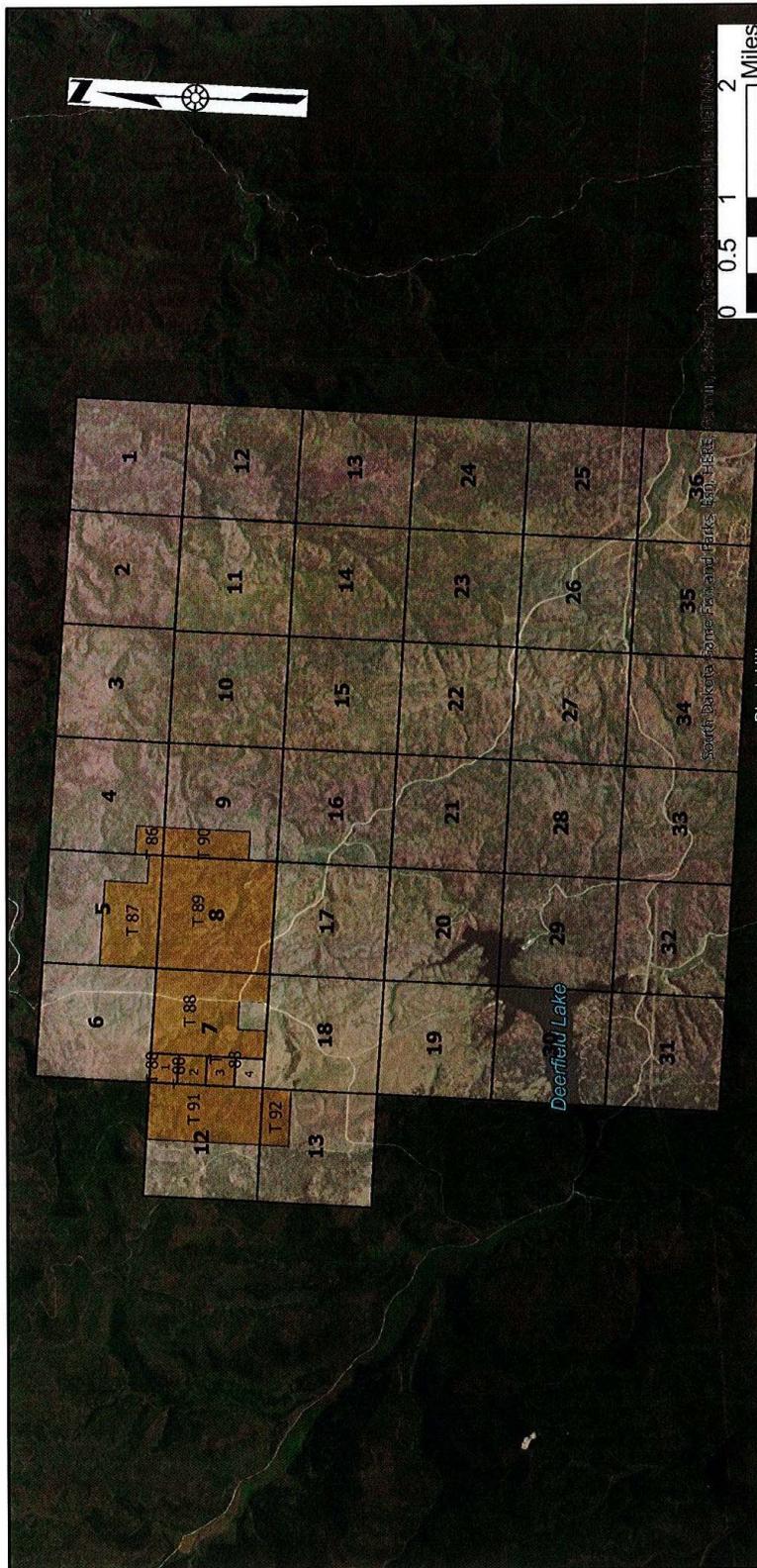
Map 1: Great Plains Dispatch and Miles City Dispatch Center Response Areas applicable to the South Dakota Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement.



Map 2: Black Hills Fire Protection District Boundary.



Map 3: Surface Ownership for Tribal Lands, Allotted Lands, and Fee Lands



South Dakota Misc Surface Ownership

Legend

LAND

- Tribal Lands
- Allotted Lands
- Fee Lands

- Township 1 North, Range 2 East, Black Hills Meridian
 - Section 12: T 91
 - Section 13: T 92
- Township 1 North, Range 3 East, Black Hills Meridian
 - Section 4: T 86
 - Section 5: T 87
 - Section 7: T 88
 - Section 8: T 89
 - Section 9: T 90

USE CONSTRAINTS AND DISCLAIMER: THIS INFORMATION IS PREPARED STRICTLY FOR ILLUSTRATIVE AND REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE USED, AND IS NOT INTENDED FOR LEGAL SURVEY ENGINEERING OR NAVIGATION PURPOSES. NO WARRANTY IS MADE BY THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (BIA) FOR THE ACCURACY OF THIS MAP AND THE INFORMATION IT CONTAINS OR FOR USES OF THE MAP FOR OTHER THAN ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES. THE BIA DOES NOT WARRANT THE ACCURACY OF THE MAP, WHICH MAY CONTAIN ERRORS. THE DEPICTIONS CONTAINED HEREIN ARE FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE AREAS DEPICTED OR ANY INTERESTS IN THE LANDS THEREIN. NO LEGAL INFERENCE CAN OR SHOULD BE MADE FROM THE BOUNDARIES DEPICTED OR THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS MAP, WHICH IS INTENDED TO BE USED SOLELY FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES AND DOES NOT REPRESENT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE JURISDICTIONAL STATUS OF INDIAN COUNTRY. OWNERSHIP AND JURISDICTIONAL STATUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND MUST BE VERIFIED WITH PLAT BOOKS, PATENTS, AND DEEDS IN THE APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICES.

Map 4: Surface Ownership for Tribal Lands, Allotted Lands, and Fee Lands

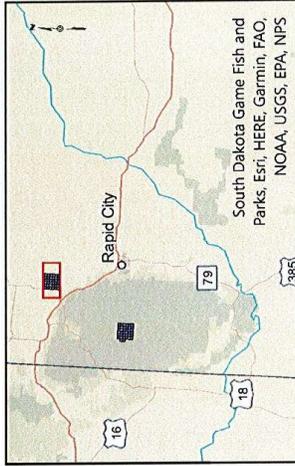


South Dakota Misc Surface Ownership

Township 6 North, Range 6 East, Black Hills Meridian
Section 19: T 81

Legend

- LAND**
- Tribal Lands
 - Allotted Lands
 - Fee Lands



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APPENDIX B

BLM FIRE MANAGEMENT ADDENDUM

Guidance for suppression strategies and tactics in sage-grouse habitat on BLM lands in the South Dakota Field Office.

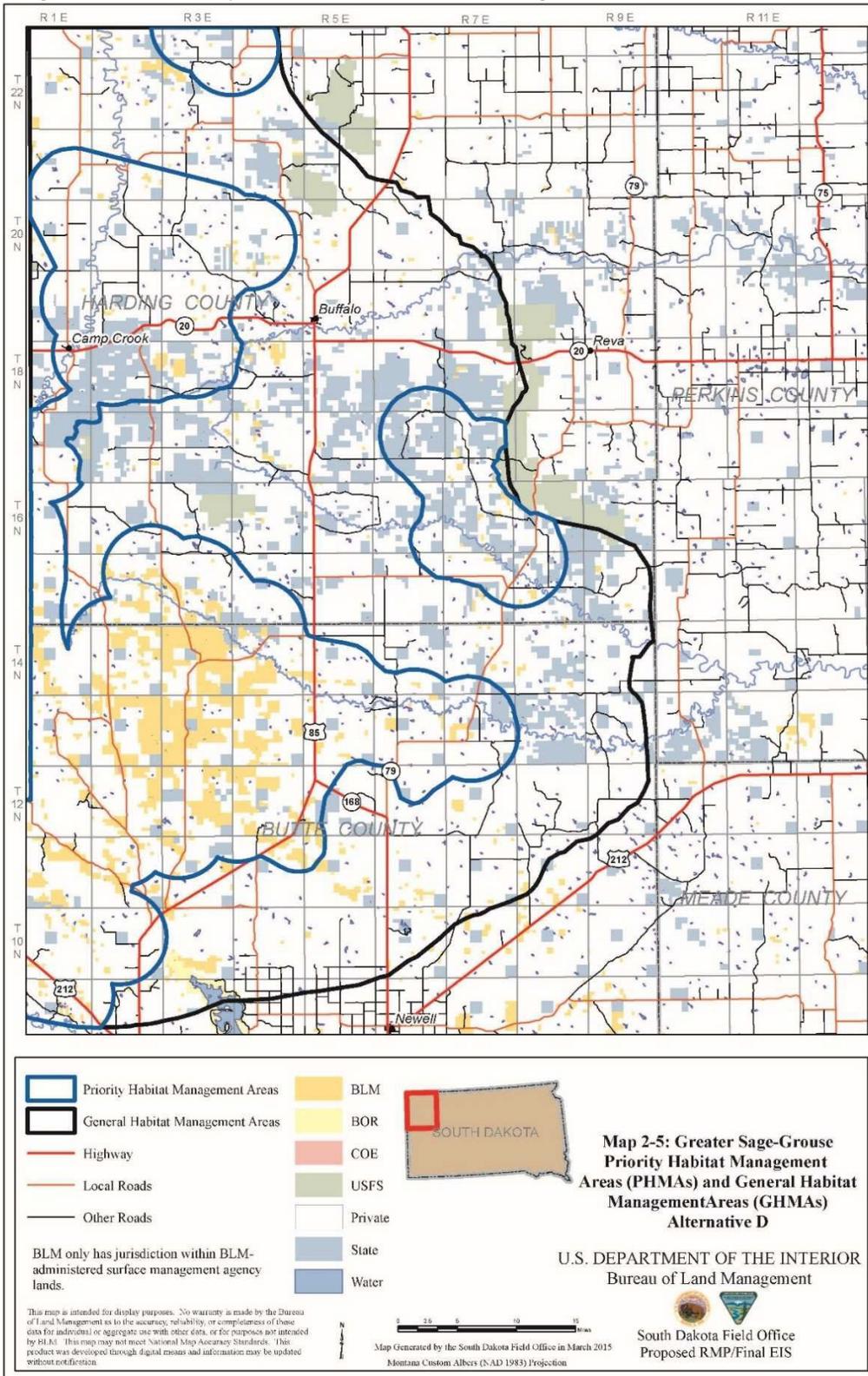
Conservation and protection of sage-grouse habitat is important to the overall goals of the Eastern Montana/Dakotas District. The management and conservation of sage-grouse habitat, as a priority, will be addressed in incident objectives and resource allocation. Firefighter and public safety has been, and continues to be, the BLM's highest fire management priority. Protecting, conserving, and restoring the sagebrush rangelands and sage-grouse habitat are among BLM fire management's highest natural resource objectives.

BLM's goal is to: **Sustain or reestablish the integrity of the sagebrush biome to provide the amount, continuity, and quality of habitat that is necessary to maintain sustainable populations of sage-grouse and other sagebrush-dependent wildlife species.**

To accomplish this goal fires in Sagebrush Plant Communities will use strategies and tactics that are low impact and less aggressive. Suppression efforts should include:

- A. In Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMA), prioritize aggressive suppression techniques immediately after life and property to conserve the habitat.
- B. In General Habitat Management Areas (GHMA), within 3 miles of leks, prioritize aggressive suppression techniques immediately after life and property to conserve the habitat.
 - Assign a sage-grouse resource advisor to all extended attack fires in PHMA and GHMA. Order additional resource advisors if necessary.
 - Take suppression actions outside sagebrush communities to contain a wildland fire before it enters the sagebrush community.
 - Use of retardant and foaming/gel agents by aerial and ground resources to pre-treat a community edge for the advancing fire front if it can be done safely.
 - Tying fingers into already established barriers (i.e. roads, rocky breaks, water sources, agricultural fields, etc.) rather than creating new containment barriers that may fragment the community.
 - Use of heavy mechanized equipment in these community types is allowed to protect/prevent further fragmentation and disturbance.
 - Utilize retardant and mechanized equipment to minimize burned acreage.
 - Minimize burnout operations in key sage-grouse habitat areas by constructing direct fireline whenever safe and practical to do so.
 - Minimize unnecessary cross-country vehicle travel during fire operations in PHMA.
 - As safety allows, conduct mop-up where the black adjoins unburned islands, dog legs, or other habitat features to minimize sagebrush loss.
 - Wash vehicles and heavy equipment for fires prior to arrival at a new location to avoid introduction of noxious weeds.
 - Protect sagebrush along riparian zones, meadows, lakebeds, and farmlands that are adjacent to intact PHMAs.

Greater Sage-Grouse Priority and General Habitat Management Areas



APPENDIX C

Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS)

Name	NWS ID.	Latitude Longitude	Key Code Long	Key Code Short
Agate	#250105	42° 25' 29" 103° 44' 8"		
Baker Park	#392606	43° 58' 46" 103 25' 30'	0203	0204
Bear Creek	#391201	45° 03' 26" 101° 28' 36"		
Bearlodge	#480605	44° 35' 50" 104° 25' 38'	0301	0302
Bessey	#252402	41° 53' 50" 100° 18' 38"	120	110, 100
Custer	#393506	43° 46' 26" 103° 36 40'	4358	4359
Custer State Park	#393507	43° 72' 86" 103° 35' 42"	120	110, 100
Devils Lake	#321401	47° 59' 07" 98° 54' 27"		
Devils Tower	#480606	44° 34' 54" 104° 43' 10"		
WICA Elk Mountain	#393505	43° 33' 27" 103° 29' 0"		
Ft. Pierre	#393801	44° 22' 58" 100° 17' 9"	120	110, 100
Grand River	#390301	45° 36' 51" 101° 03' 46"		
Kings Canyon	#250203	42° 43' 25" 102 58' 18"	120	110, 100
Magpie Creek	#395601	43° 19' 05" 101° 08' 40"		
McKelvie	#250403	42° 41' 22" 101° 7' 42"	120	110, 100
Montrose	#250103	42° 55' 23" 103° 47' 35"	120	110, 100
Mt. Rushmore	#392603	43° 52' 40" 103° 26' 58"		
Nemo	#392506	44° 11' 23" 103 30' 35'	0308	0309
Pinnacles	#392606	43° 52' 50" 102° 14' 16"		
Porcupine	#395202	43° 17' 24" 102° 16' 16"		

South Dakota Statewide Operating Plan

Name	NWS ID.	Latitude Longitude	Key Code Long	Key Code Short
Rapid City West	#392608	44° 04' 9.5" 103° 18' 42"	120	110, 100
Red Canyon	#395105	43° 25' 33' 103 45' 32'	0315	0316
Scottsbluff	#251905	41° 49' 45" 103° 42' 39"		
Spearfish	#392606	44° 27' 29" 103° 49' 7"	120	110, 100
Tatanka Prairie	#328501	46° 09' 37" 100° 54' 05"		
Turtle Mountain	#320501	48° 48' 33" 99° 50' 18"		
Whitetail Peak	#392607	44° 07' 34' 103° 50' 38'	2567	2568