

MOFFAT COUNTY WILDLAND FIRE OPERATING PLAN

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PREAMBLE

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

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Fire Operating Plan (OP) is to set forth standard operating procedures, agreed upon procedures, and responsibilities to implement cooperative wildfire protection on all lands within Moffat County. This plan addresses only wildfire incidents.

Participants in this OP consist of the following:

- Moffat County Sheriff on behalf of the County
- Moffat County Board of County Commissioners
- Medicine Bow - Routt National Forest and Thunder Basin National Grassland (USFS)
- White River National Forest (USFS)
- Little Snake Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- White River Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Dinosaur National Monument (NPS)
- Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS)
- Artesia Fire Protection District
- Craig Fire Protection District
- Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC)

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

AUTHORITIES

- Colorado Statewide Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement Between:
 - United State Department of the Interior
 - Bureau of Land Management – Colorado
 - National Park Service – Intermountain Region
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs – Southwest Region
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife -COLO_COOP_2021-FF06R03000
 - United States Department of Agriculture
 - Forest Service – Rocky Mountain Region Agreement Number 21-FI-11020000-001
 - Forest Service – MBRTB Agreement Number 21-FO-11020600-049
- Moffat County Memorandum of Understanding For Participation in the Colorado Emergency Fire Fund
- Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection in Moffat County

RECITALS

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

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

Protecting Agencies implements the actions documented and directed by the appropriate planning documents and decision support documents for initial and extended attack on wildfire incidents. They provide the supervision and support including operational oversight, direction and logistical support to Incident Management Teams.

INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

Jurisdictional Roles

FIRE PROTECTION RESPONSIBILITIES

Each jurisdictional agency has ultimate responsibility for wildfire protection on its own lands. The Sheriff is responsible for wildfire protection on all non-federal lands in Moffat County, not incorporated in a fire protection district.

Interagency Dispatch Centers

Craig Interagency Dispatch Center (CRC) will act as dispatch for Moffat County Sheriff's Office initial response. The agency that can take the quickest effective fire response will be dispatched for initial response. The jurisdictional agency will assume command of the incident at the earliest possible time. Notification of all other agencies that are, or may be affected, is the responsibility of the CRC.

MAC GROUP (Multi Agency Coordination)

Local MAC Group: If a fire threatens to cross-jurisdictional boundaries and could become a multi-agency fire, a local MAC Group will be formed. The purpose of the MAC Group will be to meet as a group and identify policies, objectives, and strategy, resulting in one common set of objectives given to a single incident commander for tactical implementation. It will also be the responsibility of the LMAC Group to determine cost sharing for multi-jurisdictional fires.

The LMAC Group may consist of:

- Moffat County Commissioner's Office.
- Moffat County Sheriff's Office: Sheriff or their designee.
- Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control or their designee.
- Medicine Bow - Routt National Forest – Routt Zone: Routt FMO or their designee.
- White River National Forest or their designee
- Dinosaur National Monument: Monument Superintendent or their designee.
- Bureau of Land Management-Little Snake and/or White River Field Manager(s) or their designee
- Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge: Complex Project Leader or their designee
- Chief of Artesia FPD or their designee.

INITIAL RESPONSE DISPATCH LEVELS

Initial response dispatch levels are not predetermined in Moffat County but are based on the availability of personnel at the time of dispatch.

MUTUAL AID DISPATCH AREAS BY DISPATCH LEVEL

All dispatches will be made based on the closest forces capable of responding to the incident.

MUTUAL AID MOVE-UP AND COVER FACILITIES

Move up and cover procedures will be requested and coordinated through CRC

REINFORCEMENTS AND SUPPORT

The Incident Commander, using appropriate ordering procedures as follows, will make all requests for additional resources beyond initial response:

Moffat County Sheriff, Routt National Forest, BLM, NPS, USFWS, and DFPC will order through CRC. Fire Protection Districts will be dispatched through Craig Regional Communications Center (CRCC).

Interagency Resources

A Directory of Agency Representatives is located in **Exhibit A**.

Standards

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM USE

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

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

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

QUALIFICATIONS

Red cards are not required for initial attack by some non-federal resources, but firefighters without red cards will be the first ones released by the jurisdictional agency. In most cases this will occur no later than the next operational period.

Personnel responding to incidents on BLM Lands must meet the following requirements;

- Be 18 years of age or older;
- Have and use required personal protective equipment (PPE) found in chapter 7 of the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Red Book); and
- Hold the qualification of NWCG Firefighter Type 2.

If responders are not NWCG qualified during the mutual aid periods, each agency is responsible

for their own personnel and resources.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

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

EQUIPMENT INSPECTION SCHEDULES

Equipment will be inspected based on need as determined by the agency responsible for such equipment. All DFPC and cooperator engines subject to interagency fire use will be inspected, both engine and equipment, to ensure use and road worthiness.

PREPAREDNESS

Protection Planning

This OP is the only County Interagency plan in use for Moffat County and addresses only wildland fire.

Protection Areas and Boundaries

The BLM map, (1/2" = 1 mile) is used to show jurisdictional boundaries for the purpose of this plan. The Moffat County Sheriff is responsible for wild fire control on all state and private lands within Moffat County. On federal lands, the agency charged with managing those lands is responsible for fire management.

Reciprocal (Mutual Aid) Fire Assistance

In the event a fire occurs within Moffat County the closest forces concept will be used. It is agreed that there should be no delay in response pending determination of the precise location of the fire, land ownership or responsibility. Upon receiving the report of a fire CRC or CRCC will dispatch initial response forces and notify the jurisdictional agency. Once ownership has been determined, the responsible agency shall relieve the personnel of the assisting agency at the earliest possible time.

The mutual aid period is defined as the time of initial dispatch and ends at either midnight of the first operational period or midnight of the second operational period. All mutual aid periods will preferably end at midnight for ease of financial accounting and the development of cost share agreements.

Each agency will make its personnel and equipment available upon request to the other agencies. It is understood however, 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.

MUTUAL AID RESOURCES

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 federal, state, and local resources are considered

mutual aid. The Jurisdictional Agency will not be required to reimburse the Supporting Agency(s) for costs incurred following the initial dispatch of any ground and aviation resources to the fire for the duration of the mutual aid period. Assistance beyond the Mutual Aid period will be reimbursable assistance, and the Supporting Agency may bill the Jurisdictional Agency for resources assigned to the fire outside the Mutual Aid period. It is understood that no supporting Agency will be required to assist, or expected to commit resources to a Jurisdictional Agency.

RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

The primary purpose of this operating plan is to ensure prompt response to wildland fires. Any interagency dispute arising from these procedures will be resolved on site by the LMAC/MAC Group. 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 disputes.

Acquisition of Services

N/A

Joint Projects and Project Plans

MOBILIZATION GUIDES

CRC maintains a mobilization guide. This guide may be useful to the county for obtaining private sector wildland fire resources.

LAND USE PLANNING (WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE)

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) have been completed for communities in Moffat County. The completed plans include: Knez Divide, Baker's Peak, Wilderness Ranch and Greystone. Information regarding CWPPs can be found on the Colorado State Forest Service website: <https://csfs.colostate.edu/>.

Fire Prevention

A. GENERAL COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES

When cooperating agencies determine that a high enough fire danger warrants them, fire prevention/suppression patrols may be initiated. If prevention patrol personnel are signed up as AD's, they could be required to respond within Moffat County. Volunteer patrol personnel will not be required to respond.

B. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

1. FIRE DANGER

a. FIRE WEATHER STATION LOCATIONS

There are 4 remote automatic weather stations for use in Moffat County; Ladore (BLM), Dinosaur (NPS), Great Divide (BLM) and Calico (BLM).

b. DATA SHARING AND METHODS

CRC and local FMOs monitors local fire danger levels. This information is available to local cooperators upon request. Daily Situation Statistics are on the web site: http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2crc/.

c. DAILY BRIEFINGS

During fire season, CRC prepares a daily briefing that includes weather forecasts, resource status, and incident status. Participation in the daily

briefing via conference call can be made by calling 1-877-428-9134 and the passcode is 170902. This is available by 10 A.M. on the internet at: http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2crc/

- d. **FIRE DANGER DISSEMINATION**
CRC will broadcast the fire weather forecast between 1600 -1630 daily, during the fire season. Morning weather and fire danger will be available at Daily Briefing or on the CRC web page.
 - e. **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 USFS, DFPC, BLM, NPS, USFWS, fire district or county sheriff by-line.
 3. **"FIREWISE" PROGRAMS**
This program is available through the CSFS and other cooperating agencies.
 4. **RED FLAG ANNOUNCEMENTS**
The National Weather Service in Grand Junction periodically issues "RED FLAG" warning bulletins and fire weather watches. When these bulletins are announced, CRC will notify the Moffat County Sheriff's Office, Craig Regional Communication Center (CRCC), and the DFPC NW Regional Battalion Chief. These dispatches are also broadcast on the BLM/USFS radio frequencies.

Public Use Restrictions

Fire restrictions and closures should be coordinated to include private, state, and federal lands when possible. Refer to the Craig Interagency Fire Operating and Preparedness Plan (FDOP). Jurisdictional agencies should jointly prepare and promptly distribute media releases concerning the closure. In the case of any restrictions on burning or public movements because of extreme fire danger, either by Governor's proclamation or by local issue, the county sheriff will be responsible for enforcement on all non-federal lands, and may assist on other lands at the request of the appropriate agency.

Burning Permits

No burn permit is required in Moffat County for open burning within the County, except during restrictions or closures. For prescribed burns the jurisdictional agency will follow agency prescribed fire policy and procedures, and notify Moffat County Sheriff's Office and CRC. Such notification should include the location, timing, and nature of prescribed burns.

Prescribed Fire (Planned Ignitions) and Fuels Management

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

Wildfires resulting from escaped prescribed fires, ignited by, or at the direction of, or under the supervision of any party to this agreement, shall be the responsibility of that party, and all suppression costs shall be borne by that party. The party responsible for the escaped 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.

Smoke Management

N/A

OPERATIONS

Fire Notifications

Initial attack resources will ensure that the jurisdictional agency is promptly notified of a fire through the appropriate dispatch center. The County Sheriff and/or the appropriate FPD will be notified of wildland fires or wildfires occurring in their jurisdiction. If the fire is on or threatening state or private land, and is expected to exceed the control capabilities of the County, the DFPC Battalion Chief will be notified. If the fire is on land managed by BLM, NPS, Routt National Forest, White River National Forest or USFWS, Craig Regional Communications Center will notify CRC.

DETECTION

Craig Regional Communication Center (CRCC) will receive reports of wildland fires from the public and will notify Craig Interagency Dispatch Center (CRC) and the responsible jurisdictional agency representative. CRC will in return notify CRCC of all wildland fires in Moffat County.

Boundary Line Fires

Boundary fires include (i) a fire burning jointly on two or more agencies lands, or will soon burn across the boundary, when the boundary line is known, (ii) when the fire location is known, but the jurisdictional boundary on the ground is unknown, or (iii) when the location of a reported fire is uncertain in relation to the jurisdictional boundary.

Response to Wildland Fire

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Federal agencies and their associated jurisdictions operate under the following approved fire management plans: Northwest Colorado Fire Management Plan, Dinosaur National Monument Fire Management Plan, Routt National Forest Fire Management Plan and White River National Forest Fire Management Plan. These plans outline appropriate management responses which allows for full suppression through wildland fire for resource benefit. The appropriate management response within designated Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, "roadless" areas, and/or other areas identified for the full range of appropriate management responses as outlined in the fire management plans, will be conducted under the direction of the jurisdictional federal official.

All unplanned fires on federal land require a response and a decision. This is best communicated with clear objectives and an "incident strategy". The incident strategy should be based on the following criteria:

- Should lead to meeting the objectives

- Risk to firefighters (Life First Concepts/Risk Management – probability and the consequences of fire impacting values at risk vs. the risk to firefighters put in place to mitigate the risk of fire impacting values.)
- Fuels, Weather and Topography influencing the fire and the anticipated spread of the fire
- Values truly at Risk: Communities, Infrastructure, Watersheds, Social, Ecological, Cultural, etc.
- Partner agencies and their objectives (if the fire is or is expected to be multi-jurisdictional)
- Cost of meeting objectives
- Smoke Management: Coordination with the States and monitoring
- Desired conditions (outlined in a Land Management Plan or other documents)
- Resource Availability
- Fire modelling Tools
- Seasonality – duration of fire/change in conditions

Agency Administrators and Fire Managers should assess the criteria above and then develop a strategy to successfully manage the fire, and meet objectives. The strategy may use natural barriers, changes in weather, fuel changes or rely heavily on the efforts of firefighters and aircraft. It could be a combination of all these elements.

Use of mechanized equipment such as bulldozers, graders, etc., will not be permitted on federal lands, without the expressed approval of the appropriate federal official.

MOFFAT COUNTY SHERIFF

The Moffat County Sheriff's Office will use as a reference the Moffat County Wildland Fire Management Plan for the fire season.

Fires managed for multiple objectives on private land will be managed on a case-by-case basis involving the private landowner, the Sheriff's Office, the County Commissioners and the applicable management agencies.

FIRE OPERATIONS IN BEETLE KILL STANDS

Moffat County has a significant amount of beetle killed trees. Due to altered fuel conditions from these trees, 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* should be utilized when personnel are operating within the bark beetle environment. These guidelines can be found in Craig Interagency Field Ops Guide or on the Craig Interagency Dispatch website located at: https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2crc/index.htm

REPAIR OF WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION DAMAGE

Repair of fireline suppression damage is the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency. 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. On non-federal lands, including State lands, Moffat County is not responsible for repair of fireline suppression damage.

Decision Process

Federal agencies are required to complete an appropriate decision support tool for all wildfires that escape initial attack on federally managed lands, to determine the appropriate response. This

is done via the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS). This procedure requires Federal Agency Administrator participation. All agencies involved in initial attack should assist in the completion of the decision support tool. If there is a multiple ownership non-EFF fire with federal lands involved, the appropriate federal decision support tool will be prepared that incorporates federal, state, county and private land interests.

DFPC requires an Analysis Form (**DFPC1 attached as Exhibit B**) to be prepared on non-federal fires that have the potential to exceed county control capabilities. The Sheriff will use this form to help determine if a fire might be eligible for EFF.

Cooperation

N/A

Communication

In order to assist each of the cooperators and provide for a timely and safe response in the suppression of wildfires, each agency authorizes the use of their radio frequencies with cooperating agencies during suppression efforts.

Cost efficiency

N/A

Delegation of Authority

N/A

Preservation of Evidence

The jurisdictional agency will have primary responsibility for fire investigation, and any civil or criminal follow up actions taken. Fire origin and cause determination is required for EFF, FEMA incidents and all human caused fires on Federal lands.

All fire investigations will be conducted jointly by agencies having jurisdiction. Additionally, the jurisdictional agency will keep other responsible agencies informed of the status of its investigations and legal actions.

STATE EMERGENCY FIRE FUND (EFF)

1. INTENT

Moffat County is a participant in the EFF Agreement with DFPC. 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 is implemented, DFPC assumes responsibility and authority for all suppression activity until the fire is returned to county responsibility; however, the county must maintain a minimum level of participation after EFF is implemented as outlined in section IX.M.5.b.

2. FUNDING

Member counties contribute money annually, based on a DFPC assessment that considers the number of forested acres and valuation of private land.

3. ROLES

DFPC BATTALION CHIEF

Act for DFPC Director in the absence of an assigned Incident Agency Administrator; assist Sheriff in completing DFPC Analysis Form (DFPC1) for each shift; prepare DFPC Fire Funding Request (DFPC2); assure DFPC Director or their designee is aware of local situations and procedures.

MOFFAT COUNTY SHERIFF

Prepare DFPC Analysis Form (DFPC1) for potential EFF fires; sign Assumption of Fire Control Duty Form (DFPC3) for fires that the DFPC Director or his designee approves for EFF; serve as county representative on LMAC group.

MOFFAT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Approve Assumption of Fire Control Duty Form (DFPC3) for fires that the DFPC Director or his designee approves for EFF.

OTHER AGENCIES

Provide Sheriff with personnel and equipment necessary to meet minimum county resource commitment for EFF.

4. LMAC MAC GROUP

All EFF fires will utilize a LMAC Group consisting of, at a minimum, Moffat County Sheriff, DFPC and a representative from the jurisdictional fire district. If land administered by another agency is threatened or involved, that agency will provide a member of the LMAC Group as outlined in section IX.G.1.

5. EFF ACTIVATION

Implementation of the Emergency Fire Fund (EFF) can happen only upon request from the County, and mutual agreement of both County and DFPC. For this reason, it is important that the DFPC Fire Management Officer be notified immediately of 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 happen only with a DFPC representative on scene.

DFPC FORMS

- DFPC 1 prepared by Moffat County Sheriff and DFPC Battalion Chief
- DFPC 3 prepared by DFPC Battalion Chief with input from Moffat County Sheriff.
- WFDSS prepared by Incident Line Officer with input from DFPC Battalion Chief and Sheriff.

COUNTY RESPONSIBILITY

The minimum Moffat County resource commitment for an ongoing EFF fire is one engine, one water tender, one chase truck and two maintainers all staffed appropriately. Additionally, Moffat County will ensure an incident command post and traffic control is provided. 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.

EFF/DFPC RESPONSIBILITY

DFPC will provide an Agency Administrator for each EFF fire. DFPC will act as the fund

administrator for all EFF fires.

6. EFF DEACTIVATION

DFPC will transfer control of an EFF fire back to Moffat 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.

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 DFPC, according to an extended incident action plan.

USE AND REIMBURSEMENT OF INTERAGENCY FIRE RESOURCES

Cost Share Agreement (Cost Share Methodologies)

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

Training

Standard approved fire training courses are provided periodically by DFPC, USFS, BLM, NPS, USFWS and other agencies. As these courses are scheduled, all cooperators will be informed and invited to participate. Training needs of all agencies within the County should be considered and priorities identified.

Communication Systems

See Operations, Response to Wildland Fire, Communications

Fire Weather Systems

See Fire Prevention Section B.1. a.

Aviation Operations

AVIATION MAP AND NARRATIVE

Federal agencies have mapped aviation hazards in their fire management action plans. This map is included in their fire management plan. Moffat County and DFPC have not developed an aviation map.

FLIGHT FOLLOWING/FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT

CRC will flight follow for aircraft ordered through them. If radio communication problems develop, CRC will coordinate with adjacent dispatch centers to provide flight following.

CWN (Call When Needed) AIRCRAFT

Moffat County has entered into an agreement with Mountain Airspray to conduct initial attack operations using a privately-owned single engine airtanker. This CWN SEAT will be used only when a fire occurs on County or FPD jurisdictional lands. Moffat County will maintain Operational Control of this CWN SEAT. CRC dispatch will be notified by a county representative if this CWN

SEAT has been placed in service.

FIXED WING BASE MANAGEMENT

Moffat County will not manage or control an air tanker base in Moffat County.

SINGLE ENGINE AIR TANKER (SEAT) BASES

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

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

MULTI-MISSION AIRCRAFT (MMA)

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

LEAD PLANE/AIR ATTACK ACTIVATION

The determination to use a lead plane or air attack will be made in accordance with national policy.

AVIATION REQUESTS AND OPERATIONS

All Federal and State aircraft will be ordered through CRC. The IC of the jurisdictional agency may make requests for tactical aircraft. Current and potential threats and values at risk should be provided to CRC upon ordering of aircraft. There is an aviation request form that provides guidance for aircraft ordering in the CRC Field Ops Guide.

It should be realized that if ordered, aircraft may come from out of state, which could incur costs well beyond those that could be expected when aircraft are located within Colorado.

The primary way to order aircraft for initial attack incidents is on the radio through the applicable Interagency Dispatch Center. The order should be made on the federal incident command frequency/channel found in the Craig Field Operations Guide. This will help confirm that ground resources on the incident have communication with incoming aviation resources.

WILDFIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

The Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (WERF) is funded annually. WERF is a reimbursement program and always contingent on available funding. The County Sheriff and/or his designee as listed in **Exhibit A** to the CRC will be considered a valid request from the county and obligation of county funds for that first aircraft under WERF. Any aircraft use or orders beyond the scope of WERF is entirely the responsibility of the requesting agency / individual unless otherwise specified in a Cost Share Agreement. FPDs are not bound by Moffat County Resolutions.

COLORADO FIREFIGHTING AIR CORPS

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

Billing Procedures

REIMBURSABLE COSTS

Costs incurred by an assisting agency for services that exceed initial attack shall be considered reimbursable. These services must be requested by the jurisdictional agency through their dispatch center or documented by the incident commander in the fire report. Resources not documented by a resource order number or by the incident commander may not be reimbursable. A written cost-share agreement on multi-jurisdictional incidents will be completed as soon as possible. A sample cost-share agreement and guideline is attached as **Exhibit D**.

For the purpose of Cost Share Agreements, WFDSS will be used to calculate acreage based upon land ownership.

REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURES

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 subsequently bill the jurisdictional federal agency or agencies.

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

All DFPC cooperators (non-Federal) subject to DFPC reimbursement will have invoices sent to the DFPC Finance Division in Fort Collins within 30 days after incident resources are released. The DFPC Finance Division will attempt to make payment as soon as possible after receiving the invoice. 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, rates of pay and resource order.

DFPC FIRE EQUIPMENT USE RATES

Cooperative Resource Rate forms (CRRF) between DFPC, the County, FPDs and VFDs will be completed every year to establish use rates for their equipment. Costs for equipment not covered by a CRRF may not be reimbursed by the jurisdictional agency. Reimbursement to the cooperator for full-time employees will be at current department pay rates. Pay rates for department members and others employed on an incident-by-incident basis will be documented per the procedures established in the Cooperator Reimbursement Guidelines.

Cost Recovery

N/A

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Personnel Policy

N/A

Modification

Modifications within the scope of this Operating Plan shall be made by mutual consent of the Parties, through the issuance of a written modification signed and dated by all Parties prior to any changes being performed. Any Party shall have the right to terminate their participation under this Operating Plan by providing six months' written notice to the other Parties.

Annual Review

This Operating Plan will remain current until a revised Operating Plan is signed by all parties. It is recommended that all parties meet annually to review the OP to ensure all parties are in agreement and to foster continuing cooperation.

Duration of Agreement

This Operating Plan is executed as of the date of last signature and remains in effect for five years unless modified or superseded. If the current Colorado Statewide Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement is superseded by a new Agreement, this Operating Plan may remain in effect to the extent that it does not conflict with provisions of the new Agreement, but only until such time that all activities and conditions can be incorporated into a new Operating Plan.

Previous Agreements Superseded

All prior plans are hereby superseded.

SIGNATURES

Authorized Representatives

MOFFAT COUNTY SIGNATURES

Donald Broom

2/22/2022

Moffat County Board of County Commissioners

Date

KC Hume

2/17/2022

Moffat County Sheriff

Date

COLORADO DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL SIGNATURE

Derrick Charpentier

2/17/2022

Yampa River Battalion Chief

Date

FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY SIGNATURES

Scott Fitzwilliams 3/3/2022
United States Forest Service, White River National Forest Date

Rick Maestas 2/17/2022
United States Forest Service Grants and Agreements Date

Russell M Bacon 3/3/2022
United States Forest Service, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest Date

Elijah Waters 2/17/2022
Bureau of Land Management, NW District Manager Date

Paul Scolari 3/2/2022
National Park Service, Dinosaur National Monument Date

Robert Bundy 2/17/2022
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Lower Green River NWR Complex Date

LOCAL FIRE AGENCIES SIGNATURES



Craig Fire Protection District

2/19/2022

Date

Artesia Fire Protection District

Date

EXHIBITS

- A. DIRECTORY OF PERSONNEL AND AUTHORIZED AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES
- B. DFPC FORM 1 – DFPC ANALYSIS FORM
- C. MMA ORDER FORM
- D. COST SHARE AGREEMENT DOCUMENTATION

EXHIBIT A

DIRECTORY OF PERSONNEL AND AUTHORIZED AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

EXHIBIT B

EFF ANALYSIS FORM

(Complete this form daily, as appropriate, based on the fire situation)

Date: _____ Time: _____ County: _____ Fire Name: _____

Location: Lat/Long _____ Legal: T__ R__ Section(s) _____

	Current		Predicted	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
I. Resources				
a. Has the normal mutual aid network been fully implemented?				
b. Has the County committed all of its wildland resources defined in the County operating plan?				
c. Have aviation resources been ordered?				
d. Is the fire beyond the capability of local management team?				
e. Is water supply limiting suppression efforts?				
f. Is there a need for Interagency Regional or National resources?				
g. Is the availability of additional resources hampering suppression efforts?				
II. Values at Risk				
a. Is the general public threatened?				
b. Are structures threatened?				
c. Are there unusually hazardous firefighting conditions?				
d. Are historical values at risk?				
e. Does the fire involve mixed land ownership?				
f. Is critical infrastructure threatened?				
III. Fire Behavior				
a. Is fire behavior dictating an indirect control strategy?				
b. Is extreme fire behavior present?				

	Current		Predicted	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
c. Is the 1000-hour fuel moisture below 12%?				
d. Is the fuel type and condition conducive to rapid spread?				
e. Is accessibility limiting suppression efforts?				
f. Is the rate of spread beyond the suppression capability of local resources?				
g. Is fire burning on slope greater than 30%?				
IV. Fire Weather				
a. Are wind speeds greater than 20 mph?				
b. Is the temperature above seasonal average for fire location?				
c. Is the RH below 15%?				
d. Are there any critical fire weather events?				
V. Other Considerations				
a. Are there political or economic concerns?				
b. Are non-fire incidents occurring which have an impact on fire operations?				
c. Is additional aviation management or oversight needed?				
d.				
e.				
VI. Totals	A	B	C	D

Current (A) __ + Predicted (C) __ = ____
 Current (B) __ + Predicted (D) __ = ____

To qualify for EFF answers must reflect a total local level commitment to the fire.

Total of Columns A + C must be equal to or greater than 35.

 Sheriff or Designee's Signature

 DFPC Director or Designee's Signature

EXHIBIT C

TO ORDER MMA AIRCRAFT**CALL CSP DISPATCH @ 303-279-8855 and ask for DFPC DUTY OFFICER**

Request Date: _____

Request Time: _____

MISSION REQUESTED			
Date Needed			Time Needed
Incident Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire	<input type="checkbox"/> Other-Specify:	Incident Name
Mission Profile Requested	<input type="checkbox"/> Color & Infrared Sensor		
	Specific Needs: <input type="checkbox"/> Perimeter <input type="checkbox"/> Spot Fires <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Location/Detection		
	<input type="checkbox"/> All Hazard		
<input type="checkbox"/> Point to Point Transportation			
MISSION REQUESTOR INFORMATION (Sheriff, Fire Chief, FMO etc.)			
Requestor Name, Title and Agency		Requestor Phone, Email and/or Radio Frequency	
INCIDENT CONTACT INFORMATION			
Name			Phone Number
Incident Position			
Ground Contact Name			Radio Frequency
Air Contact Name			Radio Frequency
INTELLIGENCE REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS			
** (Specify what intel, to who/where, and how you want it sent from the plane to ground) **			
INCIDENT LOCATION INFORMATION			
County			
General Location			
Latitude (specify format)			
Longitude (specify format)			
Bearing	Distance	From	
OTHER INCIDENT AIRSPACE INFORMATION			
Other Known Aerial Hazards			
Special Use Airspace			
Military Training Route			
Military Operations Area			

EXHIBIT D

Cost Share Agreement Documentation

Negotiating cost share agreements within the State of Colorado has been delegated to the respective unit administrators in the Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement. County officials must also be included. Cost share agreements are to be documented, including the basis or rationale used. The following guidelines should be considered when negotiating a cost share agreement. These are intended to help field personnel in negotiating an equitable agreement and are not intended to be mandatory.

Unit Administrator (Line Officer): the individual assigned administrative responsibilities for an established organizational unit, such as Forest Supervisors or District Rangers (USFS), District or Area Manager (BLM), Area Forester or State Forester Designate (State), Regional Director or Refuge Manager (USFWS), Park Superintendent (NPS), and Agency Superintendent (BIA), County Sheriff or his designee, and may include a county commissioner at the local level.

General Guidelines:

1. Agency budgeted costs normally are not shared.
2. Responsibility for claims is considered to be outside the scope of the cost share agreement.
3. Rehabilitation costs other than on the fireline are the responsibility of the jurisdictional Agency.
4. All cost share negotiations should include consideration to each Agency's values at risk and resources assigned.
5. Cost share agreements should normally be reviewed at the end of each burning period and documented with review date and time.

Method 1: Cost can be shared proportionately based upon the acreage burned.

Method 2: Costs between the Agencies can be based on a summary of daily estimated incident costs and each Agency's proportionate share thereof. If this method is used, daily cost sharing should be properly documented by the Incident Commander. Aircraft and retardant should be on an actual use basis.

Method 3: Costs can be shared based upon direct fireline resources assigned basis. Aviation resources, retardant, etc. should be on an actual use basis. Indirect costs are then shared proportional to direct costs. This is the most equitable method and should be utilized on incidents when a Type I team is assigned.

The cost centers that should be considered in this agreement:

Fireline Resources: Maintainers, dozers, engines, tenders, hand crews, line or overhead

Air support: Air tankers, helicopters, lead planes, air operations.

Direct Costs: All costs associated with direct fireline/fireground and operations including aircraft, except airtankers and their retardant, and incident support ordered by or for the incident prior to completion of the cost share agreement. Airtanker costs and associated retardant costs are direct costs but normally are calculated at a separate cost share rate.

Indirect Costs: Costs that are incurred for common or joint objectives and therefore cannot be identified readily and specifically with a particular sponsored project, and instructional activity, or any other institutional activity. These costs may include office support personnel, mobilization/demobilization centers, dispatching, airbase operations, transportation from home base to camp, and minor or major equipment repairs to incident-assigned and damaged equipment (except those costs included in equipment rental rates). Facilities and administrative costs can be shared proportionately with direct costs except where identified to be shared differently in the cost share agreement.

Sample Cost Share Agreement

Incident Name: _____ **IA Number:** _____
Start date & time: _____ **Incident cause:** _____
Incident jurisdiction: _____

Cost share documentation between _____ and Moffat County, and with the cooperation of the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC), was prepared with the following authorities provided by:

1. The Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement between the State of Colorado; USDA Forest Service; UDSI Bureau of Land Management; USDI National Park Service; USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs; USDI Fish and Wildlife Service.
2. Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Management between Moffat County and the State of Colorado.
3. Wildland Fire Operating Plan for Moffat County.

Agency Representatives participating in the development of the Cost Share Agreement:

Agency: _____ Name: _____ Title: _____
 Agency: _____ Name: _____ Title: _____
 Agency: _____ Name: _____ Title: _____

Date/time agreement starts: _____ **Date/time agreement ends:** _____

Each agency will cover their own cost during the Mutual Aid period per the Moffat County OP, which starts: Start Date/Time and ends: Ending Date/Time.

This Cost share agreement will be in effect and will not end until:

- The fire is called out and all resources have returned to their home unit or have been reassigned

OR

- An additional Cost Share is drafted, agreed upon and signed by all parties.

It is hereby agreed that the cost basis on this incident will be shared as follows:

(List any special conditions or resource objectives, i.e., aircraft ordering, mechanized restrictions or specific conditions. Operational responsibility will be defined in this section.)

Agency Authorized Signature

Agency Authorized Signature