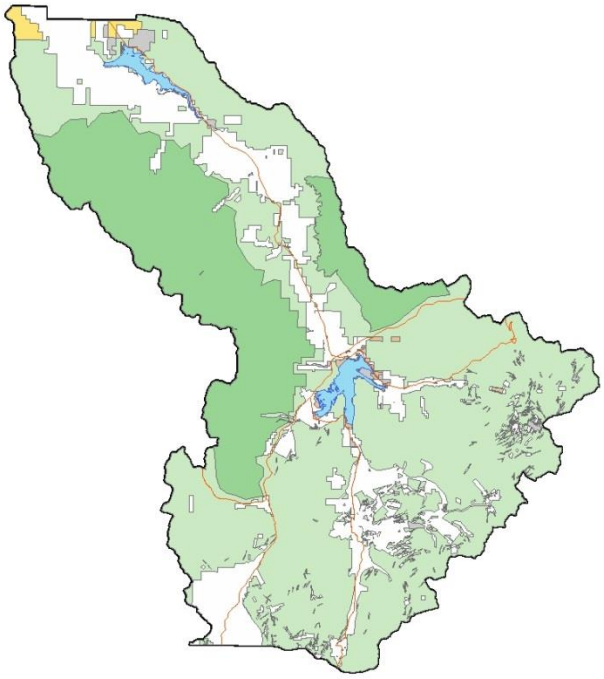
2016 SUMMIT COUNTY WILDFIRE ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN



STX 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	1 SO Command Bus, 1 Road Grader, 3 Water Tenders(1 STX & 2 FPDs), 1 Transportation Bus, 3 Type 6 Engines(from FPDs), 1 ALS Ambulance	
Sheriff	John Minor	(970) 423-8902 (O)
Emergency Manager	Joel Cochran	(970) 418-0235 (C)
County Dispatch	Communications Center	(970) 668-8600
Interagency Dispatch	GJC	(970) 257-4800

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PREAMBLE

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

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this Summit County Wildland Fire Annual Operating Plan (AOP or Plan) is to ensure prompt response to wildland fires in Summit County, Colorado. The Plan is intended to set forth standard operating procedures, agreed upon procedures, and responsibilities to implement and pay for cooperative wildland fire management in wildland areas within Summit County. The AOP recognizes the statutory authority and emergency plans of the Summit County Board of Commissioners, Summit County Sheriff and Fire Protection Districts. It is understood by the signors to this agreement that any resources ordered for a purpose other than wildland area fire management through the AOP are the financial responsibility of the ordering agency.

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
- Summit County, Memorandum of Understanding for Participation in the Colorado Emergency Fire Fund
- Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection in Summit County

RECITALS

Definitions

Agencies Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) - are those parties hereto having legal, response, and payment obligations for wildland fire occurring within their respective Jurisdictional Boundaries. The Jurisdictional Agencies who are parties hereto are:

- Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC)
- Summit County Sheriff (Sheriff)
- Summit County Board of Commissioners (County or SCO)
- USFS White River National Forest (USFS) – White River National Forest
- USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – Kremmling Field Office
- Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit (UCR)
- Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit (NWCFMU)
- Red, White, Blue, Fire Protection District
- Lake Dillon Fire Protection District
- Copper Mountain Consolidated Metropolitan District
- Lower Blue Fire Protection District; response under IGA with Lake Dillon Fire

Local Response Agencies - Local Response Agencies are entities located within Summit County having wildland fire response and suppression capabilities. Local Response Agency rights and responsibilities defined herein are only applicable to those Local Response Agencies who are parties to the Plan.

Wildland Area: Means an area in which development is essentially nonexistent, except for roads, railroads, power lines, and similar infrastructure, and in which structures, if present, are widely scattered.

Wildland Fire: Means an unplanned or unwanted fire in a wildland area, including unauthorized human-caused fires, out-of-control prescribed fires, and all other fires in wildland areas where the objective is to extinguish the fire. 29-20-105.5 subsection 2c, d

INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

Interagency Dispatch Center

Grand Junction and Craig Interagency Dispatch Centers utilize the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) to dispatch resources.

REINFORCEMENTS AND SUPPORT

All requests for additional resources will be made by the Incident Commander in consultation

with AHJ representative.

In the event that applicable ordering procedures are not substantially complied with the costs of subject additionally ordered resources shall be the responsibility of the party that ordered such resources.

Interagency Procurement

Non-federal participants in this plan may purchase fire suppression supplies through Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). Any other loaning, sharing, exchanging or maintenance of facilities, equipment or support services will be considered on a case by case basis as mutually agreed to by the concerned parties.

Interagency Resources

All wildland fire agencies are limited by current staffing and funding levels. Wildfire is normally a seasonal event in Colorado and as such, firefighting capability will vary by time of year.

Resources available for wildland fire suppression and support are listed on Cooperative Resource Rate Forms.

Cooperator equipment availability status for out of county assignments is maintained in ROSS. Cooperators may “self-status” in ROSS by requesting a password from Grand Junction Interagency Dispatch Center 970-257-4800.

Grand Junction Interagency Dispatch Center (GJC) will continue to dispatch wildland fire resources for out of county assignments utilizing ROSS. Cooperators are responsible to maintain and update the status of their resources in ROSS.

Standards

The National Incident Management System (NIMS), including the Incident Command System (ICS), will be utilized on all wildland fires. All extended attack multi-jurisdictional incidents will utilize **Unified Command**. Under **Unified Command** affected AHJ will provide on scene representation. These designated representatives will communicate direction and objectives to **ONE Incident Commander** who is best suited to serve in this capacity and has no collateral duties.

Unified Command should be used, as appropriate whenever multiple jurisdictions are involved. If there is a question about jurisdiction fire managers should mutually decide and agree on the command structure as soon as they arrive on the fire; Agency Administrators should confirm this decision as soon as possible. Once this decision has been made, the incident organization in use should be relayed to all units on the incident as well as dispatch centers. In all cases, the identity of the IC must be made known to all fireline and support personnel.

The incident will have an operations section chief to implement strategy and tactics. Operations should be the person available on-scene with the most fireline operations experience. All requests for fire information will be approved by the incident commander utilizing a single fire information officer.

An Incident Management Team (IMT) is a pre-established team of incident managers from various agencies. The IMT may be used as a support group by the Jurisdictional Agency to assist with logistical, financial and planning functions of the incident and when properly qualified, operational and command functions. The IMT may assume responsibility for the fire upon the mutual written agreement between the Jurisdictional Agency and the IMT incident commander. The IMT may request a UCR/NWCFMU liaison with Type 3 incident commander qualifications for County jurisdiction fires. Likewise UCR/NWCFMU may request a command level liaison from the appropriate fire protection district for federal jurisdiction fires.

Traffic control will be coordinated by the appropriate law enforcement agency, upon request, to expedite the routing of vehicles to and from major fires and to exclude unauthorized personnel from the fire area.
Due to altered fuel conditions, personnel operating within the bark beetle environment should be aware of the imminent danger presented by dead and dying trees falling at an increasing rate across a broad forested landscape. The USFS-R2 Fire Operations Guidance in Bark Beetle Stands is in **Attachment I.**

An After-Action-Review (AAR) of events and actions taken by suppression forces during wildland fires will be conducted by the AHJ commensurate with the complexity of the incident.

Each party is responsible for inspecting its own equipment annually for use and road worthiness prior to listing it as available for interagency use with Grand Junction or Craig Interagency Dispatch Centers.

PREPAREDNESS

Protection Planning

Summit County, in coordination with Fire Districts, other Jurisdictional Agencies, and Stakeholders, has developed the Summit County Community Wildfire Protection Plan to prioritize and guide wildland fire mitigation efforts, the terms and conditions of which are hereby incorporated by this reference.

Protection Areas and Boundaries

Jurisdictional Agency boundary lines between Summit County (private and state lands), USFS and BLM lands (Jurisdictional Boundaries) are defined on the White River National Forest map. Fire District boundaries (District Boundaries) are defined on the District Boundaries map, **Attachment B**.

Methods of Fire Protection and Suppression

INITIAL INCIDENT COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY

The first fire response agency to arrive at the scene of a wildland fire, regardless of whether the incident occurs within its jurisdiction, shall act as incident commander and be responsible for the

initial emergency action necessary to control the wildland fire or to protect life or property until the emergency response agency that has jurisdiction over the incident site arrives.

CHIEF OF FIRE DISTRICT/DEPARTMENT RESPONSBILITY

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

The Fire Chief may utilize mutual aid agreements and unified command with the Sheriff and neighboring Fire Protection Districts to suppress and control fires that cross or threaten to cross the boundaries of the district.

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

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

SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF RESPONSIBILITY

The Sheriff is the Fire Warden of the county and is responsible for the planning and coordination of efforts to suppress wildland fires occurring in the unincorporated area of the county outside the boundaries of a Fire Protection District, excluding federal lands, or that exceed the capabilities of the Fire Protection District to control or extinguish in accordance with the provisions of section 30-10-512, C.R.S.

In the case of a wildland fire that exceeds the capabilities of the Fire Protection District to control or extinguish and that requires mutual aid and outside resources, the Sheriff shall direct a unified command be established to provide the command and management required to manage the fire. Upon the transfer of fire management responsibility from the Fire District to the Sheriff, the Sheriff shall upon said transfer assume financial responsibility for firefighting efforts on behalf of the county and the authority for the ordering and monitoring of resources.

In the case of a wildland fire that exceeds the capability of the county to control or extinguish, the Sheriff shall be responsible for requesting assistance from the DFPC. The Sheriff and the Director of DFPC shall enter into an agreement concerning the transfer of authority and responsibility for fire suppression and the retention of responsibilities under a unified command structure.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY:

DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL RESPONSIBILITY

The DFPC shall be the lead state agency for wildland fire suppression as identified in the Colorado State Emergency Operations Plan and in accordance with the provisions of section 24 -33.5 -1201, C.R.S

In case of a wildland fire that exceeds the capability of the county to control or extinguish, the DFPC may assist the Sheriff in controlling or extinguishing such fires, and may assume responsibility of such incidents with the concurrence of the Sheriff under a unified command structure.

COLORADO DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY (DHSEM)

The Colorado Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) shall be the lead state agency for consequence management and for resource mobilization as identified in the Colorado Resource Mobilization Plan in accordance with the provisions of section 24-33.5-702 and 24-33.5-705.3. CRS.

Resource Mobilization will be coordinated between GJC/CRC, Incident Logistics, the Colorado Division of Emergency Management and the Summit County Office of Emergency Management (SC-OEM). The process for this is generally described on P.15 in the AOP.

UPPER COLORADO RIVER and NORTHWEST COLORADO INTERAGENCY FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

The UCR and NWCFMU are responsible for managing fires occurring on National Forest lands and lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. BLM lands in Summit County are administered by the BLM-Kremmling Field Office.

REPAIR OF WILDLAND FIRE SUPRESSION DAMAGE

Repair of wildland fire suppression damage is the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency/agencies or landowner unless otherwise agreed to by the unified command group. Rehabilitation is not covered under EFF. It may be authorized by the DFPC Agency Administrator only when part of the Incident Action Plan during the EFF period.

Repair of wildland fire suppression damage on Denver Water (DW) and Colorado Springs Utilities lands (CSU) is the responsibility of DW and or CSU, unless otherwise agreed to by the unified command at the time of fire close out. All efforts will be made by agencies involved in suppressive action to minimize damage through the use of Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST), or through rehabilitation activities conducted at the time of the incident. Examples of these rehabilitation activities would include: water barring firelines; placement of logs or rocks across firelines; spreading slash across heavily disturbed areas, etc.

Reciprocal (Mutual Aid) Fire Assistance

Mutual Aid is a written agreement between or among federal, state, and local agencies in which the agencies agree to assist one another upon request by furnishing such resources as personnel and equipment.

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 and/or cost share for such fires.

Mutual Aid Time Period

- Mutual Aid between the County and Fire Districts lasts for the duration of the subject fire event.
- Mutual Aid between all other parties hereto shall (1) Not exceed 24 hours, and (2) Will end at midnight of the first burn period when the Incident Commander determines that the fire cannot be controlled within 24 hours of the initial ignition

County-wide Mutual Aid

Mutual Aid has been established county-wide without regard to Jurisdictional Boundaries or District Boundaries. Agencies are responsible for their own costs during the Mutual Aid Time Period. It is understood that no party to this Plan 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 Jurisdictional or District Boundaries. The level of activity or involvement by assisting AHJ and/or Fire Districts making a response may vary. At a minimum, parties responding outside of their respective Jurisdictional or District Boundaries will send such personnel and equipment necessary to size-up the fire and report the situation to the Jurisdictional Agency(ies) within whose Jurisdictional Boundaries the subject wildland fire is located. Upon arrival, the Initial Attack Incident Commander will determine legal description and the need for appropriate jurisdictional fire investigator. Each AHJ is responsible for providing worker's compensation insurance for its own personnel.

Mutual Aid Resources: 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 (24 hr. after initial report of the fire, unless ended earlier). Any federal resources positioned within the UCR/NWCFMU are considered mutual aid, with the exception of air tankers, the Type 1 helicopter, and smokejumpers.

All State resources including engines and helicopters positioned in the UCR are considered mutual aid, with the exception of DFPC SEAT's, the MMA, and State Department of Corrections Inmate Crews (Juniper Valley Type 2 Crews).

Severity Resources: Severity Resources of the UCR and NWCFMU will be available for mutual aid response. This does not include smoke jumpers, air tankers or type 1 helicopters.

Joint Projects and Project Plans

The Parties to this Agreement may jointly conduct cooperative projects, within their authority and as authorized by law, to maintain or improve their fire management services and activities.

Fire Prevention

Distribution of fire prevention materials will be handled by each individual agency. Coordinated program delivery is suggested during fire prevention week, open houses, and other local events. Each agency will prepare press releases according to their own prevention plans. Joint press releases and coordination with cooperating agencies is suggested to prevent a conflict in released material. Coordination will take place before any AHJ issues a burning restriction or ban. Summit County Wildfire Council coordinates information and education related to wildland fire.

Jurisdictional Fire Restrictions

The purpose of fire restrictions 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, state, and local laws, ordinances and regulations. Cooperating agencies should coordinate prevention efforts to provide uniform and consistent information to the public. News releases should be coordinated to prevent duplication, maintain a consistent message to the public, and reduce costs.

Restrictions governing use of open fires during hazardous periods may be made to include all lands in Summit County. The Sheriff, Fire Districts, UCR and NWCFMU will confer prior to implementing fire restrictions to determine the scope of restrictions and a plan for public notification and enforcement. A process flow chart is attached as **Attachment E** to guide interagency implementation of fire restrictions and rescinding fire restrictions. Adherence to this process is strongly encouraged, but it is understood that circumstances could arise making it necessary for a AHJ to this agreement to deviate from the process. Agencies are encouraged to specify the lands that are encompassed by restrictions and to implement and rescind restrictions at the same time.

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 federal lands at the request of the appropriate agency.

Nothing in this AOP shall be interpreted as a waiver of any party’s statutory authority with respect to declaring, regulating, implementing, enforcing or rescinding fire restrictions.

Burning Permits

Local fire chiefs have the responsibility of issuing burning permits in their respective Fire Districts. The burning permit shall require the holder to notify SCCC of controlled burning on

private land prior to ignition. All pertinent State regulations will be followed.

Prescribed Fire (Planned Ignitions) and Fuels Management

The parties to this Plan will cooperate in the development and implementation of prescribed burning programs and projects including planned ignitions, and modified control strategies and tactics applied to fires within remote areas. Summit County has developed the Summit County Community Wildfire Protection Plan to prioritize and guide wildland fire mitigation efforts on federal and private lands.

Wildland fires resulting from escaped prescribed fires ignited by a party to this Plan shall be the responsibility of that party. The party responsible for the prescribed fire will reimburse other parties to this Agreement 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

All prescribed fire will conform to the state standards to minimize emissions using all available methods that are feasible and economically reasonable in order to minimize the impact or reduce impacts of air quality standards and visibility goals.

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.

Fire managers will inform the general public of the status on wildland and prescribed fires through local press, radio and television to increase public awareness.

OPERATIONS

Fire Notifications

Fire Districts conducting initial attack on fires outside their District Boundaries will ensure that the jurisdictional agency is promptly notified through SCCC. The initial attack Incident Commander is responsible for ensuring that SCCC notifies GJC or CRC of all fires reported on federal lands. The actual size up report for fires on federal lands should be made by the initial attack Incident Commander directly to GJC or CRC.

Denver Water Board and Colorado Springs Utilities: It shall be the responsibility of responding Fire Districts to ensure the SCCC notifies the DFPC if Denver Water Board or Colorado Spring Utilities lands are suspected to be involved or threatened.

Denver Water Board Notifications: When a wildfire occurs on lands owned by DW, the DFPC Regional FMO or designee should be notified either directly or via the State of Colorado

Emergency Operations Line 303-279-8855 as soon as practical of all fires occurring on lands belonging to the Denver Water Board (DW). DFPC will notify DW Dispatch at 303-628-6801 who will make the appropriate contacts.

SCCC or GJC/CRC must notify DFPC when 1) non-federal wildland fire escapes initial attack, or 2) threatens structures, or 3) air resources are ordered for non-federal suppression efforts.

Colorado Springs Utilities Notifications: Primary notification regarding wildfire threatening Utilities properties and/or raw water collection system infrastructure: Colorado Springs Utilities Dispatch (24 hours): 719-668-8800

Contingency notification regarding wildfire threatening Utilities properties and/or raw water collection system infrastructure: Colorado Springs Utilities, Catamount Wildland Fire Team Chief, Mike Myers Mobile (work): 719-491-0753; (personal) 719-332-3088 Office: 719-668-8766

Summit County Communications Center (SCCC) will receive fire reports from the public and will notify the applicable agencies. These are: the closest Fire Districts, Grand Junction and Craig Interagency Dispatch centers (GJC/CRC), and SCSO. Local UCR personnel may be monitoring SCCC but will be officially notified through GJC or CRC. All sightings of actual or suspected wildland fires by each agencies personnel will be reported to SCCC. All reports of fires received by any agency's personnel will be forwarded to SCCC. The public will be encouraged to use 911 for reporting.

Boundary Line Fires

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 may recommend to agency administrators the reimbursement responsibilities and resource sharing between the agencies. No party should delay suppression efforts while deciding jurisdictional responsibilities for fires in which suppression is the appropriate response.

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 dispatch center to coordinate with. The county EOC should be involved in this coordination..

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

County-wide initial attack

The closest forces of the parties hereto should be dispatched without regard to Jurisdictional or District Boundaries. Parties hereto will initiate appropriate management activities on wildland fires regardless of Jurisdictional or District Boundaries when it is within their capability to do so. Local Response Agencies will not initial attack fires if such initial attack puts its personnel at unreasonable risk (such as a remote fire discovered at night) or if asked to stand down by the Jurisdictional Agency. Local Response Agencies taking action should notify the applicable Jurisdictional Agency as soon as possible. The Jurisdictional Agency should assume responsibility for management of the fire at the earliest possible time, or as otherwise agreed or provided for herein.

The Sheriff authorizes local response agencies to respond to private property wildfire outside district boundaries (CRS 30-10-512).

DISPATCHING AND RESOURCE ORDERING PROCESS: Requests for firefighting resources will be made as follows:

All requests for local non-federal fire resources will be made through the Summit County Communications Center (SCCC).

Requests for assistance beyond the capabilities of local non-federal fire resources can also be made through SCCC.

The SCCC may be supported in terms of resource ordering by SCOEM. The SCCC may transfer their resource ordering responsibility to SCOEM. In the event of this occurring, the Incident Commander and GJC or CRC will be notified verbally and in writing.

In the event the transfer or resource ordering is made to SCOEM:
The SCOEM will manage the resource ordering responsibility until such time that a capable Incident Logistics Section has been established. Once established the Logistics Section will be responsible for:

1. Directly ordering resources that are available from GJC or CRC
2. Directly ordering resources that are not available from GJC or CRC from SCOEM
3. Reporting to the SCOEM any resource order placed with GJC or CRC that cannot or has not been filled in a timely, efficient, or cost effective manner to accomplish the operational objectives
4. Reporting to SCOEM for each operational period the resource ordered from GJC or CRC
5. The County EM may establish an EOC as necessary to support and coordinate with the Incident

Special Management Considerations

Aerial Retardant Use - The use of aerial retardants on all lands is restricted within approximately 300 feet of lakes, rivers and live streams and all pre-identified retardant avoidance areas.

Denver Water Board and Colorado Springs Utilities Lands

Summit County Fire Districts will respond to wildland fires and follow through on all necessary suppression actions on DW and CSU properties that fall within their respective District Boundaries.

The DFPC will not serve as landowner representative for the utilities. Summit County and Sheriff will act with a reasonable standard of care in management response to a wildfire on utility owned lands until a representative from the utility can arrive at the wildfire. Summit County and Fire District(s) accept no fiscal responsibility on behalf of the utilities. When a utility's property is involved, Summit County and Fire Districts(s) will sign a cost share agreement when the agreement acknowledges the utility's cost responsibility.

Use of mechanized earthmoving equipment such as bulldozers, graders, etc. will not be permitted on Denver Water lands without the expressed approval of the Denver Water.

Repair of wildland fire suppression damage on DW or CSU lands is the responsibility of DW or CSU unless otherwise agreed to by the **unified command** at the time of fire close out. All efforts will be made by agencies involved in suppressive action to minimize damage through the use of "light on the land" techniques, or through rehabilitation activities conducted at the time of the incident. Examples of these rehabilitation activities would include activities such water barring fire lines and placement of logs, scattering slash and or rocks across fire lines.

Federal Lands

Use of roads on federal lands presently closed to vehicular travel (outside of wilderness areas) is hereby authorized to all participants of this operating plan as follows:

Access for detection and suppression is allowed on established roads behind locked gates. Access for suppression only is allowed on roads that have been designated as "closed". Detection and reporting within areas marked as "D-polygon" on the map provided to local wildland fire response agencies.

Suppression efforts should not be taken unless authorized by the U.S. Forest Service or the BLM Kremmling Field Office.

Detection or suppression within designated wilderness, wilderness study areas and/or "Roadless" areas, as designated on the map provided to local wildland fire response agencies, is authorized as follows:

1. The use of mechanized equipment (vehicles, chainsaws, pumps, etc.) within wilderness areas is prohibited, unless specifically authorized by USFS.

2. Non-mechanized detection and suppression efforts are authorized in those portions of wilderness areas that are not part of a "D polygon" area.

3. Detection and reporting only is authorized within Wilderness Areas that are also within a "D polygon" area. Natural ignitions in these areas will be evaluated for, and may be managed for multiple management objectives.

Decision Process

Federal agencies are required to complete a Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) decision document on all fires on federal lands that escape initial attack.

A Decision Support System (DSS) may be completed for fires that have the potential to be designated as an EFF fire or that affects multiple jurisdictions and has the potential to go into extended attack. DFPC may assist with a non-EFF DSS, but has no authority to sign on non-EFF fires.

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

Cooperation

Summit County Building Code adoption of the International Residential Building Code, chapter 45 (local amendment), requires wildland fire hazard mitigation for new construction. Colorado State Forest Service assigns each new subdivision with a rating of low, moderate, or high. Each agency or department will provide land use reviews (plat reviews) to Summit County Community Development as requested. Reviewing agencies and departments will keep each other informed of findings as they pertain to wildland fire hazards and may when pertinent, coordinate reviews of land use plans. Agencies and departments will coordinate and cooperate on any fuel reduction plans or other wildland fire hazard mitigation activities affecting numerous homeowners or entire subdivisions.

Communication

The Communications Plan will be reviewed.

Cost efficiency

If a fire affects or is likely to affect more than one agency, representatives from the affected jurisdictions should coordinate to determine the suppression strategies for managing the incident.

Delegation of Authority

In the event initial attack occurs on or near a jurisdictional boundary, the on-scene ranking officers of each AHJ shall convene as soon as practical following initial dispatch and response to the incident, and mutually agree upon a course of action/strategic direction and tactics as well as appoint an Incident Commander.

In the event of an extended attack incident (normally of Type 3 Complexity or greater), a verbal Delegation of Authority will be provided the Incident Commander prior to the transfer of command and a written Delegation of Authority will be issued to the Incident Commander no later than 12 hours after the transfer of command.

Preservation of Evidence

It will be the responsibility of the AHJ to take appropriate law enforcement action. Law enforcement personnel from non-jurisdictional agencies may assist upon request from the AHJ. The AHJ Agencies will have responsibility for investigating fires and any civil or criminal actions taken. The Summit County Sheriff will coordinate fire investigation for EFF fires. Fire Districts will cooperate with investigations upon request. Responding units will make every effort to identify and protect the area of origin and report all evidence to the Jurisdictional Agency.

STATE EMERGENCY FIRE FUND (EFF)

Emergency Fire Fund (EFF) Procedures:

Summit 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 Summit County should suppression resource needs exceed county capability. Following are the roles and responsibilities under EFF:

DFPC: For the duration of a State Responsibility Fire, the DFPC shall administer EFF and/or State funds for fire management costs and appoint a DFPC Agency Administrator who shall represent the State, the County, and the Sheriff in accordance with the delegation of authority contained in the Assumption of Fire Control Duty Agreement. A DFPC representative must be on site for an EFF evaluation. DFPC will assist the county sheriff in the analysis of the wildfire's actual or potential condition to exceed the county's suppression capability. This information will be provided to the DFPC Director (or designee), who will make the final decision on EFF applicability. It is the duty of the Regional FMO or their representative to evaluate and report the situation to the Director of DFPC and to formally request implementation of EFF. The DFPC Agency Administrator shall work collaboratively with the Sheriff and designees to identify concerns or objectives to the Incident Commander within the Unified Command Structure.

Summit 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 Agency Administrator, and any subsequent delegations and assumptions of duty (DFPC #3, #6). The Sheriff will coordinate other County entities in his representation. The County Sheriff or designee is responsible for initiating a written analysis of the fire to help determine if a request for EFF implementation is warranted.

Summit 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 the DFPC 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 Regional Fire Management Officer 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. If tactics of a given incident make some of this equipment inappropriate, alternate resources or combination of resources can be negotiated.

The DFPC Agency Administrator will transfer 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.

Repair of wildland fire suppression damage is the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency/agencies or landowner unless otherwise agreed to by the unified command group. **Only suppression is covered under EFF.** It may be authorized by the DFPC Agency Administrator only when part of the Incident Action Plan during the EFF period

All EFF forms and minimum county resource commitment are shown in **Attachment D.**

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)

Written cost-share agreements should be negotiated and prepared as soon as practical when a wildfire burns across or threatens jurisdictional boundaries, and/or exceeds the mutual aid period.

Costs incurred by an AHJ for services that exceed Mutual Aid fire protection shall be reimbursed by the applicable Jurisdictional Agency. To be reimbursable, services provided by such assisting agencies beyond Mutual Aid fire protection must be requested by the applicable Federal Jurisdictional Agency.

Any costs incurred by Jurisdictional Agencies for the initial attack period and beyond, and for additional time or efforts on DW or CSU lands shall be considered reimbursable. DFPC is available to assist with the billing process.

Cost Share Principles: When fire occurs on lands of more than one Jurisdictional Agency and costs are incurred beyond the scope of Mutual Aid fire protection, costs will be borne by each agency proportional to the size of the burned area on each agency's jurisdictional area or as mutually agreed upon by the unified command.

When a fire is accepted by the State as an EFF incident, a cost-share agreement may be negotiated between DFPC and affected jurisdictional agencies. The Cost Share methodologies may include but are not limited to:

a) Each jurisdiction pays for its own resources-fire suppression efforts are primarily on jurisdictional responsibility lands,
b) Each jurisdiction pays for its own resources-services rendered approximate the percentage of jurisdictional responsibility, but not necessarily performed on those lands.
c) Cost-share by percentage of ownership,
d) Cost is apportioned by geographic division. Examples of geographic divisions are: Divisions A and B (using a map as an attachment); privately owned property with structures; or specific locations such as campgrounds,
e) Reconciliation of daily estimates (for larger, multi-day incidents). This method relies upon daily agreed to cost-estimates, using Incident Action Plans or other means to determine multi-agency contributions. Reimbursements can be made upon estimates instead of actual bill receipts.

Summit County will be involved in all cost share agreements that are expected to be paid by Summit County.

Indirect Costs charged to Summit County by or on behalf of the Colorado Department of Public Safety for or relating to services provided hereunder, including but not limited to handling fees for administering invoices submitted by entities that provided fire suppression and related services and equipment, shall not exceed 13% of the direct costs accepted and invoiced.

Training

Fire training courses are offered periodically by the Summit Fire Authority, UCR and NWC, the DFPC and other agencies. As these courses or events are scheduled, the host agency will notify other Fire Districts and will invite them to participate. Wildland fire training needs should be coordinated through local training committee and the appropriate Zone training committee. Trainees/applicants will submit their nominations according to their agency policy.

The UCR, CRC and DFPC will, to the extent possible, utilize Fire District personnel on prescribed and unplanned fires to improve qualifications and readiness. AHJ personnel will be assigned to positions consistent with their qualifications or as trainees for target positions. AHJ personnel are invited to shadow their position counterparts when a local Type 3 or higher incident management team is activated.

Communication Systems

Federal, state, and county radio systems are largely incompatible and are not interoperable at this time; however, all fire agencies in Summit County are equipped with Fire Emergency Radio Network (V-FIRE 21) capabilities. V-FIRE 21 (154.2800) may be used for inter-agency communication on a wildland fire if SCCC operations channels are not compatible with any agency's radios.

All agencies to this plan are authorized to transmit on the assigned Interagency Air-to-Ground frequencies during wildfire incidents. If additional Air-to-Ground frequencies are required, they must be requested from GJC or CRC.

For the purpose of conducting business authorized by this operating plan, all parties to this operating plan agree that assisting agencies may use the jurisdictional agency's radio frequencies as needed to conduct emergency communications on fires. No party to this operating plan will use, or authorize others to use, another agencies radio frequencies for purposes beyond the scope of this operating plan. **See Attachment A for current Frequency list**.

Fire Weather Systems

The Grand Junction Interagency Dispatch Center (GJC) will monitor local fire danger levels utilizing data from the Soda Creek RAWS and the UCR Timber Special Interest Group (SIG) in Weather Information Management System (WIMS). GJC will make fire weather, Red Flag warnings, and other fire information available to cooperators via fax and the internet at: *http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2gjc/local_info/index.htm* *or* *http://www.crh.noaa.gov/gjt/?n=firewx*

A "Red Flag Warning" is defined by the National Weather Service as the imminent or actual occurrence of:

- Significant increase in surface wind speeds.
- Dry thunderstorm outbreaks.
- High Lightning activity level (LAL).
- Significant decrease in relative humidity.
- First episode of thunderstorm after a hot, dry period.
- Any combination of weather and fuel moisture conditions that would cause extensive wildland fire occurrences.

A "Fire Weather Watch" is issued to advise the agencies of the possible development of Red Flag conditions.

Aviation Operations

AVIATION REQUESTS AND OPERATIONS

All requests for air support resources will be made to the GJC or CRC. Risk management should be employed when making the request for aviation support and the decision to conduct a mission requires weighing the risk against the benefit of the mission and deciding whether the risks are acceptable.

When air support is requested by any agency for suppression efforts, the request must include the following:
Name and agency of person ordering
Name and location, geographical or township/range
Type of Air Support needed i.e. Type 3 helicopter, SEAT, Large or Very Large Airtanker(s)
Name of Ground Contact

Additional information that is helpful:
Lat/Long in preferred datum WGS 84 degrees/minutes/decimal minutes
Elevation of fire
Other aircraft in the area, including radio frequencies in use
Aircraft hazards in the area, wires, low flying aircraft and other obstacles
Current threats and values at risk

Personnel whom are ordering aircraft shall use the Air Support Request form in **Attachment G**.

The Sheriff or designee or local fire protection district/department will notify the DFPC Regional FMO immediately when aircraft is ordered for county jurisdiction fires.

GJC or CRC will make a courtesy call to SCCC and DFPC for all orders of air support resources. SCCC will then notify Summit County Sheriff and local Fire Protection District.

With the exception of the Rifle type 3 helicopter and DFPC helicopters, aircraft use does not fall under mutual aid described in that section of this AOP.

LEADPLANE/AIR ATTACK /AERIAL SUPERVISION ACTIVATION

Heavy air tankers are dispatched with a lead plane when one is available. Single engine air tankers with an initial attack qualified pilot may be dispatched without a lead plane. Lead plane and air attack is not covered under WERF. Anytime heavy air tankers or multiple aircraft are ordered an aerial supervision platform will be ordered as well. Aerial Supervision is required to be ordered as outlined in the PMS-505 Interagency Aerial Supervision Guide.

WILDFIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND (WERF)

The Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (Ref: Colorado State Statue CRS (§24-33.5-1226) was created to assist local jurisdictions with initial attack wildland fire response on state and private lands within the state of Colorado. Any County Sheriff, municipal fire department, or fire protection district within Colorado may request WERF as the official Requesting Agency. WERF will reimburse, if funds are available, the Requesting Agency the cost of eligible wildland

firefighting resources. **The fund will be utilized as outlined in the attached WERF Guidelines, Attachment C.**

Colorado Firefighting Air Corp (CFAC)

The Colorado Aviation 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 (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.

DFPC SINGLE ENGINE AIR TANKERS and HELICOPTERS

DFPC Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs) and DFPC helicopters may potentially be pre-positioned at airports closer to Summit County when a combination of factors or events warrant having an aircraft in the area. Requests for pre-positioning will be made by the County Sheriff to the DFPC Regional FMO. Conditions that may warrant pre-positioning of SEATs or helicopters include:

- Fuel dryness
- Multiple starts within a 72 hour period
- High occurrence of dry lightning
- Persistent Red Flag weather conditions
- Local resources are occupied with other assignments
- Other factors as determined by the Sheriff and the DFPC Regional FMO

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 local Fire Protection Districts and Counties 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.

Billing Procedures

If reimbursement for any incident is agreed to at the local level, the Fire District may invoice the AHJ directly. If deemed necessary, the County may aggregate expenses incurred by the County and Fire Districts to suppress fires on federal jurisdictions and may present an invoice for such

expenses to DFPC who will then reimburse the County and Fire Districts and subsequently bill the jurisdictional federal agency or agencies.

Federal agencies may submit bills and statements for reimbursements from County and/or Fire Districts for federal suppression on non-federal lands to DFPC. DFPC will make such reimbursement and subsequently invoice the County or Local response Agency as appropriate.

DENVER WATER - COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES LANDS

- Payment for reimbursable costs on DW and CSU lands require that they be notified of fires by the responding agency

- Reimbursement for costs incurred on DW and CSU land will follow the procedure outlined below:

- Payment for reimbursable costs on DW and CSU lands must be coordinated through the DW Board or CSU. Contact DFPC Regional FMO for assistance in preparing reimbursement requests for DW or CSU wildland fire suppression response.

COOPERATIVE RESOURCE RATE FORMS

Cooperative Resource Rate Forms (CRRF) should be utilized by cooperating agencies to document rates. In the absence of a CRRF, rates set forth in Chapter 20 of the Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook will be utilized. Cooperator reimbursement procedures, forms, and examples can be found at:

http://dfpc.state.co.us/programs-2/emergency-management/wildland-fire-management/wildland-fire-billing

Cooperating agencies must have an approved CRRF to be available in ROSS for out of local area dispatch. Resources assigned to a state EFF fire from the cooperating agency without a current CRRF will be reimbursed using established standard state cooperator equipment rates. Cooperator equipment should not be signed up using an Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement (EERA).

Cost Recovery

REIMBURSABLE COSTS

Costs incurred by a Jurisdictional or Local Response Agency for services that exceed Mutual Aid fire protection shall be reimbursed by the applicable Jurisdictional Agency. To be reimbursable, services provided by such assisting agencies beyond Mutual Aid fire protection must be requested by the applicable Federal Jurisdictional Agency.

Any costs incurred by Jurisdictional Agencies for the initial attack period and beyond, and for additional time or efforts which may be requested by the DFPC or DW or CSU shall be

considered reimbursable, as funds are available. An agency that provides a reasonable initial attack response on DW or CSU lands *when the jurisdictional agency is unable to respond*, may also request reimbursement as funds are available, from the DW Board or CSU.

Payments for reimbursable costs on DW and CSU lands require that DFPC be notified of fires by the responding agency.

NONREIMBURSABLE COSTS

The County and Fire Districts hereby agree that each of their respective directly incurred costs relating to the provision of fire response and suppression activities on private property in Summit County are not reimbursable from or to each other.

Except as otherwise specifically provided for herein, each party hereto agrees to assume responsibility for its own expenses during the Mutual Aid Period.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Personnel Policy

N/A

Modification

N/A

Annual Review

This annual operating plan (AOP) must be reviewed annually. If no changes are made, a statement letter with signatures of all parties to this AOP will be distributed.

Duration of Agreement

This plan will remain in effect until April 1, 2016 or until superseded. Participating agencies will meet prior to fire season each year to review and update this plan for official approval.

Previous Agreements Superseded

Once signed, this AOP supersedes the previous AOP.

SIGNATURES

Authorized Representatives

SUMMIT COUNTY SIGNATURES

Signature	03.22.2016 *Date*
John Minor *Printed Name*	County Sheriff *Title*
Signature	3/22/2016 *Date*
Thomas C. Davidson *Printed Name*	Board of County Commissioners *Title*
Kathleen Neel *Signature*	3/22/16 *Date*
Kathleen Neel *Printed Name*	Summit County Clerk *Title*

COLORADO DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL SIGNATURE

Signature	3/25/2016 *Date*
Ryan McCulley *Printed Name*	Regional Fire Management Officer *Title*

FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY SIGNATURES

Signature	MARCH 9, 2016 *Date*
Scott Fitzwilliams *Printed Name*	Forest Supervisor *Title*

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

Signature	*Date*
Stephanie Odell *Printed Name*	Field Manager *Title*

Bureau of Land Management-Kremmling Field Office
Federal Agency, Unit

COLORADO DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL SIGNATURE

Signature	*Date*
Ryan McCulley *Printed Name*	Regional Fire Management Officer *Title*

FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY SIGNATURES

Signature	*Date*
Scott Fitzwilliams *Printed Name*	Forest Supervisor *Title*

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

Signature	3/7/16 *Date*
Stephanie Odell *Printed Name*	Field Manager *Title*

Bureau of Land Management-Kremmling Field Office
Federal Agency, Unit

FIRE DISTRICT SIGNATURES

Signature

3/24/16
Date

~~Sam Parker~~ Thomas J. Malmgren Board Pres.
Printed Name

Board President ~~District Manager~~
Title

Cooper Mountain Consolidated Metropolitan District
Fire District

GEC

HEBEBRAND
Signature

3/24/16
Date

Jeff Berino
Printed Name

Jeff Berino Fire Chief 3.24.16

ASST. Fire Chief
Title

Lake Dillon Fire Protection District
Fire District

James Keating
Signature

3-24-16
Date

Jim Keating
Printed Name

Fire Chief
Title

Red White and Blue Fire Protection District
Fire District

William R. York
Signature

3.8.16
Date

~~Naomi Knorr~~ WILLIAM R. YORK
Printed Name

District Board ~~Chairperson~~ MEMBER
Title

Lower Blue Fire Protection District
Fire District

Attachment A – GJC_CRC Radio Frequencies

Attachment B – Maps

Attachment C – WERF/CFAC

Attachment D - EFF

Attachment E – Fire Restrictions Process

Attachment F – Sample Cost Share

Attachment G – Aviation Request Forms

Attachment H – Incident Organizer/Size-Up

Attachment I – Fire Operations Guidance in Bark Beetle Stands

Attachment J - Contacts