

CALIFORNIA WILDLAND FIRE COORDINATING GROUP



Date: November 10, 2014

To: Agency Administrators, Fire Management Officers, and Unit Fire Chiefs

From: Jason Weber - Chair, California Wildland Fire Coordinating Group

Subject: California Direct Protection Areas (DPA) Updates for 2015

The Cooperative Fire Management Agreement (CFMA) between the federal agencies and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is the primary mechanism that provides the framework for wildland fire protection responsibilities state-wide. Through this agreement, the state has been divided into practical "Direct Protection Areas" (DPAs) corresponding with each agency's responsibility. In addition to annual updates, periodic statewide reviews of this protection scheme are required.

We are asking that each of you perform a thorough review of your Agency's DPA and send your recommendations for changes (with supporting documentation & Attachment B) to your agency DPA representative, listed below. The process for recommending modification is one of consensus with your local partner agencies and should be documented on attached DPA Documentation Form. We expect each of you to work collaboratively with local agencies to produce a single recommendation. **Recommendations that have not gone through this process will not be considered for implementation.** Below are several requirements which will provide guidance in your review:

- The Federal Wildland Fire Policy- The 1995 and the 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Policy outlines responsibilities of the Local, Tribal, State and Federal Agencies applicable to the CFMA. Where practical, protection schemes should be in alignment with these policies and responsibilities.
- Special Resource Management Considerations- Special resource values such as Wilderness, Late Successional Reserves, Research Natural Areas, and structure density are not in and among themselves sufficient reason for recommending changes. The agreement is clear in that each agency will provide a level of wildland fire protection "equivalent" to similar lands protected directly by the State or the Federal Agencies as allowed by agency policy. Special management considerations are recognized in the agreement and are outlined in Annual Operating Plans.
- Local Geographic Units- Avoid "checker board" or numerous isolated parcels of differing DPAs. Block areas of direct protection of a single area. This will avoid onerous and unnecessary "cost share" efforts on those parcels.
- Easily Identifiable DPA Lines- Where practical, utilize identifiable geographic features such as roads, ridges, drainages, and trails. Avoid section lines if possible.

Specific procedures for making recommended changes are outlined in Attachment A. Due to

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the short timeframe for making changes this year, the dates have been changed from the CFMA

Exhibit E deadlines: It is important to note that the deadline for adjacent units to coordinate together to identify DPA changes is **December 15th, 2014**. It will be necessary to collect and generate the appropriate documentation to support the proposal for each change. Coordination between agencies will be extremely important.

The recommended changes will be documented and processed (electronic transmittal vs manually drawn) as identified by the DPA agency. Agencies will provide the latest DPA GIS layer to their Agency DPA representatives. DPA changes will be electronically transmitted to the USFS FAM GIS Lab. For the best results, reference the provided maps from the following web site:

<http://gacc.nifc.gov/oscc/cwcg/gis/index.html>

The hard copy maps (or GIS data) with DPA changes, and the appropriate documentation, needs to be sent to the agency collection point by the **December 15th, 2014 deadline**. Agency collection points of contact are as identified in Attachment A.

Although Exhibit I outlines the annual changed process and dates for implementation, the 2013 process dates were changed. The 2014 dates are:

EVENT	DUE DATE
CWCG DPA Annual Update Letter requesting updates sent out	November 10
Local Agency identify, gather, and submit DPA changes to agency representative	December 15 st
Agency submit changes to USFS FAM GIS Lab	January 6th
DPA draft geospatial data layer ready for CWCG review.	March 1 st
CWCG and Agency reviews completed, modifications sent to USFS FAM GIS Lab	May 1 st
Final DPA released	May 15th

If you have any questions regarding this process, please direct them to your DPA agency contact or your agency CWCG representative.

/s/ Jason Weber

Jason Weber
Chair, CWCG

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Attachments

A. 2015 Procedures for Proposing DPA Changes (3 pp)

B. CWCG DPA Documentation (1p)

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Attachment A

2015 Procedures for Proposing Direct Protection Area (DPA) Changes

Individual Units will need to follow these steps in order to submit proposals to change Direct Protection Areas per Appendix E of the CFMA:

1) Adjacent units, from agencies identified in the CFMA, will coordinate together to identify DPA changes by **December 15, 2014**. It will be necessary to collect and generate the appropriate documentation to support the proposal for each change. **It will be the responsibility of individual units to determine which agency submits the proposal for each change.** This will prevent the submission of duplicate proposals. Coordination between agencies will be important.

Hard copy maps will help identify changes during this point of the process. You can download current DPA maps by National Forest or Cal Fire Unit below. Other agencies will have to download the appropriate map(s) that include their area of interest. Changes can be manually drawn on the maps provided, or on some other base map (i.e., Forest Visitor map). For the best results, print the provided maps on a large-format plotter. See your local GIS personnel or agency collection point for assistance.

This DPA update process **does not** include changes from State to Local protection as the result of an annexation. These changes will be part of the SRA review process. A change from SRA to LRA in the Cal Fire State Responsibility Area (SRA) layer will trigger an automatic change in the DPA layer. These areas will be changed to LOCAL protection.

Annexations that involve lands that are currently under Federal protection **WILL** be considered during this process. These particular areas either will remain as Federal DPA, or changed Local DPA, depending on the outcome of this process.

2) The hard copy maps with DPA changes, electronic GIS shape files, and the appropriate documentation, will be sent to each agency collection point by the **December 15, 2014 deadline**. The agency collection points are as follows:

USDA Forest Service

ATTN: Lorri Peltz Lewis
thru Shawna Legarza
USDA Forest Service
Fire and Aviation Management
3237 Peacekeeper Way
McClellan, CA 95652
(916) 640-1049
lpeltzlewis@fs.fed.us

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USDI Bureau of Land Management

ATTN: James Newman
BLM California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, W-1928
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 978-4635
james_newman@blm.gov

USDI National Park Service

ATTN: Mark Grupe
National Park Service
Pacific West Region
333 Bush Street, Suite 500
San Francisco, CA.
94104
(415) 623-2212
Mark_grupe@nps.gov

USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs

ATTN: Yvonne Jones
Bureau of Indian Affairs
2800 Cottage Way, W-2822
Sacramento, CA (916)
978-6066
yvonne.jones@bia.gov

USDI Fish and Wildlife Service

ATTN: Jessica Wade
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Region 8 – Fire Management
2800 Cottage Way, W-2606
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 978-6181
jessica_wade@fws.gov

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

ATTN: Robin Marose
CAL FIRE - FRAP
1300 U St.
Sacramento, CA 95818
(916) 324-1646
Robin.Marose@fire.ca.gov

3) The agency collection points will digitize the proposed changes using the hard copy maps and electronic GIS shape files from their individual units **and** the GIS format provided here: DPA Geodatabase. The updates will be entered into the GIS format

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provided and sent to the USDA Forest Service by **January 6, 2015** (see address above). The data can be sent by e-mail, regular mail (CD), or can even be posted on a FTP site. If you have any questions about sending or compiling the data contact Lorri Peltz-Lewis at lpeltzlewis@fs.fed.us or (916) 640-1049.

The Data Dictionary (DD) for Direct Protection Areas may be useful. You can download the current DPA from the following site:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/landmanagement/gis/?cid=STELPRDB5327836>

4) The Forest Service Fire and Aviation GIS Lab will combine all the proposed changes into a single GIS layer by **March 1, 2015** for review by the California Wildfire Coordinating Group (CWCG).

5) The review process will continue with the CWCG and Agency Directors until May 1, 2014.

6) The Forest Service Fire and Aviation GIS Lab will finalize the statewide DPA layer by **May 15, 2015**. The GIS data will be posted by county on the following websites:

Forest Service Clearinghouse:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/landmanagement/gis/?cid=STELPRDB5327836>

FRAP website:

<http://frap.fire.ca.gov/data/frapgisdata-subset.php>

CWCG Website:

<http://gacc.nifc.gov/oscc/cwcg/gis/maps/>

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Attachment B

DPA Documentation Form

Date of Review _____

Unit Review

CAL FIRE Unit _____ Federal Agency _____

CAL FIRE Representative _____ Federal Representative _____

Phone Number _____ Phone Number _____

Email _____ Email _____

GIS data submitted yes no

Change File Name	DPA change to	CAL FIRE Unit		Federal Cooperator		CAL FIRE Region	
	State or Federal	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
example							

Notes

Name and Signature:

CAL FIRE Unit or Region Chief

Federal Agency with DPA Change

*Units may modify this form to accommodate additional changes or alternatives.