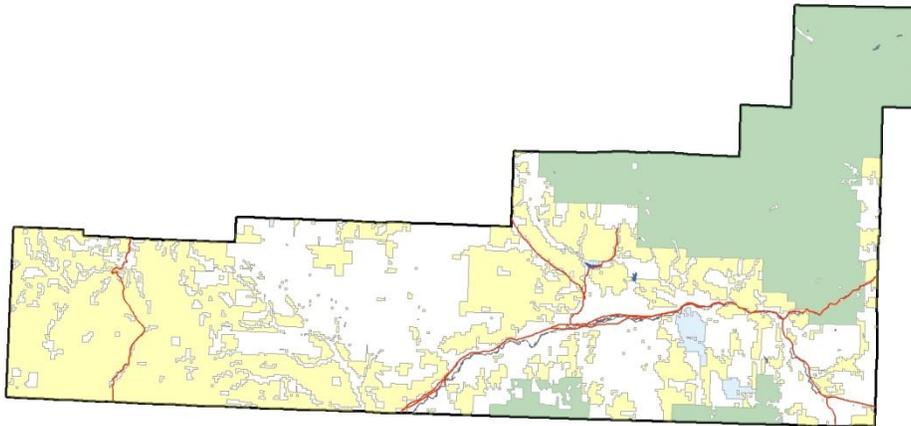


2016 GARFIELD COUNTY WILDFIRE ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN



GFX AOP Summary

Mutual Aid Zone	Countywide	All State and Federal resources are mutual aid except Type 1 Helicopters, Air Tankers, Smoke Jumpers, the MMA, and Inmate Crews
Mutual Aid Period	Until Midnight or not to exceed 24 hours	
EFF County?	Yes	
EFF Minimum Commitment	Law Enforcement for evacuations and traffic control, Dozers, Road Graders, Water Tenders, and/or Facilities	
Sheriff	Lou Vallario	(970) 945-0453
Emergency Operations Sgt.	Jim Sears	(970) 987-2871
County Dispatch	Communications Center	(970) 625-8095
Interagency Dispatch	GJC	(970) 257-4800

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PREAMBLE

This Annual Operating Plan (AOP) is prepared pursuant to the 2016 Colorado Statewide Wildland Fire Management Annual Operating Plan. The 2016 Colorado Statewide Wildland Fire Management Annual Operating Plan was prepared pursuant to the Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Annual Operating Plan (AOP) is to set forth the standard operating procedures, agreed procedures, and responsibilities to implement cooperative wildfire protection on all lands within Garfield County. The use of "County" in this plan will refer to Garfield County.

The primary purpose of this operating plan is to ensure prompt suppression of wildfires. 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 along with the participants in the incident will review and resolve the dispute.

AUTHORITIES

- Colorado Statewide Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement Between:
 - 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 (no agreement number)
 - 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
- Garfield County, Memorandum of Understanding for Participation in the Colorado Emergency Fire Fund
- Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection in Garfield County

Participants of this AOP include the County Sheriff, Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). All participants of this AOP agree to coordinate their wildfire protection activities as outlined herein.

RECITALS

National Response Framework activities will be accomplished utilizing established dispatch coordination concepts. Situation and damage assessment information will be transmitted through established fire suppression intelligence channels.

Jurisdictional Agencies are responsible for all planning documents i.e. land use, resource and fire management plans and decision support documents, for a unit's wildland fire and fuels management program.

INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

Interagency Dispatch Centers

Grand Junction Interagency Dispatch Center (GJC) and Craig Interagency Dispatch Center (CRC) utilize the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) to dispatch resources. Resource status and availability may be updated at any time through ROSS web status accounts.

When fires occur near Jurisdictional boundaries the neighboring dispatch centers should coordinate and work together to optimize the dispatching/ordering system that best supports the Incident Management teams ordered.

Garfield County Emergency Communications Authority (GARCO Dispatch) will act as dispatch for County and FPD initial attack response. For extended attack and larger Type 4 fires, GJC and CRC will provide dispatch support for the County Sheriff. GJC and CRC are responsible for dispatching and coordination of all federal wildfire and State aviation resources within Garfield County. All requests for resources from non-federal agencies in Garfield County to be deployed outside Garfield County SHALL notify the Garfield County Office of Emergency Management through the GARCO DISPATCH.

GARCO Dispatch, GJC and CRC should meet annually to discuss dispatch coordination procedures.

Interagency Resources

Request for Garfield County resources will be made by local cooperators through GARCO Dispatch.

For county jurisdictional fires (no federal lands involved), if the Garfield County Emergency Operations Center (hereinafter referred to as "EOC") is not activated, the Incident Command Post (hereinafter referred to as "ICP") will place resource orders through GARCO Dispatch. If the Garfield County EOC is activated, resource orders from the ICP will be placed through Logistics in the EOC. Garfield County dispatch will make appropriate notification to Grand Junction and CRC dispatch centers of EOC activation.

The Garfield County Emergency Manager keeps a full inventory database within WebEOC and the various agencies can status their own resources as they need. All available resources are listed on a Colorado Resource Rate Form (hereinafter referred to as "CRRF"). Some resources

are listed in the federal Resource Ordering Status System (hereinafter referred to as “ROSS”) and may be seen by the federal interagency dispatch system.

All available mutual aid resources (specific equipment or personnel: wildland resource groups; Type III IMT's, etc.) will be utilized prior to ordering resources from outside Garfield County.

System of Systems

There are many systems and technologies used for resource mobilization and management. CO OEM refers to these tools as a “System of Systems,” which are used to efficiently identify, locate, status, order, track, deploy and mobilize resources. This System of Systems is used by county emergency manager, state emergency management offices, and the federal and private sector resource partnerships.

County requests for additional federal fire resources, other than local federal agency resources responding as part of their normal duties or responding to wildland fires within the Federal Response Zone, will be ordered through GJC. The DFPC Fire Management Officer (hereinafter referred to as “FMO”) will be notified of all such requests as soon as possible. Requests for DFPC engines assigned to county fire protection districts will be through the DFPC FMOs.

Standards

Prior to dispatch out of local jurisdiction to a federal jurisdiction fire, all resources will meet PMS-NWCG 310-1 standards. The Incident Command System (ICS) will be used on all wildfires in Garfield County, and positions filled will follow the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (PMS 310-1).

Use of a 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 hand crews and/or aircraft is anticipated in extended attack.

If a Type 3 Team is unavailable, or if on private lands, a Type 3 Team may be filled from a local cadre of qualified individuals. 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, OSC3 and SOFR positions must be filled by fully qualified individuals, as per NWCG standards.

NWCG “red cards” are required for all personnel assigned to fires on federal jurisdiction lands, beyond the initial attack period. For wildfires that are entirely on private lands, qualifications for resources utilized will meet local agency standards on Type 4 and Type 5 Incidents.

Garfield County emergency response agencies are encouraged to develop the skills of their personnel for use on all-risk incidents within the county. With this goal in mind, the USFS and BLM will strive to provide on-the-job training opportunities for targeted local agency personnel. These personnel will provide 24 hour contact phone numbers and dates of availability for training assignments.

Following all wildfires of Type 3 or above complexity, the jurisdictional agency(s) will conduct a timely After-Action Review at a level commensurate with the complexity of the incident. Supporting agencies shall be included in these reviews.

PREPAREDNESS

Protection Planning

When wildland fires burn on, or threaten lands of more than one agency, joint management and a Unified Command structure is put in place by the representative agencies to manage the wildland fire. Unless otherwise provided for, an agency is expected to take prompt initial action, with or without request, on wildland fires. Where one agency takes initial action in the jurisdiction of another agency, the acting agency will continue to fight the fire until relieved by an officer of the jurisdictional agency.

The UCR has 3 Type 6 engines and a Wildland Fire Module available in Central Zone located in Rifle. DFPC has a Type 6 engine also in Rifle. The UCR also has a Type 3 Helicopter and Module stationed at Rifle Airport unless committed to other incidents. Rifle SEAT Base that can be activated when necessary to support SEAT loading and reloading out of the Rifle Airport, and there may be heavy air tankers and SEATs available out of Grand Junction. There are smokejumpers available out of Grand Junction Air Center during the fire season unless they are committed to other fires and there are adjacent zone/unit fire suppression resources in East Zone and West Zone. DFPC aviation resources such as Type 3 or Type 2 Helicopters may also be available to preposition in the area.

The use of National aviation and smokejumper resources is subject to their availability.

Local cooperators may supplement the existing interagency staff and associated suppression resources in Garfield County primarily for initial and extended attack. Local resources may be used for these purposes as well as to suppress escaped fires.

Supplemental resources provided through local fire protection districts and severity resources provided by the federal and State agencies are ordered to provide increased firefighting capacity during periods of high fire danger and during those periods where on-going and anticipated levels of initial attack would result in draw-down of local resources.

Administratively Determined (AD) hiring authority is used on a discretionary basis to supplement agency resources with those staffed by local cooperators outside the parameters of county cooperative fire agreements for initial attack.

Protection Areas and Boundaries

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. The Division of Fire Prevention and Control 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.

The current 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 Attachment B

Methods of Fire Protection and Suppression

Unified Command: As a team effort, Unified Command allows all agencies with jurisdictional authority or functional responsibility for the incident to jointly provide management direction to an incident through a common set of incident objectives and strategies and a single Incident Action Plan (IAP).

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.

The Agencies will operate under the concepts of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and its Incident Command System (ICS) for providing qualified resources and to manage incidents encompassed under the terms of this AOP.

ICS will be utilized on all wildland fires. ICS is the on-site management system used in NIMS and is a standardized method of managing emergency incidents.

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

All dispatches will be made based on the closest forces capable of responding to a wildland fire.

Reciprocal (Mutual Aid) Fire Assistance

The parties hereto respectively pledge their good faith in attempting to assist each other based on their needs, requests for mutual aid, and the circumstances of a wildland fire. Each party will take appropriate actions to include the suppression and/or management of all wildland fires during the Mutual Aid Time Period and thereafter, and agrees the primary concern is the appropriate management of wildland fires, and none will delay appropriate management efforts while deciding ultimate responsibility for such fires.

The responsibility for incidents, other than wildfire emergencies, rests with the jurisdictional agency(s). A mutual aid period does not apply to these incidents, unless superseded by other existing agreement(s).

Mutual Aid Time Period:

Mutual Aid time period shall mean the period of fire suppression from the time of initial report of the fire and ending 24 hours later. The mutual aid period may end earlier by mutual agreement with a preference for ending at midnight when possible. This non-reimbursable mutual aid period will also apply to any local Incident Management Group (IMG) which may form to provide overhead fire assistance.

Mutual Aid Zone:

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.

Mutual Aid Resources:

All Garfield County and FPD resources are considered mutual aid. All State engines and helicopters are considered mutual aid, with the exception of DFPC SEAT's, MMA aircraft, and State Inmate Crews (Juniper Valley Type 2 Crews).

Any federal resources positioned within the Upper Colorado Fire Management Unit (UCR) and the Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit (NWCFMU) are considered mutual aid, with the exception of air tankers, the type 1 helicopter, and smokejumpers.

The BLM Type 3 helicopter stationed in Rifle is 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.

Fire Severity resources that may be available on the UCR or NWCFMU are also considered mutual aid during the mutual aid period.

Acquisition of Services

N/A

Joint Projects and Project Plans

The agencies agree to cooperate in the development and implementation of prescribed burning programs and projects.

Fire Prevention

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.

The GJC will provide appropriate fire status/information (updated daily) by maintaining an Internet website for the purpose 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

Public Use Restrictions

The purpose of fire restrictions and closures is to reduce the risk of human caused fires during high fire danger and/or burning conditions, and for the protection of human life and property. Fire restrictions and closures are invoked on federal, state, county, and private lands under federal and state laws. Public information about restrictions must be broad-based, clear, and coordinated. Every attempt will be made to coordinate fire restriction across political boundaries.

Requests for restrictions prohibiting open fires during hazardous periods should be coordinated to include private, state, and federal lands when possible. The implementation process for fire restrictions will be based on the latest Energy Release Component (ERC) data, high human-caused risk factors, and fire weather forecast information as described in the UCR Fire Restriction Process (*Attachment D*).

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 in unincorporated areas. Fire Protection Districts will be responsible for enforcement within their districts; either the Sheriff or FPD's may assist on other lands at the request of the appropriate agency.

Garfield County web pages for information:

Garfield County: <http://www.garfield-county.com/emergency-management/index.aspx>

Burning Permits

Garfield County Fire Protection Districts and the Sheriff's Office (unincorporated Garfield County) shall issue burn permits within their jurisdictions. Burning is allowed in Garfield County only with a permit. Burning permit restrictions are in place from Memorial Day thru Labor Day of each year. The person performing the burn is to call GARCO Dispatch before starting and after completion of the burn. During the notification process GARCO Dispatch will inform the permittee(s) about red flag days and that burning is prohibited. Garfield County Burning Permit info is available at: <http://www.garfield-county.com/emergency-management/burn-permit.aspx>

Prescribed Fire (Planned Ignitions) and Fuels Management

The agencies agree to cooperate in the development and implementation of prescribed burning programs and projects.

Wildfires resulting from escaped prescribed fires ignited by a party to this Agreement 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 Agreement conduct a

cooperative prescribed fire, details covering cost share, reimbursement, and responsibility for suppression costs, should it escape, shall be agreed upon and documented in the burn plan.

Smoke Management

Federal, State and County agencies planning prescribed burns must apply for and obtain a Smoke permit prior to implementation of the prescribed burn project. Smoke permits are under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Public Health and Environment. DFPC follows state and federal regulations managed by the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division. Federal agencies as parties to this AOP will follow state and federal regulations managed by the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division.

OPERATIONS

Fire Notifications

GARCO Dispatch and GJC will receive reports of wildfires and coordinate the notification and/or dispatch of the appropriate jurisdictional agency and County Sheriff for ALL wildfires, regardless of location.

All requests for resources from non-federal agencies in Garfield County to be deployed outside Garfield County SHALL notify the Garfield County Office of Emergency Management through the GARCO Dispatch.

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 agency that can take the quickest effective fire management action will be dispatched for initial attack. The jurisdictional agency will assume command of the suppression action at the earliest possible time. Notification of all other agencies that are, or may be affected, is the responsibility of the responding agency. GARCO Dispatch will contact GJC relative to every wildfire dispatch in the County. The mutual aid agreements between all Garfield County FPDs allows resources to be dispatched anywhere in the County at the request of a FPD representative acting as Incident Commander.

The western section of Garfield County is covered under a contract with Lower Valley Fire Protection District and the Sheriff's Office. This area is dispatched by Grand Junction Regional Communications Center for 911 and Grand Junction Interagency Dispatch Center for wildland fires.

Boundary Line Fires

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

If a fire crosses, or threatens to cross, jurisdictional boundaries and becomes a boundary fire (see definition below) a Unified Command will be formed. The purpose of the Unified Command will be to meet as a group and identify one common set of objectives for implementation by the suppression forces. The Unified Command will determine resource sharing between the agencies. Agency Representatives will determine reimbursement responsibilities.

The Unified Command will include representatives from those entities that have financial responsibilities for the fire. In the event of a fire burning on lands of two or more jurisdictional agencies that are normally not dispatched by the same dispatch center, the Unified Command will coordinate and determine which center will do all dispatching.

Boundary Fires include:

- A fire burning in two or more agency jurisdictions, or will soon burn across the boundary, when the boundary line is known
- The fire location is known, but the jurisdictional boundary on the ground is unknown, or
- The location of a reported fire is uncertain in relation to the jurisdictional boundary.

Response to Wildland Fire

The agency that can take the quickest effective fire management action will be dispatched for initial attack. The jurisdictional agency will assume command of the suppression action at the earliest possible time. Notification of all other agencies that are, or may be affected, is the responsibility of the responding agency. GARCO DISPATCH will contact GJC relative to every wildfire dispatch in the County. The mutual aid agreements between all Garfield County FPDs allows resources to be dispatched anywhere in the County at the request of a FPD representative acting as Incident Commander.

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.

All requests by Garfield County agencies for additional resources and assistance beyond the mutual aid period shall be through GARCO Dispatch Center, with coordination with the county EOC. Inter-County mutual aid agreements may be used when requests for resources exceed the capabilities of Garfield County Agencies to provide. Additionally Garfield County Agencies may request assisting resources from GJC/CRC through Garco Dispatch. Due to federal fire reporting requirements, the Upper Colorado Interagency Fire Management Unit will now require initial size-up information for wildland fires originating on county lands when federal resources are requested for mutual aid. In addition, full size-up information is required when a county resource provides suppression on federal lands without federal resources on scene. Initial required size-up information can be found on the UCR website and is also included as **Attachment H.**

It is understood that all requests for initial attack aircraft assistance (covered by the WERF) 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 helicopter) will have to have the approval of the County Sheriff or designee or the Fire Protection District/Department Chief or designee with the understanding that if “you order it, you pay for it.”

Requests by federal agencies for assistance from Garfield County agencies shall be made through GJC to GARCO Dispatch to the requested Garfield County agency.

If the wildfire is on or threatening state or private land, and is expected to exceed the control capabilities of the county, the DFPC Regional FMO will be notified at 303-279-8855

Special Management Considerations

The Garfield County Fire Plan (2006) identifies all lands under the Sheriff’s jurisdiction as full fire suppression.

Management response to a wildland fire on federal lands is based on objectives established in the applicable Land and Resource Management Plan and or Fire Management Plan. 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.

Mechanized fire line construction

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

Use of Retardant and avoidance areas

Aerial Retardant Use – The use of aerial retardants on all lands is restricted within 300 feet of lakes, rivers and live streams.

Source Water Protection Plan: Garfield County has Source Water Protection Plans and Areas. The mapping of these areas shows locations of source water settling ponds and the drainages that feed them for retardant avoidance. The mapping is available from Garfield County GIS and through the Resource Advisor through Grand Junction Interagency Dispatch Center.

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.

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

DFPC requires that management decisions be documented for all state responsibility fires, including fires that receive a FEMA declaration.

Cooperation

N/A

Communication

Meet annually to discuss Annual Operating Plan (AOP)

Refer to Mobilization Plan

Cost efficiency

N/A

Delegation of Authority

In the event initial attack is engaged on or near a jurisdictional boundary, the on scene ranking officers of each jurisdictional agency shall convene as soon as practical following initial dispatch, and mutually agree upon strategy and tactics as well as appoint an Incident Commander.

In the event of an extended attack incident, a Delegation of Authority will be provided to the Incident Commander prior to transfer of command. A written Delegation of Authority will be issued to the Incident Commander upon transfer of command.

All resources engaged with fire suppression activities should be directed by the Incident Commander after the delegation is signed and the command of the incident is officially transitioned.

Preservation of Evidence

The general origin area of the fire should be immediately identified and protected by the first Participant to arrive on the scene in order to protect evidence for the fire origin and cause investigation.

The jurisdictional agency shall have responsibility for the investigation of all fires. Investigation shall be made on fires to determine the origin, 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, any clues that may relate to the cause, and to note all traffic leaving the area as suppression forces arrive, to include vehicle descriptions and license numbers if possible.

Federal policy requires Federal agencies to pursue cost recovery for all human caused fires on public land.

STATE EMERGENCY FIRE FUND (EFF)

Garfield County is a participant in the State Emergency Fire Fund (EFF) with DFPC. As a participant to this agreement, the State agrees to come to the aid of Garfield 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 who will make the final decision on EFF applicability.

Garfield County Sheriff: as Fire Warden for the County (CRS 30-10-513), the Sheriff (or designee) will represent the County in the request for EFF declaration to the DFPC district, and subsequent delegations and assumptions of duty (DFPC # 3, #6). The Sheriff will coordinate other County entities in his representation.

Garfield County Commissioners: are signatories to the DFPC # 3 "Assumption of Fire Control Duty" for fires the Director of DFPC approves for EFF. The Sheriff will facilitate obtaining a signature from the County Commissioners. Delay in signing the DFPC # 3 may result in increased costs for the county.

All EFF fires will utilize a Unified Command consisting of, at a minimum, the County Sheriff and DFPC. If land administered by another agency is threatened or involved, that agency will provide a member of the Unified Command.

Implementation of the EFF can be done only by the Director of Division of Fire Prevention and Control upon the recommendation of the local DFPC Agency Representative, following a request from the County Sheriff. For this reason, it is important that the DFPC Regional FMO be notified immediately of major fires on private/state lands within the county. Should the fire surpass, or threaten to surpass, the capabilities of county resources to contain it, EFF implementation can occur only with a DFPC representative on scene whereby the authority and responsibility for managing the fire is transferred to DFPC.

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 or some other combination of resources can be negotiated, and that if the tactics of a given incident do not require this resource commitment, it will not be required on scene.

For Garfield County this minimum commitment is:

County Law Enforcement support to include providing Sheriff's Deputies for traffic control and evacuation operations.

County Dozers or road graders if necessary

County Water Tender(s)

County-owned facilities to aid in providing logistical Support appropriate to fire complexity and availability of county resources.

DFPC will transfer authority and responsibility 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 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 a 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.

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.

USE AND REIMBURSEMENT OF INTERAGENCY FIRE RESOURCES

Cost Share Agreement (Cost Share Methodologies)

A written cost share agreement should be considered for any mixed-jurisdiction fire that escapes initial attack, particularly when air resources have been ordered. However, cost share agreements should not influence the management of the fire. Cost share agreements should be negotiated as soon as practical; 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 E**) for an example of this agreement.

When a fire is accepted by DFPC as an EFF incident, the Cost Share Principles agreed to by State and federal agencies will apply.

If the state (EFF) is not involved, it is up to the county (with DFPC assistance) to negotiate cost share agreements on federal/state & private land fires, if any. It is acceptable (and frequent) for each party to agree to pay for their own resources used in the suppression effort.

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

Safety of personnel involved on wildland fire is critical. Therefore, it is strongly suggested that all personnel involved in wildland fire suppression receive training to the accepted standard wildland fire curriculum found in NWCG, PMS 310-1, or "NWCG standards". NWCG is the national standard for interagency fire community. NWCG qualifications are displayed on an Incident Qualification Card, or "red card".

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.

The agencies will cooperate in wildland fire, prescribed fire, aviation, first responder training, including scheduling, course development, course presentation and selection of trainees. Local cooperators will be included in this cooperative approach whenever practical.

Communication Systems

Radio frequency lists have been developed for this AOP. Those authorized for use are shown in **Attachment A**.

Federal, State, and County radio systems are largely incompatible at this time. Interagency communications on wildland fire incidents will be on VHF narrowband frequencies whenever possible. The Fire Emergency Radio Network (VFIRE 21) (154.2800 MHz) will be used for interagency communication of ground resources on wildland fires, unless or until alternate frequencies are agreed on.

For the purposes of conducting business authorized by this cooperative plan, all parties to this operating plan mutually agree to allow supporting agencies to use the jurisdictional agency's radio frequencies and communication sites 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. Local cooperators on incident management missions, under the auspices of the county, are granted permission to use federal radio frequencies (command/tactical), if needed, to assure safety of the operation.

All agencies to this plan are authorized to transmit on Interagency Air to Ground (A-G) frequencies during incidents. (A-G) radio frequencies are only to be utilized by ground resources directing air operations. All A-G communications will be on the NIICD assigned A-G frequencies for Colorado. If A-G frequencies are assigned to active incidents, or have excessive traffic, additional A-G frequencies must be ordered through GJC/CRC. Zone Air-to-Ground frequencies are shown in **Attachment A**.

Fire Weather Systems

The GJC will provide appropriate fire status/information (updated daily) by maintaining a website for disseminating the following information: Red Flag notices, fire weather, fire situation, fire resources, national fire danger (NFDRS) observations, and other wildfire information. The URL for links to all the above is: http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2gjc/local_info/index.htm

GARCO Dispatch will be notified of Red Flag Warnings by the GJC Dispatch Center. GARCO Dispatch will notify all fire departments and other appropriate individuals of Red Flag Warnings.

Definition: An official definition is found in the current annual operating plan of the National Weather Service, Grand Junction office. However, a **Red Flag Warning** is issued by the National Weather Service when critical fire weather is predicted that may cause an increase in fire occurrence and/or large fire growth.

Aviation Operations

The parties agree to cooperate in use of aviation resources to foster safe, effective, and efficient use of aircraft and personnel. All aviation activities shall be conducted in accordance with each Agency's aviation rules, policies, and directives and the RMA Mob Guide.

All initial attack aircraft regardless of agency affiliation, ordered by Cooperators in Garfield County will be ordered directly through GJC or CRC. The County Sheriff or designee, local Fire District/Dept. Chief or designee or the Incident Commander will contact GJC or CRC Fire Dispatch Centers **directly** with their request for aviation resources.

As per the Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (WERF) guidelines below, 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 Fire Chief or designee or County Sheriff or designee.

When aviation 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
- Resource requested (T-1 Air Tanker, T-2 Helicopter w/ tank, etc)
- Values at risk, WUI, and Infrastructure. Airspace Issues

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 FERN or non-federal frequencies.
- Other aircraft in the area, including radio frequencies in use.
- Aircraft flight hazards in the area.
- Wind speed and direction

GJC or CRC will assign the Air to Ground Frequency. GJC or CRC may assign an aerial supervision platform if there is a need to manage the air resources in congested airspace. In order to maximize safety and efficiency, incidents with 3 or more aircraft over them should have aerial supervision.

To order aviation resources, call 970-257-4800 and ask to talk with the Floor Coordinator. Prior to placing the order with GJC, the Aviation Support Request Form (**Attachment F**) will be completed. This information will help facilitate a faster, safer and more efficient response.

Prepositioning of DFPC SEAT's and Helicopters:

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 single engine air tanker (SEAT) or DFPC helicopters in Garfield County, the Sheriff should coordinate the request for pre-positioning through the DFPC Regional 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:

The DFPC Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA) were funded for detection and aerial intelligence purposes, to assist local jurisdictions with initial attack wildland fire response on state and private lands within the State of Colorado. ***The MMA is free to Fire Protection District and County resources for the first operational period.*** The MMA is integrated with the Colorado Wildfire Information System (CO-WIMS), a geospatial database that displays incident images and details to local fire managers in near real time through a web-based application. MMA detection missions and access to CO-WIMS are free to the parties of this AOP.

For wildland fires the MMA should be ordered through GJC utilizing the MMA Order Form. GJC will coordinate with CSP Dispatch to place the order. The details of the mission and specific needs will then be coordinated between the DFPC Duty Officer and the requesting resource. A latitude and longitude should be provided if possible.

Requesting National Guard Helicopters

Colorado Army Air National Guard helicopters with buckets are available for wildfire suppression on state and private lands and will be available for initial contact via radio communication on VFIRE23.

Orders for National Guard helicopters out of Buckley Air Base or Eagle, Colorado for federal wildland fires or medical extraction will be placed to GJC or CRC following the established ordering process who will notify the DFPC Regional FMO of the order. The order will go through the Rocky Mountain Coordination Center who will contact the State Office of Emergency Management.

Aircraft assigned to an incident will have the appropriate radios installed and functional along with a letter of authorization for the current year signed by the USFS and DOI. Using Agencies ordering National Guard resources must assume all cost for that resource.

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 hand crew, per the WERF guidelines. The WERF only applies to fires on private or state land and only at the request of the Sheriff, municipal fire department, or fire protection district. This fund can pay for the first plane load of retardant, water, or foam from any air tanker (per fire) or the first hour of helicopter time, plus the use of a 20-person hand crew for up to two shifts (per fire). ***The DFPC Regional FMO must be notified of any requests for the VLAT. In order to be considered for WERF reimbursement, the VLAT must be approved by the DFPC Branch Chief of Operations prior to use.***

After the first air tanker load, subsequent loads will be at county cost, and only upon authorization by the sheriff or his designee. The fund does not cover lead planes or aerial observer aircraft, and does not cover flight time outside of Colorado. Any aircraft use or orders beyond the scope of WERF is entirely the responsibility of the requesting agency / individual. The County Sheriff or Fire Protection District/Dept. should provide DFPC Regional FMO notification immediately upon ordering aircraft *under the WERF*.

Payment

By agreement with the federal agencies, invoices for such aircraft use will be sent to the DFPC offices in Ft. Collins. Upon receipt of the federal invoice, the fund will pay for documented eligible costs. Invoice costs not covered by WERF will be forwarded to the jurisdiction that ordered the aerial resource.

Additional details are found in the Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (WERF) Operating Procedures in **Attachment C**.

Colorado Firefighting Air Corp (CFAC)

The Colorado Aviation Program was authorized 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 (AOP). DFPC will pay the cost of eligible wildland firefighting aviation resources on behalf of the Requesting Agency, in accordance with the attached guidelines, and to the extent that funding is available.

Billing Procedures

All billing between federal and county agencies will be submitted through DFPC. The DFPC Cooperative Resource Rate Form (CRRF) will be filled out prior to fire season for all local Cooperator resources reimbursed through DFPC. DFPC cannot reimburse Cooperators without an approved CRRF. Costs for resources other than Cooperators will be considered 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 State Office (Fort Collins) within 30 days after incident resources are released. The DFPC State Office (Fort Collins) 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 Regional FMO is available to assist Cooperators with submission of reimbursement requests

The resources of the State and Counties of Colorado, identified in Cooperative Resource Rate Forms (CRRF's) are defined as cooperators, not contractors for the purpose of fire management activities. Rates established in the current CRRF are accepted by all Agencies and counties and will be used for reimbursement calculations for both in-State and out-of-State incidents.

Equipment will be inspected based on need as determined by the agency responsible for such equipment. DFPC (FEPP) and cooperator engines subject to interagency fire use will be inspected at least annually prior to fire season (both engine and equipment) to ensure use and road worthiness. All engines, regardless of agency, may need to pass a pre-use inspection at the incident. If the engines should fail this inspection, reimbursement may not be made for engine or personnel time. Local use of the incident pre-use inspection form should be encouraged whenever an engine is made available for interagency use.

Emergency Equipment Rental Agreements will be used to hire equipment that was not listed for availability prior to the incident, and reimbursement rates for the equipment will follow Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook guidance.

Cost Recovery

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.

A written cost sharing agreement should be considered for any multi-jurisdiction fire that escapes initial attack, particularly when air resources have been ordered. Cost sharing agreements should not influence the suppression of the fire, particularly during initial attack. Cost sharing agreements should be negotiated by agency administrators as soon as practical during the initial attack if possible. However, such agreements between the state and/or counties and federal land fire managers can be updated whenever necessary.

All Cooperator requests for fire reimbursement through DFPC will have invoices sent directly to the DFPC State Office within 30 days after incident resources are released. The DFPC State 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. Local DFPC Regional FMO is available to assist Cooperators with submission of reimbursement requests.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Personnel Policy

N/A

Modification

N/A

Annual Review

This AOP must be reviewed annually before April 1. Program review will be held at the annual operating plan meeting. 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.

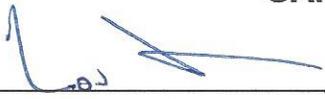
Previous Agreements Superseded

Once signed, this AOP supersedes the previous AOP.

SIGNATURES

Authorized Representatives

GARFIELD COUNTY SIGNATURES



Signature

03/25/2016
Date

Lou Vallario
Printed Name

County Sheriff
Title

COLORADO DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL SIGNATURE



Signature

3/28/2016
Date

Ryan McCulley
Printed Name

DFPC Regional FMO
Title

FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY SIGNATURES



Signature

2/24/2016
Date

Karl Mendonca
Printed Name

Field Manager
Title

Bureau of Land Management-Colorado River Valley Field Office
Federal Agency, Unit



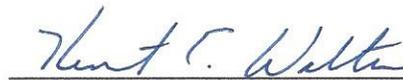
Signature

MARCH 9, 2016
Date

Scott Fitzwilliams
Printed Name

Forest Supervisor
Title

U.S. Forest Service-White River National Forest
Federal Agency, Unit



Signature

03/08/2016
Date

Kent E. Walter
Printed Name

Field Manager
Title

Bureau of Land Management-White River Field Office
Federal Agency, Unit

Signature

Date

Dennis Jaeger
Printed Name

Forest Supervisor
Title

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest
Federal Agency, Unit

FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY SIGNATURES

Signature

Date

Karl Mendonca
Printed Name

Field Manager
Title

Bureau of Land Management-Colorado River Valley Field Office
Federal Agency, Unit

Signature

Date

Scott Fitzwilliams
Printed Name

Forest Supervisor
Title

U.S. Forest Service-White River National Forest
Federal Agency, Unit

Signature

Date

Kent E. Walter
Printed Name

Field Manager
Title

Bureau of Land Management-White River Field Office
Federal Agency, Unit

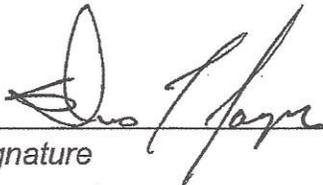
Signature

Date

Dennis Jaeger
Printed Name

Forest Supervisor
Title

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest
Federal Agency, Unit



3/14/16

Katie A Stevens
Signature

3-1-2016
Date

Katie Stevens
Printed Name

Field Manager
Title

Bureau of Land Management-Grand Junction Field Office
Federal Agency, Unit

Addendum to the 2003 AOP, for 2016 AOP Garfield County

The Garfield County Sheriff's Office serves in a support rather than a direct suppression role on wildfires, but as the state mandated "fire warden" for the county, may find it necessary to "call to his aid" fire protection district (FPD) equipment and personnel to suppress wildfires outside of their district boundaries on private and state land, or to assist with fire suppression on federal lands. Providing such aid ensures beneficial mutual aid from federal wildfire agencies to all lands within the county and enables county participation in the Emergency Fire Fund, both beneficial to FPDs. However, it is recognized that providing such aid may jeopardize a FPD's responsibility to provide a minimum level of service within its district. Therefore providing such aid must be at the discretion of the FPD's Chief or designee.

FPD's will have direct suppression command of their forces whether within or outside of their district. Typically, the sheriff will support the suppression efforts by facilitating requests for additional manpower, equipment or coordinating multi-jurisdictional or Unified Command wildfire situations. Such request often involve obligation of county funding; so requests must come through the sheriff's department.

The Garfield County Sheriff's Office will provide assistance as needed or requested as per CRS 30-10-513. FPDs shall have the authority to bill for fire suppression services on private lands outside their district boundaries for the period to include the initial request/mobilization, to the return of personnel and equipment to a back-in-service status, in accordance with CRS 30-10-513.5.

This addendum to the 2003 Wildfire Annual Operating Plan does not affect the Mutual Aid period or any other conditions between Federal Agencies, the County, the Colorado State Forest Service, or FPD cooperators.

<u>3/1/2016</u> Date	By <u>[Signature]</u> Garfield County Sheriff
<u>2/17/2016</u> Date	By <u>[Signature]</u> Chief, Carbondale & Rural FPD
<u>2-17-16</u> Date	By <u>[Signature]</u> Chief, Colorado River Fire Rescue
<u>02-17-16</u> Date	By <u>[Signature]</u> Chief, DeBeque FPD
<u>2/16/2016</u> Date	By <u>[Signature]</u> Chief, Glenwood Springs FD
<u>2/17/14</u> Date	By <u>[Signature]</u> Chief, Grand Valley FPD
<u>3/11/16</u> Date	By <u>[Signature]</u> Chief, Gypsum FPD
<u>2/22/16</u> Date	By <u>[Signature]</u> Chief, Lower Valley FD

Attachment A – GJC/CRC Frequencies

Attachment B – Wildfire Protection Map

Attachment C – WERF/CFAC Guidelines

Attachment D – Fire Restriction Process

Attachment E – Sample Cost Share

Attachment F – Aviation Request Forms

Attachment G – Incident Organizer/Size-Up

Attachment H – Contacts