2016 RIO BLANCO COUNTY ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN

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PREAMBLE

This annual operating plan 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 AOP is to set forth standard operating procedures, agreed policies, and responsibilities to implement cooperative wildfire protection on all lands within the County.

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
- Rio Blanco County Memorandum of Understanding For Participation in the Colorado Emergency Fire Fund
- Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection in Rio Blanco 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 implements 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.

INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

Jurisdictional Roles

Federal jurisdictional agencies have responsibility for wildfire protection on federal lands. Within Fire Protection Districts, the Fire Chief is responsible for fire protection on non-federal lands, until this responsibility is transferred by mutual consent to the County Sheriff. The County Sheriff is responsible for wildfire protection on all non-federal lands in the County outside of Fire Protection Districts. In Rio Blanco County there are no non-federal lands outside of a Fire Protection District. The Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) does not have jurisdiction on any lands, until responsibility is transferred by mutual consent from the County Sheriff under the State's Emergency Fire Fund (EFF) procedures.

Interagency Dispatch Centers

Rio Blanco County utilizes a communication center, located in Meeker. The communication center shall be used for fire incidents on lands under the County Sheriff's jurisdiction. In this plan, this center shall be referred to as County Communications.

County Communications, the Craig Interagency Dispatch Center (CRC), and the Grand Junction Interagency Dispatch Center (GJC) will meet annually to discuss dispatch coordination procedures. County Communications and CRC or GJC will receive reports of wildfires and coordinate the timely notification and/or dispatch of the appropriate jurisdictional agency and County Sheriff for ALL wildfires, regardless of location.

The closest forces should be dispatched without regard to jurisdiction, per the interagency mutual aid provision of this plan. The jurisdictional agency should assume responsibility for suppression at the earliest possible time, or as otherwise agreed. No Party to this Agreement shall be required to make resources or assistance available to the requesting Party, if by so doing would impair the Party's ability to provide effective emergency services within its own service area.

The Rio Blanco County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2012) identifies all lands under the Sheriff's jurisdiction as full fire suppression. However, it is recognized that federal agencies may apply "Management of Multiple Objectives" tactics on lands within their jurisdiction. Agencies taking independent action within another agency's jurisdiction should notify that agency as soon as possible, in order to avoid conflicting land management objectives.

However, it is agreed that there should be no delay in initial attack pending determination of the precise location of the fire, land ownership, or responsibility.

All requests by Rio Blanco County agencies for additional resources and assistance beyond initial attack shall be through County Communications. Requests for assistance beyond the capabilities of Rio Blanco County shall be made through CRC, or GJC within the Upper Colorado River Dispatch Zone.

It is understood by fire departments in Rio Blanco County, that all requests for initial attack aircraft assistance on wildfires will be made directly to GJC or CRC. After the initial air drop, non-mutual aid resources (i.e. air tankers, smokejumpers, Type 1 helicopters) will need the approval of the agency having jurisdiction. Lead planes, air attack and smokejumper aircraft are

not considered mutual aid resources.

Requests by federal agencies for assistance from Rio Blanco County agencies shall be made through CRC or GJC to County Communications.

If the fire is on or threatening state or private land, and is expected to exceed the control capabilities of the County, the DFPC fire management officer will be notified by the Agency Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). Colorado OEM will be notified for consequence management, if needed. The 24hr State Emergency Operations number for notification is: 303-279-8855.

Interagency Resources

FIRE PROTECTION RESOURCES
Cooperator resources available for fire suppression beyond the mutual aid period are covered by a Cooperator Resource Rate Form (CRRF) and are listed in the federal Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS).

DIRECTORY OF PERSONNEL AND/OR AUTHORIZED AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES
See **Attachment A-1**, list from the Rio Blanco County Fire Mobilization Plan for resource and contact information.

Standards

PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS
The Incident Command System (ICS) will be used on all wildfires in Rio Blanco County.

During the mutual period, if responders are not NWCG qualified for the position assigned, the agency's home unit assumes responsibility for these individuals.

Use of a local Type 3 Team is strongly encouraged on wildfire incidents that are expected to extend beyond the mutual aid period, involve multi-jurisdictional lands, or where use of handcrews and/or aircraft is anticipated in extended attack. A Type 3 Team may be filled from a local cadre of qualified individuals, or one of the Type 3 teams organized within Western Colorado may be utilized. This Type 3 Team may be used as an interagency Incident Management Group (IMG) for Type 3 incidents, or as a transition team on those incidents of Type 1 or 2 complexity. On Type 3 incidents where federal resources have been ordered, the ICT3 position must be fully qualified, as per NWCG standards. NWCG "red cards" are required for all personnel assigned to fires on federal jurisdiction lands, beyond the initial attack period.

If Rio Blanco County emergency management agencies wish to develop the ICS skills of their personnel for use on all-risk incidents within the County, the USFS and BLM will strive to provide on-the-job training opportunities for qualified, targeted local agency personnel. These personnel will provide, to the Craig Interagency Dispatch Center (CRC) or Grand Junction Interagency Dispatch Center (GJC), 24 hour contact phone numbers and dates of availability for training assignments.

EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS
Equipment will be inspected based on need as determined by the agency responsible for such equipment. DFPC and cooperator engines subject to interagency fire use will be inspected at least annually to ensure use and road worthiness.

PREPAREDNESS

Protection Planning

N/A

Protection Areas and Boundaries

Wildfire jurisdiction for the County Sheriff (private and state lands), Fire Protection Districts, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the National Park Service (NPS), are shown on, BLM 1:100,000 scale color surface management status maps (see **Attachment C-1**, Wildfire Protection Area Map).

See **Attachment C-1**, Fire Protection Area Map. The BLM 1:100,000 scale color surface management status map is used to show wildfire control jurisdiction for the purpose of this plan. Refer to the map legend for jurisdictional agency; however generally these map colors correspond to:

Agency	Map Color
Fire Districts	blue and white
National Park Service	purple
U.S. Forest Service	green
Bureau of Land Management	yellow

Reciprocal (Mutual Aid) Fire Assistance

MUTUAL AID PERIOD

The Mutual Aid period is defined as the period of fire suppression from the time of initial on-scene size up and ending 24 hours later or as negotiated. The Mutual Aid period will end at midnight of the first burn period when the incident commander determines that the fire cannot be controlled within 24 hours. The non-reimbursable mutual aid period will also apply to any local Incident Management Group (IMG) or local Multi Agency Coordination (MAC) group which may form to provide overhead fire assistance.

MUTUAL AID RESOURCES

Mutual aid wildfire protection has been established County-wide between all signatories to this plan. It is agreed that there should be no delay in initial attack pending determination of the precise location of the fire, land ownership, or responsibility. See **Attachment A-1**, Mobilization Plan for mutual aid resources available from supporting agencies. The BLM Type 3 helicopter stationed in Rifle is considered a mutual aid resource, and if not assigned to another fire, is available w/o charge to County fire agencies for the mutual aid period (24 hours after arrival on scene). Any federal resources positioned within the UCR and CRC Dispatch areas are considered mutual aid, with the exception of air tankers, Type 1 helicopters, and smokejumpers. Lead planes, air attack and smokejumper aircraft are not 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). Severity resources are considered mutual aid.

RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

The primary purpose of this operating plan is to ensure prompt suppression of wildland fires. Any interagency dispute arising from these procedures will be resolved on site by the Unified

Command Group. When necessary, following the conclusion of the fire incident, a panel of agency representatives including the participants in the incident will review and resolve the dispute.

Acquisition of Services

N/A

Joint Projects and Project Plans

This AOP is the only example of an interagency wildfire plan in use for the County.

Fire Prevention

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

Cooperating agencies should coordinate prevention efforts to provide uniform and consistent information to the public. News releases should be coordinated to prevent duplication and maintain a consistent message to the public.

RED FLAG WARNINGS

GJC and CRC will provide appropriate fire status/information (updated daily) by maintaining an internet website for the purposes of disseminating the following information: Red Flag notices, fire weather, fire situation, fire resources, national fire danger (NFDRS) observations, and other appropriate wildfire information. This and other fire related sites can be accessed through:
http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2gjc/local_info/index.htm
http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2crc/index.htm

Public Use Restrictions

Requests for restrictions prohibiting open fires during hazardous periods should be coordinated to include private, state, and federal lands when possible. Requests will be made by the jurisdictional agency with notification given to all other agencies. Requests should be submitted in writing to the respective granting authority. The granting authority and jurisdictional agency shall jointly prepare and promptly distribute media releases concerning the restriction. In the case of any restrictions on burning or public movements because of extreme fire danger, either by Governor's proclamation or by local issue, the County Sheriff will be responsible for enforcement on all non-federal lands, and may assist on other lands at the request of the appropriate agency.

Burning Permits

N/A

Prescribed Fire (Planned Ignitions) and Fuels Management

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

The agencies agree to cooperate in the development and implementation of prescribed burning programs and projects (prescribed natural as well as planned ignition).

Wildfires resulting from escaped prescribed fires ignited by a party to this plan on lands it manages, 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 fires.

If parties to this plan 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

N/A

Boundary Line Fires

UNIFIED COMMAND

If a wildfire crosses or threatens jurisdictional boundaries and becomes a multi-agency fire, a Unified Command will be formed and will consist of representatives of all jurisdictional agencies involved. The purpose of Unified Command will be to meet as a group in order to identify policies, objectives, strategy, and tactics resulting in one common set of objectives, which will then be given to a single Incident Commander for tactical implementation.

Response to Wildland Fire

Special Management Considerations

EQUIPMENT USE

Any other loaning, sharing, exchanging, or maintenance of facilities, equipment, or support services will be considered on a case by case basis and must be mutually agreed upon by the concerned parties.

USE OF MECHANIZED EQUIPMENT

Use of mechanized line construction equipment, such as bulldozers and graders on federal lands, requires approval of the agency administrator of the jurisdictional agency.

NON-WILDFIRE EMERGENCIES

The responsibility for incidents, other than wildland fire emergencies, rests with the jurisdictional agency(s). Cooperation and assistance may be rendered under this plan by utilizing the processes identified in Item 13, Cost Reimbursements. A mutual aid period does not apply to these incidents, unless superseded by other existing agreement(s).

USE OF STATE EMERGENCY FIRE FUND (EFF)

The State Emergency Fire Fund (EFF) is strictly a fire suppression fund, and cannot pay for rehabilitation. However, repair of damage directly related to suppression (e.g. water bars on cat lines) may be authorized by the DFPC Agency Administrator if accomplished as a suppression component at the time of the fire suppression effort. The State EFF cannot be used to manage fires solely for resource benefit.

AFTER ACTION REVIEWS

Following all wildfires, the jurisdictional agency will conduct a timely incident analysis at a level

commensurate with the complexity of the incident. Supporting agencies shall be included in these reviews.

Decision Process

For federal and state jurisdiction fires, a Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) or other decision support document (as appropriate) will be prepared on all wildfires that escape initial attack. This important evaluation tool is used to select strategic alternatives, and is especially useful to an incoming Incident Management Team.

Cooperation

N/A

Communication

Interagency communications on wildland fire incidents will be on VHF narrowband frequencies only. The Fire Emergency Radio Network (VFIRE21) (154.2800 MHz) will be used for interagency communication of ground resources on wildland fires, unless or until alternate frequencies are agreed on. Air to ground communications will use the frequencies listed in **Attachment B-1**, Communications Plan.

For the purposes of conducting business authorized by this cooperative plan, all parties to this operating plan agree that supporting agencies may use the jurisdictional agency's radio frequencies as needed to conduct emergency communications on fires of the jurisdictional agency. No party to this operating plan will use, or authorize others to use, another agency's radio frequencies for routine day to day operations. Fire protection districts 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. See **Attachment B-1**, Communications Plan for additional communications information.

Cost efficiency

N/A

Delegation of Authority

N/A

Preservation of Evidence

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

The jurisdictional agency shall have responsibility for the investigation of all fires. If there are multiple agencies having jurisdiction the investigation shall be conducted jointly. Investigation shall be made on fires to determine cause, responsible party, time of ignition, and all other information relating to fire cause. Fire cause determination is needed for EFF incidents and required for FEMA incidents. Although an assisting agency may have a fire extinguished upon arrival of the jurisdictional agency’s forces, the jurisdictional agency should discuss the fire with the assisting agency to aid in the investigation and take steps to preserve the point of origin.

STATE EMERGENCY FIRE FUND (EFF)

Rio Blanco County is a participant in the Emergency Fire Fund (EFF) with DFPC. As a participant to this agreement, the State agrees to come to the aid of Rio Blanco County should

suppression resource needs exceed the County capability. The roles and responsibilities under EFF are as follows:

DFPC: A DFPC representative must be on site for an EFF evaluation. DFPC will assist the County Sheriff in the analysis of the fire'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.

Rio Blanco 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, and subsequent assumption of control and delegation of authority (DFPC 4, DFPC 5). The Sheriff will coordinate strategic planning and logistical support for other County entities in his representation. The County fire departments will be responsible for tactical implementation.

Rio Blanco County Commissioners: are signatories to the DFPC 4 "Assumption of Control" for fires the DFPC Director or designee 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 will provide a member to the MAC Group.

Implementation of the EFF is at the discretion of 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 identified a minimum County commitment to any incident which has EFF potential. This is not a maximum County resource commitment, and is not the only resources the County is required to use on the incident in order to request EFF implementation. It is understood that if tactics of a given incident make some of this equipment inappropriate, alternate resources can be negotiated.

For Rio Blanco County this minimum commitment is:
1 dozer or road grader, 1 water tender, law enforcement 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)

A written cost sharing agreement should be considered for any mixed-jurisdiction fire that escapes initial attack, particularly when air resources have been ordered. However, cost sharing agreements should not influence the suppression of the fire. Cost sharing agreements may be negotiated after the fire is out; such agreements between the state and/or counties and federal land fire managers can be updated daily or whenever necessary. Refer to the **Cost Share Agreement Template (Attachment F-1)** for an example of this agreement.

If it is not a State Responsibility (non-EFF incident), it is up to the County (with DFPC assistance, if needed) to negotiate cost sharing on federal/state & private land fires, if any. It is acceptable (and frequent) for each party to agree to pay for their own resources.

All costs, beyond the mutual aid period and documented through the resource order process shall be considered reimbursable. When a wildfire occurs on lands of more than one agency and costs are incurred in addition to the initial attack, one of the following options may be used to determine reimbursable costs to the agencies involved:

a. Each agency assumes its own costs as expended by it in the fire control effort.
b. Division of fire costs based upon ownership and/or acreage percentages.
c. Each agency agrees to a portion of the suppression costs.

Training

Standard approved fire training courses are provided periodically by DFPC, USFS, BLM, NPS, and other agencies. As these courses are scheduled, all cooperators will be informed and invited to participate.

Communication Systems

N/A

Fire Weather Systems

N/A

Aviation Operations

ORDERING AIRCRAFT

All initial attack aircraft ordered by Cooperators in Rio Blanco County will be ordered directly through GJC or CRC. Any Cooperator can order the first aircraft drop on an incident. After the first aircraft load, non-mutual aid resource requests will be authorized by the agency having jurisdiction.

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

- Name and agency of person ordering
- Name and location of fire, geographical or township/range
- Additional information that is helpful:
- Lat/Long in preferred datum WGS 84 degrees/minutes/decimal minutes

- Elevation of the fire
- Name and radio frequency of ground contact at the fire. FM Air to Ground frequencies must be used, No VFIRE or non-federal frequencies.
- Other aircraft in the area, including radio frequencies in use.
- Aircraft hazards in the area.
- Aerial Retardant Use - the use of aerial retardants on federal lands is restricted within 300 feet of lakes, rivers and live streams unless determined otherwise by local land management policy.

Cooperators ordering aircraft will use **Attachment G-1**, Air Support Request Form, prior to calling GJC or CRC.

PREPOSITIONING OF DFPC SEATS

When a combination of factors or events, as agreed to by the Sheriff and DFPC, create a situation that warrants pre-positioning of a DFPC contracted single engine air tanker (SEAT) in Rio Blanco County, the Sheriff should request through the DFPC FMO. Factors may include, but are not limited to, multiple starts within a 24 hour period, high occurrence of dry lightning, persistent Red Flag Warnings, or the unavailability of other air tankers.

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 are 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. Orders for the MMA must utilize the MMA Ordering Form and Procedures in **Attachment D-1**.

NATIONAL GUARD AIRCRAFT

Colorado Army National Guard helicopters are available for wildfire suppression on state and private lands. Request procedure is through the Sheriff to the CRC or GJC. These aircraft are certified to operate on wildfires and have programmable radio capability. National Guard response time will vary on depending on fire location and their availability. The use of these helicopters must be authorized by the Governor.

WILDFIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND (WERF)

The Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (WERF) is intended to reimburse the local/County non-federal agency for the first air resource or the use of handcrews per the WERF guidelines. The WERF only applies to fires on private or state land and only at the request of the Sheriff, fire department, or fire protection district. This fund will pay for the first plane load of retardant, water, or foam from any air tanker (per fire) or the first hour of helicopter time (per fire), and can cover the use of a 20-person hand crew for up to two shifts per fire.

After the first air tanker load, subsequent loads will be at County cost, and only upon authorization by the Sheriff or his representative. The fund does not cover lead planes or aerial observer aircraft, and does not cover flight time outside of Colorado. This fund does not pay

costs of additional personnel associated with the helicopter. Any aircraft use or orders beyond the scope of WERF is entirely the responsibility of the requesting agency / individual. Additional details are in **Attachment D-1**, Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (WERF) funding guidelines.

COLORADO FIREFIGHTING AIR CORPS

The Colorado Firefighting Air Corps (CFAC) (Ref: Colorado State Statue 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, located in **Attachment D-1,** and to the extent that funding is available.

Billing Procedures

All billing between Federal and County agencies will be submitted through DFPC. All local Cooperator resources reimbursed through DFPC shall use a CRRF to document their resource cost. DFPC cannot reimburse Cooperators without an approved CRRF. The Department of Public Safety Cooperative Resource Rate Form (CRRF) is updated every three years. Resources other than Cooperators will be considered as Contractors, and the jurisdictional agency will be billed directly for their costs. Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP) fire engines are considered state resources. Reimbursement for these engines shall be made directly to the state, however local cooperator (fire department) engine operators may be hired by the jurisdictional agency using agreed upon firefighter rates.

All Cooperator requests for fire reimbursement through DFPC will have invoices sent directly to the DFPC Finance Office within 30 days after incident resources are released. The DFPC Finance Office will attempt to make payment as soon as possible after receiving the invoice. Invoices are required to have proper documentation supporting expenses before the process for payment can be completed. The DFPC FMOs are available to assist Cooperators with submission of reimbursement requests.

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.

AUTHORITY TO OBLIGATE MONEY

Local agencies do not have authority to obligate federal agencies to pay for expenses incurred in fire suppression (even when on federal lands). Similarly, federal agencies do not have authority to obligate state or counties to pay for any federal expense incurred in fire suppression (even when on private and state lands) without an agreement in place. Lacking consultation with the jurisdictional agency, and until a cost-share agreement is in place, the rule “if you order it, you pay for it” generally applies when requesting non-mutual aid resources.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Personnel Policy
N/A

Modification
N/A

Annual Review
This AOP must be reviewed annually. Program review will be held at the annual fire operating plan meeting in the spring. If no changes are made, a statement letter with signatures of all parties to this AOP will be distributed. Mid-year changes are to be avoided; however, if an agency becomes unable to uphold commitments, it should notify all parties to this plan.

Duration of Agreement
This AOP remains in effect until superseded.

Previous Agreements Superseded
2015 Rio Blanco County Annual Operating Plan

SIGNATURES
Authorized Representatives

RIO BLANCO COUNTY SIGNATURES

BOCC Rio Blanco County, Shawn Bolton, Chairman — 3/23/16 *Date*

Rio Blanco County Sheriff, Anthony Mazzola — 02/26/2016 *Date*

COLORADO DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL SIGNATURE

Regional Fire Management Officer, Sam Parsons — 2/25/2016 *Date*

FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY SIGNATURES

United States Forest Service, White River National Forest — Date: MARCH 24, 2016

United States Forest Service, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest — Date: 3/14/16

Bureau of Land Management, White River Field Office — Date: 03/01/2016

Bureau of Land Management, Little Snake Field Office — Date: 2-25-16

National Park Service, Dinosaur National Monument — Date: 4-4-16

ATTACHMENTS

A.	State and Local Personnel Directory	A-1
B.	Communications Plan	B-1
C.	Protection Area Map	C-1
D.	WERF/CFAC & MMA Ordering Form	D-1
E.	Fire Restriction Process	E-1, E-2
F.	Cost Share Agreement Template	F-1
G.	Air Support Request Form	G-1
H.	Transfer of Control Responsibility	H-1

Attachment A-1: Directory of Personnel and/or Authorized Agency Representatives

RIO BLANCO COUNTY
FIRE MOBILIZATION PLAN

PERSONNEL DIRECTORY

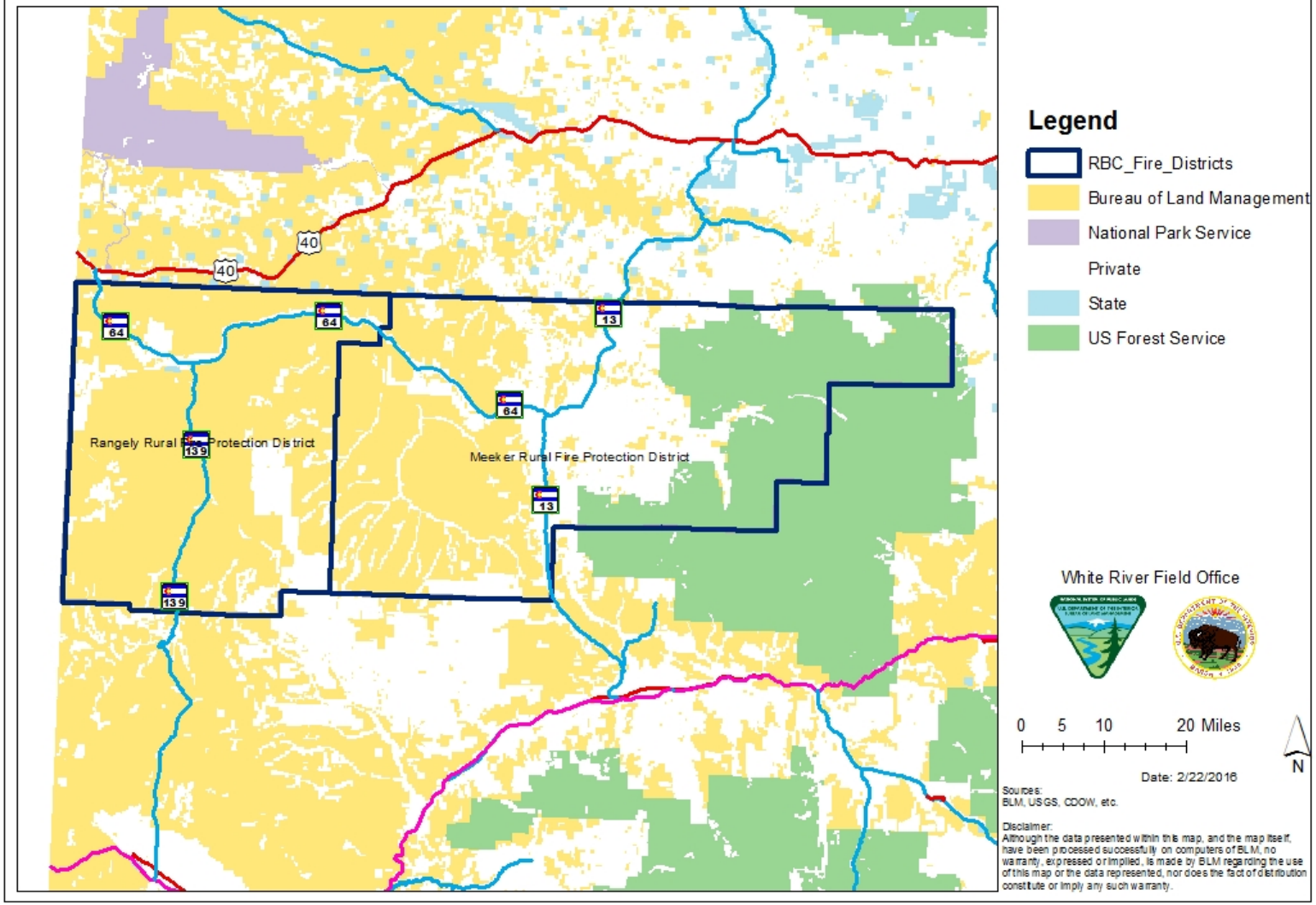
Rio Blanco County	Office	Home	Cell
Anthony Mazzola, Sheriff	878-9620		
Brice Glassock, Undersheriff, Sheriff's designee	878-9620		
Ty Gates, Emergency Manager	878-9623		
Sheriff's Dispatcher: Available 24/7	878-9620		
+ Statewide DTR MAC 17 is monitored			

Rio Blanco County Fire Protection Districts	Office	Home	Cell
1. Meeker FPD Report fires to 911 (878-9620)			
District Office	878-3443		
District Chief: Marshall Cook	878-3443		
Asst. Chief: Vaughn Moodie	878-5509		
Capt.: Luke Pelloni	878-3316		
1st Lt.: Brice Glassock	878-9620		
1st Lt.: Laura Smith	878-9570		
Radio Frequencies:			

2. Rangely FPD Report fires to 911 (675-5093)	Office	Home	Cell
Rangely Police Dept. Dispatch	675-8467		
District Secretary: Linda Gordon			
District Chief: Andy Shaffer			
Asst. Chief: Jasper Whiston			
Radio Frequencies:			

Attachment B-2: Air to Ground Frequencies 2016

Attachment C-1
Rio Blanco County Wildfire Protection Area Map



Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control
2016 Colorado Wildfire Funding Guidelines

The Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) has been tasked by the Colorado State Legislature to administer and manage programs aimed at assisting local jurisdictions with safe and effective wildland fire response. The Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (WERF) was created to assist local jurisdictions with initial attack wildland fire response on state and private lands within the state of Colorado (Ref: CRS §24-33.5-1226). The Colorado Firefighting Aviation Corps (CFAC) program was authorized to ensure the availability of aviation resources for wildland fire response on state and private lands within the state of Colorado (C.R.S. §24-33.5-1228). Funding and reimbursement for wildland firefighting resources under these programs is available to any Colorado County Sheriff, fire protection district, or municipal fire department in accordance with the following eligibility guidelines. Funding and reimbursement will occur to the extent that program funds are available.

Eligible Hand Crew Resources[1]	**First 2 Calendar Days of Incident**	**After First 2 Calendar Days**
Type 1, Type 2-IA, or Type 2 Hand Crews	Eligible[1]	Not Eligible
Eligible Aviation Resources	**During Mutual Aid Period**[2]	**After Mutual Aid Period**[2]
Multi Mission Aircraft (MMA)	Eligible	Discretionary[3]
Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT)	Eligible	Discretionary[3]
Large Air Tankers (LAT)[1]	Eligible[1]	Not Eligible
Very Large Air Tankers (VLAT)[1,4]	Eligible[1,4]	Not Eligible
Type 1 Helicopters[1]	Eligible[1]	Not Eligible
Type 2 Helicopters	Eligible	Discretionary[3]
Type 3 Helicopters	Eligible	Discretionary[3]
Aerial Supervision Platforms and Lead Planes	Not Eligible – unless required by interagency standards and mobilization guides.	

[1] The use of these resources may be reimbursed in accordance with the Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (WERF).

[2] For determination of reimbursement and funding, the Mutual Aid Period will be as defined in the County Annual Operating Plan (AOP).

[3] Funding support for aviation operations beyond the mutual aid period may be approved by DFPC.

[4] Any request for a Very Large Air Tanker (VLAT) must be approved by the DFPC Branch Chief of Operations or his/her designee prior to use.

Funding Requests and Notifications

- The requesting agency *must* notify DFPC of each funding (CFAC) or reimbursement (WERF) request. It is critical that DFPC receives notification of any and all requests to maintain an accurate balance for funds available.
- Notifications and requests should be made to the DFPC via email to: wildlandfire@state.co.us and a copy to the DFPC Regional FMO within 7 days of resource use. Requests should be documented on the *DFPC Wildfire Funding Notification and Request* form, which needs to be attached to the email, and must include the following information: Who requested the resource (Sheriff, fire chief, etc.); Fire Name; Incident Number (whenever available); Resource Name(s); Dates of Use; and Copies of Resource Orders (whenever available).

Additional Details

The following chart lists specific information and details for each kind of resource:

Additional Details – Hand Crews	
Eligible	Up to 2 hand crew days within the first 2 calendar days of an incident beginning from time of departure to fire.
	Hand crew logistics costs of lodging, camping, transportation/fuel and per diem.
	Type 1, Type 2 Initial Attack, or Type 2 crews qualified to NWCG standards.
	Hand crews should be ordered based on incident needs, crew Type and capabilities, and proximity to incident. There is a preference for the use and reimbursement of State of Colorado inmate crews.
	Different crews may be used, but only for a total of 2 hand crew days per incident.
Not Eligible	Travel time to bring hand crews from outside Colorado.
Additional Details – Aviation Resources	
Eligible	DFPC funding support can be utilized on state and private land fires, and for fires that occur in mutual aid areas as defined in the County AOP.
	Multiple fixed and rotor wing resources (if needed) can be funded on the same incident.
	DFPC will reimburse and pay for eligible aviation resources during the mutual aid period, contingent on available funding.
	Funding support for incident aviation operations beyond the mutual aid period may be approved by the DFPC, based on factors such as fire potential, values at risk, defined mutual aid periods, boundary line fires, availability of funds, etc. [3]
	Limited to reimbursement for the use of only one of the following resources per incident: Type 1 Helicopter (first hour of firefighting helicopter rotor time + pilot time); or Very Large/Large Airtanker (first aerial tanker flight + drop + retardant)[4]
	Additional helicopter personnel (helitack crew).
	Fuel and support trucks assigned to aviation resources.
	Daily availability costs of aircraft.
	Only OAS or USFS carded or authorized aircraft, ordered through the procedures outlined in the County AOP, are eligible for DFPC funding and reimbursement.
Not Eligible	Ferry or flight time to bring aerial resources to Colorado.
Process	Requesting agency orders appropriate Kind and Type of resource(s). Consult the County AOP for the local, state, and interagency dispatch procedures to order aviation resources.
	The Closest Forces concept will be utilized meaning that the closest available resource of the Kind and Type requested will be dispatched to the incident. DFPC will cover eligible costs regardless of whether the aircraft is a state or federally-managed resource.
	The DFPC must be notified via the State Emergency Operations Line (303-279-8855) if multiple aviation resources are ordered on an incident.
	If a local agency utilizes aircraft on a fire beyond the DFPC eligibility period, costs may be charged to the requesting agency. Actual costs vary by resource used.
Questions concerning this guidance or the DFPC Aviation program should be directed to your DFPC Regional FMO.	

DFPC MULTI-MISSION AIRCRAFT REQUEST ORDER FORM

TO ORDER MMA AIRCRAFT

MISSION REQUESTED			
Date Needed		Time Needed	
Incident Type	☐ Wildfire ☐ Other-Specify:	Incident Name	
Mission Profile Requested	☐ Color & Infrared Sensor Specific Needs: ☐ Perimeter ☐ Spot Fires ☐ Fire Location/Detection		
	☐ All Hazard		
	☐ Point to Point Transportation		

MISSION REQUESTOR INFORMATION (Sheriff, Fire Chief, FMO etc.)	
Requestor Name, Title and Agency	Requestor Phone, Email and/or Radio Frequency

INCIDENT CONTACT INFORMATION			
Name		Phone Number	
Incident Position			
Ground Contact Name		Radio Frequency	
Air Contact Name		Radio Frequency	

INTELLIGENCE REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS **(Specify what intel, to who/where, and how you want it sent from the plane to ground)**

INCIDENT LOCATION INFORMATION					
County					
General Location					
Latitude (**specify format**)					
Longitude (**specify format**)					
Bearing		Distance		From	

OTHER INCIDENT AIRSPACE INFORMATION	
Other Known Aerial Hazards	
Special Use Airspace	
Military Training Route	
Military Operations Area	

Rev. 6/24/15

PROCESS FOR IMPLEMENTING COUNTY FIRE RESTRICTIONS

- **ERC 90-96% LAST 5 DAYS AT DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE WX STATION(S)**
- **HIGH HUMAN CAUSED RISK[1]**
- **NO SIGNIFICANT RELIEF IN FIRE WEATHER FORECAST DURING THE NEXT 7 DAYS**

All Criteria are Met, Implement Stage I Restrictions

Two Elements are Present, Strongly Consider Stage I Restriction

Less Than Two Elements are Present, No Fire Restrictions

- **ERC 97% OR GREATER LAST 5 DAYS AT DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE WX STATION(S)**
- **HIGH HUMAN CAUSED RISK[1]**
- **NO SIGNIFICANT RELIEF IN FIRE WEATHER FORECAST DURING THE NEXT 7 DAYS**

All Criteria are Met, Implement Stage II Restrictions

Two Elements are Present, Strongly Consider Stage II Restriction

Less Than Two Elements are Present, Remain at Stage I Fire Restrictions

1 High Human Caused Risk may include Holidays, such as 4th of July or Labor Day or Special Events such as Country Jam, the Lands End Hill Climb or hunting season.

2 Stage III-Area Closures are extremely rare events, and will only be implemented in extraordinary situations, after significant interagency coordination.

PROCESS FOR RESCINDING COUNTY FIRE RESTRICTIONS

- **ERC 75% OR LESS LAST 3 DAYS AT DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE WX STATIONS**
- **HUMAN CAUSED RISK IS MODERATE OR LESS OVER THE NEXT 14 DAYS[1]**
- **RMA PREDICTIVE SERVICES FORECASTS MODERATE TO LOW FIRE CONDITIONS TO PREVAIL FOR THE 30 DAY OUTLOOK[2]**

All Criteria are Met, Rescind Restrictions	Two Elements are Present, Consider Rescinding Restrictions	Less Than Two Elements are Present, No Change in Fire Restrictions

1 High Human Caused Risk may include Holidays, such as 4th of July or Labor Day or Special Events such as Country Jam, the Lands End Hill Climb or hunting season.

2 Consultation with the Fire Weather Meteorologists at Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center predicts moderate to low fire conditions to prevail over the majority of the next 30 days.

3 Once implemented, Stage II or III Restrictions will generally not be reduced until fire conditions have sufficiently moderated to completely lift all restrictions.

Attachment F-1

Cost Share Agreement

_____Fire

_____County, Colorado

_____, 20___

The agencies with protection responsibility for the _____Fire are:

- USDI Bureau of Land Management, _____Field Office (BLM)
- USDA Forest Service, _____National Forest (USFS)
-_____County Sheriff's Office (__SO)
- Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC)

Fire start date and time: _____, 20___at _____hrs.

Incident Commander: _____ (Type _)

This agreement identifies the costs that will be covered by each of the agencies identified above. This agreement was prepared under the following guidelines:

1. In accordance with the _____ County Annual Operating Plan (AOP), the mutual aid period for this fire is the first 24 hours after the initial report of the fire. Since this fire was reported at _____ hrs. on_____, 20___, the mutual aid period ended at _____ hrs. on _____, 20___. During this mutual aid period, each agency will be responsible for its own costs, excluding aviation resources.

2. DFPC assumed fire control from _____County on _____, 20___ after _____ hrs.

3. Responsibility for tort claims or compensation for injury costs will not be a part of this agreement. Responsibility for these costs will be determined outside of this agreement.

4. Non-suppression rehabilitation costs are the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency and will not be shared.

5. Aircraft costs incurred before the EFF assumption will be shared at 50% County, 50% BLM/USFS. Aircraft costs incurred after _____ at _____ hrs. will be shared based on percentage of ownership within the final fire perimeter.

6. All other suppression costs incurred after _____, 20____ at _____ hrs. will be shared based on percentage of ownership within the final fire perimeter.

Signed:

_____ _____
_____ County Sheriff's Office Date

_____ _____
Agency Administrator - USFS Date

_____ _____
Agency Administrator - BLM Date

_____ _____
Agency Administrator - DFPC Date

Attachment G-1

Aviation Support Request Form

Grand Junction Interagency Fire Dispatch
970-257-4800 FAX: 970-257-4847
gjcdispatch@gmail.com ATTN: AIRCRAFT

Craig Interagency Fire Dispatch
970-826-5037 FAX: 970-826-5051
craiginteragency@gmail.com

The County Sheriff or designee, local Fire Department Chief or designee or the Incident Commander will contact the Interagency Dispatch Center **directly** with requests for aviation resources. Prior to making that request the following information must be collected. This information will facilitate a faster and safer response. To place the request, call the dispatch center and ask to speak with the Aircraft Dispatcher or Floor Coordinator.

IC Name and Agency: _____

Fire Name/Jurisdiction: _____

Fire Location: _____ Elevation: _____
(Lat/Long, TRS or geographic location, **no addresses**.)

Ground Contact: _____
(Must be able to TX/RX on air to ground frequency as assigned by Dispatch. ***This is for pilot safety.***)

Wind Speed/Direction: _____

Values at Risk/Special Needs:_____

_____

Known or Possible Flight Hazards: _____
(Including but not limited to: power lines, other wires, other aircraft, para-gliders, etc.)

Time and Date Requested: _____

Resource(s) Requested:

HELICOPTER

Type/Qty: **Type I:** Bucket ____ Tank ____ **Type II:** Bucket ____ Tank ____ **Type III** ____

If Type II: w/Crew_____ w/o Crew_____

Location of closest potential dip site: _____

AIRTANKER

Type/Qty: **VLAT** ____ **Type I** ____ **Type II** ____ **Type II** (Scooper) ____ **Type III** (SEAT) ____

Loaded with: **Retardant** ____ **Water** ____ **Foam** ____

SUPERVISION/SMOKEJUMPERS

Type/Qty: **ATGS** ____ **ASM** ____ **HLCO** ____ **ATCO** ____ **SMKJ** ____ **PARACARGO** ____

Considerations When Ordering Aviation Resources

HELICOPTERS
Please specify helicopter type and intended use when ordering

- **Limited**
  - No government personnel/passenger or internal cargo transport, lift only
- **Exclusive Use**
  - Government personnel/passenger and cargo hauling
  - Comes with a manager assigned
- **Type 1 (Heavy)**
  - Standard staffing = Manager + 4 Crewmember minimum
  - May be tanked or carry external buckets
  - Maximum wind speed for safe operations
    - >500' AGL: <50 knots (57.6 mph)
    - <500' AGL: Steady winds < 40 knots (46.1 mph) or a maximum gust spread of 15 knots (17.3 mph)
- **Type 2 (Medium)**
  - Standard staffing = Manager + 3 Crewmember minimum
  - Maximum wind speed for safe operations
    - >500' AGL: <50 knots (57.6 mph)
    - <500' AGL: Steady winds < 40 knots (46.1 mph) or a maximum gust spread of 15 knots (17.3 mph)
- **Type 3 (Light)**
  - Standard staffing = Manager + 2 Crewmember minimum
  - Maximum wind speed for safe operations
    - >500' AGL: <50 knots (57.6 mph)
    - <500' AGL: Steady winds < 30 knots (34.6 mph) or a maximum gust spread of 15 knots (17.3 mph)
- **General Helicopter Considerations**
  - Operating altitude and temperature affects type of aircraft required
  - If you are requesting a helicopter for bucket drops, be prepared with an adequate dip site location identified with a lat/long or easily identifiable geographic location
  - Advise dispatch if you think the dip site may be on private land; they will need to get authorization from the land owner
  - If you are requesting a helicopter with crew, it's helpful to have an adequate landing zone location identified with a lat/long close to the incident
  - Helicopters may not fly with buckets over major highways or congested areas

SINGLE ENGINE AIR TANKERS (SEATS)

- Consider turn-around time from the nearest reload base to your location
- May be appropriate for remote areas or areas that require overflight of busy road or congested areas
- After each drop provide feedback to the pilot concerning its accuracy and effectiveness
- Air tankers cannot drop retardant near open water; it is highly toxic to aquatic life so if your mission is near a river, creek, lake or ponds consider asking the aircraft to be loaded with water

HEAVY AIR TANKERS

- May be appropriate for remote areas or areas that require overflight of busy road or congested areas
- After each drop provide feedback to the pilot concerning its accuracy and effectiveness
- Air tankers cannot drop retardant near open water; it is highly toxic to aquatic life so if your mission is near a river, creek, lake or ponds consider asking the aircraft to be loaded with water

AIR ATTACK

- Order an Air Attack to enhance efficiency and safety of ground and aerial operations
- Consists of an aircraft with a specialized radio platform, a pilot and an Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS)

AERIAL SUPERVISION MODULE (ASM)

- A two-person crew function as the Lead and Air Tactical Group Supervisor from the same aircraft
    - The Air Tactical Pilot (ATP) is a qualified Lead Plane Pilot and is also qualified to evaluate and share the incident workload
    - The Air Tactical Supervisor (ATS) is a qualified ATGS who has also received specialized training and shares the incident workload.
- Calls signs initiate with B “Bravo”

TEMPORARY FLIGHT RESTRICTION (TFR)

- If you anticipate using air tankers over your incident for an extended period of time, you will want to order a TFR to assure clear airspace over your incident
- When you discontinue air tanker use for your incident, cancel the TFR

FREQUENCIES AND COMMUNICATIONS

- It is important to get ground and air resources operational on a designated Air to Ground frequency
- If you are unable to contact an aircraft on Air to Ground, let dispatch know immediately

GENERAL

- Telephone lines and other wires create aviation hazards which are difficult to see from the air; advise all aircraft of these or other hazards in the fire area

- Fire aircraft do not operate after dark. Most operational aircraft need to be on the ground one half hour after sunset (“pumpkin time”). Be aware of sunset time at your location, or check with dispatch to make sure there is enough daylight to fly the mission

- Wind decreases aircraft capabilities and effectiveness. If a fire is burning actively because of high winds it is unlikely that aviation resources will be of much value. The maximum winds that fire aviation resources can operate in are between 20 and 30 knots.

- Pick the right aircraft for the mission. A helicopter with a bucket can do a lot of good if there is a good water source available. Helicopters are restricted from flying with buckets over major highways or congested areas. Single and multiple engine air tankers are better for more remote areas and areas with over-flight of roads or communities.

- Our goal is to get everyone operational on the designated Air/Ground frequencies. There are a few times when this may not be the case due to frequency changes or congestion. If, you do not have the capability of communicating with an aircraft on one of the designated air/ground frequencies, you will need to let dispatch know what actual frequency you will be on. Terms like “Channel 3” or “Fire B” have no meaning to pilots. Instead of saying “TAC 2” you would say “154.295”. It is highly advisable to have a dedicated Air/Ground frequency anytime that aircraft are used. Trying to combine tactical and aviation traffic on the same frequency leads to congestion and confusion.

- Aircraft are very expensive to operate. If you have ordered an aircraft consider having one person whose sole responsibility is to monitor that air to ground frequency and avoid the delay and expense associated with problems with initial contact.

- The ground contact is responsible for making sure that the drop area is clear of personnel and equipment. It is difficult for fixed wing aircraft to see much detail on the ground and the pilots will rely on you to ensure that the drop zone is clear. The pilot will usually ask “Is the line clear?” If you tell him “The line is clear.” he will make the drop based on your call.

Basic Aircraft Capabilities and Estimated Costs

HELICOPTERS

- **Category**
  - *Limited/Restricted*: No government personnel or passengers; cargo lift only
  - *Standard:* Transport of government personnel and passengers allowed.

- **Type 1 (Heavy)**
  - Limited/Restricted staffing = Manager only
  - Flight rates between approximately $2,000 and $8,000 per flight hour
  - Fixed tank or collapsible bucket (700-2000 gallons)
  - Would include the National Guard Blackhawks and Chinooks
  - Maximum wind speed for safe operations
    - >500' AGL: <50 knots (57.6 mph)
    - <500' AGL: Steady winds < 40 knots (46 mph) or a maximum gust spread of 15 knots (17 mph)
- **Type 2 (Medium)**
  - Standard staffing = Manager + 3 Crewmember minimum (usually 6-12 w/ Exclusive Use) with multiple support vehicles and a fuel/service truck) **OR** Limited/Restricted staffing = Manager only
  - Flight rates between $1,500-$2,500 per flight hour
  - Fixed tank or collapsible bucket (240-500 gallons)
  - Maximum wind speed for safe operations
    - >500' AGL: <50 knots (57.6 mph)
    - <500' AGL: Steady winds < 40 knots (46 mph) or a maximum gust spread of 15 knots (17 mph)
- **Type 3 (Light)**
  - Standard staffing = Manager + 2 Crewmember minimum (usually 3-10 w/ Exclusive Use) with chase and fuel trucks
  - 3 crewmembers onboard and up to 7 additional in chase trucks
  - Collapsible 72-240 gallon bucket
  - Flight rates between $1,100-$1,500 per flight hour
  - Maximum wind speed for safe operations
    - >500' AGL: <50 knots (57.6 mph)
    - <500' AGL: Steady winds < 30 knots (35 mph) or a maximum gust spread of 15 knots (17 mph)

- **General Helicopter Considerations**
  - Operating altitude and temperature can significantly affects type of aircraft required
  - You may incur additional costs such as vehicle mileage, daily availability, and ferry flight time to the incident
  - If you are requesting a helicopter for bucket drops, be prepared with an adequate dip site location identified with a lat/long
  - Advise dispatch if you think the dip site may be on private land; they will need to get authorization from the land owner
  - If you are requesting a helicopter with crew, it's helpful to have an adequate landing zone location identified with a lat/long close to the incident
  - Helicopters may not fly with buckets or cargo slings over major highways or congested areas

- **CURRENT EXPECTED START DATES FOR RIFLE EXLCUSIVE USE HELICOPTERS**
  - Type 1: June 1st (150 day contract)
  - Type 3: June 3rd (90 day contract)

SINGLE ENGINE AIR TANKERS (SEATS)

- 700-802 gallons @ $4.64 average cost per gallon of retardant, ($3200/avg) load of retardant (after "WERF" drop) Cost will decrease to 1.61 per gallon ($1,127/avg) load after Tanker Base has pumped 100,000 gallons.
- Flight rates between $1,600-$2,100 per flight hour
- May be appropriate for remote areas or areas that require overflight of busy road or congested areas
- Consider turn-around time from the nearest reload base to your location
- After each drop provide feedback to the pilot concerning its accuracy and effectiveness
- Air tankers cannot drop retardant near open water; it is highly toxic to aquatic life so if your mission is near a river, creek, lake or ponds consider asking the aircraft to be loaded with water

HEAVY AIR TANKERS

- **Canadian Convair:** 1500-2000 gallons @ $4.64 per gallon = $9,000 per avg. retardant load
- **P2V:** 1800-2000 gallons @ $4.64per gallon = $8,300 per avg. retardant load
    - Flight rates between $5,000-6,000 per flight hour
- **MAFFS C-130:** 3,000 gallons @ $4.64 per gallon = $13,920 per avg. retardant load
    - Flight rates between $$6,000 and $7,000 per flight hour
- **VLAT:** 5000 or 10,000+ gallons @ $4.64 per gallon = $23,200 or $46,400+ per avg. retardant load
    - Flight rates are $22,000 per flight hour
    - Daily availability rates are $50,000
    - They may arrive with a partial load when a large air tanker is ordered
- After each drop provide feedback to the pilot concerning its accuracy and effectiveness
- May be appropriate for remote areas or areas that require overflight of busy road or congested areas
- Air tankers cannot drop retardant near open water; it is highly toxic to aquatic life so if your mission is near a river, creek, lake or ponds consider asking the aircraft to be loaded with water
- You may incur additional costs such as tanker base staffing, daily availability, and ferry flight time to the incident

LEAD PLANES

- Flight rates between $1,000 and $2,500 per flight hour
- **WILL** be sent w/ heavy air tankers, when available locally
- Must be on order prior to aerial applications over a congested area

AIR ATTACK

- Flight rates between $700 and $2,0000 per flight hour
- Consists of an aircraft with a specialized radio platform, a pilot and an Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS)
- Order an Air Attack to enhance efficiency and safety of ground and aerial operations

AERIAL SUPERVISION MODULE (ASM)

- A two-person crew function as the Lead and Air Tactical Group Supervisor from the same aircraft
    - The Air Tactical Pilot (ATP) is a qualified Lead Plane Pilot and is also qualified to evaluate and share the incident workload
    - The Air Tactical Supervisor (ATS) is a qualified ATGS who has also received specialized training and shares the incident workload.
- Calls signs initiate with B “Bravo”

TEMPORARY FLIGHT RESTRICTION (TFR)

- If you anticipate using air tankers over your incident for an extended period of time, you will want to order a TFR to assure clear airspace over your incident
- When you discontinue air tanker use for your incident, cancel the TFR

FREQUENCIES AND COMMUNICATIONS

- It is important to get ground and air resources operational on a designated Air to Ground frequency
- If you are unable to contact an aircraft on Air to Ground, let dispatch know immediately

GENERAL

- Telephone lines and other wires create aviation hazards which are difficult to see from the air; advise all aircraft of these or other hazards in the fire area
- Fire aircraft do not operate after dark. Most operational aircraft need to be on the ground one half hour after sunset (“pumpkin time”). Be aware of sunset time at your location, or check with dispatch to make sure there is enough daylight to fly the mission

Exhibit H-1

RIO BLANCO COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE
TRANSFER OF FIRE SUPPRESSION RESPONSIBILITY

I. ASSUMPTION OF INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

A. Management for controlling the _____Fire burning in_____ Fire Protection District ("FPD"), is to be assumed by the Rio Blanco County Sheriff.

B. Assumption of management will become effective at _____Hours on _____, 20_____, and is acceptable to signatory parties.

C. The Rio Blanco County Sheriff shall appoint a local Incident Management Team to provide the command and control infrastructure required to manage the fire. The Sheriff shall assume financial responsibility for firefighting efforts on behalf of the County and the authority for ordering and monitoring of resources. Expenses incurred prior to this transfer shall remain the responsibility of the FPD.

D. There is a minimum required commitment of resources from the FPD to the firefighting effort. This commitment will be:

_____ Personnel
_____ Wildland Fire Engines
_____ Structural Fire Engines
_____ Water Tenders
_____ Bull Dozers
_____ other (specify)_____

The FPD shall not seek reimbursement from the Rio Blanco County Sheriff for expenses incurred by the FPD for their own apparatus, equipment, and personnel used in containing or suppressing a wildfire occurring on private property with the boundaries of the FPD.

E. The FPD requests that the Sheriff consider the following protection/suppression priorities when conducting firefighting operations:

1.
2.
3.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Chief, _____ FPD	Date	Rio Blanco County Sheriff	Date

II. RELINQUISHMENT OF INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

A. The FPD will reassume management responsibility for the incident when the fire has been declared "Controlled" by the Incident Commander, or at a different time as agreed upon in advance.

B. The FPD will be responsible for the management of the fire and the associated financial obligations until the fire is declared "Out" by the Incident Commander.

The management Responsibility for the _____ Fire is being returned to the _____ Fire Protection District at this time and date.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Chief, _____ FPD	Date	Rio Blanco County Sheriff	Date