

# 2016 GRAND COUNTY ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN

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## **PREAMBLE**

This Annual Operating Plan (AOP) is prepared pursuant to the Statewide Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (Statewide Agreement) for the State of Colorado signed and dated June 1, 2011 and as amended in 2013, and the 2016 Statewide Annual Fire Operating Plan.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this wildland Annual Operating Plan is to set forth standard operating procedures, agreed upon procedures, and responsibilities to implement cooperative wildland protection on all lands within Grand County.

Participants in this AOP consist of the following:

- Grand County Sheriff, on behalf of the County and FPDs
- Grand County Board of County Commissioners
- Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest (USFS)
- Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest (USFS)
- Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit (BLM)
- Kremmling Field Office (BLM)
- Rocky Mountain National Park (NPS)
- Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC)

All participants of this plan agree to coordinate wildland fire management activities as outlined herein.

## **AUTHORITIES**

- Colorado Statewide Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement Between:
  - United States Department of the Interior
    - Bureau of Land Management – Colorado Agreement Number BLM-MOU-CO-538
    - National Park Service – Intermountain Region Agreement Number F1249110016
    - Bureau of Indian Affairs – Southwest Region
    - United States Fish and Wildlife Service – Mountain Prairie Region
  - United States Department of Agriculture
    - Forest Service – Rocky Mountain Region Agreement Number 11-FI-11020000-017
- Grand County Memorandum of Understanding For Participation in the Colorado Emergency Fire Fund
- Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection in Grand County

## **RECITALS**

National Response Framework activities will be accomplished utilizing established dispatch coordination concepts. Situation and damage assessments 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 fire management actions according to Jurisdictional Agencies' policies and applicable decision support tools.

## **INTERAGENCY COOPERATION**

### **Jurisdictional Roles**

#### **Federal Agency Responsibility**

The United States Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management are responsible for all management activities on their respective lands. For this agreement, the primary role of these agencies is wildland fire management, where the protection of human life is the overriding priority. Setting subsequent priorities will be based on human health and safety, values to be protected, and cost of protection. These federal agencies will serve in a support role during structural fire protection operations and may assist in exterior structure protection measures where wildland fire threatens improvements or where structure fires threaten wildland natural resources.

#### **Fire Chief and Fire Protection District Responsibility**

The Chief of the Fire Protection District/Department in the state is responsible for the management of wildland fires that occur within the boundaries of his or her district and that are within the capability of the Fire District to control or extinguish in accordance with the provisions of C.R.S. §32-1-1002(3)(a).

The Fire Chief/Fire Protection District may utilize mutual aid agreements and unified command with neighboring Fire Protection Districts to suppress and control fires.

The Fire Chief/Fire Protection District may transfer any duty or responsibility the Fire Chief may assume under this section to the County Sheriff with the concurrence of the Sheriff.

The Fire Chief/Fire Protection District shall not seek reimbursement from the County or Federal Agency for expenses incurred by the District for their own apparatus, equipment and personnel used in containing or suppressing a wildland fire occurring on private property within the boundaries of the District, unless negotiated and documented in a cost share agreement.

## Sheriff Responsibility

The Sheriff is the Fire Warden of the County and is responsible for the planning for, and the coordination of, efforts to suppress wildland fires occurring in the unincorporated area of the County outside the boundaries of a Fire Protection District or that exceed the capabilities of a Fire Protection District to control or extinguish in accordance with the provisions of C.R.S. §30-10-51. In the case of a wildland fire that exceeds the capabilities of the Fire Protection District to control or extinguish and that requires mutual aid and outside resources, the Sheriff shall direct that a unified command be established to provide the command and management required to manage the fire. Upon the transfer of fire management from the Fire District to the Sheriff, the Sheriff shall upon said transfer assume financial responsibility for firefighting efforts on behalf of the County and the authority for the ordering and monitoring of resources.

In the case of a wildland fire occurring within the boundaries of one or more Fire Protection Districts that does not exceed the capabilities of the Fire Protection District to control or extinguish, the Sheriff may assist the Chief of the Fire Protection District in controlling or extinguishing such fires, and, in connection with such assistance, persons as the Sheriff and the Fire Chief deem necessary. The Sheriff may assume command of such incidents with the concurrence of the Fire Chief.

In the case of a wildland fire that exceeds the capability of the County to control or extinguish, the Sheriff shall be responsible for seeking the assistance of the State, by requesting assistance from the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control. The Sheriff and the DFPC Director or designee shall enter into an agreement concerning the transfer of authority and responsibility for fire suppression and the retention of responsibilities under a unified command structure.

## Resolution of Disputes

The primary purpose of this operating plan is to ensure appropriate management of wildland fire. Any interagency dispute arising from these procedures will be resolved on site by the local Unified Command. When necessary, following the conclusion of the fire incident, a panel of agency representatives other than the participants in the incident will review and resolve the dispute.

## **Interagency Dispatch Centers**

### Initial Attack Dispatch

Grand County Communications Center (GCC) in Hot Sulphur Springs will act as dispatch for County and Fire Protection District initial attack response.

Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch Center (FTC) is responsible for dispatching the Initial Attack Resources of Rocky Mountain National Park and Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest resources.

Craig Interagency Dispatch Center (CRC) is responsible for dispatching the Initial Attack

Resources from the BLM, Routt National Forest and DFPC NW Region.

The agency that can take the quickest, most effective suppression action will be dispatched for initial attack. Any Dispatch Center that receives the initial report will also notify the appropriate dispatch centers defined in the Operations Section (Fire Notifications). The jurisdictional agency will assume command of the incident at the earliest possible time.

In the event of a wildland fire burning on lands of two or more jurisdictional agencies that are normally not dispatched by the same dispatch center, Grand County Communications Center, CRC, and FTC will, in consultation with jurisdictional representatives, coordinate and determine which center will handle the dispatching of that particular incident.

#### Extended Attack and Resource Order Process

Once the incident commander (IC) has determined need for additional resources beyond the scope of county resources, those resources will be ordered through the appropriate Dispatch Center.

The Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement between all Grand County Fire Protection Districts allows resources to be dispatched anywhere in the county at the request of a Fire Protection District representative acting as incident commander.

### **Interagency Resources**

Resources available locally for wildland fire suppression or support are listed by agency or department in **EXHIBIT B**.

### **Standards**

#### Incident Command System Use

The Incident Command System (ICS) will be utilized on all wildland fires. ICS is a standardized method of managing emergency incidents. It is based on:

- Common organizational structure
- Common terminology
- Common operating procedures
- Known qualifications of emergency personnel

ICS does not infringe on the responsibilities or authority given to each agency by statute. If a transfer of authority is necessary as conditions change, ICS eases the transition since organizational structure and lines of authority are clearly identified.

#### Qualifications and PPE

All fireline personnel at the incident, from initial attack through mutual aid and during extended

attack, must be equipped with personal protective equipment that meets standards identified in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations-NFES 2724 (Red Book), Chapter 7 (hardhat, eye protection, Nomex shirt and trousers, leather gloves, minimum eight (8) inch high leather boots with lug soles, and a fire shelter).

During the mutual aid period, if responders are not NWCG-qualified for the position assigned, the agency's home unit assumes responsibility for these individuals. All personnel involved in extended attack actions on National Forest lands, BLM-administered lands, and National Park Service lands shall possess some form of documentation of NWCG qualifications (local records, incident qualification card or red card) issued by their host or employing Agency, Fire Protection District or Department, and shall meet the minimum standards set forth in the most current version of NWCG PMS 310-1, *Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide*. Firefighters without qualification documentation will be released by the jurisdictional agency.

### Inspection Schedules

All equipment subject to interagency dispatch will be inspected annually by the owning agency to ensure typing and road worthiness.

## **PREPAREDNESS**

### **Protection Planning**

The primary purpose of this AOP is to set agreed upon measures for wildland prevention, preparedness, and suppression.

### **Protection Areas and Boundaries**

Appropriate agency maps will be used to show jurisdictional boundaries for the purpose of this plan. A fire protection district boundary map is included in **EXHIBIT A**.

### **Reciprocal (Mutual Aid) Fire Assistance**

The mutual aid zone includes all lands within Grand County. Within the mutual aid zone an assisting agency will, upon request or voluntarily, take initial attack action in support of the jurisdictional agency.

The jurisdictional agency will not be required to reimburse the assisting agency for costs incurred during the mutual aid period.

The mutual aid time period is as follows:

- Not to exceed twenty-four (24) hours but may be extended by mutual agreement
- May end at midnight of the first burn period when the incident commander determines that the fire cannot be controlled within twenty-four (24) hours of the original ignition
- May end earlier by mutual agreement

It is agreed there should be no delay in initial attack pending determination of the precise

location of the fire, land ownership, or responsibility. All County and Fire Protection District resources are considered mutual aid. All state resources are considered mutual aid with the exception of DFPC SEATs, state inmate crews and the multi-mission aircraft (MMA). Any federal resource positioned within the Craig Dispatch or Fort Collins Dispatch area, including severity resources, are considered mutual aid, with the exception of air tankers, lead planes, Type 1 helicopters and smokejumpers. The BLM Type 3 helicopter stationed in Rifle is also considered a mutual aid resource, and if not assigned to another fire, is available without charge to county fire agencies for the mutual aid period.

No agency will be required or expected to commit resources to assist another agency to the extent of jeopardizing its own responsibilities, or the security of lands it is charged with protecting.

Move-up and cover facilities have not been predetermined; however, the mechanism is in place for Fire Protection Districts to cover each other through the Grand County Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement.

## **Acquisition of Services**

N/A

## **Joint Projects and Project Plans**

Grand County developed a Community Wildfire Protection Plan in 2006 to prioritize and guide fire hazard mitigation efforts through fuels reduction. Localized (Fire District) CWPPs have also been prepared and are guiding community protection efforts on the local level.

The Grand County Wildfire Council, consisting of federal, state and local fire agency professionals, local government officials, businesses, conservation districts, homeowner associations, and citizen stakeholders, was established in 2013 with the following objectives:

- To prioritize, coordinate and guide fire hazard mitigation efforts through fuels reduction projects identified in the Grand County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and in localized (Fire District) CWPPs.
- To voice the concerns of the residents and property owners with regard the prioritization of mitigation actions; to be a clearinghouse for issues
- To assist with grant applications and awards and to pool resources and funds if applicable
- To provide public education and community outreach efforts regarding wildfire prevention, preparedness and survival

Online information about the community-based Grand County Wildfire Council is available at [www.BeWildfireReady.org](http://www.BeWildfireReady.org) and includes links to NFPA's Firewise Communities USA, Fire Adapted Communities Coalition and Ready, Set, GO! Wildland Fire tools and resources.

## **Fire Prevention**

Information and Education

1) Fire Danger

a) Fire Weather Station Locations

- i) Grand County will use four different RAWS stations for fire weather and fuels information. Data can be obtained through links on FTC or CRC websites.

- (1) Harbison Meadow RAWS id HRBC2 is located near the Kawuneeche Visitors' Center. Representative of lodgepole pine in east Grand County.
- (2) Keyser Creek RAWS is located in the Williams Fork watershed, 12 miles west of Fraser. Representative of high-elevation beetle-killed lodgepole pine.
- (3) Gunsight Pass RAWS #50404 is located about 11 miles north of Kremmling. Representative of the sagebrush fuel type in Grand County.
- (4) Dry Gulch RAWS #50407 is located on the Eagle/Grand County line near the Lower Colorado River. Representative of the piñon/juniper fuel type in western Grand County

b) Data Sharing and Methods

- i) Weather forecasts, RAWS links and pertinent FTC-Zone information are posted at: [http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch\\_centers/r2ftc/](http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2ftc/). Resource status is also posted on the website, managed and updated by participating Agencies and Cooperators. To obtain access, call FTC @ 970-295-6800.
- ii) During fire season, FTC holds a conference call every other Tuesday at 1000 for Preparedness Levels 1 and 2 and every Tuesday at 1000 hours for Preparedness Levels 3, 4 and 5. To participate, call 888-844-9904, passcode 6600742#.
- iii) During fire season, CRC prepares a daily briefing that includes weather forecasts, resource status, via Web Status and incident status. This information is available by 1000 hours at: [http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch\\_centers/r2crc/](http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2crc/)
- iv) During fire season, CRC holds a daily conference call briefing at 1015 daily or earlier if fire activity warrants. To participate, call 877-428-9134, passcode 170902.

c) Fire Danger Dissemination

Daily at 1630, FTC broadcasts the fire danger rating with weather forecast and predicted fire danger rating for the next day. These broadcasts will be on the Arapaho – Roosevelt National Forest radio net. CRC will broadcast the fire weather forecast between 1600-1630 daily during fire season. Morning weather and fire danger will be available at Daily Briefing or on the CRC web page.

d) Fire Prevention Signs

FTC-Zone Fire Danger ratings are posted on the FTC web site:  
[http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch\\_centers/r2ftc/](http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2ftc/)

Specific indices are also posted for the Harbison RAWS station (representative of the lodgepole pine fuels in Grand County).

The Sulphur Ranger District will notify the Grand County Wildfire Council (bewildfireready@gmail.com), East Grand, Grand Lake, and Kremmling FPDs of changes in fire danger so that signs may be kept current. Fire Danger Ratings will be provided that are representative to the location in which the sign resides.

CRC-Zone wide Fire Danger ratings are posted on the CRC web site:  
[http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch\\_centers/r2crc/](http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2crc/).

## 2) Joint or Single Agency Press Releases

Each agency will prepare and release fire prevention material and media presentations according to its own prevention plans. During a wildland fire, a Joint Information Center (JIC) may be maintained in order to prevent a conflict in released material. When pertinent, all news releases for fire prevention will carry USFS, DFPC, NPS, BLM, Fire District or County Sheriff bylines.

## 3) Red Flag Announcements

The National Weather Service periodically issues "FIRE WEATHER WATCH" and "RED FLAG WARNING" bulletins. Grand County Communications Center will page Fire Protection Districts for "RED FLAG WARNING" bulletins only. CRC broadcasts these bulletins on Routt NF and BLM radio frequencies and FTC broadcasts these bulletins over Arapaho - Roosevelt NF radio frequencies.

## Public Use Restrictions

When possible, restrictions and closures should be coordinated among all cooperators with unified restrictions and associated public information distributed accordingly.

All parties to this agreement should be advised of any restrictions and bans on any lands covered by this agreement.

Decisions about open burning restrictions can be made by the County Sheriff, federal land management agencies, and the Governor's office. When contemplating placing restrictions on open burning or lifting restrictions, agencies will advise cooperators of the situation and consider coordinating their actions. The agencies issuing restrictions shall jointly prepare and promptly distribute media releases explaining the restrictions.

Fire restrictions are discussed among the Cooperating Agencies each Tuesday on the FTC-Zone conference call during fire season. Fire restriction criteria from the Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit and Routt National Forest and surrounding counties will be used to assist in determining the need for burning restrictions and closures.

The Harbison or Keyser Creek RAWS will be used for the lodgepole pine fuel type, the Gunsight RAWS will be used for the sagebrush fuel type, and the Dry Gulch RAWS will be used for the piñon/juniper fuel type.

The Arapaho Roosevelt NF and Rocky Mountain NP use the FTC-Zone Fire Restriction and Fire Ban Criteria to determine the need for action. FTC-Zone Fire Restriction and Fire Ban Criteria are found in **EXHIBIT E**.

The Sheriff will be responsible for enforcement of burning restrictions and closures on all non-federal lands, and may assist on other lands at the request of the appropriate agency.

## **Burning Permits**

An open burning permit is required by Grand County for prescribed fires on private land. Agencies conducting prescribed fires on other lands will follow the jurisdictional agency's policy and procedures and notify the Grand County Department of Natural Resources at (970) 887-0745. Such notification should include the location, timing, and nature of prescribed burns.

## **Prescribed Fire (Planned Ignitions) and Fuels Management**

Wildfires resulting from escaped prescribed fires ignited by a party to this Agreement, shall be the responsibility of that party. The party responsible for the prescribed fire will reimburse other parties to this plan consistent with the terms and conditions contained herein for costs incurred in suppression of such wildland fire.

If parties to this agreement conduct a cooperative prescribed fire, details covering cost sharing, reimbursement, and responsibility for suppression costs, should it escape, shall be agreed upon and documented in the burn plan.

## **Smoke Management**

N/A

# **OPERATIONS**

## **Fire Notifications**

- The responsible jurisdiction must be notified of wildland fire on or threatening its lands as soon as possible. **Notification of the jurisdictional agency will be made by the Dispatch Center handling the initial attack fire forces.**
- Grand County Communications Center should be notified of all wildland fires in Grand County. GCC should notify CRC and FTC of all wildland fires occurring in their respective dispatch zones.
- DFPC must be notified when 1) non-federal wildland fire escapes initial attack, or 2) threatens structures, or 3) air resources are ordered for non-federal suppression efforts.

- The initial attack incident commander should size up the wildland fire utilizing the Incident Response Pocket Guide, Northern Colorado Incident Organizer, or CRC IA size-up card, and communicate size up information to the applicable dispatch center.

## **Boundary Line Fires**

A fire burning on or adjacent to a known or questionable protection boundary will be the initial attack responsibility of the protection agencies on either side of the boundary.

Fires occurring in areas where structures are located near and in areas of multiple jurisdictions can cause significant safety as well as financial concerns. The agencies agree that the public and firefighter safety are the first priority.

## **Response to Wildland Fire**

### **Special Management Considerations**

#### Federal Lands

- Suppression within designated Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, and/or "roadless" areas, will not be conducted without direct involvement from the jurisdictional agency Fire Duty Officer. Travel within Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) is restricted to designated roads.
- The Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit has a Fire Management Plan. This plan is reviewed and updated annually and outlines appropriate management responses for all ignitions occurring on lands administered by the BLM within Grand County. All agencies involved in fire management shall adhere to direction and operational procedures outlined in the plan. A current version of the Fire Management plan can be obtained via the Craig Interagency Dispatch Center (CRC) website:

[http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch\\_centers/r2crc/predictive/fuels\\_fire\\_danger/fuels\\_fire\\_danger.htm](http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2crc/predictive/fuels_fire_danger/fuels_fire_danger.htm)

- Lightning-ignited fires on the Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest (ARF), the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests (MBR), and RMNP may be managed for multiple objectives. This may include a broad spectrum of tactics (which range from aggressive suppression to back-firing or simply monitoring), commensurate with current and predicted risk, values to be protected and land management objectives. These tactics may be employed in the extensive beetle-killed timber stands where fire behavior and stand conditions could compromise human life using direct control efforts.
- These tactics may be employed under Resource Benefit Objectives within the Ptarmigan Peak, Byers Peak, Vasquez Peak, Indian Peaks, Knight Ridge (adjacent to Indian Peaks) and Never Summer Wilderness Areas. Conditions under which Resource Benefit Objectives are used are well defined and tightly constrained, and the decision will be made by the Sulphur District Ranger on the ARF, the Yampa and Parks Ranger District of the MBR, and the Park Superintendent or acting, within RMNP.

- Use of mechanized equipment, such as bulldozers, will not be permitted on federal lands without the expressed approval of the appropriate federal official. For RMNP, approval must come from the Park Superintendent.
- Aerial Retardant Use - Aerial application of fire retardant will be restricted within 300 feet distance of all lakes or waterways (containing water) on Federal jurisdiction lands. Retardant is further restricted within 600 feet of designated waterways that have critical habitat for Greenback Cutthroat Trout. When a fire is on ARNF or RMNP lands, FTC Dispatch will advise if it is located within a Greenback Cutthroat Trout retardant exclusion area. When a fire is on BLM lands, CRC will advise if it is located within a Greenback Cutthroat Trout retardant exclusion area. In RMNP, the FDO must confirm approval for the use of retardant in the National Park.
- Use of roads on federal lands presently closed to vehicular travel (outside of wilderness areas and wilderness study areas) is hereby authorized to all parties to this AOP when said parties are on a wildland detection, prevention, or suppression mission.
- Wildland fires within the Fraser Experimental Forest will be managed by the ARF, and a representative of the Experimental Forest should also be notified as soon as possible.

#### Fire Operations in Beetle Kill Stands

Due to altered fuel conditions, personnel operating within the bark beetle environment should be aware of the imminent danger presented by dead and dying trees, falling at an increasing rate across a broad forested landscape. Included in **EXHIBIT C** is the *USFS-R2 Fire Operations Guidance in Bark Beetle Stands*.

#### Rehabilitation of Wildland Suppression Damage

Repair of impacts caused by suppression actions is normally conducted during suppression operations and is covered by a cost-share agreement, if one is in place.

Rehabilitation of natural resources impacted by fire effects is the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency. Rehabilitation of the fire area is not covered under EFF; it may be authorized by the DFPC Agency Administrator only when part of the Incident Action Plan during the EFF period.

#### **Decision Process**

Federal Agencies are required to complete an appropriate decision support tool for all wildland fire to support the appropriate response. This is done via the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS). This procedure requires Federal Agency Administrator participation. All Agencies involved in initial attack should assist in the completion of the decision support tool.

A Decision Support System (DSS) may be completed for fires that have the potential to be designated as an EFF fire or affect multiple jurisdictions and have the potential to go into

extended attack. DFPC may assist with a non-EFF DSS, but has no authority to sign on non-EFF fires.

DFPC requires that a DSS be completed for all fires that receive a FEMA declaration and recommends a DSS be completed for all EFF fires. All agencies involved in extended attack on private and state lands will provide input to the DSS. The DFPC Agency Administrator will facilitate completion and review of the DSS for these fires. When a fire is burning on or threatens to burn on multiple jurisdictions, one DSS should be prepared that considers all jurisdictions and their interests.

## **Cooperation**

The agencies agree to coordinate suppression management through the use of a Unified Command or with Delegations of Authority from all jurisdictions to an agreed Incident Commander. The initial attack ICs of the involved Agencies shall mutually agree upon fire suppression objectives, strategy, and the commitment and funding of Agency suppression resources.

## **Communication**

For the purposes of conducting business authorized by this cooperative agreement, all parties to this operating plan agree that assisting agencies may use the jurisdictional agency's radio frequencies, as needed, to conduct emergency communications on wildland fire of the jurisdictional agency. No party to this operating plan will use, or authorize others to use, another agency's radio frequencies for routine daily operations. Fire protection districts on incident management missions, under the auspices of the county, are granted permission to use federal radio frequencies, if needed, to assure safety of the operation.

Air to Ground radio frequencies are only to be utilized by ground resources directing air operations. All Air-to-Ground communications will be on the NIICD assigned A-G frequencies for Colorado. Grand County incorporates three (3) A-G Frequency Zones (**EXHIBIT B**). If A-G frequencies are assigned to active incidents, or have excessive traffic, additional A-G frequencies must be ordered through FTC or CRC Dispatch centers. Radio frequencies specifically authorized for use are shown in **EXHIBIT B**.

## **Cost Efficiency**

N/A

## **Delegation of Authority**

A written delegation of authority may be used whenever an agency or individual from other than the jurisdictional authority assumes command of an incident. The delegated individual or agency has the authority and power to act on behalf of the jurisdictional agency. A delegation of authority is normally issued to the IC of an incident management team and should identify:

- The jurisdiction delegating the authority
- The individual or agency accepting the authority
- Specific authorities being delegated
- Limits to the authority

- End terms of the authority

An example Delegation of Authority is located in **Exhibit G**.

### **Preservation of Evidence**

The jurisdictional agency will determine as soon as possible the fire origin and cause and will have primary responsibility for fire investigation and any civil or criminal follow up actions. Parties to this AOP may request assistance from each other's fire investigators. If a fire investigator is not available locally, one may be requested through the interagency dispatch center utilizing normal ordering procedures.

On federal lands, all suspected human-caused fire should be investigated for possible Trespass. Initial attack resources are reminded to protect the suspected point of origin to facilitate fire investigation, and on federal land, request a fire investigator if the fire is possibly human-caused.

## **STATE EMERGENCY FIRE FUND (EFF)**

### **Emergency Fire Fund (EFF) Procedures:**

Grand County and Denver Water are participants in the State Emergency Fire Fund (EFF). DFPC administers this fund. As a participant to this agreement, the State agrees to come to the aid of Grand County should suppression resource needs exceed County capability. Following are the roles and responsibilities under EFF:

**DFPC:** A DFPC representative must be on site for an EFF evaluation. DFPC will assist the County Sheriff in the analysis of the wildfire's actual or potential condition to exceed the County's suppression capability. This information will be provided to the DFPC Director or designee who will make the final decision on EFF applicability.

**Grand County Sheriff:** as Fire Warden for the County (CRS 30-10-513), the Sheriff will represent the County in the request for EFF declaration to the DFPC district, and subsequent assumption of control (DFPC 4 Form). The Sheriff will coordinate other County entities in his or her representation.

**Grand County Commissioners:** are signatories to the DFPC 4 Form "Assumption of Control" for fires the DFPC Director approves for EFF. The Sheriff will facilitate obtaining a signature from the County Commissioners. Delay in signing the DFPC 4 may result in increased costs for the County.

**Federal Agencies:** are almost always involved even when the fire is entirely on private or state land. Their policies and concerns must be addressed on all fires.

All EFF fires may utilize a Unified Command, if appropriate, and include the County Sheriff and DFPC as Agency Administrators. If land administered by another agency is threatened or involved, that agency may provide a representative to the Unified Command.

Implementation of the EFF can be done only by the DFPC Director or designee upon the recommendation of the local DFPC representative, following a request from the County Sheriff. For this reason, it is important that the DFPC FMO be notified immediately of major fires on private/state lands within the county. Should the fire surpass, or threaten to surpass, the ability of county resources to contain it, EFF implementation can occur only with a DFPC representative on scene.

All EFF participating counties must have a minimum county commitment to any incident which has EFF potential. This is not a maximum county resource commitment, and they are not the only resources that may be required by the county to use on the incident in order to request EFF implementation. If tactics of a given incident make some of this equipment inappropriate, alternate resources or combination of resources can be negotiated.

The Grand County minimum commitment is: **One dozer or road grader, two water tenders, Law Enforcement Support, and Logistical Support.**

DFPC will transfer command of an EFF fire back to the County when fire spread has been contained, the Agency Administrator's objectives have been met, and a written plan has been prepared for the next operational period.

## **USE AND REIMBURSEMENT OF INTERAGENCY FIRE RESOURCES**

### **Cost Share Agreement (Cost Share Methodologies)**

#### **REIMBURSABLE COSTS**

Costs incurred by an assisting agency for services that exceed initial attack, as described in Extended Attack and Resource Order Process section, shall be considered reimbursable. These services must be requested by the jurisdictional agency and resources must check in and check out with appropriate command or documentation personnel. An Emergency Equipment Shift Ticket (OF-297) is required to document equipment time, and an Emergency Firefighter Time Report or Crew Time Report is required to document personnel time. This information may be documented in I-Suite as well. The I-Suite application is a portable, client/server application that can be used at any emergency incident to capture data and help manage resources and costs at remote incident locations. The application is organized into modules based on the Incident Command System (ICS). Undocumented personnel or equipment will not be compensated. Resources not ordered by the jurisdictional agency or freelance resources sent by any other agency without jurisdictional agency approval will not be compensated.

On Denver Water Board (DWB) lands, any costs incurred by agencies for the initial attack period and beyond shall be considered reimbursable, as funds are available from the DWB.

The Fire Chief/Fire Protection District shall not seek reimbursement from the County for expenses incurred by the District for their own apparatus, equipment, and personnel used in containing or suppressing a wildland fire occurring on private property within the boundaries of

their District.

Those Fire Districts that are supported by taxes should not expect reimbursement for their resources when performing fire suppression duties in support of an incident within their protection districts, unless stipulated in a cost share agreement among the Jurisdictional Agencies.

## **COST SHARING**

When a fire burns on both sides of a protection boundary or threatens another jurisdiction, and is beyond the mutual aid period, a cost share agreement shall be prepared and approved by each Unit Administrator or their designee.

The intent is to distribute the financial burden based on a method agreed upon by an authorized representative from each affected jurisdiction. A cost share agreement should be negotiated as soon as practical (See **EXHIBIT F**). The affected jurisdictions should draft the cost share agreement prior to fire close out.

For Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fires involving structures, the distribution of costs should be commensurate with the values protected. Costs of jurisdictional resources are borne whenever possible by the jurisdictional agency or Fire Protection District in which the structures are located.

## **Training**

NWCG-approved wildland training courses are provided periodically by USFS, BLM, NPS, BIA, FWS, DFPC and other agencies. As these courses are scheduled, all cooperators will be informed and invited to participate. Formalized zone training committees are in place and all cooperators are encouraged to participate.

## **Communication Systems**

Radio frequency lists are located in **Exhibit B**

## **Fire Weather Systems**

See Fire Prevention section 1.a. Fire Weather and Fire Danger are all recorded in each federal agency's Fire Danger Operating Plan.

## **Aviation Operations**

### **AVIATION REQUESTS AND PROCEDURES**

When aircraft is requested by any agency for suppression efforts, the request must include the following:

- Fire name
  - Location
    - Latitude & Longitude in degrees, minutes, seconds (NAD 83 preferred)
- ~OR~

- Section, Township, Range
- Elevation
- Ground contact ID or name
- Radio frequency of ground contact
- Other aircraft in the area, including radio frequencies in use
- Aircraft hazards in the area
- Current threats/values at risk

Requests for aircraft on non-federal fires can be made by Authorized County Representatives:

- Sheriff
- Undersheriff
- Lieutenants
- Qualified Fire District Personnel

Aircraft resource orders will be made through the appropriate Interagency Dispatch Center (FTC or CRC):

- FTC for RMNP and ARNF lands;
- CRC for all other lands. (An **Air Support Request Form** should be completed prior to contacting CRC, This form can be found in **EXHIBIT D.**)

The DFPC Northwest Regional FMO will be notified by CRC when aircraft is ordered for a county jurisdiction wildland fire.

The sending interagency dispatch center will notify the other interagency dispatch center of all air resources dispatched to Grand County.

#### WILDLAND EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

The Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (Ref: C.R.S. §23-31-309) was created to assist local jurisdictions with initial attack wildland fire response on state and private lands within the state of Colorado. Any County Sheriff, municipal fire department, or fire protection district within Colorado may request WERF as the official Requesting Agency. WERF will reimburse, if funds are available, the Requesting Agency the cost of eligible wildland firefighting resources. The fund will be utilized as outlined in the attached funding guidelines, see **EXHIBIT D.**

#### COLORADO FIREFIGHTING AIR CORPS

The Colorado Firefighting Air Corps (CFAC) (Ref: C.R.S. §24-33.5-1228) program is intended to assist local jurisdictions beyond WERF with initial attack wildland fire response on state and private lands within the state of Colorado. Any County Sheriff, municipal fire department, or fire protection district within Colorado may request aviation resources as the official Requesting Agency, utilizing ordering procedures defined in this County Annual Operating Plan. DFPC will pay the cost of eligible wildland firefighting aviation resources on behalf of the Requesting

Agency, in accordance with the funding guidelines, see **EXHIBIT D**, and to the extent that funding is available.

## DFPC SINGLE ENGINE AIR TANKERS

When a combination of factors or events, as agreed to by the Sheriff and DFPC, create a situation that warrants pre-positioning of a SEAT in Grand County, the Sheriff may request pre-positioning through the DFPC NW Regional FMO. Factors may include, but are not limited to, multiple starts within a 24-hour period, high occurrence of dry lightning, or persistent Red Flag Warnings. DFPC will notify participants to this plan when a SEAT is pre-positioned in Grand County. Each agency should follow their normal resource request procedure to request a SEAT for use on an incident, regardless of whether the SEAT is pre-positioned in Grand County or not.

## MULTI-MISSION AIRCRAFT (MMA)

DFPC manages two State of Colorado owned Pilatus PC-12 fixed wing aircraft equipped with thermal imaging cameras, mapping equipment, interagency radios, and data transfer equipment. The primary mission of these aircraft is to detect and identify fires early enough to prevent them from becoming catastrophic. These aircraft are available year-round to any agency. Any County Sheriff, municipal fire department, or fire protection district within Colorado may utilize these aircraft for wildland fire missions at no cost for the first operational period. Federal Agencies should expect to be billed for the use of these aircraft if ordered. Requests for the MMA must utilize the MMA Ordering Form and Procedures in **EXHIBIT D**.

## **Billing Procedures**

### REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURES AND CLAIMS

The county may aggregate expenses for employees and equipment incurred by the county and/or fire districts to suppress wildland fire on federal jurisdictions, and may present an invoice for such expenses to DFPC, who will then reimburse the county and subsequently bill the jurisdictional federal agencies.

Federal agencies may submit bills and statements for reimbursements from county and/or fire districts for federal suppression on non-federal lands to DFPC. DFPC will make such reimbursement and subsequently invoice the county or fire district as appropriate.

Cooperator reimbursement procedures and forms can be found on the DFPC website: [www.dfs.state.co.us/programs-2/emergency-management/wildland-fire-management/wildland-fire-billing](http://www.dfs.state.co.us/programs-2/emergency-management/wildland-fire-management/wildland-fire-billing).

## RESOURCE USE RATES

Cooperating agencies must have an approved CRRF to be available in ROSS for out of local area dispatch. Resources assigned to an EFF fire from the cooperating agency without a current CRRF will be reimbursed using established standard state cooperator equipment rates.

Cooperator equipment should not be signed up using an Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement (EERA).

Fire Protection Districts that choose not to complete the Cooperative Resource Rate Form will be reimbursed at the current established standard state cooperator equipment rates.

Each department using the Cooperative Resource Rate Form will provide workers' compensation insurance for all involved department personnel.

### **Cost Recovery**

The reimbursement process may not be finalized within the fiscal year in which the incident occurred. Agencies may need to carry over funds to cover costs estimated at the time of the fire.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Personnel Policy**

N/A

### **Modification**

#### **MID-YEAR CHANGES**

Mid-year changes are to be avoided; however, if an agency becomes unable to uphold commitments, it should notify all parties to this agreement.

### **Annual Review**

This AOP must be reviewed annually. If no changes are needed, a new cover page and signature page will be distributed to all parties along with a statement letter indicating no changes have occurred. The updated plan will be circulated for signatures prior to April.

### **Duration of Agreement**

This AOP remains in effect until superseded.

### **Previous Agreements Superseded**

2015 Grand County Annual Operating Plan

**SIGNATURES**

Authorized Representatives

**GRAND COUNTY SIGNATURES**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Grand County BOCC Chairman, Jane Tollett

5/3/2016  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Grand County Sheriff, Brett Schroetlin

3.24.2016  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest: County Clerk Sara Rosene  
Nataria C Brown

5/3/2016  
Date

**COLORADO DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL SIGNATURE**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Regional Fire Management Officer, Sam Parsons

2/17/2016  
Date

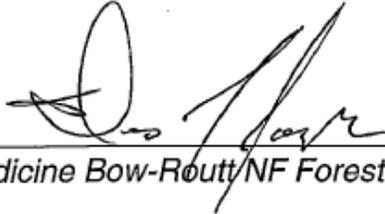
FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY SIGNATURES



Arapaho and Roosevelt NF Forest Supervisor

3-22-16

Date



Medicine Bow-Routt NF Forest Supervisor

3/14/16

Date



Bureau of Land Management Kremmling Field Office

3/18/16

Date



Rocky Mountain National Park Superintendent

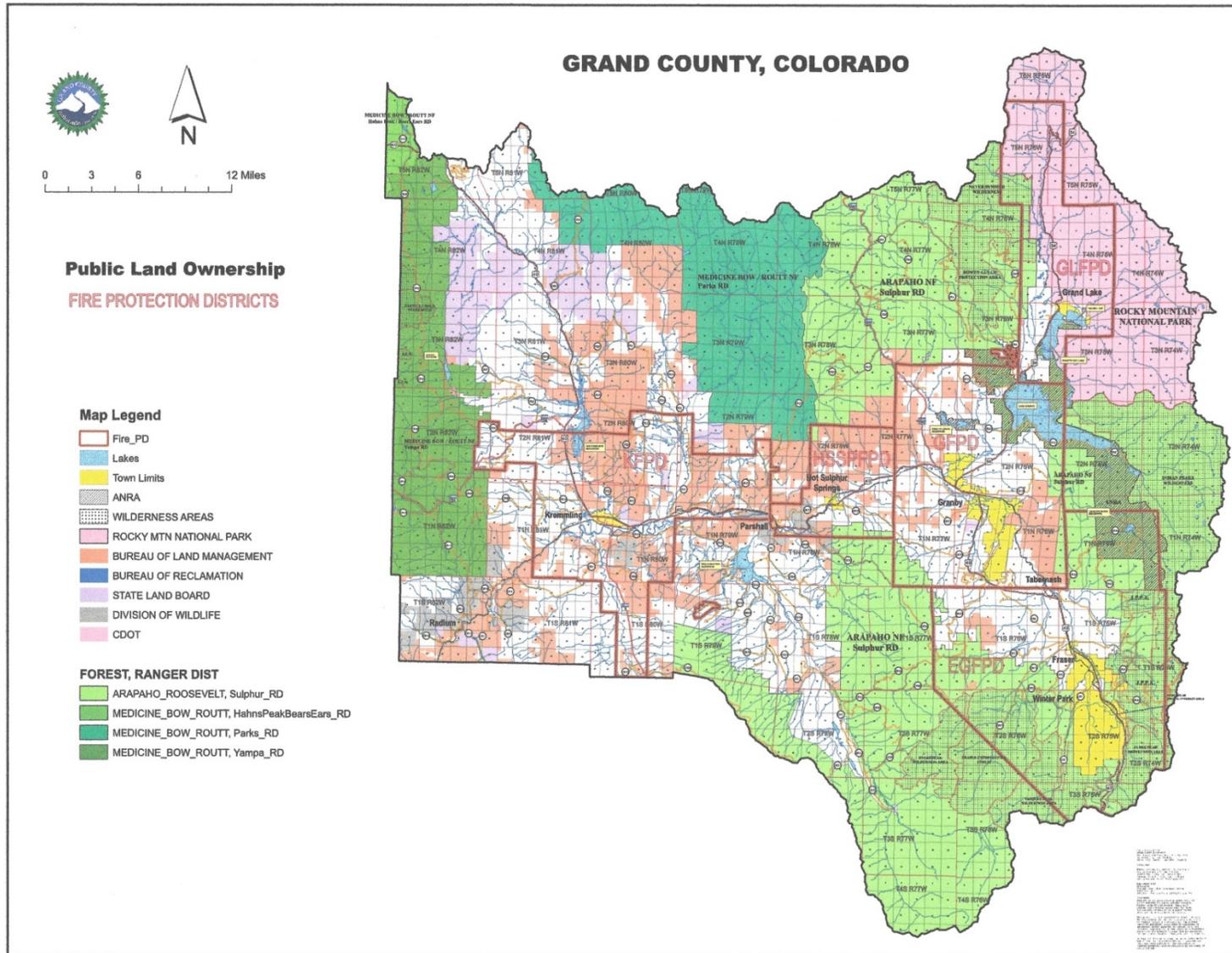
March 8, 2016

Date

## **EXHIBITS**

- A. MAPS
- B. PERSONNEL DIRECTORY AND RADIO FREQUENCIES
- C. FIRE OPERATIONS GUIDANCE IN BARK BEETLE STANDS
- D. WERF/CFAC , MMA REQUEST FORM, INTERAGENCY AIRCRAFT REQUEST FORM
- E. FIRE BAN CRITERIA
- F. COST SHARING
- G. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

# EXHIBIT A - MAPS



# Denver Water Board Parcels in Grand County

