

Exhibit C

WASHINGTON STATEWIDE
2025-2029 OPERATING PLAN

Between

STATE OF WASHINGTON

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

UEI No. HKJNV37AQ4X3

Operating Plan Agreement No. 93-108094-OP-1

Master Agreement No. 93-108094

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

Northwest Region

UEI No. GF45M8G4KQB5

Master Agreement No. 25P004430A01

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Oregon and Washington

UEI No. GD3JJJNDU3E5

Operating Plan Agreement No. BLMOR916-2504

Master Agreement No. BLMOR916-2503

National Park Service (NPS)

Interior Regions 8, 9, 10, and 12

UEI No. ZK1LYM6WE3C4

Master Agreement No. G8075251000

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Pacific Region

UEI No. MYTDK1R5BBQ6

Master Agreement No. FF01R03000-24X-L029

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service (FS)

Pacific Northwest and Northern Regions

UEI No. G2EGL5TJE6N3

Master Agreement No. 25-FI-11062752-006

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This Operating Plan is hereby made and entered into by and between the Parties pursuant to the Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (the Agreement) signed and dated January 1, 2025. This Operating Plan, inclusive of any referenced attachments or Exhibits, is tiered to the Agreement. A formal modification to the Agreement is unnecessary but this Operating Plan shall not contradict the Agreement.

I. PURPOSE

This Operating Plan is applicable to all signatory Parties within the State of Washington. Its purpose is to address statewide issues affecting cooperation, interagency working relationships and protocols, financial arrangements, sharing of resources, and joint activities/projects.

II. RECITALS

Stafford Act responses and related National Response Framework 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

The following are incorporated by reference and will remain in effect under the authority of the Master Agreement until revised or renegotiated as appropriate:

- [Northwest Area Interagency Mobilization Guide](#)
- Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group (PNWCG) Charter
- [Northwest MAC Operations Handbook](#)
- Pacific Northwest Interagency Preparedness Plan
- NWCC Resource Allocation Strategy
- Northwest Coordination Center Plan of Operations
- Northwest Coordination Center Operating Plan
- [Northwest Interagency Incident Management Team Operations Guide](#)
- [Northern Rockies Interagency Mobilization Guide](#)

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A. Interagency Communication and Coordination Centers:

- 1. Purpose and Overview:** The Parties to this Operating Plan agree to maintain, support, and participate in Central Washington, Northeast, Blue Mountain, Puget Sound, and Columbia Cascade Interagency Communication Centers.
- 2. Administrative Oversight/Structure:** These centers participate in the interagency system and have an executive board that oversees their operations. Also, The Northwest Interagency Coordination Center (NWCC) is the Geographic Area Coordination Center for the States of Oregon and Washington and are the responsibility of the NWCC Steering Group. All centers serve as the focal point for interagency resource coordination, logistics support, aviation support and predictive services for all state and federal agencies involved in wildland fire management and suppression in their respective areas of responsibilities. More information can be found on the respective websites for these centers.
- 3. Organization:** Center Staff is composed of representatives from the USDA Forest Service, DOI Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Washington DNR, where appropriate. In the event Washington DNR is not providing staff, funding is provided. Staff in the centers could consist of permanent, seasonal, permanent seasonal or half time employees.
- 4. Roles and Responsibilities:** addressed in respective operating guides for each center.
- 5. Dispatch Services provided by the Communications Centers:**
 - a. Initial and Extended Attack:** Fire dispatching for fires on land protected by agencies will comply with the following:
 - i.** Resources will be dispatched using the closest force(s) concept. Pre-planned response plans will be utilized to guide this process.
 - ii.** The responsibility for management of the incident will fall to the most qualified initial attack supervisor on the first resource to arrive at the scene. Individual will remain as Incident Commander until released of these duties by the jurisdictional agency.
 - iii.** Agencies are responsible to provide information and assistance to each other in a timely manner, for proper completion of the fire reports.
 - iv.** In the event of an extended attack or when incident management teams are in command of an incident, dispatch actions for that incident will be conducted through the jurisdictional agency, unless the jurisdictional agency delegates otherwise.

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- b. Mobilization, Demobilization and Support:** addressed on the Northwest Coordination Center and Northern Rockies Interagency Coordination Center websites.
- c. Aviation:** addressed on the Northwest Coordination Center and Northern Rockies Interagency Coordination Center websites.
- d. Prescribed Fire (*if applicable*):** addressed on the Northwest Coordination Center and Northern Rockies Interagency Coordination Center websites.
- e. All Hazard (*law Enforcement, Natural Disaster, etc., as appropriate*):** addressed on the Northwest Coordination Center and Northern Rockies Interagency Coordination Center websites.
- f. NW Coordination Center Services:**
 - i. Operations**
 - 1. NWCC Operations is the principal interface with local dispatch centers and is responsible for planning, managing, and processing requests for incident resources, under the direction of the Deputy Center Manager and Center Manager.
 - 2. Operations staff, as part of the NW MAC (Multi-agency Coordination) organization, also implement NW MAC resource allocation.
 - ii. Predictive Services**
 - 1. NWCC Predictive Services assesses and anticipates changes in the fire environment that critically influence decisions regarding resource availability, placement, and planning.
 - 2. Analysis and forecasting products and services directly support NWCC and NW MAC decision-making processes.
 - iii. Information Services**
 - 1. NWCC Information Services provides public affairs, data management and information technology support to NWCC, the NW MAC and other interagency groups.
 - 2. These subject matter experts provide critical points of contact with agency counterparts to provide seamless and interactive service.
- 6. Funding:** NWCC operating costs are proportionately shared among the contributing federal agencies and Washington DNR as described in the NWCC MOU and Operating Plan. As needed, any arrangement that would

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require an exchange of funds will be documented via a Supplemental Fire Project Agreement or other appropriate funding document.

B. Interagency Resources:

1. **Incident Management Teams:** The PNWCG Operations Committee provides oversight and guidance to the Northwest Complex Interagency Incident Management Teams. See [Northwest Interagency Incident Management Team Operations Guide](#).
2. **Local Fire Service Organizations:**
 - a. State of Washington fire service participation in support of Northwest Complex Interagency Incident Management Teams will be coordinated through agency specific agreements.
 - b. In Washington, when the Mobilization Act is invoked, local fire district resources may be dispatched through the Washington State Patrol Fire Protection Bureau. The DNR will be the link between State Mobilization and the Federal agencies signing all cost share agreements on their behalf.
3. **Tribal Resources:** Tribal resources may be available for use under this agreement through existing Bureau of Indian Affairs/tribal cooperative agreements. In such instances, the cooperative agreement will be incorporated into the local operating plan by reference¹.
4. **Use of Incarcerated Individual Resources:**
 - a. Use of incarcerated individual resources for Federal fire suppression operations are ordered and coordinated through the State of Washington.
 - b. Procedures for use of incarcerated individual resources are listed in the “Interagency Agreement with Washington State Departments of Corrections and Natural Resources.”
5. **Use of National Guard Resources:** Ordering and Payment of National Guard resources will occur through the State of Washington. Procedures for use of military resources are listed in the following agreements:
 - a. Interagency Agreement Between the Department of Natural Resources, and the Washington Military Department (“State of Washington Master Interagency Agreement Between Washington Department of Natural Resources and Washington Military Department” and “State of Washington DNR-WMD Operating Plan”)
6. **Use of International Resources:** Procedures for use of international resources are listed in the following agreements:
 - a. [Northwest Wildland Fire Protection Agreement \(Northwest Compact\) and Annual Operational Guidelines](#). Ordering and payment of NW Compact resources are through the respective states. Signatory agencies for the Northwest Compact are States of Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Hawaii, and provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, British

¹ For the purposes of this plan, any reference to local operating plans or sub-geo plans are one in the same.

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Columbia, Yukon Territories, and Northwest Territories. International Agreements in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide describe the process for use and ordering of international resources by federal agencies.

- b. [Northwest Wildfire Response Border Arrangement](#). Arrangement is to provide the framework under which wildfire management activities, identification, initial response, mutual aid and planning allows for cooperative pre suppression and wildfire protection along the United States and Canada's British Columbia portion of the International Border. This arrangement is between the Province of British Columbia Ministry of Forests Land and Natural Resource Operations, USDA Forest Service – Pacific Northwest Regions, Alaska and Northern Regions; National Park Service – Pacific West, Alaska and Intermountain Regions; and Bureau of Land Management – Oregon/Washington and Idaho State Offices.
 - c. [NW Wildfire Response Border Arrangement Operating Guideline](#) (includes Washington DNR and Idaho Department of Lands). Identifies strategic conditions for implementing procedures and establishing a command structure to support circumstances associated with wildfires.
 - d. [United States IMT Quick Guide for Border Fires with British Columbia](#) Addresses appropriate response and understanding of how to deal with border issues.
7. **Incident/Project order number:** The incident number for all wildfires will be determined by the jurisdictional agency at the point of origin, except for those fires originating on unprotected lands. The incident number for all wildfires originating on unprotected lands should reflect that agency that was first determined to be threatened and/or took the initial action.

The lead paying agency for wildfires should be determined by the jurisdictional agency at the point of origin, unless otherwise agreed to. In the event of a multijurisdictional fire, prior to mobilizing an IMT, a joint decision should be made to determine the lead paying/ordering agency.

Outside of federal and state jurisdiction and when a federal or state agency responds to an incident on city/local/county/private lands the Incident Order number will be determined by the incident agency (BLM, FWS, USFS, BIA, NPS, State) initiating suppression activities within the federal and/or state dispatch center.

The Washington State Fire Marshal's Office unit identifier (WFS) should only be utilized when State mobilization has been enacted.

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C. Standards:

1. All parties to this operating plan accept the standards for each agency through the duration of an incident, in compliance with the Master Agreement and associated operating plans.
2. The National Wildfire Coordinating Group publication, National Incident Management System: Wildland Fire Qualifications System Guide (PMS 310-1), outline the minimum requirements for training, experience, physical fitness level, and currency standards for wildland fire positions, which all participating agencies have agreed to meet for national mobilization.
3. Reference common standards and direction for land management and aircraft use in Appendix 2 - Interagency Aircraft Utilization Guidelines.

- D. Supplemental Fire Department Resources:** Fire department resources sponsored by the State of Washington are not considered supplemental fire department resources. Supplemental fire department resources utilized by federal agencies could be used in accordance with Exhibit G.

PREPAREDNESS

A. Protection Planning:

1. The agencies agree to coordinate annually on shared resources across the State of Washington. Shared resources, including but not limited to, are those resources that can be shared across the State by all signatory to this Agreement. Below is a list of shared resources:
 - a. Large air tanker base – Moses Lake, WA
 - b. Washington SEAT bases – Deer Park, Omak, and Yakima
 - c. Smokejumpers
 - d. Type 1 – IHC crews – Entiat, Baker River
 - e. Washington helicopter bases – Big Lake, Camp Bonneville, Olympia, Wenatchee, Chewelah, Yakima, Omak, Dallesport, Pullman, and Electric City.
 - f. Air attack locations – Wenatchee, Deer Park, Omak, and Yakima
 - g. Shared cache locations at Wenatchee, Tumwater, La Grande, and Cour D’Alene.
2. Details on placement of crews, engines, air tankers, helicopters, fixed and aerial detection, regulated use, closures, and other joint fire control efforts are identified in local area operational plans.

- B. Protection Areas and Boundaries:** See attached map in Appendix 1 - Protection Area Map.

1. Unprotected lands:

- a. There are approximately 357,000 acres of unprotected land across Washington State. Unprotected lands are lands for which there is no agreement with an established fire protection organization such as a Rural Fire Department, a Municipal Fire Department, a county, the DNR, or federal agency. When wildland fires occur on unprotected lands and fire threatens any agency’s resource values, there is discretion to engage in fire

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suppression activities to protect that agency's resource values consistent with their agency policies.

- b. Suppression activities on unprotected lands can be very complex. These fires often have multiple landowners taking suppression actions with no means of communication with other firefighting entities. Uncoordinated response to wildland fire has the potential to place firefighters in hazardous situations, which are inherently high risk. Local area operating plans should address any unprotected lands and how to best coordinate a response that mitigates any hazardous situations that may be present, define what constitutes a threat to agency lands, develop management action points, and course of action. Fires that start on unprotected lands within one mile of another agency's jurisdiction should be considered a threat, unless modified locally or determined otherwise by a jurisdictional agency.

C. Methods of Fire Protection and Suppression:

1. Reciprocal (Mutual Aid) Fire Protection Assistance:

- a. Mutual aid period will default to the first 24 hours and if an incident lasts beyond 24 hours, the cost exchange start time will be retroactive to the beginning of the incident, unless otherwise specified in a local operation plan. Aviation resources are not included, unless documented in a local/sub-geographic operating plan.
- b. DNR and FS consider their entire agencies' lands in the State of Washington affected by this agreement to be reciprocal.
- c. DNR and the DOI agencies in the State of Washington may determine reciprocal fire protection at the local area and document such in local operating plans.

- 2. **Acquisition of Services:** Executed through local operating plans, joint project plans, and/or agency specific documents. There are currently no reimbursable (cooperative), exchange (offset), or contract (fee basis) services in the state of Washington.

- D. Joint Projects and Project Plans:** Local operating plans will list or reference joint cooperative projects, if applicable. 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. 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 another written document. Joint projects and project plans within the state of Washington are documented in separate supplemental fire protection agreements.

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- E. Fire Prevention:** The Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group (PNWCG) Communication, Prevention & Investigation Committee (CPIC) promotes a better understanding of wildland fire through communication, prevention and investigation using a coordinated interagency effort. This group consists of members from these agencies: Washington Department of Natural Resources, Office of the Oregon State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington State Fire Marshal's Office, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and Oregon Department of Forestry. Non-voting members include Washington Fire Adapted Communities and Keep Oregon Green. The current year charter for this group can be found on the PNWCG website.
- F. Public Use Restrictions:** Public use restrictions/fire prevention orders will be coordinated among all agencies, so that a unified message can be delivered to the public. It is the responsibility of each agency to issue public use restrictions/fire prevention orders.
- G. Burning Permits:** All burning permits will be issued per each agency's guidelines.
- H. Prescribed Fire (Planned Ignitions) and Fuels Management:** Prescribed fire and other fuels management projects will be appropriately coordinated as necessary with adjacent landowners and agencies. Agencies will follow agency requirements and be consistent with planning documents and policy. Exchange of funds will be documented in a separate Supplemental Project Agreement in accordance with the requirements of the involved agencies.
- I. Smoke Management:**
1. During the management of unplanned fires on wildlands, consider the use of Air Resource Advisors when smoke is potential concern for public health and/or safety. On federal lands, when considering any strategy other than full suppression, consider air quality impacts to the public, per the applicable Land or Resource Management Plan, per Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (2009).
 2. For planned burns on wildland managed by a federal agency, follow the Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures, and the [State Smoke Management Plan \(SMP\)](#), where applicable. This does not apply to wildfire suppression operations. For prescribed burns on Indian Trust Lands, Indian nations may choose to participate in all or portions of the SMP and must be by written agreement between the Indian nation and DNR.
 3. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Washington Department of Ecology, and the Washington Department of Natural Resources regulate air quality in Washington through implementation of the Federal Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 7401-7671q) and the Washington Clean Air Act (RCW 70.94). The Clean Air Act is a federal air quality law, which is intended to protect human health and the environment by reducing emissions

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of specified pollutants at their source. Under the Washington Clean Air Act the Washington Department of Natural Resources was appointed to regulate silviculture and forest fire hazards burning to reduce statewide emissions (RCW 70.94). All non-silviculture and forest fire hazard burning is regulated by the Washington Department of Ecology.

IV. OPERATIONS

- A. Fire Notifications:** Local operating plans shall specify notifications, procedures, and timelines to include timeframes for information to be sent to jurisdictional agencies for completion of final fire reports. Completion of final fire report will be provided per guidance as outlined in the Red Book, individual agency, or any local operating plans.
- B. Boundary Line Fires:** Units are expected to review boundary areas annually with neighboring agencies to determine whether preplanned fire control lines and response strategies are still appropriate for each other's jurisdictional interests. Plans to resolve adjacency issues will be documented in local annual operating plans and on maps attached to those plans. These plans will guide the development of cost share agreements if multi-jurisdictional fires occur in the area.
- C. Independent Action on Lands Protected by Another Agency:**
 - 1. All fire suppression actions conducted on lands of other Agencies shall be consistent with the Jurisdictional Agency's land management policy.
 - 2. Any participating agency may, upon its own initiative, at the risk of their own expense, and with appropriate notification and coordination, respond to wildland fires on lands that are under the direct protection of another agency. Parties to this Agreement shall not perform any fire suppression action that is contrary to limitations found in the local operating plans.
- D. Response to Wildland Fire:**
 - 1. **Management Response for Wildland Fire:** Agency administrators should include nearby jurisdictions and landowners that could be affected, through planning, strategy development, and seeking additional information to understand the adjacent landowners' concerns.
 - 2. **Special Management Considerations:**
 - a. If applicable, local operating plans should identify areas where there are resource and other management concerns, i.e. special management considerations, appropriate fire management actions, any restrictions in firefighting tactical techniques, etc. (Note: This information could be incorporated by reference into a land or resource management plan.)
 - b. Local operating plans should identify strategies that may need to be considered to limit the potential for increased damage to private and public property, infrastructure investments or critical habitat, when it is

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necessary to limit the use of aerially delivered fire retardant in certain locations, such as the wildland-urban interface or in an aerial retardant avoidance area.

- c. Local operating plans may identify how suppression costs related to special management considerations will be allocated.

3. Use of Fire Chemicals:

- a. Use only products qualified and approved for intended use. Follow safe handling procedures, use personal protective equipment recommended on the product label and Safety Data Sheet. A current list of qualified products and approved uses can be found on the [Wildland Fire Chemical Systems and Aerial Delivery Systems website](#).
- b. Chemicals used for wildland fire including foam, retardant, gel, or others will not be applied to waterways. Aerial application of chemicals will not be applied within 300 feet from any waterway. If such action was to occur, the Jurisdiction Agency must be notified immediately. Refer to Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Red Book), Chapter 12, Suppression Chemicals and Delivery Systems [Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations \(Red Book\), Chapter 12, Suppression Chemicals and Delivery Systems](#).

E. Decision Process:

- 1. The development of suppression strategies and tactics should consider the probability of success, safety risk analysis, available resources, values at risk, social and political values, and existing legal statutes. Consider using the Incident Strategic Alignment Process ([ISAP](#)). These decisions should be documented per each agencies policy and included in the incident file.
- 2. The Federal agencies will assume the lead for development of Wildland Fire Decision Support System and delegation of authority as required for fires on federally managed lands. The State and/or Federal fire management officials will provide information relevant to the initial stages of the decision document and may provide the situational briefing for the incoming incident management team.

F. Cooperation: All parties will be involved in developing strategy and tactics which would be used if a wildland fire does cross jurisdictional boundaries. Neighboring jurisdictions should provide prompt notification to agencies when concerns exist about fires that have the potential to impact adjacent jurisdictions.

G. Communication:

- 1. Communication should occur prior to fire seasons and during the early stages of wildland fires. Agencies managing fires, especially those with multiple

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objectives, should consider firefighter and public safety, predicted weather conditions, resource drawdown, proximity to private property, values at risk, smoke, current and anticipated fire activity and time of season.

2. News releases are issued through the jurisdictional public affairs offices of each agency. Where applicable news releases should be coordinated between the agencies.

H. Cost efficiency: Jurisdictions will identify, in local operating plans, 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. Consider using the ISAP tool to document cost efficiencies.

I. Delegation of Authority: Describe procedures and criteria to specify direction, authority and financial management guidelines that local Unit Administrators will use to inform Incident Commanders.

- FS: Forest Supervisor
- BIA: Agency Superintendent
- FWS: Refuge Manager; Project Leader
- NPS: Park Superintendent
- BLM: District Manager or Field Manager
- DNR: Region Manager

J. Preservation of Evidence: Wildland fire origin and cause evidence will be preserved in accordance with applicable Agency regulations and policies.

1. The protecting agencies are responsible to perform origin and cause determination findings on all fires. Protecting Agency and all other first responders are required to preserve information and evidence pertaining to the origin and cause of all fires to the extent practical. This includes accurate and timely identification of the area of ignition coordinates, as well as witness statements and contact information. Jurisdictional Agencies will be notified as soon as possible of all suspected human caused fires by the Protecting Agency. Evidence will be preserved in accordance with applicable Agency regulations and policies.
2. If criminal activity is suspected, immediate notifications will be given to appropriate law enforcement personnel as per respective agency direction. Unless otherwise agreed, the Lead investigator will be provided by the Jurisdictional Agency, except for areas covered by offset lands agreements, in which case the Lead investigator will be provided by the Protecting Agency.

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3. Investigations and all ensuing civil and/or administrative cost recovery actions beyond origin and cause determination are the responsibility of the Jurisdictional Agency. When incidents impact multiple agencies' jurisdictions, collections will be pursued jointly and cooperatively by each agency affected to the extent practical.

K. Invasive Species Mitigation: Efforts should be used to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plant, terrestrial, and aquatic species during fire operations. Complete guidance for managing against the spread of aquatic invasive species during wildfire firefighting can be found in the National Guide to Preventing Aquatic Invasive Species Transport by Wildland Fire Operations – PMS 444 January 2017. Available at NWCG website: <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/pms444>.

V. USE AND REIMBURSEMENT OF INTERAGENCY FIRE RESOURCES

1. 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 to clarify how such factors will influence the ultimate selection of a cost share methodology for any given wildland fire.

The cost factors that should be considered in the Cost Share Agreement:

- Fireline Resources: Dozers, engines, fallers, transports, water tenders, hand crews, line overhead.
- Fire Camp Operations and Support: Overhead, buses, camp crews, communications, food, refrigerator units, showers, toilets, water trucks, cache supplies, rescue/med, camp facility.
- Air Support: Helicopters, (with support) air tankers.
- Cost apportionment by period (i.e., state mobilization or conflagration, Fire Management Assistance Grant declaration, additional jurisdictional involvement).

The following are not reimbursable:

- Responsibility for tort claims or compensation for injury costs or real property/resource damage.
- Suppression repair costs are the responsibility of the Jurisdictional Agency.
- Non-expendable property purchases will be the responsibility of the Agency making the purchase.
- Indirect Support costs (i.e., dispatchers, warehouse workers, etc.), unless they are charging to an emergency code assigned to the incident.

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- Costs related to independent action are not applicable to a cost share and are not reimbursable.

A. Cost Share Agreement (Cost Share Methodologies):

- a. The following cost sharing methodologies may be utilized: (listed in no particular order)
 - i. Percent of Effort- Costs for resources will be shared by percent of effort by jurisdiction. Agency Administrators, or designee, will agree upon each operational period the percent of effort, note the percentage on the front of the IAP for each operational period and all administrators will sign, as verification, of the percent split.
 - ii. Acres Burned- Costs for resources will be shared based on the daily or final percentage of acres burned by jurisdiction, (or) by fire line perimeter acres, per jurisdiction.
 - iii. Boots on the Ground- Costs for resources will be shared by boots-on-the-ground for jurisdictional responsibility. Agency Administrators, or designee, will agree upon each resource's jurisdictional workload. This will be noted on the ICS 204 in the IAP, next to each resource, per division, per shift. Each Agency Administrator, or designee, will sign the front of the IAP as verification of boots-on-the-ground.
 - iv. You Order/You Pay- Costs for resources will be based on the 'you order/you pay' model. The jurisdiction the ground resource is working on does not matter. Resource orders will indicate which agency requested the ground resource. The ordering agency will be noted on the ICS 204 in the IAP, next to each resource, per division, per shift.
 - v. Other-
 1. Costs for resources will be shared based on specific divisions. Division cost responsibility will be noted on the ICS 204 in the IAP, per division, per shift. Each Agency Administrator will agree upon each resource's working Division for each shift and sign the IAP.
 2. Other methodologies determined by the agency administrator (validate with incident business that it is implementable)

- B. Trainees:** Trainees on incidents will be considered a benefit and cost to the incidents, and costs for the trainees shall be shared, unless otherwise directed to the IMT in the Delegation of Authority.

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- C. Equipment Supplies and Cache Items:** Parties agree that the receiving/supporting Party shall reimburse Supplying Party for costs associated with transport of cache items to/from incidents, durable and cost associated with refurbishment (such as the washing of Nomex, purging of pumps, transport, etc.).
 - D. Training:** Identify training needs, schedules, resources available, and opportunities for cost sharing.
 - E. Communication Systems:** Access to systems and facilities will be approved only by agency authorized personnel and in accordance with agency laws, regulations, and policies governing security of systems and facilities. Frequency/communications will be further addressed in local operating plans.
 - F. Fire Weather Systems:** Each agency is responsible for the maintenance, use and management of their fire weather systems. The NWCG Standards for Fire Weather Systems is the guiding document for the maintenance and use of all fire weather systems. For stations meeting NFDRS standards, sharing of cost will be identified in local operating plans, and the exchanging of funds will be described in a supplemental project plan, for stations meeting NFDRS standards.
 - G. Incident Meteorological (IMET) Services:** The procedures shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the within individual agency agreements 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 jurisdictional agencies IMET Agreement.
- VI. BILLING PROCEDURES: Refer to Exhibit D of the Master Cooperative Fire Agreement, Reimbursable Billings and Payments**
- A. Suppression Billings.** Bills will only be issued for actual costs incurred.
 - a.** Billing Information, provide:
 - Agency name and billing address
 - Financial Contact (name, phone, email)
 - Agency Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
 - b.** Billing timeframes:
 - Provide contact information for written request for extensions beyond timeframes established in Exhibit D, Reimbursable Billings and Payments.
 - B. Indirect Cost Rates, if applicable:**
 - The indirect cost assessment is waived for all agreements, (cost share agreements, local agreements, sub geographic agreements, supplemental project plan agreements, etc.), etc.
 - C. Supplemental billing information, summary data or additional billing documentation shall be provided by the Parties. The process should include:**

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- a. Points of Contact
 - b. Process for handling requests
 - c. Any standardized reports information
- D. Fee Based Services:** Billings will be in accordance with separate written agreement(s) or contract(s).
- E. 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, supplemental fire project agreement, procurement, or other appropriate written document will be required. Billing will be defined under the terms of that document.
- F. Stafford Act Billings:** Refer to Exhibit H of the Master Cooperative Fire Agreement, Use of and Reimbursement for Shared Resources in Stafford Act Response Actions.
- G.** All agencies may require supporting documentation, regardless of billing agency. Actual costs will be applied to agency records.
 - 1. Upon request, documentation for individual items will be required when necessary to support a fire trespass billing, or other billings to third parties.
 - 2. Examples of requested documentation for billings are:
 - a. Salary: Agency time/attendance reports and copy of OF-288 with Resource Number.
 - b. Emergency Equipment: OF-286 Use Invoice with final payment corrections or Commercial Invoice.
 - c. National Contracts: Use Invoice with final payment corrections.
 - d. Detailed records of credit card purchases.
 - e. Detailed retardant costs per drop/aircraft/date.
 - f. Resource Orders.

VII. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. Principal Contacts:** Refer to Appendix 3, Principal Contacts.
- B. Personnel Policy:** Some agencies that are parties to this plan have supplemental fire department resources mobilized under this Operating Plan.

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- C. Modification:** Modifications to 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 1-year advance written notice to the other Parties.
- D. Annual Review:** This Operating Plan is reviewed annually by January 15th, and revised, as needed.
- E. Duration of Operating Plan:** Upon signature by all parties, this Operating Plan takes effect on January 1, 2025, and it will expire December 31, 2029, unless modified or superseded. The current Washington Statewide Master Agreement expires on December 31, 2029.
- If the current Master Cooperative Fire 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.
- F. 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.

VIII. REVIEW AND SIGNATURES

This Operating Plan will be approved by the signatory State of Washington and Federal PNWCG members.

Unit Administrators will have the responsibility for developing and approving local operating plans.

Each signatory may have policies/procedures for entering into agreements (including this Operating Plan) that require additional review by attorneys, agreement specialists, or contracting officers.

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2025-2029 OPERATING PLAN

<p>State of Washington Department of Natural Resources</p> <p>_____ GEORGE GEISSLER Date State Forester</p>	
<p>United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Northwest Region</p> <p>_____ RUDY PEONE Date Acting Regional Director</p>	<p>_____ Contracting Officer Date</p>
<p>United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Oregon-Washington State Office</p> <p>_____ BARRY R. BUSHUE Date State Director, Oregon/Washington</p>	
<p>United States Department of the Interior National Park Service Interior Regions 8, 9, 10 and 12</p> <p>_____ DAVID M. SZYMANSKI Date Regional Director</p>	

Signature pages follow.

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WASHINGTON STATEWIDE
2025-2029 OPERATING PLAN


<p>State of Washington Department of Natural Resources</p>  <p>_____ GEORGE GEISLER State Forester</p> <p>_____ 12/17/24 Date</p>	
<p>United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Northwest Region</p> <p>_____ RUDY PEONE Acting Regional Director</p> <p>_____ Date</p>	<p>_____ Contracting Officer</p> <p>_____ Date</p>
<p>United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Oregon-Washington State Office</p> <p>_____ BARRY R. BUSHUE State Director, Oregon/Washington</p> <p>_____ Date</p>	
<p>United States Department of the Interior National Park Service Interior Regions 8, 9, 10 and 12</p> <p>_____ DAVID M. SZYMANSKI Regional Director</p> <p>_____ Date</p>	

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2025-2029 OPERATING PLAN


State of Washington Department of Natural Resources <hr/> GEORGE GEISLER Date State Forester	
United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Northwest Region  12/30/2024 <hr/> RUDY PEONE Date Acting Regional Director	<hr/> N/A Date Contracting Officer
United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Oregon-Washington State Office <hr/> BARRY R. BUSHUE Date State Director, Oregon/Washington	
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service Interior Regions 8, 9, 10 and 12 <hr/> DAVID M. SZYMANSKI Date Regional Director	

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WASHINGTON STATEWIDE
2025-2029 OPERATING PLAN

State of Washington Department of Natural Resources <hr/> GEORGE GEISSLER _____ Date _____ State Forester	
United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Northwest Region <hr/> RUDY PEONE _____ Date _____ Acting Regional Director	<hr/> _____ Date _____ Contracting Officer
United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Oregon-Washington State Office <div> <div> BARRY BUSHUE </div> <div> <small>Digitally signed by BARRY BUSHUE Date: 2025.01.13 12:46:03 -08'00'</small> </div> </div> <hr/> BARRY R. BUSHUE _____ Date _____ State Director, Oregon/Washington	
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service Interior Regions 8, 9, 10 and 12 <hr/> DAVID M. SZYMANSKI _____ Date _____ Regional Director	

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2025-2029 OPERATING PLAN

<p>State of Washington Department of Natural Resources</p> <p>_____ GEORGE GEISSLER Date State Forester</p>	
<p>United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Northwest Region</p> <p>_____ RUDY PEONE Date Acting Regional Director</p>	<p>_____ Contracting Officer Date</p>
<p>United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Oregon-Washington State Office</p> <p>_____ BARRY R. BUSHUE Date State Director, Oregon/Washington</p>	
<p>United States Department of the Interior National Park Service Interior Regions 8, 9, 10 and 12</p> <p>DAVID SZYMANSKI</p> <p>Digitally signed by DAVID SZYMANSKI Date: 2024.12.23 14:08:56 -08'00'</p> <p>_____ DAVID M. SZYMANSKI Date Regional Director</p>	

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United States Department of the Interior
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Region

HUGH MORRISON
Regional Director

Date

VERONIKA KLUKAS Date _____
Regional Incident Business Specialist

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Northern Region

LEANNE M. MARTEN Regional Forester	Date
---------------------------------------	------

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Pacific Northwest Region

JACQUELINE A. BUCHANAN Regional Forester Pacific Northwest Region	Date
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AMY D. VERELLEN
Grants Management Specialist

Signature pages follow.

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<p>United States Department of the Interior United States Fish and Wildlife Service Pacific Region</p> <hr/> <p>HUGH MORRISON Date Regional Director</p>	<hr/> <p>VERONIKA KLUKAS Date Regional Incident Business Specialist</p>
<p>United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Northern Region</p> <p> Digitally signed by LEANNE MARTEN Date: 2025.01.08 12:17:39 -07'00'</p> <hr/> <p>LEANNE M. MARTEN Date Regional Forester</p>	
<p>United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region</p> <p>JACQUELINE BUCHANAN  Digitally signed by JACQUELINE BUCHANAN Date: 2025.01.09 09:33:10 -08'00'</p> <hr/> <p>JACQUELINE A. BUCHANAN Date Regional Forester Pacific Northwest Region</p>	<p>AMY VERELLEN  Digitally signed by AMY VERELLEN Date: 2024.12.18 14:33:40 -08'00'</p> <hr/> <p>AMY D. VERELLEN Date Grants Management Specialist</p>

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Appendix 1 - Protection Area Map

Electronically available at: [USFS PNW Incident Business Cooperative Relations](#), scroll down to click on “Washington”, then click on “PNW Washington Fire Protection Boundary Map”.

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Appendix 2 - Interagency Aircraft Utilization Guidelines

I. Introduction:

- A. Aircraft are limited resources that can have a critical effect on the success of wildland fire suppression efforts, therefore the State and Federal Agencies strive to achieve a high level of interagency cooperation in the utilization of aircraft.
- B. The shared acquisition, deployment, and utilization of aviation facilities and resources to achieve fire suppression objectives are in the best interest of both state and federal taxpayers.
- C. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the employees of all agencies to work cooperatively to achieve efficient utilization of aviation resources.

II. Deployment and Utilization:

- A. “Agency aircraft” deployed for initial attack in Washington are strategically located. All firefighting aircraft will be dispatched in accordance with the closest forces concept whenever possible, but DNR owned or contracted aircraft will generally be utilized first on DNR jurisdiction incidents, before requesting federal aircraft.
- B. “Closest resource concept” will be followed by all agencies for initial attack (IA) and is defined as: Regardless of the controlling agency, the agency resource that has the shortest timeframe to reach a predetermined incident location first will be dispatched. Established Run Card for IA tactical aircraft will be utilized. Incident commanders and duty officers should order the needed aircraft for the mission regardless of local availability.
- C. The initial attack period for closest forces concept is the first 24 hours from date and time of fire reported, however aviation assets will be utilized using “first Operational period”. On the second day of the fire a new resource request and order will be required.
- D. In the IA period, aircraft will be filled using the closes resource concept. Aircraft dispatched as part of the Run Card or as requested by Incident Commander or Duty Officer will remain assigned to incident until released by the incident, for the first operational shift. If a priority incident is identified, using values at risk, communications between dispatch, IC’s and interagency fire managers will determine priority. All mobilization/assignments/releases, a Tactical Aircraft Resource Order (TARO) and documented in IROC.

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Appendix 2 - Interagency Aircraft Utilization Guidelines

- E. If multiple agencies are involved with incident, unified command will be in place and aircraft will be ordered by the IC, Air Attack or designee to the dispatch center. There may be times, that another agency is threatened and wants to add additional aircraft to the incident to protect their interest. This will still be done via unified command and ordered through the dispatch center.
 - F. Agencies will maintain the right to replace cooperating aircraft with their own.
- III. Aerial Supervision Aircraft (ATGS):** Aerial supervision aircraft are shared resources and are used interchangeably on the fires of all cooperating agencies.
- 1) Initial Attack:** The aerial supervision aircraft closest to the fire will be directly dispatched by the responsible dispatch office. Consideration must be given to limit the number of aerial supervision transitions. If the closest aerial supervision aircraft is committed, the dispatch center will order the next closest resource.
 - 2) Extended Attack/Major Incidents:** For long-term air operations, more than one aerial supervision aircraft should be assigned for rotation to assure adequate crew rest and continuous coverage. For large or complex operations multiple aerial supervision platforms (ATGS, Aerial Supervision Module, Lead Plane, Helicopter Coordinator, etc.) can be utilized to maintain an appropriate span of control and aerial supervision oversight in support of the incident objectives.
 - 3) Supplemental Detection:** Aerial supervision aircraft may be used as necessary for detection following lightning storms or for other purposes. Adjacent units should coordinate through appropriate dispatch channels as necessary. During multiple ignition events, supplemental aerial detection aircraft may be considered to enhance detection capability and reduce the dependence on aerial supervision aircraft.
- IV. Lead Planes/Aerial Supervision Module (ASM) Aircraft:** A Lead Plane or ASM can be requested by an air tanker or aerial supervision aircraft regardless of agency. Lead Planes or ASMs will be requested through established dispatch channels.

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Appendix 2 - Interagency Aircraft Utilization Guidelines

- V. Helicopter Coordinator Aircraft (HLCO):** One or more helicopter coordinators may be requested to maintain an appropriate span of control related to helicopter operations over an incident. Helicopter coordinator aircraft will be designated and confirmed with the controlling dispatch center when assigned this role.

When considering a HLCO platform, care must be taken to ensure that the selected helicopter is equipped with avionics capable of conducting the mission.

- A. Initial Attack:** The closest available helicopter with a qualified helicopter coordinator, regardless of agency, may fill the helicopter coordinator role. Confirmation of the assignment will be established by the IC to dispatch.

- B. Extended Attack/Major Incidents:** Requests for additional helicopter coordinators after initial attack will be placed through established dispatch channels.

VI. Air Tankers:

- A. Initial Attack:** Air tankers must be requested through dispatch channels. The closest available air tanker will be mobilized.

B. Extended Attack/Major Incidents:

1. Units will release all Lead Planes and/or air tankers daily and place requests for the next day needs by 1900 hours each night. The GACC coordinators will be responsible for negotiation with the protection unit to identify how many of the air tankers are available for initial attack. Assignment of air tankers will be based on operational need and efficiency.
2. All non-Federal aerial supervision aircraft and air tankers assigned to an extended attack or major incident will be released each night, regardless of their actual overnight location, and reordered with a new Request Number for the next day.

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Appendix 2 - Interagency Aircraft Utilization Guidelines

3. When several air tankers are operating out of one base, individual aircraft should be rotated to assure adequate crew rest and operational equity. Federal air tankers will adhere to the National Airtanker Rotation Policy as written in the [NWCG Standards for Airtanker Base Operations, PMS 508](#). In rare circumstances Incident Operations may request rotational use of the assigned air tankers. This must be approved on a case-by-case basis with concurrence of the Agency Duty Chief or IC of the Incident. Approvals will only be for that incident on that day. Additional air tankers will not be dispatched to an incident unless it has been issued its own “A” request number.

C. Scooper Operations: Scooper Operations will be conducted as written in the [NWCG Standards for Water Scooping Operations, PMS 518](#).

VII. Helicopters:

A. Initial Attack:

1. The closest available helicopter with crew will be mobilized, regardless of the agency requesting the helicopter or ownership of said aircraft.
2. Occasionally, an agency may augment its initial attack capability by bringing in additional aviation resources. All efforts should be made to include these aircraft into local dispatch run cards to assist in the closest available resources concept, regardless of helicopter type.
3. In the event the requested aircraft type is unavailable, or a different type is closer to the incident, the dispatch office shall notify the requesting unit of the closest resources of varying type.
4. A helicopter with an assigned qualified manager at a minimum, may be mobilized if requested. The request will be placed through established dispatch channels to the agency administering the helicopter base.

B. Extended Attack/Major Incidents:

1. Requests for additional helicopters after initial attack will be placed through established dispatch channels.

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Appendix 2 - Interagency Aircraft Utilization Guidelines

2. Because the initial attack helicopter modules are so valuable on initial attack, it is desirable to replace them with CWN helicopters when such aircraft are available and can meet the mission needs of the incident. If an initial attack helicopter is not being used for tactical firefighting purposes, it should be replaced with a CWN helicopter and module whenever possible.
3. A helicopter with an assigned qualified manager at a minimum, may mobilized if requested. The request will be placed through established dispatch channels to the agency administering the helicopter base.

C. Call-When-Needed (CWN) Helicopters: CWN helicopters with or without a module may be sent to the incident as an additional resource.

D. Non-Fire Use: Agency helicopters and exclusive use helicopters may be ordered on a reimbursable basis for emergency non-fire missions, when consistent with agency policy.

VIII. National Guard Aircraft: National Guard aircraft, ordered by type, may be used only after available agency and commercial aircraft are committed following existing guides and agreements.

IX. Dispatching Procedures: Follow the National Interagency Mobilization Guide and the Northwest Interagency Mobilization Guide.

X. Aircraft Accident Investigation:

A. Pursuant to Public Law 103-411, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has been given the authority and responsibility to perform all aircraft accident investigations.

B. The sharing of information between agencies on accident investigations and their findings and probable causes is a valuable tool for safety and must be encouraged.

XI. Aviation Operations: Agreements are developed and maintained at the local level for tanker bases, SEAT bases, helibases, and smokejumper base.

XII. Use of Aircraft:

A. Standards and Policies: Most standards and policies regarding the use of aircraft are similar between agencies. When differences exist, the policy standards for the operator of the aircraft for the jurisdictional agency apply.

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WASHINGTON STATEWIDE 2025-2029 OPERATING PLAN

Contracted aircraft are required to follow the agency policy(ies) they are contracted under.

1. On DNR Fires, aviation operations must follow:

- a.** DNR Aviation Operations Plan and Standards (AOPS); DNR Aviation Safety Management System (ASMS); DNR Maintenance Operations Manual (MOM); DNR Aviation Training Manual (ATM); UH-1H(M) Aircraft Operator's Manual (OPSMAN) and DNR Aviation Mishap Guide.
- b.** If contracted aircraft, the aircraft procurement document (i.e., a state contract, or a federal agency's aircraft contract).
- c.** Other Interagency and Federal Operational Guides (i.e. Standards for Helicopter Operations (PMS 510, May 2019)), when able.

2. On Federal fires, aviation operations must follow:

- a.** DOI Departmental Manual 350-354 and Operational Procedures Memorandums, and the DOI Bureau or Agency specific policies, or Forest Service Manual 5700 and Forest Service Handbook 5709.16.
- b.** The aircraft procurement document (i.e., a state contract, or a federal agency's aircraft contract).
- c.** If no procurement document exists, aircraft and pilots will be approved by a Cooperator Aircraft Letter of Approval letter issued by the FS and /or DOI Office of Aviation Services.
- d.** All aspects of Standards for Helicopters Operations for wildland fire helicopter operations and NWCG Standards for Airtanker Base Operations (PMS 506) for SEAT and Fireboss operations, NWCG Standards for Aerial Supervision (PMS 505) for Aerial Supervision Operations or as outlined in this operating plan.
- e.** Other operations guides and direction as applicable.
- f.** Minimum qualification standards for all aviation positions reside in the currently approved version of the Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide, PMS 310-1 and the Forest Service Manual 5700 – Aviation Management.

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Appendix 2 - Interagency Aircraft Utilization Guidelines

IMT and personnel must manage aviation operations in compliance with the above standards. On multiple jurisdictional incidents, the aircraft must be managed to the standards of the agency that is the legal “operator” of the aircraft (per PL 106:181 as amended). The operator of the aircraft is defined in 14 CFR 1.1 and FAA Advisory Circular AC 00-1.1b (issued 2/12/2014), and may be determined on a mission-by-mission basis by:

- (1) Which agency ordered the aircraft (i.e., whose resource order), and,
- (2) Which agency is directing the aircraft (may be through a letter of delegation from the agency administrator to the incident commander), and,
- (3) Which agency is paying for the aircraft (example: a FS “P” Code), and,
- (4) Which agency is receiving the benefits of the aircraft’s flight?

The FAA and NTSB determine Operational Control. The preceding is a list of factors that may be used.

B. Reciprocal Agreement Areas:

1. Non-federally approved aircraft will be excluded from suppression resources listed in reciprocal suppression agreements with the USDA / USDI agencies.
2. Non-federally approved aircraft shall not be used where the USDA / USDI is the protecting agency.
3. Non-federally approved aircraft are not authorized to conduct initial attack on USDA / USDI lands unless there is an immediate threat to non-federally protected lands. Non-federally approved aircraft (manned or unmanned) shall not be under the operational control of USDA / USDI.
4. Federal employees can only ride in federally carded / approved aircraft (w / federally approved pilots) regardless of jurisdictional agency.

XIII. Aviation-Related Clarifications: The following rules of “Aviation Related Clarifications” are intended to provide clear direction to all parties to the Master Agreement:

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- A. Retardant, Foam, Gel Dispensing:** No foam, retardant, gel, or other suppressant may be dispensed from non-federal aircraft on Federal lands unless it is a product specifically approved by National Technology and Development Program (NTDP) and listed on the Qualified Products List (QPL).
- B. Approved Cooperator Aircraft:** Aircraft procured / owned by cooperating agencies (State and local) may be utilized on federally managed fires only when Federal “cooperator aircraft letters of approval” are in place for the aircraft and pilots being used. The letter is the instrument that authorizes payment by the Federal Government. Refer to the Master Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement Project and Financial Plan for specific information.
- C. Federal Lands under State Protection:** State, and local governments may use non-federally approved aircraft on Federal lands only when and where the State local agency has formal protection responsibility on those lands and when the State local agency maintains operational control of those aircraft.
- D. Federal Airtanker Base:** Non-federally approved aircraft and retardant loading at Federal airtanker bases are authorized when operational control is maintained by the State local agency.
- E. Federal Personnel:** Federal employees may be assigned to fires when non-federally approved aircraft are under the operational control of State local agencies. No Federal employee may be assigned with contracting / procurement responsibility related to non- federally approved aircraft. No Federal employee may be assigned to a position that exercises operational control of a non-federally approved aircraft, unless working at the limited direction of the State under a binding Delegation of Authority. No Federal employee may ride on non-federally approved aircraft.
- F. Federal Aerial Supervision:** Federal personnel may provide aerial supervision (tactical control), including “lead profiles,” to non-federally approved aircraft under existing standard procedures and agreements, only when operational control is maintained by the State or local agency.
- G. Federal Firefighters on State Fires:**
 - 1. State aircraft shall remain under State “operational control.” Those personnel working on the fire and providing “tactical” direction of these aircraft are working as an agent of the State or local government and therefore are not in “operational control” as determined by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) in their accident investigations. This means that Federal employees, working on a State local managed fire in such positions as IC, Operations Section Chief, Aerial Supervisor, etc.,

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WASHINGTON STATEWIDE 2025-2029 OPERATING PLAN

may exercise “tactical” control over an aviation resource. However, “operational” control remains with the agency managing the fire. Therefore, it is permissible for Federal employees to work with non-federally approved aircraft while under the operational control of a State or local government – Refer to Tool Kit for the Decision Matrix for Use of Non-Federally Approved Aircraft and Sample Delegations of Authority for Federal Employees on State Incidents.

2. In an emergency, where human life on Federal lands under Federal protection is immediately threatened by wildland fire in the current burning period, a local Federal line officer may, with State concurrence, take operational control over State contracted aircraft, if sufficient Federal aircraft are not available to protect the public. The local Federal line officer must notify their Fire Director/State Fire Management Officer or Fire Director Designee/State Fire Management Officer Designee. Any such use will be documented by the approving Federal line officer, and the documentation will be forwarded to the agency national aviation headquarters within two weeks. For billing purposes, the Region and State Office will reconcile imminent threat dates and flights.
- H. When aircraft are utilized on Federal lands, the minimum staffing levels outlined in Federal policy shall be followed for limited aircraft category or as approved by the Cooperator letter. If a State Helitack module isn’t staffed to do that mission on federal lands, it should be restricted to bucket/tank operations only.
- I. The authorization for Federal agencies to use unapproved aircraft when there is an imminent threat to human life is consistent with and based upon the language found in the following laws and clarifying documents which define public vs. civil aircraft operations:
 1. Independent Safety Board Act Amendments, Public Law 103-411, signed Oct. 25, 1994. 49 U.S.C. 40102 (a)(37)
 2. FAA Advisory Circular AC 00-1.1b, Public Aircraft Operations, September 21, 2018, Appendix 1 defines “public aircraft.” Reference: https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory_Circular/AC_00-1.1B.pdf
 3. Current Pacific Northwest Mobilization Guide.

J. Unmanned Aircraft Systems:

1. All federal wildland fire UAS operations, must be approved by the jurisdictional agency and be operated in compliance with the [NWCG Standards for Fire Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operations, PMS 515](#).

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2. For all DOI agency managed lands UAS must comply with provisions of Departmental Manual [112 DM 12](#), [350 DM 1](#); [The Oct 21, 2022 DOI IM](#); and [2024 National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA AKA the Drone Act\)](#), as outlined in the current (2025 revision or newer) [OPM-11](#).

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Appendix 3 - Principal Contacts

The principal project contacts for this Washington Operating Plan (WOP) are as follows. These points of contacts are responsible for reviewing and updating the WOP each year.

STATE OF WASHINGTON Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Russ Lane Phone: /360-480-9657 Email: Russ.lane@dnr.wa.gov
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Northwest Region Paul Ryan Phone: 971-804-3757 Email: paul.ryan@bia.gov
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Oregon and Washington Richard Parrish Phone: 509-981-9653 Email: RParrish@blm.gov
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR National Park Service (NPS) Interior Regions 8, 9, 10, and 12 John Goss Phone: 559-908-6526 Email: john_goss@nps.gov
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Interior Regions 9 and 12 Josh O'Conner Phone: 503-872-2756 Email: Josh_OConner@fws.gov

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2025-2029 OPERATING PLAN

Appendix 3 - Principal Contacts

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service (FS-PNW)

Pacific Northwest Region

Ed Hiatt: Phone: 928-606-1401

Email: edward.hiatt@usda.gov

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service (FS-NOR)

Northern Region

Chris "CJ" Johnson Phone: 406-529-7751

Email: Christopher.Johnson5@usda.gov

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Appendix 4 - Incident Business Management Coordinators and Agency-Specific Billing Instructions

Organization	Name and Address	Phone Numbers and Email
DNR	Jamie Golding Send invoices to DNRREWDF irebusineess @dnr.wa.gov	360-259-0490 Jamie.golding@dnr.wa.gov
BIA	Regina Hoffmann 911	503-231-6800 503-914-8337 (cell) regina.hoffmann@bia.gov
BLM	Glenda Lindsay	458-802-3280 (cell) glindsay@blm.gov
NPS	Billing questions call or email: Robert Rivelle Send invoices to: PWRO_FireAdmin@nps.gov	415-498-1761 (cell) robert_rivelle@nps.gov
USFWS	Veronika Klukas	307-250-5684 (cell) Veronika_klukas@fws.gov
FS PNW	Savanha Paredes	541-480-1740 (cell) SM.FS.R6R10FireBus@usda.gov
FS NOR	Melissa Swain	541-786-1275 (cell) melissa.swain@usda.gov

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Refer to Master Agreement Exhibit D, Reimbursable Billings and Payments for detailed billing requirements.