

# **ROUTT COUNTY WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN**



**MARCH 2015**

USFS Agreement No.: 11-FI-11020000-017  
BLM Agreement No.: BLM-MOU-CO-538

PREPARED BY  
**ROUTT COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT**

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APPENDIX AD	Routt County Emergency Management Glossary of All Hazards Terminology and Acronyms

NOTE: Some of the appendices listed above may not be specifically referenced in the Annual Fire Operating Plan for Routt County.



**RECORD OF DISTRIBUTION**

Date & Method of Transmittal	Date Receipt Confirmed	Number of Copies	Individual & Organization
		1	Tom Sullivan / Routt County Board of County Commissioners
		1	Bob Struble Emergency Manager – Routt County Office of Emergency Management
		1	Garrett Wiggins Sheriff – Routt County Sheriff’s Office
		1	Ray Birth Undersheriff – Routt County Sheriff’s Office
		1	Doug Sherar Lieutenant – Routt County Sheriff’s Office
		1	Doug Brown Communications Director – Routt County Communications
		1	Janet Hruby Director – Routt County Road & Bridge
		1	Sam Parsons Northwest Regional Fire Management Officer – Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control
		1	Dennis Jaeger Forest Supervisor – Medicine Bow – Routt National Forests
		1	Wendy Reynolds Field Office Manager – Little Snake Field Office – BLM
		2	Mike Swinsick District Chief – North Routt Fire Protection District
		2	Chuck Wisecup District Chief – Oak Creek Fire Protection District
		2	Dal Leck District Chief – West Routt Fire Protection District

**RECORD OF DISTRIBUTION**

Date & Method of Transmittal	Date Receipt Confirmed	Number of Copies	Individual & Organization
		2	Dan Allen District Chief – Yampa Fire Protection District
		2	Mel Stewart Fire Chief – Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue
		1	Chad Stewart District Ranger – Steamboat – USFS
		1	Jack Lewis District Ranger – Yampa – USFA
		1	Sam Duerksen Routt Zone FMO – Yampa – USFS
		2	Pat Butler Center Manager – Craig Interagency Dispatch Center
		1	Colt Mortenson Field Management Officer – Northwest Colorado Field Management Unit – BLM
		1	Chuck Vale Northwest Regional Field Manager – Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
		1	Greg Tuliszewski Police Chief – Hayden Police Department
		1	Doug Conrad Captain – Commander, Troop 4B Colorado State Patrol
		1	Scott Elliott Sergeant – Colorado State Patrol
		1	
		1	
		1	

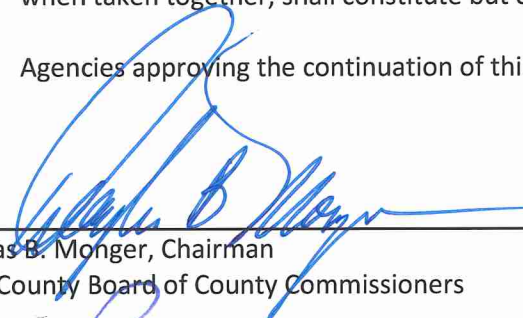


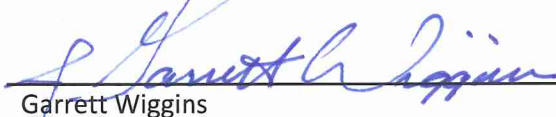
I. PLAN APPROVALS

This plan will remain in effect until superseded by following years. Participating agencies will meet prior to fire season each year to review and update this plan for official approval. Plan approval is subject to annual appropriations for any period beyond the current fiscal year.

This Plan may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be an original and all of which, when taken together, shall constitute but one and the same agreement.

Agencies approving the continuation of this Plan through April 1, 2016:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas B. Monger, Chairman  
Routt County Board of County Commissioners  
Date 3/17/15

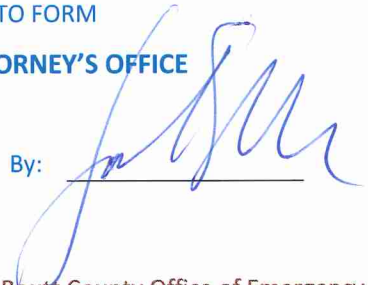
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Garrett Wiggins  
Routt County Sheriff  
Date 3-17-15

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Samuel Parsons  
Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control  
Northwest Regional Fire Management Officer  
Date 3-5-15

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Jaeger  
Forest Supervisor, Medicine Bow – Routt National Forests  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wendy Reynolds  
Field Manager, Little Snake Field Office – BLM  
Date 3/5/15

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
ROUTT COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

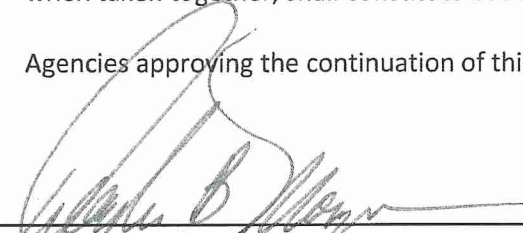
Date: March 4, 2015 By: 

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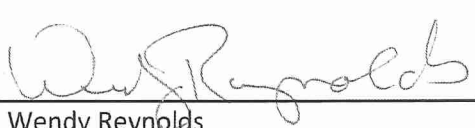
Agencies approving the continuation of this Plan through April 1, 2016:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas B. Monger, Chairman  
Routt County Board of County Commissioners  
Date: 3/17/15

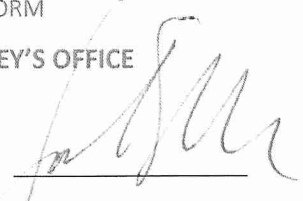
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Garrett Wiggins  
Routt County Sheriff  
Date: 3-17-15

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Samuel Parsons  
Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control  
Northwest Regional Fire Management Officer  
Date: 3-5-15

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Jaeger  
Forest Supervisor, Medicine Bow – Routt National Forests  
Date: 3/23/15

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wendy Reynolds  
Field Manager, Little Snake Field Office – BLM  
Date: 3/5/15

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
ROUTT COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Date: March 4, 2015 By: 

IA. PLAN ACCEPTANCE

The Routt 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 their aid” Fire Protection District (hereinafter referred to as “FPD”) equipment and personnel to suppress wildfires outside their district boundaries on private land, or to assist with fire suppression on federal lands. Such assistance provides beneficial mutual aid from federal wildfire agencies to all lands within the county and enables county participation in the Emergency Fire Fund (hereinafter referred to as “EFF”), both beneficial to the 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 shall be at the discretion of the FPD’s chief or designee.

FPDs will have direct supervision 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, air resources, or activation of the Northwest Colorado Incident Management Team to provide multi-jurisdictional or Unified Command during wildfire situations requiring extended attack. Such requests often involve obligation of county funding, so requests shall come from the Routt County Emergency Management Director or the Routt County Sheriff per the Tactical Operations Plan for Wildland Fires in Routt County and the Fifth Amended and Restated Memorandum of Understanding (Intergovernmental Agreement).

The Routt County Sheriff’s Office will provide assistance as needed or requested as per CRS 30-10-513. FPDs shall have the authority to bill Routt County for fire suppression services on all lands within the county, including the return of personnel and equipment to a back-in-service status, in accordance with CRS 30-10-513.5.

This acceptance of the 2015 Routt County Wildland Fire Management Annual Operating Plan does not affect the mutual aid period or any other conditions between federal agencies, the County, the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, or FPD cooperators.

This acceptance of the 2015 Routt County Wildland Fire Management Annual Operating Plan may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument.

Agencies approving the continuation of this Plan through April 1, 2016:

*Robert L. Struble*

Robert L. Struble  
Routt County Emergency Management Director

*3-17-15*

Date

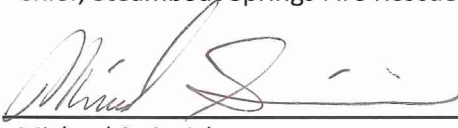


 4-9-2015

Mel Stewart  
Chief, Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue

3/5/15

Date



Michael Swinsick  
District Chief, North Routt Fire Protection District

3/5/15

Date



Chuck Wiseup  
District Chief, Oak Creek Fire Protection District

3-5-15

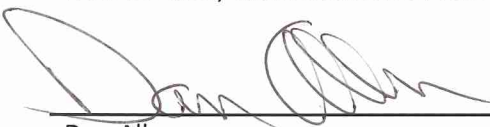
Date



Dal Leck  
District Chief, West Routt Fire Protection District

3-5-15

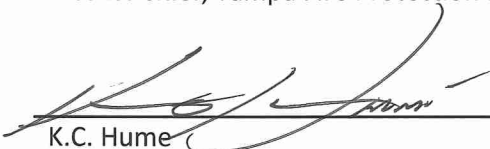
Date



Dan Allen  
District Chief, Yampa Fire Protection District

4/27/15

Date



K.C. Hume  
Chief, Craig Fire Rescue

04-14-2015

Date

## II. JURISDICTIONS

Jurisdictional boundary lines for United States Forest Service (hereinafter referred to as “USFS”), Bureau of Land Management (hereinafter referred to as “BLM”), and Routt County (private and state) lands are as shown on the Routt National Forest map (1/2 inch = 1 mile), 2009 revision.

The Routt County Fire Management Plan Hazard Maps (refer to Appendix AC) reflect the jurisdictional boundary lines for the five (5) Routt County FPDs, including the city of Steamboat Springs, and the towns of Hayden, Oak Creek, and Yampa, and lands in Routt County included in the Craig Rural Fire Protection District.



### III. AUTHORITY

This plan fulfills requirements in the Colorado Cooperative Fire Management Agreement signed June 6, 2011 among the United States Department of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as “USDI”) – Bureau of Land Management, Colorado; National Park Service – Intermountain Region; Bureau of Indian Affairs – Southwest Region; Fish and Wildlife Service – Mountain Prairie Region; Bureau of Reclamation – Great Plains Region and Upper Colorado Region; and United States Department of Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as “USDA”) – Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region; and the Board of Governors of the Colorado State University System – acting by and through Colorado State University – on behalf of the Colorado State Forest Service (refer to Appendix Y).

This plan fulfills requirements in the latest Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement between the State of Colorado and the USDA Forest Service, USDI National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Fish and Wildlife Service; and the Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection agreements between the State and the county.

This plan fulfills Article I.2 of the Emergency Fund Contract for Forest and Watershed Fire Control between the State of Colorado and Routt County and becomes Attachment B of that agreement.

This plan fulfills requirements in the Intergovernmental Agreement for Participation in the Colorado Emergency Fire Fund signed June 11, 2012 between the State of Colorado and Routt County (refer to Appendix V).

This plan fulfills requirements in the Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection in Routt County ([CDFPC] CSFS Form #109) signed February 24, 1989 (refer to Appendix X).

This plan fulfills requirements in the 2015 Tactical Operations Plan for Wildland Fires in Routt County (refer to Appendix A).

This plan fulfills requirements in the Fifth Amended and Restated Memorandum of Understanding (Intergovernmental Agreement) dated January 27, 2013 (refer to Appendix B).

Senate Bill 09-020 29-22.5-103 (refer to Appendix S). Wildland fires – general authority and responsibilities. (1) (a) 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 capability of the fire district to control or extinguish in accordance with the provisions of section 32-1-1002 (3) (a), C.R.S.

(2) (a) The sheriff is the fire warden of the county and is responsible for the planning for, and the coordination of, efforts to suppress wildland fires occurring in the unincorporated area of the county outside the boundaries of a fire protection district or that exceed the capabilities of the fire protection district to control or extinguish in accordance with the provisions of section 30-10-513, C.R.S.

Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control 24-33.5-1201  
Colorado Office of Emergency Management 24-33.5-705  
Colorado Disaster Emergency Act 24-33.5-701

#### IV. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Wildland Fire Management Annual Operating Plan (hereinafter referred to as “AOP”) is to set forth standard operating procedures, agreed upon policies, and responsibilities to implement and pay for cooperative wildland fire management in wildland areas and the wildland urban interface within Routt County. It is understood by the Signatory to this agreement that any resources ordered for a purpose other than wildland area fire management through the Routt County Wildland Fire Management Annual Operating Plan are the financial responsibility of the ordering agency.

Participants in this AOP consist of the following:

- Routt County Sheriff, in cooperation with local fire chiefs
- Routt County Office of Emergency Management
- Routt County Board of County Commissioners
- Medicine Bow – Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland (USFS)
- Little Snake Field Office (BLM)
- Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (hereinafter referred to as “CDFPC”)
- Colorado Office of Emergency Management (hereinafter referred to as “COEM”)

All participants of this AOP agree to coordinate their wildfire protection activities as outlined herein.

## V. DEFINITIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS

### A. Fire Management Responsibilities

Each jurisdictional agency has ultimate responsibility for wildland fire management on its own lands.

Pursuant to CRS 30-10-512. SHERIFF TO ACT AS FIRE WARDEN; 30-10-513. SHERIFF IN CHARGE OF FOREST OR PRAIRIE FIRE – EXPENSES; 30-10-513.5. AUTHORITY OF SHERIFF RELATING TO FIRES WITHIN UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF COUNTY – LIABILITY FOR EXPENSES; the Sheriff may designate a person or persons to represent his office as it relates to these statutes. The Sheriff or his designee will work with the Routt County Board of County Commissioners (or their designee) to assist other governmental authorities in emergencies for controlling or extinguishing such fires and for assisting in calling to their aid such persons as is deemed necessary.

Through the formation of special districts and acquiring wildland firefighting equipment, fire protection districts have assumed certain responsibilities for suppressing unwanted fires within their districts. It is clearly and mutually understood that fire protection districts will promptly attack wildfires and follow through on all necessary suppression actions on properties that fall within their respective protection areas.

The USFS is responsible for fires occurring on national forest system lands. The BLM is responsible for fires occurring on BLM lands.

Within the provisions of Section 29-22.5-103 (1) (a) the chief of the fire department in each fire protection district 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 chief may utilize mutual aid agreements and unified command with neighboring fire protection districts to suppress and control fires that cross or threaten cross boundaries of the district. The fire chief may transfer any duties or responsibility the fire chief may assume under this section to the county sheriff with the concurrence of the sheriff (C.R.S. 29-22.5-103 (1) (a-c). For fires involving federal land, the fire department, the sheriff, and federal jurisdiction representative will determine responsibilities, command structure, cost share agreements and other administrative issues.

The county sheriff is responsible for coordination of fire suppression efforts on all private and state lands in the case of prairie, forest or wildland fires or wildland fires occurring in the unincorporated area of the county outside the boundaries of a fire protection district or that has exceeded the capabilities of the fire protection district to control or extinguish. The county's responsibilities are limited to those set forth in Section 30-10-512, 30-10-513 and 30-10-513.5 C.R.S.

Within Routt County, State Land Board, and Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife lands exist (refer to Appendix AB).

The County Sheriff is responsible to order evacuations of the citizens from their homes, business or other places within Routt County. 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 (written) of the fire 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 seeking the assistance of the state, by requesting assistance from the CDFPC by calling (303) 279-8855. The Sheriff and the state shall enter into an agreement concerning transfer of authority and responsibility for the fire suppression and the retention of responsibilities under a unified command structure.

The CDFPC shall be the lead agency for wildland fire suppression as indentified in the Colorado State Emergency Operations Plan and in accordance with the provisions of Section 24-33.5-1217 to 24-33.5-1226, C.R.S. CDFPC personnel will respond as needed and be available to respond to wildfires on state and private lands when called by Routt County. Such response will be at no cost to the county, except as provided by other arrangements. CDFPC will provide technical assistance to the county in suppression, logistics, planning and other necessary duties, upon the county's request.

The COEM is the lead agency for Consequence Management in the State Emergency Operations Plan. Through the Regional Field Managers the county can request technical assistance in planning, responding to and recovering from consequences in any type of hazard. Such response will be at no cost to the county, except as provided by other arrangements.

The Routt County Emergency Manager is responsible for the development of and implementation of the county Emergency Operations Plan (hereinafter referred to as "EOP") to meet the hazard analysis of the county including wildfire. The Routt County EOP was approved by the Routt County Board of County Commissioners on July 26, 2011.

#### B. Mutual Aid

All dispatches will be made based on the closest forces capable of responding to the incident. The mutual aid time period will not exceed 24 hours from arrival on scene. The mutual aid time period will end at midnight of the first burn period when the Incident Commander determines that the fire cannot be controlled within 24 hours from arrival on scene. The mutual aid period may end earlier by mutual agreement.

Mutual Aid protection has been established countywide between all signatories to this plan. It is agreed there should be no delay in initial attack pending determination of the precise location of the fire, land ownership, or responsibility. All County and FPD resources are considered mutual aid. All state resources are considered mutual aid with the exception of DFPC SEATs and State inmate crews. Any federal resources positioned within the Craig Dispatch area are considered mutual aid, with the exception of air tankers, lead planes, 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. Severity resources are also considered mutual aid.

C. Mutual Aid Move-Up and Cover Facilities

Move-up and cover facilities have not been predetermined. However, the mechanism is in place for FPDs to cover each other through the Inter-District Mutual Aid Agreement and the Multi-County Mutual Aid Agreement.

D. Special Management Considerations

Suppression within designated wilderness, wilderness study areas, and/or roadless areas, as designated on the map, will not be conducted without direct orders from the jurisdictional federal official.

Use of mechanized equipment (e.g., bulldozers, graders, etc.) will not be permitted on federal lands without the express approval of the appropriate federal official.

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.
- Once approved by the Agency Administrator (or their designee), access for suppression only is allowed on roads that have been designated as "closed."

Agencies responding to fires on federal land will attempt to adhere to the various federal agency plans for managing fires for multiple objectives and resource benefit when provided guidance by the appropriate federal officials.

Fire use management on private land will be managed on a case-by-case basis involving the private landowner, the Routt County Sheriff, the District Fire Chief, and the Routt County Board of County Commissioners after referencing SB13-083.

Aerial Retardant Use (refer to Appendix T) – USFS Implementation Guide for Aerial Application of Fire Retardant adopted January 31, 2013.

E. Responsibility for Non-Wildland Fire Emergencies

This plan addresses only wildland fire incidents.

F. Repair of Wildfire Suppression Damage

The State EFF is strictly a fire suppression fund and cannot pay for rehabilitation. Repair of wildfire suppression damage is the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency/agencies unless otherwise agreed to by the unified command group. It may be authorized by the CDFPC designee only when part of the Incident Action Plan during the EFF period.

Various cost-share programs for wildfire land rehabilitation are available for private land, including the Emergency Watershed Stabilization Program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as “USDA”), National Resources Conservation Service.

## VI. FIRE MANAGEMENT RESOURCE LIST

A current Cooperative Resource Rate Form (hereinafter referred to as “CRRF”) will be completed by each non-federal agency listing ALL resources which can be made available for local, statewide, and national assignments if local conditions allow. Refer to Appendix F for approved CRRFs. If no approved CRRFs are found, refer to Appendix E.

A. Routt County

Refer to Appendix F

B. North Routt Fire Protection District

Refer to Appendix F

C. Oak Creek Fire Protection District

Refer to Appendix F

D. West Routt Fire Protection District

Refer to Appendix F

E. Yampa Fire Protection District

Refer to Appendix F

F. Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue

Refer to Appendix F

G. Craig Fire Rescue

Refer to Appendix F

H. Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit – Craig / Meeker Station

Refer to Appendix F

I. Other – Equipment Agreements (4) between the CDFPC and the Routt County Fire Protection Districts.

Refer to Appendix F



J. USFS – Hahns Peak / Bears Ears Ranger District – Steamboat

Refer to Appendix F

K. USFS – Yampa Ranger District – Yampa

Refer to Appendix F

L. USFS – Parks Ranger District – Walden

Refer to Appendix F

M. Aircraft

Requests for air support SHALL include (1) name of individual acting as ground contact (identified by Craig Interagency Dispatch Center) (hereinafter referred to as “CRC”); (2) radio frequency for ground contact (identified by CRC); (3) current and potential threats and values at risk; and (4) nearest base of operations. (Refer to Appendix J for map of frequencies and Appendix I for Air Support Request Form.)

N. Rifle, Colorado

Refer to Appendix F

O. Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center

(Contact through Craig Interagency Dispatch Center – (970) 826-5037)

Refer to Appendix F

P. Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control

Refer to Appendix F

Resources in Routt County are managed first within the Computer Aided Dispatch (hereinafter referred to as “CAD”) by Routt County Communication Center (hereinafter referred to as “RCC”). Request for Routt County resources will be made by local cooperators through RCC.

The Routt 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 3 IMT’s, etc.) will be utilized **prior**

**to ordering resources from outside Routt County.** For county jurisdictional fires (no federal lands involved), if the Routt 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 RCC. If the Routt County EOC is activated, resource orders from the ICP will be placed through Logistics in the EOC.

### System of Systems

There are many systems and technologies used for resource mobilization and management. COEM 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 the municipal level (CAD) county emergency manager, state emergency management offices, and the federal and private sector resource partnerships.

Request for Routt County fire resources not coming from **local cooperators** should be made through Craig Interagency Dispatch Center (hereinafter referred to as “CRC”) and will be subject to the approval of the county Emergency Manager unless inter-county agreements or applicable mutual aid agreements are already in existence. The CDFPC Fire Management Officer (hereinafter referred to as “FMO”) will be notified of all such requests as soon as possible.

County requests for additional federal fire forces, **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 routed through CRC. The CDFPC FMO will be notified of all such requests as soon as possible. Requests for CDFPC engines assigned to county fire protection districts will be through the CDFPC FMOs.

## VII. PROTECTION AREA MAP

The Routt National Forest area map (1/2 inch = 1 mile), 2009 revision, is used to show jurisdictional boundaries for the purpose of this AOP.

## VIII. FIRE READINESS

### A. Fire Response Planning

This AOP is the only interagency fire response plan in use for Routt County between the County and state and federal agencies. For specific use of wildland fire on public lands, refer to the Northwest Colorado Fire Management Plan and Routt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

Local homeowner groups, the fire protection districts, and the CSFS, along with Routt County, have developed and approved several Community Wildfire Protection Plans (hereinafter referred to as "CWPPs") to prioritize and guide wildfire mitigation efforts. Copies of these plans may be obtained from the Routt County Office of Emergency Management, CSFS, or USFS Steamboat Office, or viewed on the websites maintained by those organizations.

### B. Wildfire Training Needs and Coordination

Standard approved fire training courses are provided periodically by CDFPC, USFS, BLM, and other agencies. As these courses are scheduled, all cooperators will be informed and invited to participate. The basic wildland fire training typically consists of I-100, IS-700, L-180, and S-130/190 of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (hereinafter referred to as "NWCG") Standards.

### C. Inspection Schedules

Each agency is responsible for inspecting its own equipment annually for use and road worthiness prior to listing it as available for interagency use.

All CDFPC and cooperator engines subject to interagency dispatch will be inspected, both engine and equipment, to ensure use and road worthiness.

## IX. ROUTT COUNTY INTERAGENCY PREPAREDNESS LEVELS

Established preparedness levels are based on current and forecasted burning conditions, fire activity, and resource availability. Resource availability is the area of most concern. Situations and activities described within the preparedness levels are considered during wildland and prescribed fire season.

### A. Why Preparedness Levels Are Established

Purpose:

To identify the level of wildland and prescribed fire activity, severity and resource commitment within the County.

To identify predetermined actions to be taken by Agencies and Multi-Agency Coordinating (hereinafter referred to as "MAC") Groups to ensure an appropriate preparedness/readiness and resource availability for the existing and potential situation.

During periods when fire management activity is significant enough to require prioritization of fires in order to allocate critical, limited and/or scarce resources, MAC groups will be established to accomplish that priority setting.

Agencies shall be represented by officials with delegation of authority for their respective agencies.

To modify area-wide fire management activities when essential to ensure appropriate level of response to Routt County demands.

### B. Local Area Preparedness Levels

Local area preparedness levels should be established in accordance with agency directives and included in local Mobilization (hereinafter referred to as "MOB") Guides.

### C. Craig Interagency Fire Danger Operating and Preparedness Plan

The Craig Interagency Fire Danger Operating and Preparedness Plan is intended to document a decision-making process for agency administrators, fire managers, dispatchers, agency cooperators, and firefighters by establishing agency planning and response levels using the best available scientific methods and historical weather/fire data.

An appropriate level of preparedness to meet wildland fire management objectives is based upon an assessment of vegetation, climate, and topography utilizing the National Fire Danger Rating System (hereinafter referred to as "NFDRS") modeling.

This Fire Danger Operating Plan (hereinafter referred to as “FDOP”) documents the establishment and management of the Northwestern Colorado’s Interagency fire weather system and incorporates NFDRS fire danger modeling into fire management decisions.

This plan also outlines procedures for developing seasonal risk analysis and defines fire prevention action items by providing the direction necessary to convey fire danger awareness especially of escalating fire potential, to fire management personnel.

Guidance and policy for development of a Fire Danger Operating and Preparedness Plan can be found in the *Interagency Standards for Fire & Aviation Operations (Red Book)*, *Wildland Fire and Aviation Program and Management and Operation Guide (Blue Book)*, and *Forest Service Manual 5120*.

On July 6, 1994, the South Canyon Fire resulted in the deaths of 14 firefighters in Colorado. In 1995, an Interagency Management Review Team for the South Canyon Fire charged the National Advisory Group for Fire Danger Rating with developing “an implementation plan to improve technical transfer of fire danger technology.” On July 10, 2001, four firefighters lost their lives on the Thirtymile Fire in Washington. The Thirtymile tragedy prompted an Accident Prevention Plan which contained specific actions to enhance firefighter safety, including the need to identify thresholds for critical fuels and weather conditions that lead to extreme burning conditions and publishing these on pocket cards for use by firefighters. On July 22, 2003, two (2) firefighters lost their lives in the Cramer Fire in central Idaho. OSHA levied serious violations which included the failure to recognize fire danger thresholds for large fires and respond accordingly. In addition, a Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) near the fire had not received maintenance and calibration before the start of the fire season. On June 30, 2013, 19 firefighters lost their lives in the Yarnell Hill Fire in Arizona. This plan addresses action items identified in these tragic fires by providing the direction necessary to convey fire danger awareness especially of escalating fire potential to fire management personnel. This awareness is critical when wildland fire danger levels exceed thresholds which may significantly compromise safety and control.

The complete FDOP can be found on the Craig Interagency website:

[http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch\\_centers/r2crc/predictive/fuels\\_fire\\_danger/Craig%20FDOP%20V%201.23%20final.pdf](http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2crc/predictive/fuels_fire_danger/Craig%20FDOP%20V%201.23%20final.pdf)

## X. WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION PROCEDURES

### A. Incident Command System Use

The agencies will operate under the concepts of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and its Incident Command System (ICS) as appropriate for providing qualified resources and for the management of incidents encompassed under the terms of this Plan.

All extended attack multi-jurisdictional incidents will utilize unified command. Under unified command affected federal, state, and county jurisdictions will provide on scene representation. These designated representatives will communicate direction and objectives to ONE (1) incident commander who has no collateral duties. The incident will have ONE (1) fireline operations section chief to implement strategy and tactics. All requests for fire information will be approved by the incident commander utilizing a single fire information officer.

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

An IMT is a pre-established team of incident managers from various agencies. The Northwest Colorado All-Hazards Type 3 IMT may be used to help manage wildfires in the county, at the request of the jurisdictional agency, where expanded management under the ICS system is needed. 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 USFS liaison with Type 3 incident commander qualifications for county jurisdiction fires. Likewise, USFS may request a command level liaison from the appropriate fire protection district for federal jurisdiction fires.

### B. Detection Standards

RCC in Steamboat Springs will receive reports of wildland fires from the public and will notify the applicable agencies. CRC is the contact for all federal lands. The public will be encouraged to use 911 for reporting.

### C. Relationship with Local Mobilization (MOB) Guides

1. CRC maintains and updates MOB Guides. These guides are used by CRC to order resources for local incidents.
2. Routt County Office of Emergency Management maintains and updates the MOB Guide for Routt County.

#### D. Notification of Fires

Assisting agencies making initial attack on fires within the mutual aid fire protection zone will ensure that the jurisdictional agency is promptly notified of the fire through RCC or CRC. CRC and RCC will keep each other informed of fires reported to their respective centers. The County Sheriff, Emergency Management Director, or designee will be notified of all wildland fires. If the fire is on or threatening state or private land, and is expected to exceed the control capabilities of the County, the CDFPC shall be notified through the State Emergency Operations Line at (303) 279-8855. If the fire is on or threatening land managed by the BLM, or Routt National Forest, RCC will notify CRC. The appropriate state land manager will be notified on all fires burning in their respective areas.

*Failure to notify CDFPC may jeopardize the opportunity for reimbursement of suppression expenses.*

#### E. Establishment and Revision of Mutual Aid Dispatch Areas

As deemed appropriate, the agencies may, by agreement, establish reciprocal initial attack zones for lands of intermingled or adjoining protection responsibility. Mutual aid shall be for the mutual benefit of all agencies involved.

Each agency or department is responsible for providing worker's compensation insurance for its own personnel. For the purpose of this operating plan, jurisdictional boundaries DO NOT pertain to the boundaries of individual fire protection districts. The mutual aid area will include all lands in Routt County, including all ski areas. Mutual aid will be implemented as follows:

County-wide response: Participants will respond to wildfires in the county regardless of jurisdiction. The level of activity or involvement by assisting agencies making a response may vary. At a minimum, assisting agencies will send such personnel and equipment necessary to size-up the fire and report the situation to the jurisdictional agency. Upon arrival, the Initial Attack Incident Commander will determine legal description and the need for appropriate jurisdictional fire investigator.

County-wide initial attack: The closest forces should be dispatched without regard to jurisdiction. Participants will initiate suppression activities on wildfires regardless of jurisdiction when it is within their capability to do so. Assisting agencies will not initial attack fires on another jurisdiction if initial attack puts personnel at unreasonable risk (such as a remote fire discovered at night) or if asked to stand down by the jurisdictional agency. Agencies taking independent action within another agency's jurisdiction should notify that agency as soon as possible. The jurisdictional agency should assume responsibility for suppression at the earliest possible time, or as otherwise agreed. No party to this agreement shall be required to make resources or assistance available to the requesting party if by so doing would impair the party's ability to provide effective emergency services within its own service area.



The mutual aid time period will not exceed 24 hours from arrival on scene. The mutual aid time period will end at midnight of the first burn period when the Incident Commander determines that the fire cannot be controlled within 24 hours from arrival on scene. The mutual aid period may end earlier by mutual agreement.

Each agency will assume responsibility for its own expenses during the mutual aid period (exclusive of air resources). The assisting agency may request reimbursement for costs incurred after that time. The jurisdictional agency will reimburse assisting agencies for costs incurred after the mutual aid period if requested to do so. Every effort should be made by the assisting agency to advise the Incident Commander of any claims related to the incident prior to departure from the incident. If that is not possible, then the assisting agency shall advise the Incident Commander of such claims no later than 24 hours after departure from the incident.

It is understood that no agency will be required or expected to commit its forces to assisting another agency to the extent of jeopardizing its own responsibilities, or the security of lands it is charged with protecting. During the mutual aid period each agency agrees to accept each other's standards (fire qualifications and fitness).

#### F. Initial Attack Dispatch Levels and Their Determination

Initial attack dispatch levels are not predetermined in Routt County, but are based on the availability of personnel at the time of dispatch.

Incident qualification cards (formerly referred to as "Red" cards) are not required for initial attack on fires within Routt County, but firefighters without incident qualification cards will be the first ones released by the jurisdictional agency.

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

In most cases this will occur no later than the next operational period. Beyond the mutual aid period, NWCG incident qualification cards are required on federal jurisdiction fires and state-responsibility fires.

All personnel will meet standards set forth in the most current version of NWCG PMS 310-1 (Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide). NWCG allows for accepting local qualifications within local jurisdictions during initial attack. All cooperators dispatched outside of their jurisdiction will meet NWCG standards. NWCG allows agencies to require more stringent standards than the minimum for their agency specific personnel.

## G. Dispatching and Resource Order Process

RCC will act as dispatch for County and FPD initial attack response. CRC is responsible for dispatching and coordination of all federal wildfire resources within Routt County. All requests for resources from non-federal agencies in Routt County to be deployed outside Routt County SHALL be ordered through the Routt County Office of Emergency Management.

The agency that can take the quickest effective fire suppression 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. RCC will contact CRC relative to every wildfire dispatch in the County and vice versa. The mutual aid agreements between all Routt County FPDs allows resources to be dispatched anywhere in the County at the request of a FPD representative acting as Incident Commander.

### 1. Routt County MAC Policy Group

If a fire crosses jurisdictional boundaries and becomes a multi-agency fire, a Routt County MAC Group will be formed. The MAC Group is an information and resource support function intended to facilitate integrated action on emergencies involving multiple jurisdictions. It is designed to serve as a coordination mechanism for all types of incidents which pose a threat to public safety, including fires, flood, wind, or other natural disaster, hazardous materials spill or civil disorder.

The MAC concept operates separately from the ICS utilized for a particular incident, and is not directly involved in deciding the strategy or tactics for the incident. The Routt County MAC Policy Group (formed under separate agreement) will meet as a group and identify policies, and objectives resulting in one common set of objectives given to a single Incident Commander for tactical implementation. It will also be the responsibility of the Routt County MAC Policy Group to recommend to the appropriate budgetary authorities cost sharing for multi-jurisdictional fires.

On a multi-jurisdictional fire, the Routt County MAC Group may include the following:

- Routt County Commissioner
- Fire Board Member
- City Council Member
- Routt County Sheriff
- CDFPC designee
- Federal land agency involved – Forest Supervisor (USFS) or designee; or Field Office Manager (BLM) or designee
- COEM designee

## 2. Boundary Fires

A fire burning on or adjacent to a known or questionable protection boundary will be the initial attack responsibility of the protecting agencies on either side of the boundary. Fires occurring in areas where structures are located near and in areas of multiple jurisdictions can cause significant safety as well as financial concerns. The agencies agree that public and firefighter safety are the first priority. The agencies agree to coordinate suppression management through the use of a Unified Command or with Delegation of Authority from all jurisdictions to an agreed Incident Commander. The initial attack Incident Commanders of the involved agencies shall mutually agree upon fire suppression objectives, strategy, and funding of agency suppression resources. When a fire burns on both sides of a protection boundary or threatens another jurisdiction, and is beyond the mutual aid period, a cost share agreement shall be jointly prepared and approved by the Federal Unit Administrator and Routt County Emergency Management Director (or their designees) for all actions.

### H. 2015 Colorado Statewide Wildland Fire Management Annual Operating Plan (hereinafter referred to as "SAOP") References (refer to Appendix Z)

#### 1. Structure Protection

The operational roles of the federal agencies as partners in the urban interface are wildland firefighting, hazard reduction, cooperative prevention, education and technical assistance. Structural fire suppression is the responsibility of tribal, state, local governments or fire protection districts. Federal agencies may assist with exterior structural fire protection activities under formal fire protection agreements that specify the mutual responsibilities of the partners, including funding. (Some federal agencies have full structural protection authority for their facilities on lands they administer and may also enter into formal agreements to assist state and local governments with structural protection). Ref: Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations.

- **NPS:** Ref: Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations (Red Book) chapter 3, page 03-12, lines16-25; page 03-13, lines1-10.
- **USFS:** See Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations (Red Book), Chapter 5, page5-13, lines 18-46; page 5-14, lines1-46; page 5-15, lines 1-46; and page 5-16, lines 1-36.
- **DFPC:** May assist with exterior structural fire protection.

#### 2. Cost Share Agreements

Written cost share agreements should be prepared when a wildfire burns across or threatens jurisdictional boundaries, and/or exceeds the mutual aid period. The intent is to appropriately distribute the financial burden based on a method agreed upon by a representative from each affected jurisdiction. A cost share agreement should be negotiated as soon as practical.

Written cost share agreements should be prepared when a wildfire burns across or threatens jurisdictional boundaries, and/or exceeds the mutual aid period. The intent is to appropriately distribute the financial burden based on a method agreed upon by a representative from each affected jurisdiction. A cost share agreement should be negotiated as soon as practical.

Just as the individual circumstances for each wildfire should drive the decisions about response, the same circumstances should be the basis for the development of the cost share agreement.

**DFPC** – When a wildfire becomes a state responsibility fire, a cost share agreement may be negotiated between DFPC and affected jurisdictional agencies.

**Federal Agencies** – Federal agencies signature to this SAOP agree not to bill one another.

### 3. Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

In those operational situations where weather, fuel, or fire behavior of the wildland fire precludes stopping it at jurisdictional boundaries, cost-share methodologies may include, but are not limited to:

- Each jurisdiction pays for its own resources – fire suppression efforts are primarily on jurisdictional responsibility lands.
- Each jurisdiction pays for its own resources – services rendered approximate the percentage of jurisdictional responsibility, but not necessarily performed on those lands. Cost share by percentage of ownership of jurisdictional responsibility.
- Cost is apportioned by geographic division. Examples of geographic divisions are: Division A and B (using a map as an attachment); privately owned property with structures; or specific locations such as campgrounds.
- 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. Reimbursement can be made upon estimates instead of actual bill receipts.

#### I. Reinforcements, Support and Consequence Management

Traffic control will be provided by the appropriate law enforcement agency, upon request, to expedite the routing of vehicles and personnel to and from major fires and to exclude unauthorized personnel from the area.

It will be the responsibility of the agency upon whose land the fire originates to take law enforcement action with regard to investigation of cause of the fire and prosecution of those responsible, if applicable. When initial attack is made by other than the jurisdictional agency, the assisting agency will immediately gather and preserve information and evidence pertaining to the cause of the fire for the jurisdictional agency.

For warning notification, sheltering procedures and EOC procedures refer to the Routt County EOP.

All requests for additional resources will be made by the IC in consultation with the jurisdictional agency representative. In the event that applicable ordering procedures are not substantially complied with the cost of the additionally ordered resources, shall be the responsibility of the party that ordered such resources.

Traffic control will be provided by the appropriate law enforcement agency, upon request, to expedite the routing of vehicles and personnel to and from major fires and to exclude unauthorized personnel from the area.

It will be the responsibility of the agency upon whose land the fire originates to take law enforcement action with regard to investigation of cause of the fire and prosecution of those responsible, if applicable. When initial attack is made by other than the jurisdictional agency, the assisting agency will immediately gather and preserve information and evidence pertaining to the cause of the fire for the jurisdictional agency.

#### J. Move-Up and Cover Locations and Procedures

Move up and cover procedures have not been predetermined, but can occur between FPDs under the auspices of the inter-district mutual aid agreements.

#### K. Interagency Procurement

##### 1. Patient Transport

No person or agency, private or public, shall transport a patient from any point within Routt County in an ambulance to any point within or outside Routt County unless that person or agency holds a valid license and permits issued by the county where the service is based and by the county where the patient originates.

Exceptions in the Routt County Ambulance Licensing Regulations are:

- Ambulances operated by a department or agency of the federal government, originating from a federal reservation or under contract with a federal agency or department for the purpose of federal responsibility.
- Vehicles, including ambulances from another county or state, used during a major catastrophe or mass casualty incident when permitted ambulances are insufficient.
- Refer to Appendix AA for Routt County Resolution #2009-049 – A resolution concerning regulation of ambulance, ambulance services, and emergency medical personnel.

L. Interagency Sharing of Communications Systems and Frequencies

Federal, state, and county radio systems are largely incompatible at this time. The Fire Emergency Radio Network (hereinafter referred to as “VFIRE 21,” also referred to as “FERN 1”) offers a partial solution to this problem. VFIRE 21 will be used for inter-agency communication on wildland fires. The state of Colorado has designated “VLAW 31,” also referred to as “NLEEC”) for communication to dispatch centers.

In 2006 the state of Colorado brought online a new digital trunked radio system in the 800 MHz bandwidth in western Colorado, which could further compound the interoperability problem.

[BEFORE ANY ROUTT COUNTY RESOURCES ARE RELEASED FOR OUT-OF-COUNTY MUTUAL AID, THE RECEIVING COUNTY SHALL ENSURE RADIO INTEROPERABILITY PRIOR TO ENGAGEMENT ON THE FIRE.](#)

DTR MAC Channel 17 shall be used as a hailing and mutual aid channel.

The Northwest Colorado All-Hazards Emergency Management Region used 2006-2007 federal homeland security grant funds to purchase two (2) 800 MHz radio consolettes that have been installed in the CRC. These radio consolettes are to be used to facilitate user interoperability for mutual aid purposes between all dispatch centers in Northwest Colorado and user agencies.

Federal agencies can obtain authority to use this frequency (contact CDFPC for details). Agencies with programmable radios should assign VFIRE 21 frequency to one (1) channel.

For the purposes of conducting business authorized by this cooperative agreement, all parties to this AOP agree that assisting agencies may use the jurisdictional agency's radio frequencies as needed to conduct emergency communications on fires of the jurisdictional agency. No party to this AOP will use, or authorize others to use, another agency's radio frequencies for routine day-to-day operations. FPDs on incident management missions, under the auspices of the County, are granted permission to use federal radio frequencies, if needed, to assure safety of the operation. Refer to Appendix J for radio frequencies specifically authorized for use.

#### M. Wildland Fire Decision Support System

Federal agencies are required to complete a Wildland Fire Decision Support System (hereinafter referred to as “WFDSS”), or the most current wildland fire situation analysis tool, on all fires on federal lands that escape initial attack. The CDFPC FMO or Routt County Emergency Manager should ensure preparation or review and approve the WFDSS for fires that have the potential on private land to be designated an EFF fire or affect multiple jurisdictions and have the potential to go through an extended attack period into a project fire situation.

When a fire is burning on or threatens to burn on multiple jurisdictions, one (1) WFDSS should be prepared that considers all jurisdictions (the whole fire). All jurisdictions impacted by the fire should participate in the WFDSS process.

CDFPC recommends that a WFDSS be completed for all fires that receive a FEMA declaration.

CDFPC requires an EFF Analysis Form (CDFPC 1 – refer to Appendix R) be prepared on non-federal fires that have the potential to exceed County control capabilities.

#### N. State Emergency Fire Fund (EFF)

##### 1. Intent

Routt County is party to the Intergovernmental Agreement for Participation in the Colorado Emergency Fire Fund (hereinafter referred to as “EFF Agreement”). The purpose of the EFF Agreement is to provide funds to cover costs associated with a large fire, or multiple fires on non-federal lands that the resources of the County cannot handle.

When EFF coverage is implemented, CDFPC assumes responsibility and authority for all suppression activity until the fire is returned to County responsibility. However, the County shall maintain a minimum level of participation after EFF is implemented as outlined in section X.M.5.b.

##### 2. Funding

Member counties annually contribute money determined by a formula created in two (2) parts: 1) assessed valuation, and 2) acres within the county.

##### 3. Roles

###### a. CDFPC FMO

Acts on behalf of the Director of Fire Prevention and Control in completing EFF Analysis Form (CDFPC 1) with assistance from the Sheriff or designee for each shift, and preparing CDFPC EFF Funding Request (CDFPC 3) (refer to Appendix R) to ensure the CDFPC Director or designee is aware of local situations and procedures.

b. Routt County Sheriff or Designee

Assist CDFPC FMO in preparing EFF Analysis Form (CDFPC 1) for potential EFF fires; sign Assumption Control Form (CDFPC 4) (refer to Appendix R) for fires that the Director of CDFPC approves for EFF; and serve as County representative on MAC Policy group.

c. Routt County Commissioners

Approve Assumption Control Form (CDFPC 4) for fires that the CDFPC Director or designee approves for EFF. Delay in signing CDFPC 4 may result in increased costs for the County.

d. Other Agencies

Provide Sheriff with personnel and equipment necessary to meet minimum County resource commitment.

4. MAC Group

All EFF fires will utilize a MAC Group consisting of, at a minimum, a Routt County Commissioner (or designee), the Routt County Sheriff (or designee), appropriate fire district representative (or designee), and the CDFPC designee. If land administered by another agency is threatened or involved, that agency will provide a member of the MAC Group as outlined in section IX.G.1. (Suggestion to add a district rep to this group – city council member as appropriate – jurisdictional representative)

5. EFF Activation

Implementation of the EFF can be done only by the CDFPC Director or designee upon the recommendation of the local CDFPC FMO or designee, following a request from the County. For this reason, it is important that the CDFPC Duty Officer be notified immediately via the State Emergency Operations Line at (303-279-8855) 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 CDFPC representative on scene.

a. CDFPC Forms

CDFPC 1 prepared by Routt County Sheriff or designee and CDFPC FMO or designee.

CDFPC 4 prepared by CDFPC FMO or designee with input from Routt County Sheriff or designee.



b. County Responsibility

The minimum Routt County resource commitment for an ongoing EFF fire is two (2) wildland engines, three (3) water tenders, one (1) road grader and one (1) dozer, all with operators (either County provided or under mutual aid agreement). Additionally, Routt County will provide an Incident Command Post (hereinafter referred to as "ICP") and traffic control. It is understood that if the tactics of a given incident do not require some of this equipment, it will not be required on scene as determined by the Incident Commander.

c. EFF/CDFPC Responsibility

CDFPC will provide an Agency Administrator for each EFF fire. CDFPC will act as the fund administrator for all EFF fires.

6. EFF Deactivation

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

a. Mop-Up and Patrol

The County will be responsible for mop-up and patrol, after control of an EFF fire has been transferred back to the County from CDFPC, according to an extended incident action plan.

b. Reclamation

The landowner shall be responsible for funding all reclamation work.

O. Dispatch Centers

Dispatch centers and their areas of responsibility are outlined in Section X.G – Initial Attack Dispatch Levels.

P. Post-Incident Action Analysis

Analysis of incidents will be conducted at a level commensurate with the complexity of the incident.

#### Q. Out-of-Jurisdiction Assignments

All dispatching for interagency wildland fires will be done by CRC. CRC will be the managing agency for personnel and wildland fire resources in the Resource Order Status system (hereinafter referred to as "ROSS").

Due to national dispatch procedures and policies, ALL individuals who may go on an interagency wildfire assignment outside of their jurisdictional area will have to be in ROSS.

ROSS status for ALL Routt County and fire protection district personnel will be managed as follows:

- Individuals that will take assignments as single resources will be web-stated by the Routt County Office of Emergency Management.

## XI. AVIATION PROCEDURES

### A. Aviation Map and Narrative

CRC has aviation hazard maps for Routt County.

### B. Flight Following / Frequency Management

CRC will flight follow per Federal Aviation Administration (hereinafter referred to as "FAA") direction for aircraft ordered through them. If radio communication problems develop, CRC will coordinate with adjacent dispatch centers to provide flight following.

### C. Call When Needed (hereinafter referred to as "CWN") Aircraft, Tactical and Support Aircraft

Beyond the scope of this plan.

### D. Fixed Wing Base Management

There are no permanent air tanker bases in Routt County.

### E. Single Engine Air Tanker (hereinafter referred to as "SEAT") Bases

When a combination of factors or events, as agreed to by the Sheriff and CDFPC, creates a situation that warrants pre-positioning of a SEAT in Routt County, the Sheriff or designee should request pre-positioning through the CDFPC Fire Duty Officer. Factors may include, but are not limited to, multiple starts within a 24-hour period, high occurrence of dry lightning, or persistent Red Flag Warnings. CDFPC will notify participants to this plan when a SEAT is pre-positioned in Routt County.

Each agency should follow its normal resource request procedure to request a SEAT for use on an incident, regardless of whether the SEAT is pre-positioned in Routt County or not.

### F. Lead Plane / Air Attack Activation

The determination to use a lead plane or air attack on an incident will be made by CRC using established dispatch procedures.

### G. Aviation Requests and Operations

Only the responsible official of the jurisdictional agency will make requests for tactical aircraft. For fires on state or private lands, aircraft orders will be made through CRC and will only be accepted from the County Sheriff, Undersheriff, Emergency Management Director, or other authorized agency representatives (refer to Appendix C).

Aircraft identified in Section VI MAY be available as initial attack resources. These aircraft and others are on national contracts. It should be realized that if ordered, aircraft might come from out of state, which could incur costs well beyond those that could be expected when aircraft are located at Rifle or Lakewood.

Ordering National Guard helicopters for wildland fire or medical extraction will be done through the appropriate agency dispatch ordering process to the Rocky Mountain Coordination Center, who will contact DFPC and the State of Colorado Emergency Management Office. Aircraft assigned to an incident shall have the appropriate radios installed and functional along with a letter of authorization for the current year signed by the USFS and DOI. When appropriate, a helicopter manager will be assigned to each aircraft ordered or every two (2) aircraft ordered depending on the type of aircraft and mission(s).

The State of Colorado's Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA) program is comprised of two (2) Pilatus PC-12 airplanes outfitted with state-of-the-art infrared (IR) and color sensors (EO) operated by sensor operators from the DFPC management staff. The primary mission of the program is to provide near real time information to ground forces during initial attack on wildfires. Incident Commanders can order these aircraft to detect and recon wildland fires and aid them in making sound tactical decisions, improving the safety and efficiency of the response. To order the MMA, call the State Emergency Operations Line at (303) 279-8855.

The Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (hereinafter referred to as "WERF") was created to provide funding or reimbursement for the first aerial tanker flight to a wildfire at the request of any sheriff, emergency manager, municipal fire department, or fire protection district. These operating procedures will be updated annually or as changes in the WERF program occur (refer to Appendix L).

All ordering of aircraft will be done through CRC, with the exception of MMA. All aircraft orders made to the RCC will be from personnel listed in Appendix C, and the CRC will consider it a valid request from the County and obligation of County funds for that aircraft. It is preferred that such requests come from RCC. However, if more expedient, the request may come directly from the Emergency Management Director, Sheriff, Undersheriff, or Authorized Agency Representatives listed in Appendix C. The CRC shall immediately notify the appropriate CDFPC FMO or designee whenever a county requests aircraft assistance. Aircraft currently on CRC resource orders can be made available as mutual aid resources.

#### H. Inspection Schedules

No aircraft inspections are scheduled.

## I. Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (WERF)

The WERF was created by the legislature, C.R.S. 24-33.5-1226, to assist local jurisdictions with initial attack on state and private lands within Colorado. Any County Sheriff, municipal fire department, or fire protection district within Colorado, acting as the Requesting Agency, may request reimbursement from this fund. WERF will reimburse, if funds are available, the official Requesting Agency the cost of eligible resources. (Refer to Appendix L for a list of eligible resources.) This fund will be utilized to assist on non-federal lands only.

The CDFPC FMO must be notified immediately if a Requesting Agency is ordering an eligible wildland firefighting resource and is requesting WERF reimbursement for its cost.

Fixed wing aircraft reimbursement does not include lead plane or aerial observer aircraft. Rotary wing aircraft reimbursement does not include costs for additional personnel associated with the helicopter. The fund will not pay for ferry time to import aircraft from outside Colorado. The fund will not pay for aircraft identified as a mutual aid resource in this operating plan.

By agreement with the federal agencies, invoices for aircraft use covered by the fund will be sent to the CDFPC State Office. 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.

CDFPC will closely monitor use of this fund since it is limited in size. Once the fund is exhausted, the CDFPC Director or designee will make a decision to continue or end this effort.

## XII. FIRE PREVENTION

### A. General Cooperative Activities

When cooperating agencies determine that the fire danger warrants, fire prevention/suppression patrols may be initiated. If prevention patrol personnel are signed up as Administratively Determined (hereinafter referred to as "ADs"), they could be required to respond anywhere on the administrative unit. Volunteer patrol personnel will not be required to respond.

### B. Information and Education

#### 1. Fire Danger Information

##### a. Fire Weather Station Locations

USFS maintains remote automatic weather stations (hereinafter referred to as "RAWS") at Dry Lake (hereinafter referred to as "Dry Lake RAWS #50207") and Lynx Pass (hereinafter referred to as "Porcupine RAWS #50406"). Fire weather and fuels information from these stations should be similar to most of the lodgepole pine type in Routt County.

##### b. Data Sharing and Methods

The CRC monitors local fire danger levels. This information is available on the website at <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/gjt/Forecasts/firewx.php>.

##### c. Fire Danger Dissemination

Between 1600 and 1630 hours CRC will broadcast / fax fire danger rating with weather forecast and predicted fire danger rating for the next day. Forecasts are available on the website after 10:00 a.m. at [http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch\\_centers/r2crc/predictive/intelligence/dailybrief1.pdf](http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2crc/predictive/intelligence/dailybrief1.pdf).

##### d. Fire Prevention Signs

Each agency will determine when and where to place fire prevention signs.

## 2. Joint or Single Agency Press Releases

Each agency will prepare and release fire prevention material and media presentations according to its own prevention plans. Coordination with other agencies should be maintained in order to prevent a conflict in released material. Where pertinent, all news releases for fire prevention will carry a USFS, CDFPC, BLM, FPD, Routt County Office of Emergency Management, or Routt County Sheriff by-line.

## 3. Smokey Bear Program

Cooperating agencies may purchase Smokey Bear materials through USFS. The FPDs where Smokey signs are installed will need to update the fire danger ratings as appropriate by checking the Craig Interagency website home page.

## 4. "Firewise" Communities Program

This program is currently being used in Routt County.

## 5. Red Flag Announcements

The NWS periodically issues a Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning. When these bulletins are announced, CRC will notify the RCC via fax. RCC broadcasts these to the FPDs. RCC announces to all responding fire units the current Red Flag status.

## C. Engineering

### 1. Land Use Planning (Wildland-Urban Interface)

Routt County recommends that a wildfire hazard review be conducted by CSFS and the FPD on all proposed subdivisions. In the City of Steamboat Springs, Steamboat Springs Area Fire Protection District, Oak Creek FPD, and West Routt FPD wildfire mitigation will be done in accordance with the International Fire Code (hereinafter referred to as "IFC") adopted by the FPD.

### 2. Railroads and Utilities

No formal inspections or requirements.

## D. Enforcement

### 1. Issuing Open Burning Permits (Health and Air Quality)

A burn permit is required in Routt County for open burning within the County, with some exceptions (refer to Appendix W – Routt County Open Burning Management Plan). For prescribed burns the jurisdictional agency will follow agency-prescribed fire policy and procedures and notify RCC and CRC. Such notification should include the location, timing, and nature of prescribed burns.

### 2. Restrictions and Closures

The purpose of fire restrictions and closures is to reduce the risk of human-caused fires during unusually high fire danger and/or burning conditions, and for the protection of human life and property. Fire restrictions impose many limitations on the general public, and therefore should be implemented only after all other prevention measures have been taken. These measures may include, but are not limited to: increasing the number of prevention signs; public contacts; media campaigns; and other proactive outreach and public education efforts. Fire restrictions should be considered when high to extreme fire danger is predicted to persist. Other considerations are the level of human-caused fire occurrences being experienced, firefighting resources available, potential high-risk occasions (4th of July, etc.), and fire activity occurring on a large landscape. Restrictions should not be considered the equivalent of a prevention program.

Fire restrictions and closures can be invoked on federal, state, and private lands under federal and state laws. Agency administrators are responsible for coordinating with other agencies including, but not limited to all federal land management agencies, CDFPC, Colorado State Parks, county sheriffs, county offices of emergency management, and local fire departments. Agency administrators issue appropriate documents and are responsible for enforcing restrictions and closures for those lands on which they have jurisdiction. Restrictions and closure procedures should attempt to be uniform across administrative and geographic boundaries. Public information about restrictions shall be broad-based, clear, and coordinated. Routt County utilizes the Craig Interagency Fire Restriction Plan to ensure scientific data is gathered for the recommended restriction.

Exemptions to fire restrictions in Routt County may be granted as allowed by the Routt County Fire Restriction Plan (Ordinance Number 2013-2) (refer to Appendix U).

Annually, the parties to the AOP shall review and validate the restriction and closure procedures and monitor the previous year's use of the procedures to ensure restrictions and closures are implemented consistently. At this time the parties will also evaluate and coordinate fire prevention, education, and outreach efforts. Any changes in agency contacts or administrators will be documented, with the development or amendment of a



contact/ communications plan. All press releases, description of stages, and other necessary agency documents will be available in template format before the start of the fire season. Development and issuance of news releases will be coordinated with all agencies for any implementation or rescission of fire restrictions or area closures.

When the conditions within an area approach threshold levels, appropriate agency personnel make recommendations to agency administrators, who in turn should consult with each other and initiate coordinated restrictions/ closure procedures. These threshold levels should be determined by all wildland management agencies in the county before the onset of fire season and will become part of the AOP. The planning process for restrictions will include a public awareness campaign, keeping the media and public informed of the possibility of restrictions and/or closures.

In the case of any restrictions on burning or public movements because of extreme fire danger, either by Governor's proclamation or by local county ordinance, the fire protection district chief is responsible for enforcement on all non-federal lands within their district, and outside of a fire protection district the Routt County Emergency Manager after consultation with the Routt County Sheriff on all non-federal lands.

### 3. Fire Investigations

The jurisdictional agency will have primary responsibility for fire investigation, and any civil or criminal follow-up actions taken. Additionally, however, the jurisdictional agency will keep other responding agencies informed of the status of its investigations and legal actions.

Fire cause determination is required for EFF incidents and REQUIRED for Federal Emergency Management Agency (hereinafter referred to as "FEMA") incidents.

### XIII. FUELS MANAGEMENT AND PRESCRIBED FIRE CONSIDERATIONS

The agencies agree to cooperate in the development and implementation of prescribed burning programs and projects by managing the fire for multiple objectives and resource benefit (prescribed natural as well as planned or unplanned ignition).

Wildfires resulting from escaped prescribed fires ignited by a party to this AOP 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 AOP 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.

#### XIV. COST REIMBURSEMENTS

Suppression costs will be determined on an operational period basis utilizing the Incident Action Plan (hereinafter referred to as “IAP”) when a fire is accepted by the State as an EFF incident.

##### A. Reimbursable Costs

Reimbursable assistance refers to those resources that are to be paid for by the protecting agency. Reimbursable assistance resources shall be requested by the protecting agency or supplied through automatic or mutual aid systems and shall be recorded by the resource order process within the dispatching systems of both the protecting agency and supporting agencies or documented by the Incident Commander in the fire report. Resources not documented in this manner are not reimbursable. Except as otherwise provided, all costs incurred as the result of an incident and documented as stated above are generally reimbursable.

When a fire occurs on lands of more than one (1) agency, and cost are incurred in addition to the initial attack, reimbursement will be based on a mutually agreed upon cost share agreement.

No non-federal employee will be eligible for “Hazard Pay,” per the Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook.

##### B. Reimbursement Procedures

The County shall aggregate expenses incurred by the County and FPDs to suppress fires on federal jurisdictions, and shall present an invoice for such expenses to CDFPC State Office, who will then reimburse the County and subsequently bill the jurisdictional federal agency or agencies. The County shall reimburse the FPDs for their share of expenses incurred as per the Fifth Amended and Restated Memorandum of Understanding (Intergovernmental Agreement) dated January 27, 2013 (refer to Appendix B).

Federal agencies may submit bills and statements for reimbursements from the County for federal suppression on non-federal lands to CDFPC. CDFPC will make such reimbursement and subsequently invoice the County as appropriate.

Request for CDFPC reimbursement will be sent to the CDFPC Fort Collins office within thirty (30) days after incident resources are released. All invoices are required to have proper documentation before the process for payment can be completed. This will include information on personnel time, equipment time, and rates of pay (refer to Appendices K, L, M, N, O and S). The CDFPC State Office will attempt to make payment as soon as possible after receiving the invoice.

### C. Resource Use Rates

CDFPC equipment use rates are computed annually. These rates apply to CDFPC equipment, including those currently assigned to individual fire districts and those contracted with fire districts. A statewide Fire Equipment Agreement is in place for all CDFPC equipment.

Fire Protection District and County equipment will be reimbursed at the rates shown on the attached CRRFs (refer to Appendix F). If no CRRF form is attached then the reimbursement rate will default to Appendix E rates. These rates would apply to reimbursements for both federal and County incidents.

CDFPC FIRE EQUIPMENT USE RATES (refer to Appendix G)

USFS FIRE EQUIPMENT USE RATES

FPD, COUNTY EQUIPMENT USE RATES (refer to Appendix F)

USE RATES

CRRFs between state and federal agencies and FPDs for equipment and personnel listed in the AOP will need to be completed every three (3) years. Costs for equipment not covered by such an agreement may not be reimbursed by the jurisdictional agency unless rates are mutually agreed to, in writing, at the time of hire. Rates will be based on the Fire Business Management Handbook.

Certain positions are not entitled to specific hazard pay differentials because the hazard has been considered in the classification of the position.

For agency full-time paid employees: Personnel shall be reimbursed at the actual cost (e.g., salary, medical, FICA, retirement, worker's comp, life/disability benefits, etc.) to the assisting agency. Outside volunteers shall be hired by a federal agency as casuals (ADs) in order to be paid.

For reserve (volunteer) emergency workers: Refer to agency CRRF forms for personnel costs (refer to Appendix F). If there is no approved CRRF form, FPD personnel will be paid at the current Administrative Decision (hereinafter referred to as "AD") rate, including time and a half after 40 hours, plus indirect costs.

## XV. GENERAL PROCEDURES

### A. Periodic Program Review

Program reviews will be conducted at the AOP meeting in January.

### B. Annual Updating of AOP

The AOP will be reviewed and updated annually. A meeting of cooperating agencies will be held no later than the first week of March each year. The updated AOP will be circulated for signatures prior to April 1st.

### C. Changes During Year

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

### D. Resolution of Disputes Procedure

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