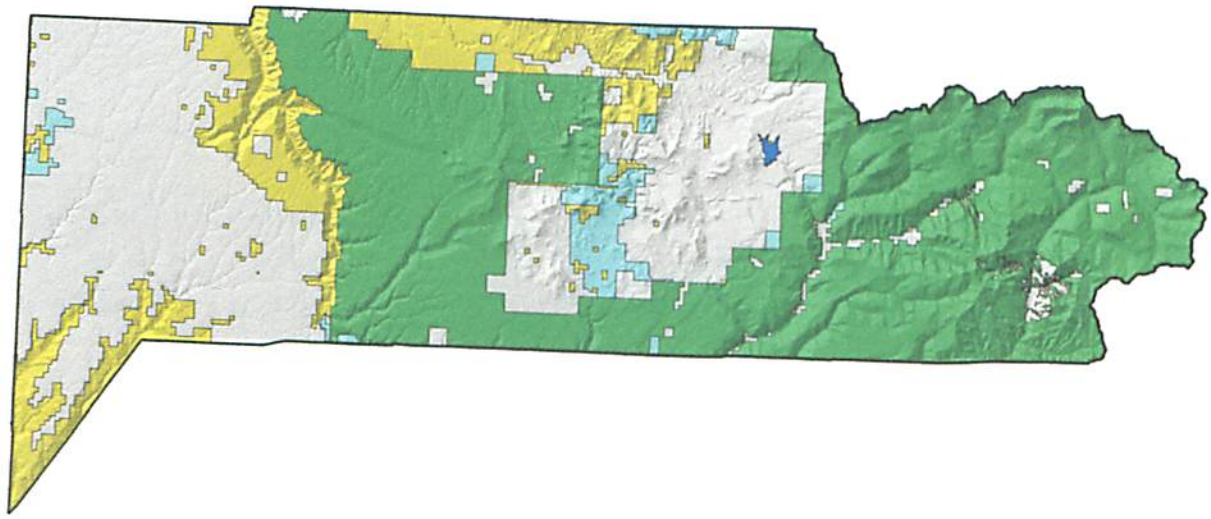
2014 DOLORES COUNTY ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN



DLX AOP Summary

Mutual Aid Zone	Countywide	
Mutual Aid Period	Until 2400 or not to exceed 24 hours	
EFF County?	Yes	
EFF Minimum Commitment	1 Engine 1 Tender 1 Dozer w/DZOP & Lowboy	24 hour staffing if necessary
Sheriff **Primary County Contact*	Jerry Martin	(970) 677-2257
Emergency Manager	Todd Parisi	(970) 739-5654
Interagency Dispatch	DRC	(970) 385-1324
Local Dispatch	Dove Creek Dispatch	(970)-677-2257

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PREAMBLE

This annual operating plan is prepared pursuant to the Colorado Statewide Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (Statewide Agreement) for the State of Colorado signed and dated June 1, 2011 and as amended in 2013.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Annual Fire Operating Plan (AOP) is to set forth the standard operating procedures, agreed procedures, and responsibilities to implement cooperative wildland fire protection on all lands within Dolores County. All participants of this plan agree to coordinate their wildland fire management activities as outlined herein.

AUTHORITIES

- Colorado Statewide Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement Between:
    - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT – COLORADO Agreement Number BLM-MOU-CO-538
    - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE – INTERMOUNTAIN REGION Agreement Number F1249110016
    - BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS – SOUTHWEST REGION (no agreement number)
    - UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE – MOUNTAIN PRAIRIE REGION
    - UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE – ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION Agreement Number FS-11-FI-11020000-017
- Dolores County, Intergovernmental Agreement for Participation in the Colorado Emergency Fire Fund, CSFS #108
- Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection in Dolores County, CSFS #109

RECITALS

Federal and non-federal lands in Dolores County are intermingled or adjacent in some areas. Wildland fires on these intermingled or adjacent lands may present a threat to the lands of the other. Wildland fire protection responsibilities on non-federal lands follow a hierarchy of local jurisdiction from Fire Protection District to County Sheriff to State of Colorado with the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control being the lead state agency for wildland fire management.

It is to the mutual advantage of the Parties to this Plan to coordinate efforts for the prevention, detection, and suppression of wildfires in and adjacent to their areas of responsibility, and to limit duplication and improve the effectiveness of wildland fire response.

INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

Interagency Dispatch Centers

Durango Interagency Dispatch (DRC)

The DRC's area of responsibility is identified as the southwest corner of Colorado, the boundaries are roughly defined as: the East boundary is at the top of the Continental Divide (Wolf Creek), South boundary is NM border, West boundary is UT border and the North boundary is the northern extent of lands under San Juan National Forest and Tres Rios Field Office jurisdiction.

The DRC utilizes Wildcad while dispatching for initial attack and ROSS to dispatch resources beyond the mutual aid period. Resource status and availability may be updated at any time. Non-federal equipment and personnel require an approved CRRF prior to being dispatched through DRC.

Local Dispatch Centers

Dolores County has a 911 Dispatch Center (County Dispatch). County Dispatch will act as the primary dispatch for county and Fire Protection District's initial attack response on private and state lands.

Dispatching

Any Dispatch Center, upon receiving notice of fire in the county from any source, will notify the appropriate agencies and or dispatch the necessary initial attack forces available or requested to manage the incident.

Each county dispatch center, dispatches for wildfires on state/private lands. DRC will support the county dispatch and dispatch for all other Wildland fires and dispatch all available resources as requested. DRC should be notified of response to all wildland fires (federal, state, or private). DRC will notify the appropriate county dispatch centers of all wildland fires on federal or tribal lands. In addition, the ordering of all aircraft will be communicated by the ordering party to the appropriate dispatch centers.

Mobilization Guides

Interagency Incident Mobilization Guides identify policies and procedures that establish standard operating procedures to guide the operations of incident support activities, as well as

maintain references of information and resources. A variety of federal, state and local resources are identified in the Durango Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapters 60 – 80. The DRC Mob Guide compliments this Montezuma County Annual Fire Operating Plan.

Interagency Resources

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

Standards

During initial attack and within the mutual aid period all agencies (federal, state, local, and tribal) accept each other's qualification standards. Once jurisdiction is clearly established, then the standards of the agency(s) with jurisdiction prevail. Wildland fires on federal lands or utilizing federal resources beyond the mutual aid period require that all resources meet NWCG incident qualification standards (PMS 310-1).

PREPAREDNESS

Protection Planning

CWPPs

Dolores County has a CWPPs as authorized by the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 and encouraged by 23-31-312 C.R.S. 30-15-401.7 C.R.S. requires Colorado counties to develop CWPPs for unincorporated areas.

Fire Management Plans

Fire Management Plans are in place or are being developed for all federal lands in the Dolores County.

Defensible space and Fuels Treatment

The County Fire Chiefs Associations and the Sheriffs in cooperation with CSFS provides interested homeowners with defensible space literature. In all Colorado counties, homeowners can contract with CSFS to mark trees to be cut to create defensible space.

Protection Areas and Boundaries

Fire Management Responsibilities

Each jurisdictional agency has ultimate responsibility for wildland fire protection on its own lands. The County Sheriff is responsible for wildland fire protection on all non-federal lands in their County that lie outside the boundaries of a fire protection district or that exceed the capabilities of the fire protection district to control or extinguish (CRS-30-10-513). Federal Agencies are responsible for wildfire protection on the federal lands that lie within their jurisdictional boundaries.

Jurisdictional Agency

The Agency having overall land and resource management responsibility, for a specific geographical or functional area, as provided by federal or state law Under no circumstances will a jurisdictional Agency abdicate legal responsibilities as provided by federal or state law.

Wildfire jurisdictions for USDA Forest Service (USFS), USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM), USDI National Park Service (NPS), USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the County Sheriff (private and state) lands are shown on the BLM 1:100,000 scale color surface management status maps.

Protecting Agency

The Agency responsible for providing direct incident management with specific geographical area pursuant to its jurisdictional responsibility or as specified by contract, cooperative agreement etc.

Supporting Agency

An Agency providing suppression or other support and resource assistance to a protecting agency

Methods of Fire Protection and Suppression

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) will be utilized before, during, and after fire management activities. The Incident Command System will be utilized to manage all fires. The Multiagency Coordination System and Joint Information System will be utilized on fires when appropriate.

Reciprocal (Mutual Aid) Fire Assistance

Mutual Aid

The **mutual aid zone will be countywide**. Mutual aid zones are defined for initial attack purposes only. For fires within the mutual aid zone, each agency will assume responsibility for its own expenses only during the mutual period. The **mutual aid period** between jurisdictional agencies will be from arrival on the fire, during initial attack, and may continue **until 2400**, unless commonly agreed upon (with IC and jurisdictional agencies), but not to exceed 24 hours. No responding agency is expected to put their agency at risk by responding to an incident outside of their jurisdiction. Non mutual aid resources are any aircraft, fire personnel, or modules that come with aircraft or national resources.

It shall be the responsibility of the responding agency to make notification to the jurisdictional agency if other agencies lands are involved or threatened.

Replacement resources to relieve initial attack resources should be sent at the earliest possible time or negotiate continued suppression activities by the initial responding unit.

The incident's responsible agency will release resources if not needed beyond initial attack or will request the cooperator to remain at which time pay will begin. Supporting agency resources requested beyond the initial attack period will need a resource order request processed through Durango Interagency Dispatch Center (DRC) for reimbursement.

The County Sheriff and ordering authorities are limited in making financial obligations beyond initial attack. It is essential that the Board of County Commissioners be notified when fires go beyond initial attack and become a significant size. Developing fire of this type may require the commitment of additional resources that may be an additional cost to the county. A County Commissioner, or designee, shall be immediately available to the Sheriff, appropriate official, or the county emergency operations center, if activated.

Acquisition of Services

NA

Joint Projects and Project Plans

NA

Fire Prevention

The signatories agree to cooperate in the development and implementation of fire prevention programs.

Smokey Bear Program

Distribution of Cooperative Fire Prevention material (Smokey Bear material) and school contacts will also be coordinated to prevent duplication of effort. Cooperating non-federal agencies can purchase Smokey Bear materials through approved vendors.

Firewise Council of Southwest Colorado

Firewise of Southwest Colorado is a local grassroots, non-profit organization that seeks to keep lives, homes, and properties from being damaged by wildfire. It takes a three-pronged approach in this effort, offering education, planning and implementation (mitigation) support to local residents. FireWise has Neighborhood Ambassadors in many communities that may be helpful in disseminating information to residents during wildfire or other emergencies. If needed, contact Pam Wilson, Executive Director, or your local County FireWise Coordinator. Information on which communities are Firewise Communities or have Community Wildfire Protection Plans can be found at: www.southwestcoloradofires.org. FireWise can also share information through their extensive e-mail list and on their Facebook page.

Public Use Restrictions

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

The procedures for initiation and rescinding fire restrictions and emergency closures are described in Attachment C – Interagency Fire Restriction Criteria and Restriction Descriptions.

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. It is essential that the restrictions and closures are easily understood by the public and that implementation should be seamless across all lands and jurisdictions involved in the county.

Burning Permits

Landowners are encouraged to contact their County Dispatch Center or local fire department to inquire if a permit is needed. The County Dispatch Center should also be notified when open burning is planned.

Prescribed Fire (Planned Ignitions) and Fuels Management

The signatories to this AOP all agree to cooperate in the development and implementation of prescribed burning programs, and will report all prescribed fire activities to DRC. DRC will in turn notify SW CO, state, and federal units, county and tribal dispatch centers, as appropriate. Private Burns will be reported to their county dispatch office.

Wildfires resulting from escaped prescribed fires, ignited by, or at the direction of, or under the supervision of any party to this AOP shall be the responsibility of that party. The party responsible for the prescribed fire will reimburse other parties to this AOP consistent with the terms and conditions contained herein for costs incurred in suppression of such fires.

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

Smoke Management

Colorado Air Quality Control Commission requires that most outdoor burning have an air quality (smoke) permit. For a description of the exemptions for agriculture, backyard cooking fires, etc., and for other information about smoke permits, see http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ap/smoke/. Smoke permits are separate from and in addition to burning permits that county agencies may require

All parties to this plan will follow applicable state and/or federal regulations managed by the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) or Tribal Air Quality Department.

OPERATIONS

Fire Notifications

Detection

The most common points where fires are reported are county, state, and federal dispatch centers, and FAA. The office receiving the wildland fire report will notify the jurisdictional agency.

All detection activities involving aerial flights shall be coordinated through DRC so as to avoid duplication of effort, to ensure there are no gaps in coverage, and to provide for air safety.

Information obtained from detection activities will be shared with the appropriate cooperators, via DRC.

Notification

DRC may notify county dispatch centers of all confirmed fires (regardless of land ownership) within their respective counties or designated dispatch areas.

All responding agencies may notify DRC when their agency is in route to a new start or smoke report (regardless of land ownership). This notification of assisting agencies conducting initial attack on fires within a mutual aid zone will ensure that the adjacent jurisdictional agency is promptly notified of the fire through their primary Dispatch.

If the fire is on or threatening state or private land, and is expected to exceed the control capabilities of the county, the DFPC Regional FMO will be notified. The entity calling in the new fire or smoke report should provide the following:

- Report type (wildland fire, smoke report, lightning strike, etc), include size if reported
- Approximate location (exact location when know in degrees/decimal minutes or state what it is given in)
- Resources responding
- And the need for additional resources

Boundary Line Fires

A boundary line fire is a fire that occurs on lands of intermingled and/or adjoining protection responsibilities. A fire adjacent to a protection boundary or located in an area of undetermined jurisdiction will be the initial attack responsibility of the protecting agencies on both sides of the boundary. If multiple agencies are engaged in a fire on or near common boundaries, the agency representatives shall convene as soon as possible to mutually agree upon the fire strategy and delegate an IC. If the fire is confined to a single jurisdiction, that agency will delegate an IC. It shall be the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency to provide and mobilize replacement forces.

Response to Wildland Fire

It shall be agreed that all agencies shall send resources promptly to start suppression activity.

Initial Attack

For wildland fires within the Mutual Aid Zone, the closest forces of the Participants should be dispatched without regard to Jurisdictional Boundaries. Participants will initiate the appropriate management activities on wildland fires regardless of Jurisdictional Boundaries when it is within their capability to do so. Participants will not initially attack fires if such initial attack puts its personnel at unreasonable risk (such as a remote fire discovered at night) or if asked to stand

down by the Jurisdictional Agency. Participants taking independent action should notify the applicable Jurisdictional Agency as soon as possible.

Initial Attack Incident Commander

The first Participant to arrive at the scene on a wildland fire, regardless of whether the incident occurs within the Participant's Jurisdictional Boundaries, shall assume the role of incident commander and shall be responsible for the initial emergency action necessary to protect life or property and/or to control the wildland fire. The Initial Attack incident commander shall do the following as soon as it is practical:

- Notify the Local Dispatch Centers and the DRC that command has been established and provide a brief description of the wildland fire;
- Notify the Local Dispatch Centers and the DRC of the command name generally based on the perceived geographic location of the wildland fire origin;
- Notify the Local Dispatch Centers and the DRC if other Participants are responding
- Notify the Local Dispatch Centers and the DRC if additional resources are needed;
- Notify the Local Dispatch Centers and the DRC of the staging area's location if a staging area is established;
- Establish a communications channel;
- Determine a legal description of the wildland fire's point of ignition, source of ignition, and the Jurisdictional Agency.

Assuming Command During Initial Attack

If the Initial Attack incident commander is not a representative of the Jurisdictional Agency, command shall be offered to a qualified representative of the Jurisdictional Agency when he or she arrives. The Jurisdictional Agency may or may not assume command depending on the situation. However, the Jurisdictional Agency shall assume command at least by the end of the Mutual Aid Period and notify the Local Dispatch Centers, the DRC, and all Participants' resources when transfer of command occurs.

Resource Ordering

All orders placed for extended attack should go through DRC as the single ordering point for the fire. These orders will be documented on Resource Orders. **It is understood that the agency requesting the resource shall also be responsible for payment or as allocated in a cost share agreement.**

DRC will coordinate with federal and county dispatch centers as well as local emergency managers and EOCs to mobilize requested resources for incident response. All requests for federal resources are processed through DRC.

Agency Administrator

Agency Administrators representing all affected Jurisdictional Agencies shall collaboratively assign command through a Delegation of Authority to a single incident commander during a

Multi-Jurisdictional Fire that exceeds the mutual aid period. Further, the Agency Administrators should communicate and establish objectives for the incident commander.

Incident Management Teams

An incident management team is a pre-established team of incident managers from various agencies. An incident management team may be used to help manage wildland fires at the request of the Jurisdictional Agency or Agencies for a Multi-Jurisdictional Fire where expanded management is needed. The incident management team may also 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.

Should an incident command team (IMT) be mobilized for an incident, the IMT should coordinate with both DRC and the local Emergency Operations Center (EOC), if activated. The Sheriff's Office should provide the IMT with an accessible agency representative, and the IMT should provide the local EOC with a liaison officer, or similar. The IMT should also direct their public information officer to coordinate with the county's joint information center/system, if it is activated.

After Action Reviews (AAR)

The Jurisdictional Agency will conduct an AAR of a wildland fire event commensurate with the complexity of the event. For a County Fire, the Fire District and the Sheriff agree to collaborate on the AAR. Participants not directly involved with the wildland fire may nonetheless be invited to participate in the AAR if doing so could potentially benefit the Participant.

Special Management Considerations

- Suppression within designated Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, Canyons of The Ancients National Monument, and/or "Roadless" areas will not be conducted without specific direction from the jurisdictional agency. Measures will be taken to protect critical habitat of Gunnison Sage Grouse.
- Action on BIA, USFS, NPS or BLM lands will be evaluated by the respective agency for appropriate management response.
- Use of heavy equipment, such as bulldozers, graders, etc., will not be permitted on federal lands without the expressed approval of the jurisdictional agency.
- On county fires, requests for federal resources must be placed with Durango Interagency Dispatch (DRC). Aircraft requests must be approved by authorized county individuals.

Decision Process

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

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

Federal agencies are required to utilize the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) for fires on their lands. If multijurisdictional fires occur that involve federal lands, then one WFDSS should be completed for the incident that includes input from all affected jurisdictional agencies.

Cooperation

Public Information

Public information officers should coordinate through the Joint Information System. Use of joint press releases is encouraged as well as the use common public information practices. These should include use of/monitoring of social media outlets. Public information officers should utilize existing local emergency information websites and services whenever possible.

Tracking Fires

DRC has agreed to be responsible for tracking the number of fires in the zone. The county fire entities and county agree to keep DRC informed of:

- Wildland fire resource availability
- Agency response to smoke reports and new starts to include location and basic dispatch information (regardless of land ownership)
- Fire size-up, once on scene, including: IC name, size, character of fire, location, structures threatened and anticipated resources needs.
- If the fire is on, or near, federal or tribal land a full size-up is required and the fire will be tracked until it's completion through DRC.

This notification should occur primarily by radio. Phones should only be used as a backup, if the radio is too busy or if DRC in out of service.

Fire Reporting Requirements

Counties and cooperators complete their fire reports through the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Federal agencies enter their fire reports into FIRESTAT and are due into the reporting system within 10 days of the Fire being declared "Out".

Intelligence and Training

Fire weather, incident information, and training schedules can be found on the DRC website: http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2drc/

DRC broadcasts resource availability and fire weather forecasts daily at 1000 hours, and between 1500 and 1600 hours via federal agency radio frequencies.

Joint or Single Agency Press Releases

News releases on fire danger and prescribed burning will be coordinated and, when practical, issued jointly to the newspaper, television and radio media by the cooperating agencies. This effort will reduce public confusion on the subject and direct attention to fire danger at all elevations and ownerships.

Communication

Federal, state, and local radio systems are largely incompatible and are not interoperable at this time. However, all Participants' wildland fire crew leaders shall have VHF radios equipped with Fire Emergency Radio Network (V-FIRE 21) capabilities, and, when practical, the applicable DRC Zone shall be programmed into the VHF radio.

Cost efficiency

Maximizing cost effectiveness of any fire operation is the responsibility of all involved, including those that authorize, direct, or implement those operations. Cost effectiveness is the most economical use of suppression resources necessary to accomplish mission objectives. Accomplishing fire objectives safely and efficiently will not be sacrificed for the sole purpose of "cost savings". Care will be taken to ensure that suppression expenditures are commensurate with values to be protected while understanding that other factors may influence spending decisions.

Delegation of Authority

The agency administrator(s) shall furnish a Delegation of Authority to the Incident Commander for all fires that escape initial attack. Public Safety cannot be delegated away from the county sheriff (CRS-31-10-513).

Preservation of Evidence

The Jurisdictional Agency will be responsible for fire origin and cause investigation. Regardless of whether the Initial Attack incident commander is a representative of the Jurisdictional Agency, he or she should protect and preserve the general origin area of the fire, as well as information and evidence pertaining to the origin and cause of the wildland fire. The general origin area of the fire should be immediately identified and protected by the first Participant to arrive on the scene in order to protect evidence for the fire origin and cause investigation. Fire cause investigations are required for Federal Fires, State Fires, and any wildland fire that receives a Federal Emergency Management Agency declaration. The Participants acknowledge that an accurate origin and cause investigation and determination is essential to an effective and fair administrative, civil or criminal action. Federal policy requires that federal agencies utilize NWCG qualified Fire Investigators (INVF) when human caused fires occur on federal land.

STATE EMERGENCY FIRE FUND (EFF)

Dolores County participates in the EFF Agreement with DFPC. As a participant to this agreement, the State agrees to come to the aid of the County, should suppression resource needs exceed county capability. 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 earlier in this section.

Funding

The County contributes money to the EFF annually, based on a DFPC assessment that considers the number of forested acres and valuation of private land. This fund balance is subject to change as the fire season progresses and the EFF is utilized.

EFF Activation

Activation of the EFF can be done only by the Director of DFPC upon the recommendation of the local DFPC Regional FMO, following a request from the county sheriff. For this reason it is important that the DFPC Regional FMO be notified immediately of fires on private/state lands within the county which have the potential to exceed the capabilities of routinely available mutual aid. **EFF activation can occur only with a DFPC Regional FMO on-scene.**

- The DFPC FMO and the county Sheriff will complete the EFF Analysis Form (DFPC #1). In order to qualify for EFF the incident must rate 32 or higher.

- If the fire qualifies for EFF the DFPC FMO will complete the Complexity Analysis Form (DFPC #2) and the EFF Funding Request Form (DFPC #3).

- Upon approval of funding from the Director of DFPC, the County Sheriff and the DFPC FMO will complete the Assumption of Control Form (DFPC #4), thereby transferring responsibility of the incident to the State of Colorado with a DFPC FMO serving as Agency Administrator.

- ***All EFF declared fires require a fire investigation to determine cause.***

- The County must maintain a minimum level of participation after EFF activation. In the event of an EFF fire, the County agrees to supply and pay for the following resources (minimum county commitment) for the duration of the EFF incident:

	Dolores COUNTY
Minimum County Commitment For EFF Incident	***Sheriff's representative*** 1 engine 1 tender 1 dozer w/ DZOP & lowboy

* Water tender with operator, 24 hour staffing if necessary
* Dozer with operator and lowboy, 24 hour staffing if necessary
* Engine, fully staffed, 24 hour staffing if necessary

Roles

- DFPC
  The DFPC Agency Administrator will act for the Director of DFPC assisting the Sheriff in completing EFF Analysis Form (DFPC #1) for each operational period; prepare DFPC Fire Funding Request (DFPC #3); assure Incident Agency Administrator is aware of local situations and procedures.

- County Sheriff
  Prepare EFF Analysis Form (DFPC #1) for potential EFF fires; sign Assumption of Fire Control Duty form (DFPC #4) for fires that the Director of DFPC approves for EFF; serve as county representative to the incident.

- County Commissioners
  Approve Assumption of Control Form (DFPC #4) for fires that the Director of DFPC approves for EFF.

- Other Agencies
  Provide Sheriff with personnel and equipment necessary to meet minimum county resource commitment.

County Responsibility

Upon request, the county sheriff, or his/her designee, will provide traffic control to expedite the routing of vehicles and personnel to/from the fire area. The sheriff shall have the primary responsibility for evacuation of residents.

DFPC Responsibility

DFPC will provide an FMO as an Agency Administrator for each EFF fire. The EFF Analysis Form (DFPC #1) will be completed each day and documented until the incident no longer qualifies for EFF.

EFF Deactivation

- Deactivation will occur once the fire no longer qualifies for EFF per the EFF Analysis Form (DFPC Form #1). The county will then assume control of the fire from DFPC upon completion DFPC Form #4 - Assumption of Control at which point EFF will cease.

- 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.

USE AND REIMBURSEMENT OF INTERAGENCY FIRE RESOURCES

Cost Share Agreement (Cost Share Methodologies)

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.

When a wildfire occurs on lands of more than one agency and costs are incurred beyond the mutual aid period, one of the following three options may be used to determine reimbursable costs to the agencies involved:

- Each agency assumes its own costs as expended by it in the fire control effort.
- Fire costs may be divided based upon ownership and acreage percentages.
- Costs may be divided as mutually agreed upon by agency representatives as soon as possible after the mutual aid period.

On incidents that go EFF, the value of work done by local fire districts will be tracked but may be included as the County's minimum contribution.

Training

Each agency shall be responsible for the training of its own personnel. National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) wildfire training courses, meeting the Field Managers Course Guide, are provided by all cooperators and offered to all cooperators. The DRC area has an Interagency Training Committee which is part of the Area and National training community. Local area and national training schedules can be found through the DRC website.

Communication Systems

VHF will be used as the primary coordination system on all wildland fires.

See the Durango Interagency Frequency Guide for a detailed list of specific agency and unit frequencies. Within this guide are interagency communications plans created by the cooperators within Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan Counties.

Authorization is given by each of the Durango Dispatch Area participating agencies to allow the utilization and sharing of specific radio frequencies that are authorized / licensed to each agency, as identified in the Annual DRC Area Frequency Guide. This is required to provide efficient, cost effective interagency radio communications support in protecting life and property under the management of the agencies participating in this agreement. Frequencies must be utilized as licensed (i.e. USFS frequencies are narrowband and cannot be operated wideband). The authority to share certain frequencies is entered under the NTIA Manual of Regulations Sections 3.2.1, 8.2.2, and 8.2.4 and FCC Rules and regulations, Part 90, Section 90.405 and 90.407.

All wildland firefighting agencies have narrow banded. This means that all VHF systems have converted to 12.5 kHz bandwidth.

Fire Weather Systems

Red Flag/Fire Weather Announcements

The National Weather Service periodically issues "FIRE WEATHER WATCH" and "RED FLAG" warning bulletins. Durango Dispatch will read these bulletins over the radio and fax them to the county dispatch offices who in turn will promptly forward to all FPDs as well as all local law enforcement agencies.

- Fire Weather Watch

This is issued to advise agencies of the possible development of red flag conditions in the near future. It will be issued by the fire weather forecaster for any part of or all of the Colorado fire weather zones. A watch shall be issued when the forecaster is reasonably confident that a Red Flag Event will occur within the next 12 to 72 hours. The Fire Weather Watch shall remain in effect until the forecaster determines that the critical weather conditions are imminent or are occurring (then upgrade to a warning), or until it can be determined that the expected event will not occur, and thus the watch will be canceled or allowed to expire.

- Red Flag Warning
  This warning is issued by the National Weather Service when weather conditions that will cause erratic fire behavior are predicted. These conditions may include very low humidity, high temperatures, high winds and the occurrence of dry lightning. Initial attack may require additional forces or air support under these conditions. This warning is issued to advise agencies of the imminent or actual occurrence of these weather conditions

Aviation Operations

DRC needs to be notified of any aviation resource that has been ordered for fires in the county. Aviation resources may be pre-positioned as deemed necessary for Dolores County. Contact the DFPC Regional FMO.

Aviation Map

The Durango Interagency Dispatch Center has an aviation hazard map available for SW Colorado.

Flight Following/Frequency Management

The Durango Interagency Dispatch Center will flight follow per national direction for aviation resources.

DRC will coordinate the assignment of aircraft to incidents. If multiple aircraft are assigned, DRC will advise all aircraft and/or ordering agencies of common air-to-air and air-to-ground frequencies to be used over the incident. All aircraft will flight follow with DRC on frequencies assigned by DRC.

Incident Commanders shall make contact with arriving tactical aircraft on the pre-assigned Air-to-Ground Initial Attack Aircraft Frequency; DRC will establish which frequency will be assigned. If these frequencies are not available to Incident Commanders then contact will be established on VFIRE21 154.2800 RX/TX.

See the DRC Area Interagency Frequency Guide for a complete list of SW CO unit frequencies.

Air Tanker and Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) Bases

A permanent air tanker base is available at Durango-La Plata County Airport. A permanent SEAT base is available at Cortez-Montezuma County Airport. A temporary SEAT base is operated by the BIA Jicarilla Agency in Dulce, New Mexico.

Aerial Supervision

Aerial Supervision (Lead plane or Air Attack) is required to be ordered when any of the following occur:

- Multiple aviation resources are working the incident.
- During periods of marginal weather, poor visibility, or turbulence.
- Fixed wing aircraft over a fire 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset.
- Working an incident within an urban interface area.
- Pilots are not rated for initial attack.

Aviation Requests and Operations

Agencies will place all requests for aircraft with DRC. DRC will notify DFPC when aircraft is used on a county or state fire. Fire Department and County resources must place the orders for aircraft through the local Dolores County Dispatch.

	DOLORES
Sheriff & Others in County Government with Authority to Order Aircraft	Jerry Martin Tim Rowell Julie Kibel Doug Stowe Ernie Williams Dwayne Garchar Todd Jones Dolores County Dispatch

The following information will be included in the aircraft request:

- Authorizing county official's name. (If none, DRC will acquire authorization prior to placing order.)
- Incident Name
- Location (legal description and/or latitude and longitude)
- Jurisdiction
- Air Contact with air to ground radio frequency ***(DRC)***
- Ground Contact with air to ground radio frequency
- Any other aircraft in the area. ***(DRC)***
- Values at Risk (structures, type, etc)
- Hazards (Power lines, towers, etc)

Requests by the county or FPDs for aviation resources and/or other specialized or non-local resources will be made through DRC. Requests for aircraft must be approved by authorized individuals. If an undesignated person requests aviation resources, that person, the county dispatch center or DRC will make appropriate contact for approvals. DRC must emphasize to the GACC / NICC that the request is for a county fire.

Individuals in Dolores County authorized to order fire aircraft are the Sheriff, Undersheriff, and the Dolores County Fire Chiefs. Although it is preferred that requests for aircraft be made to DRC by the Cortez Dispatch Center, they can be made directly to DRC by one of the individuals listed above when it is more expedient to do so. Unless specified otherwise, only aircraft orders initiated by the Sheriff, Undersheriff, or a Dolores County Fire Chief shall be considered a valid request for any appropriate state funding assistance, as well as an obligation of County funds for that aircraft.

Billing Procedures

All cooperators subject to reimbursement will have invoices sent to DFPC State office by 30 days after resources are released. The DFPC State Office will attempt to make payment as soon as possible after receiving the invoice. Invoices are required to have proper documentation supporting expenses before the process for payment can be completed.

Reimbursement Procedures

The procedure for reimbursement through DFPC will occur via the CRRF. Billing may be made for equipment listed on the CRRF with the corresponding documentation. Counties, Fire Protection Districts, and Fire Departments may aggregate expenses incurred to suppress fires on federal jurisdictions, and may present an invoice for such expense 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 will make such reimbursement and subsequently invoice the county or fire district as appropriate.

To receive payment, at a minimum, cooperators must submit:

- Original Emergency Equipment Use Invoice
- Original Shift Tickets
- Original Emergency Firefighter Time Report
- Copy of Resource Order(s)
- Copy of CRRF with equipment highlighted

Reimbursement Verification: All reimbursements need approval by jurisdictional agency representative before billing submission. Each Letter of Invoice should have the incident name, appropriate management account code, dates on the incident, location, summary of costs (equipment, personnel, travel, supplies, etc.) with original documentation attached. All requests

for reimbursement should be accompanied by the agency incident report and submitted within 30 days following the incident. Contact the DFPC Regional FMO if further information is needed about processing procedure.

Cost Recovery

Trespass Fires

In the event that cost recovery is pursued on a trespass fire (regardless of ownership), all costs from the time of initial report of the fire (including mutual aid) may be pursued. Federal policy requires Federal agencies to pursue cost recovery for all human caused fires on public land.

Cooperative Use Rates

The Colorado Resource Rate Form (CRRF) is the mechanism for Cooperator reimbursement for reimbursable assignments. The form will be completed by each non-federal agency listing all resources to be made available for local, statewide, and national assignments.

Non-Reimbursable Items

Resources not documented by a resource order number or by the Incident Commander may not be reimbursable.

Reimbursable Items

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 or IC and processed through DRC on a resource order. Each agency will make its personnel and equipment available, upon request, to the other agencies for fires outside reciprocal mutual aid zones. For such fires, the protecting agency will reimburse the supporting agency for its costs. 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 the security of its own lands.

Responsibility for wildland fire suppression on private land within a FPD is shared by the county and the FPD, and reimbursable costs shall be covered as mutually agreed upon by the county and FPD involved.

Reimbursable costs include, but are not limited to the following:

- Personnel

  The salary and wages of regular fire related personnel shall be at the actual cost to the assisting agency for work time from the time of departure until return to official station, including overtime, plus any additional administrative and maintenance time chargeable

to the incident. The Emergency Firefighter Time Report (OF 288) and the Crew Time Report (SF-261) will be used to document personnel time for reimbursement.

- Equipment

  The assisting agency will be reimbursed by the jurisdictional agency for the use of agency-owned equipment at the current rate listed on the CRRF. Such rates shall cover operation, repair, and depreciation. Reimbursement for hired equipment shall be at the actual cost of the equipment hired for the fire. The Emergency Equipment Shift Ticket (OF 297) and the Emergency Equipment Use Invoice (OF-286) will be used to document equipment time for reimbursement.

  Costs for equipment not covered by such an agreement may not be reimbursed by the jurisdictional and/or protecting agency unless rates are mutually agreed to, in writing, at the time of hire.

Supplies

Each jurisdictional agency is responsible for providing its resources with supplies during the mutual aid period. When an incident goes beyond the mutual aid period resources should follow established procedures to acquire needed supplies through the incident. Supply is normally located at the ICP.

Any orders placed by a supporting agency for supplies and materials directly to a vendor will be the responsibility of the supporting agency unless prior approval is received from the jurisdictional agency

Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (WERF)

Colorado's Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (WERF) is intended to encourage early utilization of supplemental fire suppression resources on fires involving private and state lands. It reimburses the local/county non-federal agency (i.e., County Sheriff, Fire Protection District, etc.) for specific responding resources as stated in the WERF guidelines. The county or DRC must notify DFPC Regional FMO if any WERF resource is ordered. Refer to the most current Wildfire Emergency Response Fund Operating Procedures in Attachment B, for more details.

Repair of Wildfire Suppression Damage

Repair of resources/improvements damaged by fire suppression actions is at the discretion of the jurisdictional agency. Rehabilitation of damage caused by fire suppression actions is not covered under EFF.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Resolution of Disputes

Any interagency dispute arising from these procedures will be resolved on site by the agency representatives. 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.

Personnel Policy

Employees of the Parties to this plan shall be subject to the personnel rules, laws and regulations of their respective agencies, unless they are employed temporarily by another agency to this plan and the authority under which such temporary employment is authorized provides that such employees shall be subject to the employing agency's personnel laws and regulations.

Modification

Midyear changes are to be avoided; however, if an agency becomes unable to uphold commitments, it should notify all parties to this plan.

Annual Review

Annually prior to the wildland fire season, representatives from the County, the DFPC, and federal land management agencies will jointly prepare, review, update, and distribute the Annual Operating Plan (AOP). The DFPC is the lead agency in facilitating the annual review process.

This AOP will be approved, dated, and signed by the County, the DFPC, and Federal Participants no later than May 1st of each calendar year.

Duration of Plan

This Annual Fire Operating Plan will remain in effect until April 30, 2015

Previous Plans Superseded

This Plan supersedes the 2013 Annual Operating Plan for Dolores County effective as of May 1, 2013.

SIGNATURES

Authorized Representatives

DOLORES COUNTY SIGNATURES

Jerry D Martin — 4-16-20.

Signature — *Date*

Jerry Martin — County Sheriff

Printed Name — *Title*

Ernest R Williams — 4-15-2014

Signature — *Date*

Ernest R Williams — County Commissioner

Printed Name — *Title*

COLORADO DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL SIGNATURE

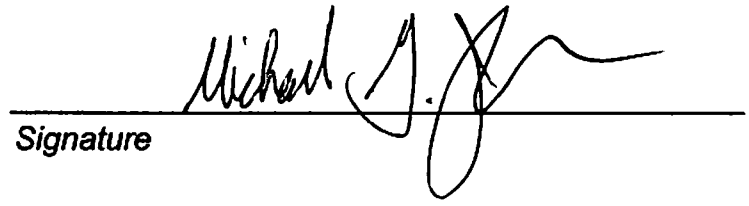
Ryan McCulley — 4/21/2014

Signature — *Date*

Ryan McCulley — Regional Fire Management Officer

Printed Name — *Title*

FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY SIGNATURES



Signature

4/2/2014
Date

Acting Forest Supervisor
Staff Officer
Title

Mike Johnson
Printed Name

US Forest Service, San Juan National Forest
Federal Agency, Unit

Signature

1 April 2014
Date

Lori Armstrong
Printed Name

District Manager
Title

Bureau of Land Management, Southwest District
Federal Agency, Unit

Attachment A: Maps

Attachment B: Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (WERF) Guidelines

Attachment C: Interagency Fire Restriction Criteria

Attachment D: DRC Communications Plan

Attachment E: Contacts

Attachment F: Acronyms