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2021 CLEAR CREEK COUNTY ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN

2021 Annual Operating Plan - Clear Creek County

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ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A Colorado Statewide Cooperative Wildfire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (2011)
- Attachment A.1 Colorado Statewide Cooperative Wildfire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement – Extension (2020)
- Attachment B Emergency Fund Contract Agreement for Forest and Watershed Fire Control (2015)
- Attachment C Intergovernmental Agreement for Mutual Aid between Clear Creek County and Clear Creek Fire Authority
- Attachment D Mutual Aid Agreement between Clear Creek Fire Authority and Evergreen Fire Protection District
- Attachment E Wildland Fire Protection Agreement between Clear Creek Fire Authority & the Clear Creek Sheriff's Office
- Attachment F Wildland Fire Protection Agreement between Clear Creek County - Clear Creek Sheriff's Office and Evergreen Fire Protection District
- Attachment G Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection in Clear Creek County Between Clear Creek County and Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Prevention and Control (2015)
- Attachment H Intergovernmental Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection between Clear Creek County and Colorado Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Wildlife



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1.0 PREAMBLE

The Annual Operating Plan (AOP) is a working document compiled each year by wildfire agencies participating in the Plan, and shall be attached to and considered a part of the Colorado Statewide Cooperative Wildland Fire and Stafford Act Response Agreement (**Attachment A and A.1**)

2.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of the Annual Wildland Fire Operating Plan is to set forth the standard operating procedures, agreed-upon procedures, and responsibilities to implement cooperative wildland fire management on all lands within Clear Creek County.

3.0 AUTHORITIES

- Colorado Statewide Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement Between:
 - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT – COLORADO
 - Agreement Number BLM-MOU-CO-538
 - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE – INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
 - Agreement Number F1249110016
 - BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS – SOUTHWEST REGION
 - (no agreement number)
 - UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE – MOUNTAIN PRAIRIE REGION
 - UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE – ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION
 - Agreement Number 11-F1-11020000-017
- Clear Creek County, Intergovernmental Agreement for Participation in the Colorado Emergency Fire Fund Contract for Forest and Watershed Fire Control (2015) (**Attachment B**)

4.0 RECITALS

4.1 National Response Framework

National Response Framework activities will be accomplished utilizing engaged partnerships, tiered response, scalable, flexible and adaptable operational capabilities, unity of effort through unified command and readiness to act. Situation and damage assessment information will be transmitted through established fire suppression intelligence channels. Actions are implemented according to the Jurisdictional agency policies and applicable decision support tools.

4.2 Third Party Beneficiary

The enforcement of the terms and conditions of this agreement and all rights of action relating to such enforcement shall be strictly reserved by the county and the signatories to this agreement; nothing contained in this agreement shall give or allow any claim or right of action whatsoever by any other or third person. It is the express intent of the parties to



this agreement that any person receiving services or benefits under this agreement shall be deemed an incidental beneficiary only.

This plan will remain in effect until such time as it is replaced by the signed 2020 Clear Creek County Annual Operating Plan.

5.0 INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

5.1 Interagency Dispatch Centers

The Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch Center (FTC) will be the point of contact for all Clear Creek County fires threatening or involving federal (USDA Forest Service Systems Lands, USDI Bureau of Land Management) lands: **970-295-6800**.

The Clear Creek County Dispatch Center is the point of contact for all fires threatening or involving non-federal lands in Clear Creek County.

Pueblo Interagency Dispatch Center (PBC) coordinates with FTC on incidents in Pike San Isabel National Forest Cimarron and Comanche National Grassland lands.

Assistance for Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC resources must be requested through the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Line: **303-279-8855**)

5.2 Interagency Resources

The parties to this operating plan agree to coordinate all resource requests from cooperating agencies as follows:

A. COUNTY RESOURCES: Requests for county resources during initial attack shall be made through the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office. Per C.R.S. 24-33.5-105.4, requests for Clear Creek County resources during extended attack shall be made through the FTC Interagency Dispatch Center.

B. FEDERAL RESOURCES:

Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest (ARF): Requests for all federal resources shall be coordinated through the FTC Interagency Dispatch Center.

Pike San Isabel Pike San Isabel National Forest Cimarron and Comanche National Grassland lands: Requests for all federal resources shall be coordinated through the PBC Interagency Dispatch Center.

C. COLORADO DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL:

i. Requests for state staffed engines will be coordinated through the FTC Interagency Dispatch Center. To determine availability of state staffed engine resources, reference the FTC and PBC Daily Resources Status Summary Webpage.

ii. Requests for aircraft and crews will be coordinated through the Clear Creek County Dispatch Center and FTC Interagency Dispatch Center. See **Exhibit R** – WERF Guidelines and WERF Request Form.

a. Reimbursement for aircraft and crew costs are through the Wildfire Emergency Resource Fund (WERF).



- b. Reimbursement under WERF is subject to availability of WERF funds. Crews and Aviation resources have additional costs associated with them that will not be reimbursed under WERF See the WERF Guidelines (**Exhibit R**) for further details.
- c. All requests for the VLAT (Very Large Air Tanker) through WERF must first be approved by the DFPC Deputy Chief of Operations or designee.
- III. Requests for resources/assistance under the Colorado Resource Mobilization Annex must be made through the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Line at **303-279-8855**. A DFPC Regional Battalion Chief (BC), Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) Field Manager or designee will respond to this request.
- IV. Requests for DFPC Regional BC Assistance on Emergency Fire Fund (EFF)/Technical Assistance incidents will go through the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Line at **303-279-8855**.
- D. **AVIATION RESOURCES:** All federal and state aviation resources, except the DFPC MMA, shall be ordered by an authorized ordering official through the FTC Interagency Dispatch Center.

Request for the DFPC Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA) should be made through the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Line at **303-279-8855**; utilizing the MMA Request Form found in **Exhibit F-8** of this AOP and at:

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dfpc/QuickLinks>

5.3 Standards

A. PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS

- I. **PPE:** Each agency or department is responsible for providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for their personnel in accordance with the NFPA 1977 Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire Fighting. Those not meeting this standard must clear the incident or be placed in a non-hazardous position and may not be eligible for reimbursement under the terms of this AOP agreement. The same criteria will apply for incidents that transition to extended attack. However, cooperating agencies may assist by supplying equipment on an incident.
- II. **Qualifications:** All personnel involved with wildland fire suppression on federal, state, or county incidents shall possess documentation of qualifications (incident qualification card, red card, or records) issued by their host or employing agency, department, or fire protection district and shall meet the minimum standards set forth in the most current version of NWCG PMS 310-1.

B. INCIDENT COMMAND

The parties to this operating plan agree to use the Incident Command System (ICS) that is consistent with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) during all wildland fire operations. ICS is a standardized method of managing emergency incidents. It is based upon: common organizational structure, common terminology, common operating procedures, and known qualifications of emergency personnel.

- I. Command System positions on large or complex incidents may be filled with resources from outside Clear Creek County. Incident Management Teams (IMT's) may be ordered to manage an incident according to the incident complexity and needs. Jurisdictional agencies will provide the supervision and support including operational oversight, direction and logistical support to incident management teams as outlined in the delegation of authority.
- II. *Unified Command* is a unified team effort which allows all agencies with jurisdictional responsibility for the incident, either geographical or functional, to manage an incident by establishing a common set of incident objectives and strategies.
- III. All parties to this plan agree to utilize the appropriate ICS forms (**Exhibit Q-4**) to document their responses to wildfires in Clear Creek County.
- IV. The parties to this plan agree that at a minimum, initial attack efforts for all wildfires within Clear Creek County will be documented by the incident commander on an Incident Organizer (**Exhibit Q-1**). All responding agencies will use this form for initial attack to meet the operational constraints and requirements of the USFS Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest, information needs for all dispatch centers and jurisdictional agencies, and to facilitate the transfer of incident command between any agencies.

C. FIRE TYPES AND RESPONSE

These fire types and response plans apply only to wildfires that are the jurisdiction of the local Fire Protection Districts or the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office. Fire responses on Federal lands will be designated by the jurisdictional agency, and directed by that agency's representatives.

Fire types are a numerical classification system of ranging from 1 to 5, used to quickly describe an incident and predetermine necessary dispatch and support actions. Size and complexity of each incident determines its type. The principal jurisdictional agency has responsibility for identifying each incident's type. Incident Commanders will ensure that types are communicated to the jurisdictional Dispatch Center, and to assisting and cooperating agencies in route to the incident.

No Type: Routine fire operations within city or town boundaries, or a routine structural response within a fire protection district. The preplanned fire agency response is adequate; there is no significant impact on local resources, and no back-up alerting of State or Federal resources is required.

Type 5: Routine wildland emergency response with no significant impact on local resources. No alerting of back-up elements is necessary. Normally involves only one agency but may require minimum cooperation or support from another response agency. The first emergency response agency to arrive at the scene of a wildland fire, regardless of whether the incident occurs within its jurisdiction, shall assign an incident commander until the jurisdictional agency arrives. The IC should establish a command post so communications and coordination between the IC and assisting or cooperating agencies can be established. Requirements for

additional resources are channeled through the IC. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is not activated.

- Type 4: Routine wildland emergency which exceeds the capacities of on-scene personnel and equipment, involves multiple response agencies, and requires mutual aid support and preliminary alerting of County and State resources. The first emergency response agency to arrive at the scene of a wildland fire, regardless of whether the incident occurs within its jurisdiction, shall assign an incident commander until the jurisdictional agency arrives. The ICS is implemented and the IC will establish an Incident Command Post (ICP). Decision made whether or not to activate the EOC based on the EOC Activation Guidelines. Requirements for additional resources are channeled through the IC, to the EOC, if it is activated, or to each individual agency. DFPC Regional BC or designee notified of incident. The DHSEM Field Manager is notified.
- Type 3: Magnitude of the incident exceeds the capabilities of routinely available mutual aid and requires full mobilization of county resources. The first emergency response agency to arrive at the scene of a wildland fire, regardless of whether the incident occurs within its jurisdiction, shall assign an incident commander until the jurisdictional agency arrives. ICP is established. EOC may be activated. If the jurisdictional agency requests the Sheriff to take control of the wildfire, an Incident Management Team is designated and will coordinate with the Incident Commander. DFPC Regional BC or designee is requested via the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Line and notified of potential Emergency Fire Fund Fire situation, and information for the EFF Analysis Form, DFPC Form 1, is collected (See **Exhibit K-2**). The DHSEM Field Manager is requested to the incident if not already on scene.
- Type 2/1: Situation exceeds available county resources and requires substantial mobilization of Out-of-County, State and/or Federal resources. The jurisdictional agency requests the Sheriff to take control of the wildfire. ICP established. EOC is activated. ICS is fully implemented. DFPC Regional BC or designee is requested via the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Line and is notified of imminent Emergency Fire Fund request; EFF Analysis Form information is provided. The DHSEM Field Manager is requested to the incident if not already on scene.

6.0 PREPAREDNESS

6.1 Protection Planning

Jurisdictional agencies are responsible for all planning documents (i.e. land use, fire management plans, mitigation plans) for a unit's wildland fire and fuels management program per their agency's policy.

Clear Creek County has Special Districts, County resources, and State and Federal partners that provide response to all areas of the county. Jurisdictional boundaries are shown in **Exhibit A**.

Jurisdictional response zones are shown in **Exhibit B**. These zones are normally considered in determining jurisdictional and operational responsibility for all emergency responses - however, an assisting agency may, at times, take initial attack action on fires located on lands under another agency's jurisdiction. The primary criteria for this type of initial attack, is that the agency which is in the best position at the time the fire is reported, should take the most rapid and effective action.

6.2 Protection Areas and Boundaries

A. FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS

Fire Protection Districts in Clear Creek County (shown in **Exhibit B**) have the primary responsibility for controlling wildfires within their jurisdictional zones which are not public lands or those managed by the USFS.

As mutually agreed between them, each Fire Protection District is responsible for the management of wildland fires that occur within the boundaries of the Fire Protection District and that are within the capability of the Fire Protection District to control or extinguish in accordance with the provisions of Section 32-1-1002 (3) (a), C.R.S.

I. CLEAR CREEK FIRE AUTHORITY (CCFA)

The Clear Creek Fire Authority (CCFA) is an entity created by municipalities in Clear Creek County and the Clear Creek County Emergency Services General Improvement District. CCFA is referenced in this AOP as a Fire Protection District because for practical purposes related to this AOP it operates like such a district.

For wildfires which fall within the Clear Creek Fire Authority's boundaries (outside of the Evergreen Fire Protection District and USFS Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest jurisdiction), the Clear Creek Fire Authority's wildland firefighting resources and equipment will be deployed as soon as feasible. The CCFA may delegate authority for controlling these wildfires to the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office, according to the Wildland Fire Protection Agreement between Clear Creek Fire Authority and Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office as shown in **Attachment E**. Private land will be considered to mean all non-governmental owned land.

II. THE EVERGREEN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (EFPD)

The EFPD is a Title 32 Special District as established in the Colorado Statutes. The District consists of unincorporated land in both Jefferson and Clear Creek counties. The EFPD is managed by a Board of Directors consisting of five volunteer members, elected by the voters in the district.

The EFPD shall assume charge or assist in controlling wildfires on state and private lands within Clear Creek County, inside of its jurisdictional boundaries. The Evergreen FPD may delegate authority for controlling these wildfires to the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office, according to the "Intergovernmental Agreement for Mutual Aid between Evergreen Fire Protection District and the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office" as shown in **Attachment F**. Private land will be considered to mean all non-governmental owned land.

B. CLEAR CREEK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (CCSO)

The Sheriff is the fire warden of the county and is responsible for the planning for,

and the coordination of, suppression efforts in the case of prairie, forest, or wildland fires or wildfires occurring in the unincorporated area of the county outside the boundaries of a fire protection district, or that exceed the capabilities of the fire protection district to control or extinguish in accordance with C.R.S section 30-10-513.

In the case of a wildfire that exceeds the capabilities of the fire protection district to control or extinguish, and that requires mutual aid and outside resources, the fire protection district may request to transfer the responsibility for the wildfire to the Clear Creek County Sheriff. The request to transfer responsibility for a wildfire will be made in writing using a Delegation of Authority Form (See **Exhibit Q-2**) between a representative of the Fire Protection District and the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff shall appoint a local incident management team to provide the command and control infrastructure required to manage the fire. The Sheriff, or his designated officer, will notify the Board of County Commissioners, or their designee, of such requests for assistance when it is anticipated that costs may be incurred. The Sheriff shall assume financial responsibility for the firefighting efforts on behalf of the county and the authority for the ordering and monitoring of resources.

C. COLORADO DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL (DFPC)

The DFPC is the lead state agency for wildfire. The DFPC will, upon request, aid, support, and assist CCSO and/or federal agencies on wildland fires within Clear Creek County. To request DFPC Regional BC or designee assistance on wildfires, contact the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Line at **303-279-8855**. Upon mutual agreement of the Clear Creek County Sheriff or his representative and the DFPC Director or representative, the DFPC will assume command responsibilities as specified under the provisions of the Emergency Fire Fund Agreement (EFF) when wildland fire(s) exceed(s) the capability of the county's resources. When a fire is accepted by the state as an EFF/State Responsibility incident, an incident cost-share agreement will be developed and entered in to by the DFPC and the respective jurisdictional agencies.

D. CLEAR CREEK COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (OEM) & EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC)

The mission of the Clear Creek County Office of Emergency Management is to develop, coordinate and lead a comprehensive emergency management program. During an event requiring OEM and/or EOC activation the Clear Creek County OEM/EOC supports incidents by providing for the following: communication coordination; resource mobilization support, information management, situational awareness, and policy group support. During an EFF declared fire the Clear Creek County EOC may continue to provide local resource mobilization support to agencies or sectors not covered under the EFF declaration.

E. NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE SYSTEMS LANDS TO INCLUDE THE ARAPAHO & ROOSEVELT NATIONAL FOREST LANDS (ARF) AND PIKE AND SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FORESTS CIMARRON AND COMANCHE NATIONAL GRASSLANDS (PSICC)

Federal agencies are ultimately responsible for fire control on National Forest System lands within Clear Creek County.

The ARF or PSF is responsible for all fire management on all wildfire clearly within National Forest System lands. For this agreement, the primary role of the ARF and PSF is wildland fire management, where the protection of human life is the overriding priority. Setting subsequent priorities will be based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the cost of protection. The ARF and PSF will serve in a support role during structural fire protection operations and may assist in exterior structure protection measures where wildfires threaten improvements or where structure fires threaten wildland natural resources.

F. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

Within Clear Creek County there are lands owned by State Land Board, State Agency-owned lands, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (see IGA **Attachment H**), Denver Mountain Parks, Denver Water Board and Jefferson County Public Schools. These lands are shown more specifically on the map in **Exhibit A**.

When a wildfire occurs on lands owned by Denver Mountain Parks, Denver Water Board, Jefferson County Public Schools (Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab), and Mount Evan's Wilderness Area the initial attack resources will respond.

DFPC personnel will be requested as needed and available to wildfires that are an immediate threat to State lands, when called by Clear Creek County or Evergreen Fire Protection District. DFPC personnel will respond, as available, to these requests to provide technical and operational assistance.

6.3 Methods of Fire Protection and Suppression

Initial Attack is defined as the action taken by the resources on a wildland fire that are first to arrive at the incident. Initial response agencies should dispatch those forces it deems appropriate for the place and conditions of the wildfire. Response forces should be further adjusted from the scene as warranted by the initial attack incident commander. Actual response will consider values at risk, actual fire behavior, and the proficiency of the firefighting force.

Extended Attack is defined as the actions taken by resources on a wildland fire that has not been contained within the first operational period.

A. RECIPROCAL (MUTUAL AID) FIRE ASSISTANCE

Methods of Fire Protection and Suppression

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.

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. Mutual aid time periods and response areas will be outlined in local operating plans, as agreed to by County, State, and Federal agencies that are signatory to each Local Operating Plan. Agencies that are not signatory to a specific Local Operating Plan are not obligated to provide Mutual Aid assistance for fires in that County.

I. Mutual Aid Dispatch Areas: Mutual Aid Dispatch will occur as requested by the responding agencies as covered through the following Intergovernmental Agreements for Mutual Aid signed by the participant Fire Protection Districts: "Intergovernmental Agreement for Mutual Aid between Clear Creek County and the Clear Creek Fire Authority" (**Attachment C**); "Intergovernmental Agreement for Mutual Aid between Clear Creek Fire Authority and Evergreen Fire Protection District" (**Attachment D**); "Wildland Fire Protection Agreement between Clear Creek Fire Authority and Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office (**Attachment E**); and the "Wildfire Protection Agreement between Clear Creek County – Clear Creek Sheriff's Office and the Evergreen Fire Protection District" (**Attachment F**); or any successor agreements as signed by the parties. USFS resources are available as mutual aid for wildfires within two miles of National Forest System lands.

B. ACQUISITION OF SERVICES

Single point ordering/tracking is strongly recommended for all agencies involved in this plan.

Initial dispatch of fire suppression forces will be performed by the dispatch center having responsibility for the area the fire is in. The initial dispatch center will remain the primary communications center until the communications center or the Incident Commander determine a Communications Center with greater capability is needed.

Due to the complex interspersing of federal, state, public and private lands, the first agency on scene may dispatch the initial attack resources as necessary and advise the Fort Collins (FTC) Interagency Dispatch Center as to the determination of land ownership as soon as possible.

It shall be the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency to acquire and dispatch any needed replacements to relieve initial attack crews of assisting agencies at the earliest practical time after their arrival on the fire.

Once assisting and jurisdictional crews have a fire contained, the jurisdictional agency will determine what additional mop-up and patrol is necessary, and when assisting agencies will leave the fire.

Following mutual aid, the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) publication, Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook, NWCG Handbook 2: PMS 902 (NWCG IIBMH) will guide cooperative, exchange, and contract/fee basis fire

protection services. Federal agencies and DFPC follow NWCG IIBMH, Chapter 50 specifically for cooperative and reimbursable fire protection services.

In addition to NWCG IIBMH, local fire agencies follow the 2017 Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Prevention & Control and Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHSEM) Cooperator Incident Reimbursement Guidelines for the reimbursement process. The Colorado Resource Rate Form (CRRF) is the basis for the reimbursement process. See Section 10.2.c for more information regarding CRRF's.

Any other loaning, sharing, exchanging, or maintenance of facilities, equipment, or support services will be considered on a case by case basis and must be mutually agreed upon by the concerned parties.

C. DISPATCHING AND RESOURCE ORDERING PROCESS

All requests for, and dispatches of, resources should utilize both local and interagency mobilization guides. Additional dispatch procedures for engines and air resources are found in **Exhibit E**.

Resource requests for Clear Creek County and Mutual Aid wildland fire resources will be made through the Clear Creek County Dispatch Center. Requests for resources outside of Clear Creek County and Mutual Aid resources will be made through Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch Center (FTC), and will be subject to the approval of the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office (also representing the Board of County Commissioners), unless inter-county agreements exist. The DFPC Regional BC or designee will be notified of all such requests as soon as possible.

Requests for DFPC Regional BC or designee assistance for EFF, response to Special Management Areas, or technical assistance will be coordinated through the local jurisdictional dispatch center (Clear Creek County Dispatch Center or Evergreen FPD Dispatch Center) via the State of Colorado Emergency Operation Line at 303-279-8855. See **Exhibit K-3** (EFF Funding & Notification Form) for further details. All other requests for State of Colorado Suppression Resources, including hand crews, engines, SEAT's and helicopters, will be coordinated through the local jurisdictional dispatch center (Clear Creek County Dispatch Center or Evergreen FPD Dispatch Center) and the Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch Center.

The Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch Center (FTC) will be the point of contact for notification of fires threatening or involving National Forest System lands within Clear Creek County.

Requests or orders for resources from outside Clear Creek County will be routed from the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office (**303-679-2393**, or **303-679-2394**) and Evergreen FPD (**303-674-3411**) through FTC (**970-295-6800**).

When DFPC and USFS Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest local resources are involved in wildfire suppression activities on State and private lands in Clear Creek County, they will notify FTC.

On wildfires for which Clear Creek Fire Authority, Clear Creek County or Evergreen Fire Protection District assumes responsibility or assists in suppression, DFPC will provide technical assistance upon the County's request. This technical support may

include suppression, logistics, planning, finance and administration, and other necessary duties, including fire weather forecast information and interpretation. Such requests for DFPC Regional BC or designee assistance should be made through the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Line.

D. PRIVATE (CONTRACTOR) FIRE SUPPRESSION RESOURCES

Authorization and use of private (contractor) fire suppression resources will follow approved memorandums of understanding or other agreements between the County Sheriff and the private resources, and documented.

E. REINFORCEMENTS AND SUPPORT

It shall be the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency to acquire and dispatch any needed replacements to relieve initial attack crews of assisting agencies at the earliest practical time after their arrival on the fire.

Non-jurisdictional resources responding to incidents outside of the mutual aid zone need to be requested by the jurisdictional agency. Non-jurisdictional resources responding outside of the mutual aid zone without such request, or placing orders without jurisdictional approval, may create financial or other liabilities for their agencies.

Once assisting and jurisdictional crews have a fire controlled, it shall be mutually agreed as to what additional mop-up and patrol is necessary, and when assisting agencies will leave the fire.

For fires within Clear Creek County, each agency will assume responsibility for its own expenses during the Mutual Aid Period.

6.4 Joint Projects and Project Plans

Nothing in this plan shall prohibit agencies from entering into joint project agreements.

Standard project planning and written agreements will be utilized when entering into joint projects.

6.5 Fire Prevention

The ARF and PSICC perform fire prevention activities, patrols and fire danger sign maintenance on National Forest Service System lands. ARF and PSICC personnel may also conduct the following: educational programs in adjacent communities, distribution of fire danger information, and restrictions to the media and community organizations.

During times of high fire danger, Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office patrols all areas of the county, making educational and enforcement contacts with the public.

Fire Danger Rating signs are located throughout the county and are updated by the local agencies, based upon the local fire danger rating. USFS maintains a database of fire danger signs located within Clear Creek County, which can be used to coordinate the dissemination of fire prevention information.

The Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) programmable Highway Information Signs located on I-70 can be used for advisories during periods of Very High or Extreme fire danger.

6.6 Public Use Restrictions

When contemplating a closure to open burning or lifting of fire restrictions (bans), all agencies will advise its cooperators of the situation and consider joint action(s) as needed. Cooperating agencies should utilize the Fire Restriction and Fire Closure Criteria guidelines (**Exhibit J**)

) when considering these actions. Whenever possible, restrictions and closures should be coordinated among all cooperators. Unified restrictions are desirable.

A Fire Restriction press release will be issued jointly by the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office and all other agencies involved, if a closure will affect multiple ownerships. The Clear Creek County Dispatch Center disseminates Fire Restriction information by fax and email to Clear Creek County agencies. The FTC and PBC Interagency Dispatch Centers and the DFPC RBC should be advised of any restrictions or bans placed upon any lands covered by this agreement.

Joint announcements concerning fire restrictions or appropriate fire uses will be made to reduce confusion on the part of the public.

A. OPEN BURNING RESTRICTIONS AND BANS

Open fires or open burning shall be defined as any outdoor fire, including, but not limited to: campfires; warming fires; fires in outdoor wood-burning stoves (chimney sparks); and the prescribed burning of fence lines, fence rows, fields, farmlands, rangelands, wild lands, trash or debris.

I. Clear Creek County

C.R.S. 30-15-401 (i)(n.5)(i) confers to the Sheriff the right to institute and rescind countywide fire restrictions (bans) as conditions demand for private and state lands outside the jurisdictions of the Clear Creek Fire Authority and Evergreen FPD. Fire restrictions are instituted when the risk of wildfire poses a threat to life and property.

Per Clear Creek County Ordinance #8, the Board of County Commissioners appoints "the County Sheriff as the person with primary responsibility for determining when and to what extent a fire ban is appropriate based on consultation with appropriate agencies in the community", and may directly initiate county-wide fire restrictions (bans). CCSO will enforce state and/or local restrictions and closures affecting state, public, and private.

Shooting restrictions will be implemented in both Stage I and Stage II fire restrictions. The language will read as follows: Shooting (discharging of fire arms of any kind) EXCEPT for hunting with valid hunting license or within a designated shooting range in Clear Creek County, which is only the Clear Creek County Sportsmen Club located on Stanley Road and the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office range off of U.S. Hwy 6, is prohibited.

In the case of any restrictions on open burning or public activities because of extreme fire danger, either by Governor's proclamation or by local issue, the County Sheriff will be responsible for enforcement of these restrictions on all non-federal lands outside the CCFA or EPFD boundaries, and may assist on other lands at the request of the appropriate agency.



Any person who violates the imposed restriction/ban will be charged with 4th Degree Arson and Reckless Endangerment.

The intent of this section is not to restrict the authority of individual land management agencies from independently placing timely restrictions or bans deemed necessary.

6.7 Fire Planning and Preparedness

- A. FIRE DANGER RATINGS, FIRE WEATHER FORECASTS, FIRE RESOURCE STATUS, REMOTE AUTOMATED WEATHER STATIONS** observation and planning information are maintained by Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch Center (FTC) at: http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2ftc/
- I. **Fire Danger:** FTC/PBC track daily fire danger ratings and staffing/action class predictions. Fire danger ratings can be obtained from:
http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2ftc/DidxFindFormjsp.htm
 - II. **Fire Danger Ratings** are also broadcast daily (during fire season) by FTC/PBC over the Arapaho Roosevelt NF frequencies at 1630 hours. For public information and updating Fire Prevention signs, NFDRS adjective classes will be used.
 - III. **Fire Weather Forecasts for the Fire Weather Zones** within the FTC/PBC Dispatch area can be obtained via:
http://www.crh.noaa.gov/bou/firewx/fire_mainmap.php
 - IV. **Fire Resource Status:** The availability of FTC/PBC-Zone wildland fire resources (including aircraft) maintained by respective Agencies is available at:
<http://coftc.chicodew.com/location-report.php>
 - V. **Remote Automatic Weather Stations:** There are two Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) located in Clear Creek County which provide current weather information through websites, daily fire danger reports, and by radio transmission to authorized personnel. The RAWS stations are: Corral Creek (operated by the U.S. Forest Service) located west of Evergreen; and Dumont (operated by the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office) located in the Dumont area.

Links to real-time RAWS observations are available at:
http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2ftc/FTCWeather.htm
 - VI. **Interagency Coordination and Planning during fire season:** FTC coordinates conference calls for Planning Levels 1 through 5. Contact FTC for phone number, access code and time/date.
- B. RED FLAG WARNINGS**
Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches are issued by the National Weather Service Forecast Office when short-term weather conditions are predicted that will cause erratic fire behavior. These conditions include very low humidity, high winds, and "dry" lightning activity. Initial attack may require additional or air support under

these conditions. Red Flag Warnings may be preceded by "Fire Weather Watches" that are also issued by the National Weather Service.

Red Flag Warnings and other fire weather and operational advisories can be obtained from FTC/PBC on a daily basis and may be disseminated through the Clear Creek County Dispatch Center to those fire departments for which they dispatch. Evergreen Fire Protection District's Dispatch Center will be responsible for notification to the resources for which they dispatch.

News releases about fire danger and prescribed burning may be coordinated, and when practical, issued by the appropriate information officer as a joint release by the cooperating agencies to newspaper, radio and television media. This effort will reduce public confusion on the subject, and direct attention to fire danger for all elevations and ownerships.

C. PREVENTION PLANNING

I. Community Wildfire Protection Plans

The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) is available to assist Clear Creek County and individual fire departments in developing community wildfire prevention plans and mitigation measures. CSFS dedicates professional staff as "Mitigation Coordinators" to accomplish these tasks depending on funding.

II. Land Use Planning in the Wildland Urban Interface

CSFS is available to review land use plans for local counties as required under state statute. CSFS-Golden District will work with Clear Creek County and the local fire departments to prepare a wildfire hazard review on all proposed subdivisions and land development. Implementation of the recommended wildfire hazard mitigation procedures is determined by the Board of County Commissioners, prior to subdivision approval.

III. Defensible Space and Fuels Treatment

Private landowners and other agencies contract with CSFS to mark defensible spaces and fuel breaks for wildfire mitigation.

The USFS Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest develops wildfire mitigation areas and fuels treatment according to National Forest Plans, which direct the long-term (10+ year) management of natural resources on these lands.

Clear Creek County has a current wildfire mitigation regulation. The regulations by Clear Creek County (effective as of January 1, 1996) require defensible spaces be developed for new construction and additions greater than 400 square feet in size within the wildland zone.

All railroads and utility companies should coordinate their right-of-way maintenance activities with the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office, Clear Creek Fire Authority, Evergreen Fire Protection District and U.S. Forest Service as necessary. Notification of the jurisdictional agency should be made prior to the start, and at the end, of any maintenance activities. Any applicable permits will be obtained by the railroads or utility companies according to all pertinent federal, state or county statutes and regulations.

6.8 Burning Permits

Fire Protection Districts may issue open area burning permits based on the safety risks of such a fire. Private landowners may obtain permits from the Clear Creek County Fire Authority or Evergreen Fire Protection District (in their jurisdictions) for open burning in Clear Creek County. When such permits are issued the Fire Protection District shall inform all cooperators/agencies of the time and location that the permit is issued for and will be conducted.

6.9 Prescribed Fire (Planned Ignitions) and Fuels Management

The USFS Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest, DFPC and all other land management agencies and Fire Districts agree to cooperate in the development and implementation of prescribed burning programs and projects. Agencies and fire departments conducting prescribed fire activities will report their prescribed fire activities to the Clear Creek County Dispatch Center, FTC/PBC, the fire protection district within which the fire is occurring, and to each other prior to any prescribed fire activity. In addition, the Sheriff will maintain a record of all controlled burning activities occurring on private lands.

Each agency or department will be responsible for obtaining any burn permit necessary at the county, state, or federal levels for their individual burns.

The agency lighting any prescribed fire is responsible for that fire. In the event of a wildland fire declaration, the mutual aid response principles will apply. If interagency resources must be directed to the control and suppression of that fire, it is agreed that the agency initiating the prescribed fire will be responsible for all suppression costs.

Senate Bill 13-083 created a prescribed burning program for the State of Colorado under the Division of Fire Prevention and Control. Under this bill, the Board of County Commissioners of each county in the state, subject to the requirements of C.R.S. section 25-7-123, may prepare, adopt, and implement a county fire management plan that details individual county policies on fire management for prescribed burns, fuels management, or natural ignition burns on lands owned by the state or county. Such plans shall be developed in coordination with the County Sheriff, the Division of Fire Prevention and Control and the appropriate state and local governmental entities. All interested parties shall have the opportunity to comment on the plan prior to its adoption and implementation.

All personnel using prescribed fire on State Lands must follow the current Colorado Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Policy Guide and current Prescribed Fire Planning Forms. All personnel using prescribed fire on State Lands must follow DFPC Prescribed Fire Guidelines and Templates. For inquiries and information regarding the current guidelines contact the DFPC Regional BC.

6.10 Smoke Management

Smoke management consists of policies and practices implemented by the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division and the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission. Jurisdictions adhering to this AOP will communicate with the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division to evaluate existing prescribed fire permit program rules and implementation so as to support, and increase where possible, appropriate response use of prescribed fire.

7.0 OPERATIONS

7.1 Fire Notifications

The responsible jurisdictional agency must be notified of wildfires on or threatening their lands as soon as possible after the arrival of initial attack forces. Notification of the jurisdictional agency will be made by the Dispatch/Communication Center handling the initial attack fire forces.

The Sheriff, or designee, shall be notified and kept informed of all fires occurring on all lands in Clear Creek County, regardless of ownership and jurisdiction.

NOTE: Denver Mountain Parks, Denver Water and Jefferson County Public Schools must be notified as soon as practical of all fires occurring on lands belonging to Denver Mountain Parks, Denver Water and Jefferson County Public Schools. The initial attack agency must do this in order to receive possible reimbursement for fire-fighting costs. The USFS Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest must be notified as soon as practical of all fires on or threatening National Forest System lands.

7.2 Boundary Line Fires

Wildland fires burning on, or adjacent to, a known or questionable protection boundary will be the initial attack responsibility of the protecting agencies on both sides of the boundary. Fires occurring in areas where structures are located nearby and in areas of multiple jurisdictions can cause significant safety as well as financial concerns. The initial attack Agency Representatives of the involved agencies shall mutually agree upon fire suppression objectives, strategy, and the commitment and funding of agency suppression resources. When a fire burns on both sides of a protection boundary or threatens another jurisdiction, and is beyond the mutual aid period, a cost share agreement shall be prepared and approved by the Agency Administrator or their designee.

The Sheriff, or designee, shall be notified and kept informed of all fires occurring on all lands in Clear Creek County, regardless of ownership and jurisdiction.

7.3 Response to Wildland Fire

FEDERAL RESPONSE ZONE

The Federal Response Zone is defined as any land within 2 miles of the accepted federal land management boundary. Agencies will respond upon request (or may voluntarily if adjoining land is threatened) to any other agency or fire protection district for the duration of the mutual aid period within the Federal Response Zone.

Each agency may make its resources available upon request to the other agencies for fires outside the Federal Response Zone. For such fires, the jurisdictional agency may reimburse the assisting agency for costs, subject to all agreements concerning mutual aid or other applicable standards. 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.

For fires within the Federal Response Zone, each agency will assume responsibility for its own expenses during the Mutual Aid Period unless other payment arrangements are agreed upon by the involved agencies for a particular fire. Initial attack activities are also subject to all existing mutual aid, reciprocal aid, and automatic aid agreements between the involved agencies. If after being notified, the jurisdictional agency is unable to

respond to the fire, then the assisting agency may request reimbursement for all costs incurred for suppressing the fire.

It is understood that suppression forces operating on Federal lands should possess documentation of qualifications (incident qualification card, red card, or records) issued by their host or employing Agency, Fire Protection District or Department, and should meet the minimum standards set forth in the most current version of NWCG PMS 310-1, *Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide*. All personnel not meeting these standards will clear the incident once the jurisdictional Federal agency takes control of the incident, properly qualified personnel are available as replacements, or the Incident Commander determines that the personnel cannot be utilized in an appropriate fashion on the incident, per current wildland fire Federal policy.

A. NATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESS AREAS – MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Cooperator resources responding to a fire within any Wilderness Area should proceed as normal and employ strategies and tactics to manage the fire by the most effective, efficient, and safest means possible with the protection of human life as the overriding priority. The IC of such fires should immediately contact the jurisdictional agency duty officer, as per normal procedures.

Lightning-ignited fires within ARF or any Wilderness Area may include resource benefit objectives. Fires within wilderness areas may employ a broad spectrum of tactical responses, which range from aggressive suppression to monitoring, commensurate with current and predicted risk, values to be protected, and land management objectives. Conditions under which this management strategy is used are well-defined and tightly constrained. The decision to include resource multiple objectives will be made by the jurisdictional agency.

B. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Suppression within designated USFS Wilderness Areas will not be conducted without direct orders from the jurisdictional federal officer. FTC must be notified promptly of all fires on or threatening USFS.

The Sheriff, or designee, shall be notified and kept informed of all fires occurring on all lands in Clear Creek County, regardless of ownership and jurisdiction.

With exception of protection for immediate risk to life, all use of mechanized, earthmoving equipment such as bulldozers, graders, etc., will not be permitted on the following lands without the expressed approval of the appropriate management or land owning agencies. Jurisdictional agencies operating on the following lands will make an attempt to contact management or land owner prior to using mechanized earthmoving equipment:

- All Federal lands (USFS - National Forest Service System lands)
- Denver Mountain Parks
- Denver Water Board
- Jefferson County Public Schools – Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab

I. Repair and Rehabilitation of Wildfire Suppression Damages

Repair of impacts caused by suppression actions is normally conducted during suppression operations and is covered by a cost-share agreement, if one is in place.

Rehabilitation of the fire area is not covered under EFF; all other reclamation work must be funded by the landowner or other sources.

II. Fire Retardant Exclusion Areas

Aerial application of fire retardant will be restricted within 300 feet distance of all lakes or waterways (containing water) on Federal jurisdiction lands. Retardant is further restricted within 600 feet of designated waterways that have critical habitat for Greenback Cutthroat Trout. See **Exhibit F-7** for a map of the Retardant Exclusion Areas. These maps can also be found at:

[https://ftp.nifc.gov/public/base_info/retardant_avoidance_areas/Maps/Region 2/](https://ftp.nifc.gov/public/base_info/retardant_avoidance_areas/Maps/Region_2/)

C. WILDLAND FIRE DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM (WFDSS)

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 is 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 the USFS Land Management Plan or other documents)
- Resource Availability
- Fire modeling Tools
- Seasonality – duration of fire/change in conditions

Agency Administrators and Fire Managers 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 (and usually is). Information regarding WFDSS may be found at: [http://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/WFDSS Home.shtml](http://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/WFDSS_Home.shtml)

DFPC requires that a Decision Support System (DDS) be completed for all fires that receive a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declaration and 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.

D. COOPERATION

Fire Protection Districts, County, State and Federal Partners agree to cooperate to the extent possible to plan for, respond to, and recover from wildfire incidents within the county.

E. COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS

- I. All agencies signing this agreement authorize use of their radio frequencies by other agency personnel for emergency purposes only.
- II. All agencies, departments, and fire protection districts which use ARF FM frequencies for tactical or command purposes (through the FTC and PBC Interagency Dispatch Centers) must have radios programmed in "narrow band" mode to facilitate clear transmission and reception.
- III. Due to the complex interspersing of private lands within national forest boundaries, the Clear Creek County Dispatch Center may make the initial dispatch for wildland fires reported within the national forest boundary.
- IV. When incidents exceed initial attack on federal lands, the incident should implement the Fort Collins Zone Extended Attack Communications Strategy and the Northern Front Range Mutual Aid VHF Group (**Exhibit G-2**) for tactical and command radio traffic.

On Clear Creek County managed incidents, the Clear Creek County Communications Plan will be implemented for the period of initial attack. Once Clear Creek County managed incidents transition into extended attack, communications may transfer to the Fort Collins Zone Extended Attack Communications Strategy and the Northern Front Range Mutual Aid VHF Group which utilizes standardized frequencies available to all agencies and departments in the FTC Zone. If the FTC Zone Extended Attack Communications Strategy and the Northern Front Range Mutual Aid VHF Group is in use on an incident, subsequent tactical and command frequencies must be ordered through FTC Interagency Dispatch Center.

The USFS Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest Portable Command Repeater is available for extended attack, and to facilitate the Fort Collins Zone Extended Attack Communications Strategy and the Northern Front Range Mutual Aid VHF Group. If a portable command repeater is needed a resource order should be placed with the FTC/PBC Interagency Dispatch Center as soon as possible.

- V. The Clear Creek County Dispatch Center shall be the primary agency for the initial attack dispatching of county resources, regardless of land jurisdiction.

- VI. If the FTC Zone Extended Attack Communications Strategy and the Northern Front Range Mutual Aid VHF Group is in use on an incident, subsequent tactical and command frequencies must be ordered through FTC Interagency Dispatch Center.
- VII. All Air-to-Ground communications will be on the NIICD assigned A-G frequency. Additionally A-G frequencies must be ordered through FTC/PBC Interagency Dispatch Center.

SPOT WEATHER FORECASTS

Each agency shall be responsible for gathering fire weather information and requesting spot weather forecasts for their individual fire incidents, but may request assistance in gathering or transmitting such information from any of the other fire agencies.

Requests can be submitted to the National Weather Service on line at:

<https://www.weather.gov/bou/fire>

To contact the Boulder office, NWS: 303-494-4221

County agencies and Fire Protection Districts can also submit these requests to the National Weather Service through the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Dispatch or to FTC, for submission to the National Weather Service

F. LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Traffic control will be coordinated by the jurisdictional law enforcement agency (i.e. county Sheriff, town or city police department) upon request, to expedite the routing of vehicles and personnel to and from major fires, and to exclude unauthorized personnel from the fire area.

It will be the responsibility of the agency upon whose land the fire originates to initiate law enforcement action. When initial attack is made by other than the jurisdictional agency, the assisting agency will immediately gather and preserve information and evidence pertaining to the cause of the fire for the jurisdictional agency.

7.4 Cost Efficiency

It is a goal of Clear Creek County, Federal partners and the State of Colorado to provide cost efficient services. Agency Administrators will make every effort to ensure cost effectiveness during firefighting operations. However, cost efficiencies will not take priority over firefighter or public safety. Additionally, the potential long term financial impacts of the fire should be considered and balanced against the short term costs savings of not ordering needed resources.

7.5 Delegation of Authority

A written Delegation of Authority may be generated whenever an agency, other than the authority having jurisdiction, will take over the management of a fire. A Delegation of Authority may also be made to the incident commander and the incident management team.



Jurisdictional agencies will provide the supervision and support including operational oversight, direction and logistical support to incident management teams as outlined in the Delegation of Authority

The Delegation of Authority does not absolve the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) from any legally owed responsibility. It does, however; provide another agency or individual, the authority and power to act on behalf of the agency delegating the authority. It also lists the parameters of the delegated authority.

A Delegation of Authority should include the following items:

- Authority Having Jurisdiction who is delegating authority
- Agency or individual accepting authority
- Specific authorities delegated
- Specific limits to the authority
- End terms of the authority

7.6 Preservation of Evidence

The jurisdictional agency will determine as soon as possible the origin and cause of all wildland fires on their respective lands.

The ARF and the CCSO will act under the auspices of the Sisk Act (P.L. 92-82, 16 U.S.C. 551a) Law Enforcement Cooperative Agreements.

Although an assisting agency may have a fire extinguished upon arrival of the jurisdictional agency's forces, the assisting agency will coordinate with the jurisdictional agency in the investigation of fire cause and take steps to preserve the point of origin, preserve all clues that may relate to the cause, and note all traffic leaving the area as they arrive, to include vehicle descriptions and license numbers. (See **Exhibit T** - Fire Investigation Form).

For all non-federal land, as a condition precedent to entering into this agreement, and to maintain eligibility for continuing participation in the EFF throughout the term hereof, the county agrees that the Sheriff of said county shall conduct an investigation on all non-federal fires to determine cause, responsible party, time of ignition, and all other pertinent information relating to the cause of the fire. A copy of the preliminary investigation report will provided to the DFPC Director within 30 days of control of the fire, and a final report upon the conclusion of that investigation consistent with state law.

Agreements may exist between the County Sheriff and/or police authorities and the jurisdictional agencies that apply to investigation and enforcement. Fire cause determination is needed for EFF/State Responsibility incidents and required for FEMA incidents.

7.7 Post-Incident Action Analysis

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

7.8 Incident Reports

The jurisdictional agency will prepare the statistical incident report based on their policy. Information for this report will be provided by the initial attack agency if other than the

jurisdictional agency. An incident report will accompany all reimbursement requests. The jurisdictional agency will make all incident reports available to the DFPC Coal Creek Region BC as requested.

Local Cooperators (Clear Creek Fire Authority, Evergreen Fire Protection District, and Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office) should report all wildfires through the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). During periods of higher fire danger or actual fire activity, notification of wildfire suppression activities should be sent by email or fax to the DFPC Regional BC, FTC, PBC and other participating agencies on a daily or weekly basis. This information may be used to request the pre-positioning of aircraft and other resources closer to Clear Creek County, by the DFPC Regional BC. This information is also used to determine the need for fire restrictions by all the participating agencies.

8.0 STATE EMERGENCY FIRE FUND (EFF)

The EFF is funded by an annual assessment of member counties. It is based upon a formula that considers the number of forested acres protected and the valuation of private properties within Clear Creek County.

The EFF may be used to assist counties with whom the DFPC has signed an *Emergency Fund Contract Agreement for Watershed Fire Control (Attachment B)* and who have paid their latest annual assessment. The fund will be used only for approved wildfire suppression and control activities. The DFPC Director, or designee, is the only person authorized to approve and implement the fund.

Clear Creek County is a participant in the EFF agreement with DFPC. As a participant to this agreement, the state agrees to come to the aid of Clear Creek County should suppression resource needs exceed the county's capabilities. When a wildfire exceeds the capability of the fire protection district to control or extinguish, the fire protection district may request to transfer the responsibility for the wildfire to the Clear Creek County Sheriff. The request to transfer responsibility for a wildfire will be made in writing (such as the Delegation of Authority Form (**Exhibit Q-2**)) between a representative of the fire protection district and the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office. Wildfires that have not become the responsibility of the Clear County Sheriff are not eligible for EFF support.

8.1 EFF Activation

Clear Creek County will notify the DFPC Regional BC or designee immediately should a wildfire incident occur that has the potential to exceed county capabilities. Notification will go through the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Line at **303-279-8855**. EFF/State responsibility fire incidents will be coordinated through the FTC or PBC Interagency Dispatch Center.

The DFPC Regional BC or designee assists the County Sheriff in completing the DFPC EFF Analysis Form (**Exhibit P-2**) for each shift, preparing the DFPC Fire Funding Request Form 3 (**Exhibit P-3**), and assures that the Incident DFPC Agency Administrator is aware of local situations and procedures.

When the DFPC EFF forms are completed, the DFPC Regional BC or designee will contact the DFPC Director or designee and relay the information collected. The Regional BC or designee will also make his/her recommendation on whether or not the situation warrants implementation of the fund.



The DFPC Director may give his decision directly to the requesting Regional BC or designee, or it may be relayed through the division director's designee. This decision will be documented in writing on the DFPC 3 Form, or attachments, as necessary. Upon approval of EFF implementation, the DFPC Director or designee will assign a DFPC Agency Administrator to the incident.

When EFF is implemented, the County Sheriff signs the DFPC Assumption of Fire Control Duty Form 4 (**Exhibit V-2**) for fires that the Division Director approves for EFF, and serves as the County's representative.

DFPC assumes responsibility and authority for all suppression activity until the fire is returned to county responsibility. The county shall nevertheless continue to make its maximum effort to provide firefighting resources from within the county.

All EFF/State Responsibility fires will have a designated command structure consisting of, at a minimum, the Clear Creek County Sheriff (or designated representative) and a DFPC Agency Administrator. If land administered by another agency is threatened or involved, that agency will provide a representative.

8.2 Minimum County Commitment

When a fire is approved for EFF implementation within Clear Creek County, the following minimum fire suppression forces will be maintained, as much as possible, throughout the duration of the incident:

- Local resources available to the county through mutual aid or contract basis, while still providing a minimal level of response for other, new incidents within that fire district and without jeopardizing the ability of the assisting agencies to mount a reasonable response within their own jurisdiction. See "Intergovernmental Agreement for Mutual Aid between Clear Creek County and the Clear Creek Fire Authority" (**Attachment D**); "Intergovernmental Agreement for Mutual Aid between Clear Creek Fire Authority and Evergreen Fire Protection District" (**Attachment D**); "Wildland Fire Protection Agreement between Clear Creek Fire Authority and Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office (**Attachment E**); and the "Wildfire Protection Agreement between Clear Creek County – Clear Creek Sheriff's Office and the Evergreen Fire Protection District" (**Attachment F**); or any successor agreements as signed by the parties. USFS resources are available as mutual aid for wildfires within two miles of National Forest System lands
- Law enforcement and traffic control through the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office and/ or local law enforcement jurisdiction.
- Equipment and operators (such as bulldozers, road graders, water tenders) from the County Road & Bridge Department, if available - and if appropriate, needed, and meeting specific safety/operational standards for the incident.
- Other county-owned equipment as may be available and as mutually agreed upon between the County and the DFPC Agency Administrator, given the specific conditions and needs of the incident.



8.3 EFF Deactivation

DFPC will transfer control of an EFF fire back to Clear Creek County when: the Agency Administrator's objectives have been met, and a written plan has been developed for the next operational period.

The County and/or applicable Fire Protection District will be responsible for mop-up and patrol after control of a fire has been transferred back to the County from DFPC, according to an extended incident action plan that includes the next operational period.

Rehabilitation of natural resources impacted by fire effects is the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency.

Rehabilitation of the fire area is not covered under EFF. Repair of impacts caused by suppression actions during suppression operations may be authorized by the DFPC Agency Administrator and only when part of the Incident Action Plan during the EFF period. All other reclamation work must be funded by the landowner or other sources.

8.4 Reimbursement

When a fire is accepted by the State as an EFF incident, the Cost Share Principles agreed to by State and federal agencies will apply (See **Exhibit M**).

For County managed fires, the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office may identify a separate process and procedure for reimbursement of cooperators not identified in this agreement.

On EFF-declared fires, reimbursement requests from cooperating agencies will be made to the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control. All DFPC cooperators subject to DFPC reimbursement will have invoices sent to the DFPC Fort Collins Office within thirty (30) days after incident resources are released. Invoices are required to have proper documentation supporting those expenses before the process for payment can be completed. Current DFPC reimbursement procedures will be followed.

9.0 USE OF INTERAGENCY FIRE RESOURCES

9.1 Training

Each agency shall be responsible for the training of its own personnel; however, cooperating agencies will advise each other of planned training sessions and issue invitations to participate. All agencies and fire departments are encouraged to utilize all available avenues for wildland fire training, be it from federal, state, or local agencies.

Safety of personnel involved in an incident is critical. It is the stated goal of the participating agencies in this AOP to have all personnel that may be involved in suppressing wildland fires meet current NWCG requirements for the position they are filling as specified in the Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide (PMS 310-1) or current federal policy of Federal partners. Personnel must be certified for wildland fire suppression and be Incident Qualification Carded for the position they are filling, as specified in the NWCG Guidelines for any work beyond the mutual aid period.

Each agency will be responsible for providing personal protective equipment (PPE), for their personnel; however, cooperating agencies may assist by supplying specific equipment needs for an individual incident. It is understood that suppression forces operating on Federal lands must be equipped with PPE. For any work on Federal lands



beyond the mutual aid period, personnel must be certified for wildland fire suppression Incident Qualification Carded for the position they are filling, as specified in the NWCG Guidelines.

9.2 Communication Systems

For the purposes of conducting business authorized by this plan, all parties to this operating plan agree that assisting agencies may use the jurisdictional agency's radio frequencies as approved to conduct emergency communications on fires of the jurisdictional agency. No party to this operating plan will use, or authorize others to use, another agency's radio frequencies for routine day to day operations.

9.3 Fire Weather Systems

Information on Fire Weather Stations, Fire Danger, Current Fire Situation, Current Fire Restrictions, and other information can be seen at the FTC website:

http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2ftc/

Red Flag/Fire Weather Announcements - The National Weather Service periodically issues "FIRE WEATHER WATCH" and "RED FLAG WARNING" bulletins. Fire Weather Forecast information can be seen at the National Weather Service's Fire Weather Index Page: <https://www.weather.gov/bou/fire>

Each agency party to this agreement may release fire danger information it deems necessary to enhance public awareness and safety with regard to current fire conditions. News releases may be coordinated between cooperators to lend a unified approach to current conditions when period of HIGH to EXTREME fire danger or when RED FLAG or FIRE WEATHER WATCHES are issued.

Because of the renewed awareness of the importance of having current fire weather forecasts to help ensure personnel safety, each agency is encouraged to obtain forecasts from the National Weather Service, Fire Weather Forecasters. Each agency shall be responsible for gathering fire weather information and requesting spot weather forecasts for their individual fire incidents, but may request assistance in gathering or transmitting such information from any of the other fire agencies. Agencies can submit their spot weather request to:

<https://www.weather.gov/bou/fire>

To contact the Boulder office, NWS 303-494-4221

9.4 Aviation Operations

A. AIRCRAFT USE PROVISIONS

Parties to this operating plan undertaking initial attack may utilize aviation resources before land jurisdiction is determined when fire conditions and potential losses warrant it. Where possible, concurrence among potentially affected agencies will be obtained prior to dispatch. However, fire control actions shall not be hampered if agreement is delayed as a result of communication difficulties. The jurisdictional

agency assumes responsibility for the costs of aviation resources under these circumstances.

I. Authorization for Resource Ordering

In Clear Creek County, the following people have authority to order aircraft:

- Clear Creek County Sheriff, or designee
- Clear Creek County Under Sheriff, or designee
- Clear Creek County Special Operations, or designee
- Clear Creek Fire Authority Chief, or Designee, within district only
- Evergreen Fire Protection District Chief, or Designee, within district only
- United States Forest Service

a) For emergency use of State aviation resources on local wildfires, requests for aircraft may be made directly by the Clear Creek County or Evergreen FPD dispatch centers to FTC, followed by immediate notification to DFPC. Requests to FTC, for any and all air resource use, must include all the information shown on the Aircraft Request Form (**Exhibit F-2**). Request for the DFPC Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA) should be made through the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Line at 303-279-8855; utilizing the MMA Request Form found in (**Exhibit F-8**) of this AOP.

Clear Creek County and Evergreen FPD are required to notify the DFPC Regional BC or designee immediately upon ordering any aviation resources through FTC if they are requesting the support of WERF. Without such notification, any aerial resource use will obligate county funds under the current Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection in Clear Creek County (**Attachment G**). FTC will immediately notify the DFPC Regional BC or designee whenever Clear Creek County or Evergreen FPD orders aviation resources.

b) Aviation resource orders (and costs) within Clear Creek County that are not covered by the WERF may obligate the Clear Creek County Sheriff for costs under the Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection in Clear Creek County (**Attachment G**). Any agency ordering aviation resources outside the terms of the WERF (**as shown in Exhibit R**) will be liable for the costs of these aviation resources, unless the designated County officials approve the resource order for county payment. In order for Clear Creek County to approve county payment of a resource order, the Clear Creek County Sheriff, or designee must have been delegated command for an incident from the Clear Creek Fire Authority or Evergreen FPD.

c) Continued use of the aerial resource(s) by the ordering agency will be at full cost, and subject to the prior approval of Clear Creek County.



II. Boundary Wildfires

Aircraft use on wildfires located along jurisdictional boundaries will be the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency if pre-approval or consultation with all affected agencies has not occurred at the time of the resource order. Aircraft used over federal lands are subject to the restrictions shown in (**Exhibit F- 7**), Retardant Exclusion Zone Map – ARF.

III. Wildfire Emergency Response Fund

The Colorado State Legislature House Bill 02-1025 created the Wildfire Emergency Resource Fund (WERF) to encourage the use of resources for initial attack on state and private lands. Use of State interagency resources can be made by the requesting agency under the terms of the current WERF Guidelines (**Exhibit R**). The fund does not cover transit cost for aviation resources not stationed in Colorado, or certain other expenses associated with aircraft use. These additional costs are the responsibility of the ordering agency or county.

Clear Creek County and Evergreen FPD are required to notify the DFPC Regional BC or designee immediately upon ordering any aviation resources through FTC, if they are requesting the support of WERF. Without such notification, any aerial resource use will obligate county funds under the current Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection in Clear Creek County (**Attachment G**). Clear Creek County Sheriff or designee will immediately notify the DFPC Regional BC or designee whenever Clear Creek County or Evergreen FPD orders aviation resources.

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IV. State of Colorado Aviation Program

The DFPC sponsors a State of Colorado Aviation Program, including fixed wing and rotor wing assets (**see Exhibit F- 4 for SEAT Briefing**), for use on wildland fires within the State of Colorado.

a) DFPC is responsible for the carding of the ships and pilots, and all logistical and support arrangements. DFPC will cover the cost of pre-positioning flight time, standby, and any associated per diem expenses for local use under predetermined pre-positioning criteria. DFPC will also be responsible for assuring the aircraft operates within all applicable FAA, USFS, and USDI-OAS regulations.

b) Aviation assets have home bases, but frequently move locations to preposition in areas of risk. Requests to have State of Colorado assets moved to cover a specific area (such as Clear Creek County) should be made by local cooperators through the DFPC Regional BC.

c) Criteria for placing a State of Colorado Aircraft on standby may include the following: no measurable precipitation for 14+ days, very high fire danger predicted, a holiday or other event expected to increase human-caused fires, or experiencing multiple fire starts.

d) Aircraft availability for initial attack should be confirmed with FTC. It should be realized that aircraft may come from out of state, which may greatly increase their time of arrival to the wildfire.

V. Air Reconnaissance and Detection Flights

Aerial reconnaissance and detection flights will be coordinated among cooperating agencies through the FTC Interagency Dispatch Center.

All agencies will cooperate in taking smoke reports from any source and obtaining as much information as possible from the reporting party and passing it along to the appropriate jurisdictional agency.

DFPC sponsors the Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA) Program. The MMA Program operates under the State of Colorado Aviation Plan. This program is comprised of two aircraft outfitted with infrared and color sensors. The MMA is a complete system that provides critical intelligence, images, and communications capabilities. It is integrated with the Colorado Wildfire Information System (CO_WIMS) geospatial database. The DFPC MMA

Program resources must be requested through the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Line: **303-279-8855**.

VI. Air Space Restrictions

The incident commander will be responsible for initiating any requests for Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) (**See Exhibit F-5**) of airspace from the FAA if non-fire aircraft may pose a hazard for air operations. Such requests may be routed through the Clear Creek County Dispatch Center or the FTC Interagency Dispatch Center.

VII. Communications

a) All Air-to-Ground communications for aircraft dispatched through FTC to wildfires within Clear Creek County will be on the NIICD assigned A-G frequency for Zone 5. If all assigned frequencies are assigned to active incidents, or have excessive traffic, additional A-G frequencies must be ordered through FTC Interagency Dispatch Center.

b) It is the responsibility of the incident commander and the jurisdictional agency to establish communications between ground resources and air resources on all wildfires.

c) The use of frequencies other than the assigned A-G will be discouraged for air-to-ground communications for tactical use on wildfires, in order to prevent conflicts with ongoing local fire agency use.

VIII. National Forest Lands

The ARF may provide tactical air support or aerial supervision as reciprocal fire protection services within the protection boundary and if the incident is determined to be a threat to National Forest Lands.

IX. Aviation Map

Federal agencies have mapped aviation issues on ARF lands in the ARF fire management action plans which include the following:

- HAZARDS
- SENSITIVE ZONES (urban-interface, aquatic, wilderness, etc.)
- HELISPOTS, DIP SITES
- AUTOMATIC DISPATCH ZONES (tied to preparedness planning)
- DETECTION ROUTES
- FOAM/RETARDANT RESTRICTION AREAS

B. NATIONAL GUARD RESOURCES

If other aircraft resources are unavailable, National Guard helicopters may be available. Aircraft normally are dispatched in pairs, and may also come with a



backup ship. Ground support will be provided. Aircraft and pilots will be "carded" by the United States Forest Service and Department of Interior before their use on Federal lands. Cost to the using agency will apply, and may vary from incident to incident. See (**Exhibit F- 3**) for current information about these costs.

To request these aircraft, gather the necessary information shown on the Aircraft Request Form (**Exhibit F-2**) and contact the Colorado Division of Emergency Management State Emergency Operations Center with the specific equipment and mission request. The request should clearly specify that National Guard resources are being requested specifically for a State or County responsibility fire. The DFPC Regional BC or designee should also be notified that a request for National Guard resources has been initiated.

C. INCIDENTS INVOLVING MULTIPLE AIR RESOURCES

Aircraft control on complex incidents, especially those involving multiple air resources, should be coordinated through FTC and on the incident by the appropriate and qualified air operations personnel.

10.0 REIMBURSEMENT OF FIRE RESOURCES

10.1 Reimbursable Costs

Wildfire suppression costs will be determined according to mutual aid agreements, formal transfer of command documents, cost-share agreements, or shall be covered as mutually agreed upon by the county and district involved.

A. CROSS-BOUNDARY FIRES

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

- I. Each agency assumes its own costs as expended during the fire control effort.
- II. Division of fire costs based upon ownership and acreage percentages.
- III. Some other method mutually agreed upon by Agency Representatives. Such method will be agreed upon in writing as soon as possible after determining that multiple ownerships are involved.

B. COST SHARE AGREEMENTS (COST SHARE METHODOLOGIES)

- I. Cost-share agreements shall be prepared when an incident burns across or threatens jurisdictional boundaries. The intent is to 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. References are found in (**Exhibit M**) *Cost-Share Principles and Items to Consider When Negotiating a Cost-Share Agreement*, for additional options.

- II. For wildland urban interface (WUI) fires involving structures, the distribution of costs should be commensurate with the values protected.
- III. Structure protection costs should be borne whenever possible by the jurisdictional agency or Fire Protection District in which the structures are located, unless otherwise addressed in a cost-share agreement for the incident to allow for reimbursement, if agreed upon by all authoritative parties.
- IV. Those Fire Protection Districts which are supported by tax revenues should not expect reimbursement when performing structural protection duties on an incident within their jurisdictions.
- V. Generally, agencies that elect to not fully suppress an ignition with the intent to manage the fire for other objectives are responsible for all cost associated with that fire after the mutual aid period ends. This includes the cost of protecting private land, structures, infrastructure and other public lands, unless negotiated otherwise with the affected jurisdictions. Where incidents have an initial suppression objective, but then offer an opportunity to manage a portion of the fire for objectives, agencies should follow the standard mutual aid and cost share principles.
- VI. Repair of impacts caused by suppression actions is normally conducted during suppression operations and is covered by a cost-share agreement, if one is in place. Rehabilitation of natural resources impacted by fire effects is the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency.
- VII. **Non-EFF Fires** - When a wildfire occurs on lands of more than one agency and costs are incurred in addition to the initial attack, reimbursement will be made according to a cost-share plan.

C. INITIAL ATTACK COSTS

- I. Any costs incurred by assisting agencies for initial attack during the Mutual Aid Period of a wildfire within Clear Creek County, and which were ordered by the jurisdictional agency, shall NOT be considered reimbursable, unless other payment arrangements are agreed upon by the involved agencies for a particular fire.
- II. Initial attack activities are also subject to all existing mutual aid, reciprocal aid, and automatic aid agreements between the involved agencies, and unless otherwise covered under WERF.
- III. Any agency that provides a reasonable initial attack response in another agency's zone when the jurisdictional agency is unable to respond, may, at its discretion, request reimbursement from the jurisdictional agency, unless otherwise covered by applicable mutual aid agreements or agreements made on an incident-specific basis.

D. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

- I. Any costs incurred by agencies for a wildfire within Clear Creek County on lands owned by Denver Mountain Parks, Denver Water Board and Jefferson County Public School may be considered reimbursable unless otherwise covered by applicable mutual aid agreements, reciprocal aid, and automatic aid; agreements

made on an incident-specific basis; agreed participation that meets the minimum County commitment under EFF; or other payment arrangements are agreed upon by the involved agencies for a particular fire.

- II. Initial attack activities are subject to all existing mutual aid, reciprocal aid, and automatic aid agreements between the involved agencies.
- III. Payment for reimbursable wildfire suppression costs on lands owned by Denver Mountain Parks, Denver Water Board and Jefferson County Public Schools requires the landowners be notified. Failure to notify the landowner will jeopardize the opportunity for reimbursement to the responding agencies.

E. MUTUAL AID

Reimbursement for mutual aid activities between participating agencies in Clear Creek County will be handled as covered by: the "Intergovernmental Agreement for Mutual Aid Between Fire Departments" for Clear Creek County (**Attachment C**); the "Intergovernmental Agreement for Mutual Aid between Clear Creek Fire Authority and Evergreen Fire Protection District" (**Attachment D**); the Wildland Fire Protection Agreement between Clear Creek Fire Authority and Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office (**Attachment E**); and the "Intergovernmental Agreement for Mutual Aid between Evergreen Fire Protection District and Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office" (**Attachment F**); or any successor agreements as signed by the parties.

F. AVIATION COSTS

Cost reimbursement for aviation resources will be handled in one of the following manners:

- As specified in the Wildland Emergency Response Fund (WERF) procedures established by the Division of Fire Prevention and Control, shown in **Exhibit R**.
- As specified in any incident-specific cost-share agreements developed according to Emergency Fire Fund Contract Agreement between Clear Creek County and Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, and shown in **Attachment B**.
- As specified in any incident-specific cost-share agreements developed by an Incident Management Team, and approved by the jurisdictional agencies involved under a unified command.
- As specified in the current Colorado Cooperative Fire Management Agreement, and shown in **Attachment A and G**

In general, the agency ordering the aviation resources will be responsible for paying for the costs of using these resources. Reimbursement to the ordering agency, from other jurisdictional agencies, will be handled by billing and/or transfer of funds between the involved agencies. Payments and requests for reimbursements between Clear Creek County and the Federal agencies will occur through the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, who will coordinate this process.

10.2 Billing Procedures

Invoicing for reimbursable fires occurring in Clear Creek County in which costs are incurred by the county and the fire protection district may be coordinated, if necessary,



through consultation with the DFPC Regional BC or designee. This especially applies to fires that go beyond the mutual aid period before being declared contained or controlled.

DFPC serves as the coordinator for all inter-jurisdictional wildland fire billing in Colorado. Following a County Responsibility Fire, DFPC shall assist the County by requesting cost reports from assisting agencies and producing invoices payable by the County. To start the process, within thirty (30) days after declared containment of a County Responsibility Fire, the County and/or Sheriff shall submit to DFPC a written request for cost reports from assisting agencies. Following receipt of the County's written request, DFPC shall request cost reports from assisting agencies for review and validation by the County and/or Sheriff. Following the County's review and validation, DFPC shall make reasonable efforts to submit written invoices, along with adequate supporting documentation, to the County and/or Sheriff within one hundred and twenty (120) days after the date the Wildland Fire is declared contained. If the DFPC cannot submit written invoices within one hundred and twenty (120) days, the DFPC shall at a minimum submit a written estimate for the anticipated expenses by November 15th of the year in which the wildland fire occurred. (See **Exhibit P-2**) for the most current information concerning formats and documentation requirements for reimbursement requests.

OUT-OF JURISDICTION ASSIGNMENTS

- I. Equipment and personnel will not be dispatched outside of Clear Creek County without some prior agreement as to compensation, such as a Cooperative Resource Rate Form (CRRF) with the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control.
- II. Prior to dispatch out of the local jurisdictional / mutual aid areas of Clear Creek County, all wildland resources will meet minimum NWCG Standards for the type of resource requested. Equipment and personnel will not be dispatched outside of Clear Creek County without some prior agreement as to compensation, such as a Cooperative Resource Rate Form (CRRF) with the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control.
- III. Requests for local resources by jurisdictions outside the FTC service area will be made through FTC. Any Clear Creek County agencies that receive direct requests from outside jurisdictions will notify FTC of the request and their response to it. FTC will coordinate and track the movement of Clear Creek County resources to interagency wildfire assignments, but not for mutual aid activities within the county.
- IV. During periods of elevated fire danger or the implementation of fire restrictions, Clear Creek County, Clear Creek County Fire Authority, Evergreen FPD, and other county cooperators will use discretion in the dispatch of its resources for out-of-jurisdictional assignments. The intent of these guidelines is to verify that the fire protection needs of the county and local jurisdictions can be met by available resources, prior to assisting on out-of-jurisdictional assignments.

A. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

Payment for all reimbursable costs for fires on Denver Mountain Parks, Denver Water Board and Jefferson County Public Schools must be coordinated with the responding agency. Denver Mountain Parks, Denver Water Board and Jefferson

County Public Schools must be notified at the time of the fire by the responding agency. Failure to notify the jurisdictional agency will jeopardize the opportunity for reimbursement to the responding agencies.

B. COOPERATIVE RESOURCE RATE FORM (CRRF)

The Cooperative Resource Rate Form (CRRF) is not a stand-alone document. As an **Exhibit (P-1)** to the County Annual Operating Plan, the CRRF documents Cooperator resource costs and conditions should use of these resources by another agency become necessary. When the CRRF is used, local fire agencies are considered a Cooperator by agreement, and not a contractor. As an attachment to the County Annual Operating Plan, linkage is provided through agreements with DFPC to the current Colorado Cooperative Fire Management Agreement (**Attachment A and G**). Contact the DFPC Regional BC for the most current information concerning development and documentation of appropriate rates for cooperator resources.

CRRF Agreements are approved by DFPC for appropriate and documented rates, the approved CRRF's will be emailed to the cooperator and the CRRF's will become part of the county AOP for the period shown on the forms. CRRF Agreements are completed on a web-based program: They will be approved and published in conjunction with the DFPC CRRF Program Manager and the CRRF owner (County, FPD, etc.)

Copies of approved CRRF's for Clear Creek County resources will be available online and also included in the Clear Creek County AOP as **Exhibit P-1**.

C. RESOURCE USE RATES

Resource rates for Clear Creek County cooperators will be developed and documented on the Cooperative Resource Rates Form (CRRF).

I. Personnel

The salary and wages of regular local, state, and federal fire 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. Casuals shall be paid at the current AD Firefighter rates. It is suggested that **USDA/USDI Fire Time Sheets, Optional Form 288**, as revised, be used for reimbursement. Special instructions for use of this form on non-Federal wildfires may exist. Check with the Finance Section at the incident.

II. Equipment

Unless other arrangements have been previously made (current Cooperative Resource Rate Forms), the assisting agency will be reimbursed by the jurisdictional agency for the use of agency owned equipment at the current state or federal rates, or at the current contractor rate as shown in **Exhibit P-1**. 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 by the assisting agency. Approval for the use of heavy equipment, such as dozers, must be obtained from the jurisdictional agency. Reimbursement documentation should be completed on USDA/USDI Emergency Equipment Use Invoice, Optional Form 286, as revised.

III. Supplies and Material

The jurisdictional agency will reimburse the assisting agency for the actual costs of supplies and materials used for the fire effort.

Any damages incurred on the incident must be documented on Form SF 95; Claims for Damage, Injury or Death, as revised, or a similar format. Claims for damages must be submitted at the time of the incident to the jurisdictional agency (or through the Incident Management Team - Finance Section).

IV. Reimbursement Verification

All reimbursements need approval by the billing agency representative before submission. Each billing should have the incident name, date, and location noted. All requests for reimbursement should be accompanied by the agency incident report and submitted within 30 days following the incident. Contact the DFPC Regional BC or designee for the most current information concerning formats and documentation requirements for reimbursement requests - this information is also included in **Exhibit P-2**.

V. Payment for DFPC State Agreement Vehicles

Payment for Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control Agreement Vehicles on loan to fire protection districts and/or the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office assigned to the local DFPC Region, and which are used on federal or other reimbursable wildfires, must be made to Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control

These vehicles will be reimbursed at the rates established annually by DFPC. State Agreement vehicles located within the DFPC North Central Region and which may be used on fires in Clear Creek County are shown at the end of **Exhibit P-1**.

10.3 Cost Recovery

The County, Federal Partners and the State reserve the right to pursue reasonable cost recovery efforts for equipment, personnel, and supplies utilized in response to a wildland fire that extends beyond the mutual aid period. This includes pursuing legal action against any party determined to be responsible for the cause of the fire.

Agencies (non-federal), cooperators and contractors seeking reimbursement directly from the County under this plan shall submit invoices with supporting documentation to the County within 60 days of the date the resource was released.

Any agency party to this plan unable to meet the above billing and/or reimbursement timetables must contact affected agencies to advise them of any delays and attempt to provide estimates before the end of the calendar year. Billing and/or reimbursement that does not follow the timetables in this document will negate payment; when late billing will negatively impact any agency's future fire budget, unless mutually agreed upon by the agencies involved.

Financial obligations of the county payable after the current fiscal year are contingent upon funds for that purpose being appropriated, budgeted and otherwise made available.

11.0 GENERAL PROVISIONS

This AOP is the framework for cooperation between the State, federal partners and the County. It does not supersede any other lawful policy, rule, or procedure.

11.1 Personnel Policy

Clear Creek County, State of Colorado and Federal partners each agree to follow their own personnel policy and procedures.

11.2 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.

11.3 Periodic Reviews

Federal agencies, DFPC and Clear Creek County review fire programs annually. Changes that affect interagency cooperation through this plan will be brought to the attention of all participants as they are made.

11.4 Annual Review

This Operating Plan is reviewed annually by April 1st and revised, as needed. Operating plans will remain current until a revised Operating Plan is signed by all parties.

11.5 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.

11.6 Previous Agreements Superseded

Any and all previously dated Annual Operating Plans pertaining to wildland fire within Clear Creek County are hereby null and void upon the date of the signatures on this current plan.

11.7 Resolution of Disputes

Any and all disputes will be resolved by a meeting of all cooperating agency representatives signatory to this agreement. When a dispute is determined to exist, the DFPC Regional BC or designee will call a meeting of all parties to resolve the problem.



2021 Annual Operating Plan - Clear Creek County

12.0 SIGNATURES

The parties below agree to the procedures contained in this Annual Fire Operating Plan to be effective on the dates shown through April 1, 2020.

Authorized Representatives

CLEAR CREEK COUNTY SIGNATURES

DocuSigned by:
Rick Albers
8E83C78CC236410...
Signature

3/2/21
Date

Rick Albers

County Sheriff

George Marlin
Signature

3/2/21
Date

George Marlin

Chairperson, County Commission
Title

COLORADO DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL SIGNATURE

DocuSigned by:
Tony Simons
3395023E567B484...
Signature

3/2/21
Date

Tony Simons

Battalion Chief, Coal Creek Region
Title



2021 Annual Operating Plan - Clear Creek County

FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY SIGNATURE

DocuSigned by:
Monte Williams
F00D93011F6E4B5...
Signature

3.22.21
Date

Monte Williams

Forest Supervisor
Title

USDA National Forest Service System Lands
Federal Agency, Unit

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS (Showing concurrence)

DocuSigned by:
Kelly Babeon
E08E18591D1D45B...
Signature

3/22/21
Date

Kelly Babeon

Clear Creek Fire Authority - Fire Chief
Title

DocuSigned by:
Mike Weege
20A95E9FD4DB43A...
Signature

3/10/21
Date

Mike Weege

Evergreen Fire Protection District - Fire Chief
Title

NOTE: Copies of this approved Annual Operating Plan shall be distributed to: Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, USDA Forest Service (Clear Creek Ranger District, Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest, Pike and San Isabel National Forests), Clear Creek Fire Authority, Evergreen Fire Protection District.

