

2021 GILPIN COUNTY ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN



Prepared By:



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List of Attachments

- 1: Cooperative Wildfire Protection
- 2: Participation in the Colorado Emergency Fire Fund (EFF)
- 3: Statewide AOP
- 4: Statewide Cooperative Wildland Fire and Stafford Act Agreement
- 5: Gilpin County Mutual Aid Agreement (GCMOU)
- 6: Incident Cost Share Agreement Guidelines
- 7: Colorado Wildland Fire Resource Funding Guidelines
- 8: DFPC Forms
- 9: VMED 28 Usage

List of Exhibits

- A: Gilpin County Fire District Map*
- B: National Forest Service Map*
- C: Directory of Personnel and Authorized Agency Reps*
- D: Wildland Fire Communications Plan*
- E: Fort Collins Dispatch Zone Fire Restriction Matrix*
- F: Annual Operating Plan Outline Template*

1 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 Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement; reference **Attachment 1** of this AOP, and the Annual Operating Plan Outline Template (**Exhibit G**). This AOP is also a component of the Statewide AOP (**Attachment 3**) and the “Statewide Cooperative Wildland Fire and Stafford Act Agreement”. (**Attachment 4**)

2 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Annual Operating Plan (AOP) is to set forth standard operating procedures, agreed upon procedures, and responsibilities to implement cooperative wildfire protection on all lands within Gilpin County.

3 AUTHORITIES

- Colorado Statewide Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement Between:
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT – COLORADO Agreement Number BLM-MOU-CO-538
- NATIONAL PARK SERVICE – INTERMOUNTAIN REGION Agreement Number F1249110016
- BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS – SOUTHWEST REGION (no agreement number)
- UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE – MOUNTAIN PRAIRIE REGION
- UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE - ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION Agreement Number 11-FI-11020000-017
- GILPIN COUNTY Intergovernmental Agreement for Participation in the Colorado Emergency Fire Fund, Colorado State Forest service (**Attachment 2**)
- Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection in Gilpin County (**Attachment 1**)

4 RECITALS

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.

5 INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

5.1 Interagency Dispatch Centers

The Fort Collins (FTC) Interagency Dispatch Center will be the point of contact for all Gilpin County fires threatening or involving federal (United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service or United States Department of Interior (USDI) Bureau of Land Management) lands.

The Gilpin County Communication Center is the contact point for all fires on non-federal lands and if Division of Fire Protection and Control (DFPC) assistance is requested via the State of Colorado Emergency Operations for threatening fires on state and private property.

5.2 Interagency Resources

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

- I. **FEDERAL RESOURCES** (Arapahoe & Roosevelt Forest [ARF], Bureau of Land Management [BLM]): Requests for all federal resources shall be coordinated through the FTC Interagency Dispatch Center.
- II. **COLORADO DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL:**
 - A. Requests for Regional DFPC Battalion Chief (BC) Assistance on Emergency Fire Funds (EFF)/Technical Assistance incidents will go through the State of Colorado Emergency Operations. Colorado State Patrol (CSP) Dispatch will notify the Regional FMO or designee
 - B. Requests for North Central Region State Staffed Engines will be coordinated through the FTC Interagency Dispatch Center. To determine availability of state staffed engine resources, reference the FTC Daily Resources Status Summary Webpage.
 - C. The State Multi-Mission aircraft (MMA) should be ordered through the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Line at 303-279-8855
 1. Reimbursement under Colorado Wildland Fire Resource Funding Guidelines. All requests for the VLAT (Very Large Air Tanker) through WERF must first be approved by the DFPC Deputy Chief of Operations or designee.
 - D. Requests for resources/assistance under the Resource Mobilization Annex must be made through the State of Colorado Emergency Operations. A DFPC BC, or Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Field Manager or designee will respond to this request.

- III. **GILPIN COUNTY:** The Gilpin County Communication Center is the contact point for all fires on non-federal lands, and for fires not threatening federal lands within the federal response zone.
- IV. **AVIATION RESOURCES:** All federal and state aviation resources 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 (Attachment 8).

5.3 Standards

I. **Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) AND QUALIFICATIONS**

- A. **PPE:** Each agency or department is responsible for providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for their personnel in accordance with the National Wildland Coordination Group (NWCG) PMS 310-Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide. 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.
- B. **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.

II. **INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS)**

The parties to this operating plan will use the ICS system during all wildland fire operations that is consistent with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System.

It is understood that suppression forces operating on Federal lands shall meet minimum Federal Standards for personal protective equipment (PPE) and training (ref. USFS Health & Safety Code and NWCG Standards). All incident personnel shall be qualified and equipped according to NWCG standards for the position they are assigned to. All personnel not meeting these standards (during the initial attack period or into extended attack periods) will clear the incident once the jurisdictional Federal agency takes control of the incident; properly qualified personnel are available as replacements; or the IC determines that the personnel cannot be utilized in an appropriate fashion on the incident.

6 PREPAREDNESS

6.1 Protection Planning

The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest (ARNF) maps (**Exhibit B**) and the Gilpin County Fire District Maps (**Exhibit A**) are used to show jurisdictional boundaries for the purpose of this plan. Fire Protection Districts have the primary responsibility for controlling wildfires in their jurisdiction. When wildfires exceed the capability of the County, the County Sheriff shall seek the assistance of the state by requesting assistance from DFPC via the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Line. Federal agencies are ultimately responsible for fire management on their lands within Gilpin County

Non-wildland fire emergencies are the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency in which the emergency occurs, whether this is fire protection district, municipality, county, state or federal.

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.

6.2 Protection Areas and Boundaries

A. Federal Resources

Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest

Within Gilpin County, the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest will perform initial attack on all fires clearly within or threatening National Forest Lands. The United States Forest Service (USFS) is responsible for all management activities on National Forest Lands. For this agreement, the primary role of the USFS 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 USFS 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.

The USDA Forest Service will annually provide copies of the most current National Forest maps and land ownership patterns for inclusion in this AOP.

To dispatch federal initial attack resources on fire threatening ARNF land, contact Fort Collins Dispatch Center (FTC).

USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands

When a wildfire occurs on BLM lands in Gilpin County, the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest (ARNF) will conduct initial attack under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the BLM.

BLM lands in Gilpin County are located in the southern half of the county and in proximity to National Forest lands within the Clear Creek Ranger District. Some BLM parcels also occur around Golden Gate Canyon State Park and are shown on the Gilpin County Land Ownership map.

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 the 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, Culture, etc.
- Partner agencies and their objectives (if the fire is or is expected to be multijurisdictional)
- Cost of meeting the objectives.
- Smoke Management: Coordination with States and monitoring.
- Desired conditions (outlined in the USFS Land Management Plan or other documents)
- Resources availability.
- Fire modelling tools.
- Seasonality – duration of fire/change in conditions

Agency Administrators and Fire Managers assess the criteria above and then develop a strategy to manage the fire.

To dispatch federal initial attack resources on fire threatening BLM land, contact Fort Collins Dispatch Center (FTC)

B. Gilpin County

The County Sheriff is the fire warden of the County and is responsible for the planning for and the coordination of efforts to suppress wildfires occurring in the unincorporated areas of the county outside the boundaries of a FPD, or that exceeds the capabilities of the fire protection district to control or extinguish in accordance with the provisions of C.R.S. Section 30-10-513. Private will be considered to mean all non-governmental owned lands.

Within Gilpin County, both State School Lands and State agency-owned lands exist. State School Lands exist in the vicinity of Smith Hill Road and Highway 119 and Tolland Road. State Agency-owned lands include Golden Gate Canyon

State Park. These lands are shown more specifically on map (Exhibit A). The Gilpin County Communication Center is the contact point for all fires on non- federal lands

C. Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control

DFPC does not have initial attack responsibility within Gilpin County. However, DFPC may provide state resources under either mutual aid or reimbursable conditions. The availability of state resources for firefighting will vary and is not guaranteed. DFPC assistance will be requested via the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Line.

II. Fire Planning

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)

A county-wide CWPP has been developed for Gilpin County and is available to use for planning and implementation purposes. CSFS, the County and responsible stakeholders will work cooperatively to implement the plan as appropriate. The Gilpin County CWPP is on file with the County, local fire departments, and CSFS. A copy of the Gilpin County CWPP may be found at:

http://www.gilpincounty.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_9285172/File/Depts/Emergency%20Services/CWPP_Update_2013.pdf

CSFS is available to assist Gilpin County and individual fire departments in developing wildfire prevention and mitigation measures such as defensible space and fuel break design.

III. Inspection Schedules for Fire Equipment

All DFPC State Agreement engines Facility Emergency Preparedness Program (FEPP) placed with local cooperators will be inspected annually to ensure proper use, maintenance and road worthiness. Federal agencies will inspect VFD, FPD, municipal department and county engines prior to or during their use on wildland incidents under their jurisdiction.

6.3 Methods of Fire Protection and Suppression

I. Incident Command System

The Incident Command System (ICS) will be utilized on all wildland fires.

ICS is a standardized method of managing emergency incidents. It manages small, routine daily incidents as well as large, complex, multi-jurisdictional disasters. It is based upon:

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

Because ICS reduces confusion and uncertainty in the early phases of an

incident, it increases the efficiency and effectiveness of fire protection and suppression actions. With ICS, transition from a routine incident to a major emergency is orderly and requires a minimum of adjustment for any agency. In its largest application, it may include several thousand people without compromising effective supervision. ICS does not infringe on the routine, daily responsibilities or authority given each agency by statute. But, if a transfer of authority is necessary as conditions change, ICS eases the transition since organizational structure and lines of authority are clearly identified. Because the potential always exists that a fire may escape initial attack and grow to the point that a local, state or interagency management team may be needed, Gilpin County will use ICS to facilitate the transfer of authority and control of the incident.

Incident Command System positions on large or complex incidents may be filled with resources from outside Gilpin County. Incident Management Teams (IMTs) may be ordered to manage an incident, according to the incident complexity and needs. FTC maintains lists of local cadres of trained personnel available from various agencies in the northern Front Range.

A. Unified Command

A fire burning on or adjacent to a known or questionable boundary will be the initial attack responsibility of the protecting agency on either side of the boundary. The agencies agree to coordinate suppression management through the use of a Unified Command or with Delegations of Authority from all jurisdictions to an agreed Incident Commander (IC). The initial attack ICs of the involved agencies shall mutually agree upon fire suppression objectives, strategy and the commitment and funding of agency suppression resources.

II. Detection

FTC may coordinate aerial detection flights as necessary. 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. Request for the DFPC Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA) should be made through the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Line.

III. Local Mobilization Guide

FTC maintains contractor lists for services. These information sources may be useful to the county for obtaining private sector wildland fire resources and supplies.

IV. Post-incident Action Analysis

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

V. Incident Reports

Effective January 1, 2006, the State of Colorado implemented a national standard incident reporting program, NFIRSv5. DFPC supports the use of NFIRS as the wildland fire reporting tool. NFIRSv5 data is handled electronically. Completion of paper report is no longer necessary. Data is transferred electronically, stored in a national database, and is internet accessible to users. Reporting under NFIRS is currently a requirement of FEMA grants and is expected to be a Department of Homeland Security grant requirement. Departments will be responsible for electronic input of their own department's data. NFIRS training for input and managing this data can be arranged through the Division of Fire Prevention and Control. The Federal Client Tool (FCT) is a program used for incident reporting. This product is available at no cost.

6.4 Reciprocal (Mutual Aid) Fire Assistance

All dispatches will be made based on the closest forces capable of responding to the incident. Fire protection districts, municipal departments and volunteer fire departments can cover each other through the Gilpin County "Gilpin County Mutual Aid Agreement" signed by participant fire departments (**Attachment 5**).

Fire protection zones have been established within Gilpin County (**Exhibit A**). These zones are normally for initial attack purposes only, but 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 response is that the agency which is in the best position at the time the fire is reported can most effectively and rapidly respond.

Within these reciprocal initial attack zones of lands intermingled or adjoining protection responsibilities, a Supporting Agency will, upon request or voluntarily, take initial attack action in support of the Protecting Agency. The Protecting Agency will not be required to reimburse the Supporting Agency for cost incurred following the initial dispatch of any ground resources to the fire for the duration of the mutual aid period.

A. Mutual Aid Period

Reciprocal (Mutual Aid) Fire Assistance: 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.

6.5 Acquisition of Services

Non-federal participants in this plan may purchase fire suppression supplies directly from Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). Ordering of supplies will be placed through the DLA EMall website at <https://dod.emall.dla.mil>. An individual account for each agency must be registered with DLA for ordering supplies. 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.

6.6 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.

6.7 Fire Prevention

I. Fire Information Programs

Programs on fire prevention activities may be available through the DFPC, USFS, and local fire departments, upon request.

II. Engineering

A. Land Use Planning (Wildland Urban Interface)

CSFS is available to review land use plans for local counties as required under state statute. CSFS-Boulder District will work with Gilpin 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 Management

Private landowners and other agencies cooperate with CSFS to provide technical forest management assistance, implement defensible space and other fuel management strategies for wildfire mitigation.

CSFS is available to assist Gilpin County in the development of regulations, statutes, or voluntary programs to promote wildfire mitigation. Examples of such efforts include regulations by Boulder, Jefferson and Clear Creek Counties that require defensible spaces be developed for new construction and additions greater

than 400 square feet in size within the wildland zone (greater than 6400' in Jefferson County). CSFS Boulder District personnel works with applicants during the site plan review process to develop wildfire mitigation plans and defensible space implementation

6.8 Public Use Restrictions

When contemplating a closure to open burning or lifting of fire bans, all agencies or fire departments will advise its cooperators of the situation and consider joint action(s) as needed. In all cases, cooperating agencies should utilize the guidelines in **Exhibit E, Fort Collins Dispatch Zone Fire Restriction Matrix**, when considering these actions.

1. Local Restrictions

Agencies or fire departments wanting to place or remove restrictions upon fire use within their jurisdictions within Gilpin County will consult with all adjacent agencies or departments, county sheriff and forest level offices, and the DFPC Coal Creek Region BC concerning fire danger. When appropriate, joint announcements concerning fire restrictions or appropriate fire uses will be made to reduce confusion on the part of the public.

2. County-wide Restrictions

The Gilpin County Sheriff, USFS (Clear Creek and Boulder Ranger Districts, ARNF), and DFPC Coal Creek Region BC or designee will jointly consider placing or removing countywide restrictions. If a fire ban will affect multiple ownership lands, the Sheriff will issue a joint press release and inform all other agencies involved. The Gilpin County Sheriff will notify the Gilpin County Communication Center and Black Hawk Communications Center of such a ban, who will disseminate this information to appropriate Gilpin County personnel.

3. Area/Region/Forest-wide Restrictions

Wildland agencies have agreed, at the State and Regional levels, those restrictions should be decided by each Interagency Dispatch Center's Board of Directors. The DFPC Coal Creek Region BC or designee will represent county-level agencies and cooperators by providing current information on fire danger and activity within Gilpin County to FTC. The Gilpin County Sheriff will notify the Gilpin County Communication Center and Black Hawk Communications Center of such a ban, who will disseminate this information to appropriate Gilpin County personnel.

4. State-wide Restrictions

Wildland agencies have agreed, at the State and Regional levels, those restrictions should be decided by each Interagency Dispatch Center's Board of Directors. The DFPC Coal Creek Region BC or designee will represent county-level agencies and

cooperators by providing current information on fire danger and activity within Gilpin County to FTC. FTC will communicate dispatch area-wide fire danger information to the Rocky Mountain Area Dispatch Center. The Gilpin County Sheriff will notify the Gilpin County Communication Center and Black Hawk Communications Center of such a ban, who will disseminate this information to appropriate Gilpin County personnel.

5. Seasonal Restrictions

Agencies or fire departments wanting to place or remove seasonal restrictions upon fire use within their jurisdictions within Gilpin County will consult with all adjacent agencies or departments, county and forest level offices, and the DFPC Coal Creek Region BC or designee concerning fire danger and appropriate fire use. When appropriate, joint announcements concerning fire restrictions or approved fire uses will be made by all affected agencies to reduce confusion on the part of the public

6. Enforcement

Traffic control will be coordinated by the county sheriff 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 take 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.

In the case of any restrictions on burning or public movements because of extreme fire danger, either by Governor's proclamation or by local issue, the county will be responsible for enforcement on all non-federal lands, and may assist on other lands at the request of the appropriate agency.

6.9 Burning Permits

An open burning permit must be obtained by any individual, company or other entity prior to conducting any open burning activity. Certain conditions must be met in order for open burning to occur on private lands in Gilpin County. The regulations and Open Burn Permit for lands in Gilpin County may be found at: <https://www.gilpincountysheriff.com/open-burn-regulations-and-permit>

If the open burn falls within Timberline Fire Protection District (TFPD) or Coal Creek Canyon Fire Protection District (CCCFPD) jurisdictional boundaries in Boulder County, you must contact the Boulder County Health Department for the permitting process. If the proposed open burn falls within CCCFPD jurisdictional boundary in Jefferson County, you must contact Jefferson County Public Health Department for the permitting process.

Any governmental agency responsible for fire or resource management is exempt from this permitting requirement; however, notification of open burning to the agency of jurisdiction and the Gilpin County Communication Center is required.

6.10 Prescribed Fire (Planned Ignitions) and Fuels Management

Senate Bill 13-083 directed the Division to implement a prescribed burn program in Colorado, including creating minimum standards for conducting prescribed burns on any area in the state, except for prescribed burning conducted by an agency of the federal government, pursuant to Section 24-33.5-1217. To be exempt from these standards, other users of prescribed fire, including local governments and non-governmental organizations must adopt or have already adopted guidelines or standards that are in substantial compliance with the intent of section 24-33.5-1217.5 for prescribed burning under their control. All personnel using prescribed fire on State Lands must follow DFPC Prescribed Fire Guidelines and Templates. Any inquiries on the current guidelines, contact the DFPC Regional BC for further information.

Agricultural and ditch burning, as well as Federal lands, are exempt from these rules.

Signatory agencies to this plan agree to abide by current laws, rules and standards when performing prescribed fire activities. The agencies may assist each other in all aspects of prescribed fire projects.

The USFS, BLM, DFPC, Golden Gate Canyon State Park (GGCSP), Gilpin County and fire departments agree to cooperate in the development and implementation of prescribed fire programs and projects. Agencies and fire departments conducting prescribed fire activities will report their prescribed fire activities to the Gilpin County Communication Center, FTC and the FPD within which the fire is occurring, and to each other.

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.

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

If parties to this Agreement conduct a cooperative prescribed fire, details covering cost sharing, reimbursement, and responsibility for suppression costs, should it escape, shall be agreed upon and documented in the burn plan. Burn plans will be prepared and include the required elements according to the current Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedure Guide, available at:

<https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pms484.pdf>

A party may take appropriate suppression action when lands under its protection jurisdiction are involved in or threatened by an escaped fire. Such suppression action may be taken on its own initiative or at the request of the responsible party. A party may take appropriate suppression

action, at the request of the responsible party, when lands under its protection jurisdiction are not involved in or threatened by the wildfire.

6.11 Smoke Management

The Colorado Air Pollution Prevention and Control Act (CRS 25-7-102) requires every prescribed fire project to have a smoke permit. Due to changes in policy, procedures, technology and State air quality standards, the smoke permitting process is subject to change. For the most up-to-date process and policy refer to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Air Pollution Control Division (CDPHE-APCD).

Agricultural and ditch burning are exempt from these rules.

7 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.

7.2 Boundary Line Fires

In the event that initial attack agencies are engaged in a fire upon or near common suppression zone boundaries, the agency representatives shall convene as soon as possible to mutually agree upon the fire control strategy and appoint an IC. If it is resolved that the fire area is entirely confined to one or the other's area of responsibility, then the ranking officer of the jurisdictional agency shall assume the responsibility of appointing an IC.

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 all 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 the assisting agencies will leave the fire

7.3 Response to Wildland Fire

Each jurisdictional agency (including the Federal government) has ultimate responsibility for wildland fire protection on its own lands. Fire protection boundaries and zones within the county have been established as shown on map, **(Exhibit A)**.

These zones are normally for initial attack purposes only, but an assisting agency (or fire department) may, at times, take initial attack action on fires located on lands under another'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 will take the most rapid and effective action to respond.

The County Sheriff is the fire warden of the County and is responsible for the planning for and

the coordination of efforts to suppress wildfires occurring in the unincorporated areas of the county outside the boundaries of a FPD, or that exceeds the capabilities of the fire protection district to control or extinguish in accordance with the provisions of C.R.S. Section 30-10-513. Private will be considered to mean all non-governmental owned lands. Within Gilpin County, both State School Lands and State agency-owned lands exist. State School Lands exist in the vicinity of Smith Hill Road and Highway 119 and Tolland Road. State Agency-owned lands include Golden Gate Canyon State Park. These lands are shown more specifically on map (**Exhibit A**).

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 the 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, Culture, etc.
- Partner agencies and their objectives (if the fire is or is expected to be multijurisdictional)
- Cost of meeting the objectives.
- Smoke Management: Coordination with States and monitoring.
- Desired conditions (outlined in the USFS Land Management Plan or other documents)
- Resources availability.
- Fire modelling tools.
- Seasonality – duration of fire/change in conditions

Agency Administrators and Fire Managers assess the criteria above and then develop a strategy to manage the fire.

7.4 Federal Response Zone

Within Gilpin County, there are areas of intermingled Federal, State and private lands. Within this area of intermingled lands, plus any lands within **two miles** of the accepted Federal land boundary, the responding agency will inform the appropriate jurisdictional agency of reported fires. A representative of that agency will respond to fires threatening their lands, or as requested by the initial attack agency. This zone is called the Federal Response Zone.

Unless it is clearly and mutually understood that one agency will promptly attack and follow through on all necessary actions within a specific area, it shall be agreed in policy that all responding agencies shall send forces promptly to start suppression action on all fires within the Federal Response Zone. It shall be the responsibility of the agency making the initial attack to notify other agencies if their lands are involved or threatened.

Each agency may make its personnel and equipment 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.

All requests for, and dispatches of, resources should utilize both local and interagency mobilization guides.

The initial attack Incident Commander shall coordinate with the local dispatcher for other agency notification. Requests or orders for resources from outside Gilpin County will be routed from the Gilpin County Communication Center through FTC, as covered by the procedures within the Dispatching and Resource Order Process.

Assistance requests for Gilpin County wildland fire resources will be made by the Initial Attack IC or their representative through the Gilpin County Communication Center. All available mutual aid resources will be utilized prior to ordering resources from outside Gilpin County. Requests for fire resources coming from outside the county will be made by Gilpin County Communication Center through FTC and will be subject to approval of the sheriff's office, with the notification of and approval by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

County requests for interagency fire resources other than local initial attack resources will be made by those persons authorized below. Such requests will be routed through FTC. The DFPC Regional Battalion Chief or designee will be notified of such requests as soon as possible. Any interagency resources ordered through FTC may obligate Gilpin County for the resource cost under the terms negotiated in the *Incident Cost Share Agreement (Attachment 6)*.

Requests for DFPC Regional BC or designee assistance will be made through Gilpin County Communication Center via the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Line. Requests for DFPC engines assigned to county fire protection districts outside of Gilpin County and requests for the DFPC State Staffed Engine Program (SSEP) must go through Fort Collins Dispatch (FTC).

When DFPC personnel are involved in suppression activities on State and private lands in Gilpin County, they will notify FTC and the DFPC Area BC or designee. DFPC will provide technical assistance to the County in operations, logistics, planning, and other necessary duties, including fire weather forecast information and interpretation, upon the County's request.

Persons Authorized to Order Reimbursement Fire Suppression Resources On Behalf Of Gilpin County (In order of priority, based upon immediate availability)

- A. Sheriff Kevin Armstrong
- B. Undersheriff Tonia Kapke
- C. Chief Sean Wheeler
- D. Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington
- E. Timberline Fire Chief or his designee
- F. Central City Fire Chief or his designee

G. Black Hawk Fire Chief or his designee

7.5 Special Management Considerations

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 agencies (shown in parentheses):

- All federal lands (USFS or BLM); Seek approval through FTC
- Golden Gate Canyon State Park (Park Manager or Gilpin County Sheriff)

Aerial application of fire retardant will be restricted within 300 feet distance of all streams on Federal jurisdiction lands. Retardant is further restricted within 600 feet of designated waterways that have critical habitat for Greenback Cutthroat Trout.

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.

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 the 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, Culture, etc.
- Partner agencies and their objectives (if the fire is or is expected to be multijurisdictional)
- Cost of meeting the objectives.
- Smoke Management: Coordination with States and monitoring.
- Desired conditions (outlined in the USFS Land Management Plan or other documents)
- Resources availability.
- Fire modelling tools.
- Seasonality – duration of fire/change in conditions

Agency Administrators and Fire Managers assess the criteria above and then develop a strategy to manage the fire.

For fires occurring on lands owned or managed by special districts, utilities, quasi-governmental agencies, state and local agencies and the like, every attempt will be made to notify a representative of the property. Agency Representative for said lands will be engaged as necessary to ensure land management and infrastructure concerns as identified.

7.6 Decision Process

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

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

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

7.7 Cooperation

All of the fire protection districts within Gilpin County have current mutual aid agreements in place and agree to cooperate to the extent possible to bring rapid stabilization of wildland fires occurring in, near, and around Gilpin County.

The County, USFS and the State agree to cooperate to the extent possible to plan for and respond to fire incidents within the county.

7.8 Communication

All agencies signing this agreement authorize use of their radio frequencies by other agency personnel for emergency purposes only (**Exhibit E, Wildland Fire Communications Plans**).

If the FTC Area Type III Incident Communications Plan Extended Attack Strategy is in use on an incident, subsequent tactical and command frequencies must be ordered through FTC Dispatch. Frequency list must be requested through Ft. Collins dispatch and will not be publicized.

7.9 Cost Efficiency

It is a goal of Gilpin County, the USFS 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.

7.10 Delegation of Authority

A written delegation of authority will 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 command team.

The delegation does not absolve the authority having jurisdiction 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

7.11 Preservation of Evidence

Although an assisting agency may have a wildfire controlled or extinguished upon arrival of the jurisdictional agency's forces, the jurisdictional agency should discuss the fire with the assisting agency to aid in the investigation and take steps to:

- Preserve the point of origin
- Preserve all clues and evidence that may relate to the cause
- Note all traffic leaving the area and document vehicle descriptions and license numbers

On all non-federal land an investigation shall be made on all fires to determine cause, responsible party, time of ignition, and all other pertinent information relating to the cause of the fire. As a condition of EFF, the Sheriff shall conduct an investigation as to the cause of the fire and will provide the DFPC Director or designee a copy of the preliminary investigation report within 30 days after control of the fire and a final report upon conclusion of that investigation consistent with state law. The Sheriff shall have administrative and financial responsibility with respect to the conduct of the investigation. Fire cause determination is needed for EFF and FEMA incidents.

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

8 STATE EMERGENCY FIRE FUND (EFF)

The Emergency Fire Fund (EFF) may be used to assist counties with whom the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control has signed an "Memorandum of Understanding for Participation in the Colorado Emergency Fire Fund" (**Attachment 2**) 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.

Gilpin 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 Gilpin County should suppression resource needs exceed the county's capabilities. Gilpin County will notify the DFPC Regional BC or designee via the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Line immediately should a wildfire incident occur which has the potential to exceed County capabilities. EFF fire incidents will be coordinated through the FTC Interagency Dispatch Center.

When the DFPC Form No. 1 and DFPC Form No. 3 (**Attachment 8**) are completed, the Regional FMO or their designee will contact the DFPC Director or their designee and relay the information collected. The Regional FMO or designee will also make their recommendation on whether or not the situation warrants implementation of the fund.

The DFPC Director or designee may give his/her decision directly to the requesting Regional FMO or designee. This decision will be documented in writing on the DFPC Form No. 3, 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, DFPC assumes responsibility and authority for all suppression activity until the fire is returned to County responsibility; however, the county must maintain a minimum level of participation in suppression activities after EFF is implemented.

All EFF fires will utilize a Unified Command consisting of, at a minimum, the Gilpin 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.

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

- Those forces from the Fire Protection District within which the incident is occurring, while still providing a minimal level of response for other, new incidents within that district.
- Those mutual aid forces that are normally used by the Fire Protection District in which the incident is occurring, without jeopardizing the ability of the assisting agencies to mount a reasonable response within their own jurisdiction.
- Law enforcement and traffic control through the Sheriff's Office.
- 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.

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

The EFF fund can pay for water barring and reseeding control lines, if 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.

9 USE AND REIMBURSEMENT OF INTERAGENCY FIRE RESOURCES

9.1 Cost Share Agreement (Cost Share Methodologies)

Parties to this agreement operate primarily under the principle of reimbursement for wildland fire suppression cost. The County Sheriff, his designated officer, or other agencies may request local, state and federal agencies assistance, with the understanding that the *jurisdictional agency may be responsible for suppression costs incurred, unless otherwise agree to in a cost share agreement*. The Sheriff will notify the Board of County Commissioners, or their designee, of such requests for assistance when it is anticipated that costs may be incurred. Responsibility for wildland fire suppression on private lands and State lands within a fire protection district (FPD) is shared jointly by the county and the FPD, and reimbursable costs shall be covered as mutually agreed upon by the county and FPD involved.

A. Cost Sharing

When a wildfire 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 those jurisdictional authorities or their designee. The intent is to appropriately distribute the financial burden based on a method agreed upon by a representative from each affected jurisdiction. A cost share agreement should be negotiated as soon as practical. **Attachment 6, Interagency Cost Share Agreement** or similar format should be used.

B. Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) & Structure Fires

For fires involving structures, the distribution of costs should be commensurate with the values protected. Structure protection cost should be borne whenever possible by the Jurisdictional agency, Department or FPD in which the structures are located. Those Fire Departments and Districts which are supported by taxes should not expect reimbursement when performing structure protection duties on an incident within their protection districts, unless stipulated in a cost share agreement among those respective jurisdictional agencies.

C. Dispatching / Initial Attack

Notification of the jurisdictional agency will be made by the Dispatch Center handling the initial attack fire forces. Normally this will be Gilpin County Communication Center

D. Mutual Aid

Any reimbursement for mutual aid activities between fire departments (and other agencies) in Gilpin County will be handled as covered by the *Gilpin County Mutual Aid Agreement (Attachment 5)*.

E. Reinforcements

Reinforcements will be ordered and utilized as covered in *Wildfire Suppression Procedures*. Reimbursements for reinforcements, if applicable, will be handled according to the procedures listed below for Extended Attack.

F. Extended Attack

Any cost incurred by assisting agencies during extended attack (beyond the mutual aid period) on a wildfire in Gilpin County, and which were requested by the jurisdictional agency, may be considered reimbursable unless otherwise covered by applicable mutual aid agreements, agreements made on an incident- specific basis (**Attachment 6**), or agreed participation that meets the minimum county commitment under EFF. Extended attack activities are also subject to all existing mutual aid, reciprocal aid, and automatic aid agreements between the involved agencies.

G. Fires with Multiple Objectives

Generally, Agencies that elect to not fully suppress an ignition, with intent to manage the fire for other objectives, are responsible for all cost associated with that fire. This may include the cost of protecting private land, structures, infrastructure and other public lands, unless negotiated otherwise with affected jurisdictions. Where incidents have a suppression objective, but then also offer an opportunity to manage a portion of the fire for other objectives, agencies should follow the mutual aid and incident cost share procedure.

9.2 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. Each agency is responsible for certifying the qualifications of its own personnel utilizing the IQS Web data entry system or the IQCS system for Federal Partners and issuing an Incident Qualifications card ("red card") to its personnel following the standards as outlined in PMS 310-1, Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide or current

policy guide for federal partners.

Safety of personnel involved in an incident is critical. Therefore, 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.

Each agency will be responsible for providing personal protective gear 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 personal protective equipment (PPE), and for any work beyond the mutual aid period must be certified for wildland fire suppression Incident Qualification Carded for the position they are filling, as specified in the NWCG Guidelines.

9.3 Communication Systems

All agencies signing this agreement authorize use of their radio frequencies by other agency personnel for emergency purposes only (**Exhibit D, Wildland Fire Communications Plans**). If the FTC Area Type III Incident Communications Plan is in use on an incident, subsequent tactical and command frequencies must be ordered through FTC Dispatch. Frequency list must be request through Ft. Collins dispatch and will not be published.

9.4 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/

I. Fire Weather/Danger Information

A. Fire Danger Ratings

FTC provides daily forest fire danger ratings and staffing class predictions.

Fire Danger can be obtained via:

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

Fire weather information can be obtained via:

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

Gilpin County falls within the Colorado Fire Weather Zone 216.

FTC transmits *Fire Danger Ratings* over its direct radio channel at approximately 4:00 pm daily. *Fire Weather Forecasts* are broadcast at approximately 10:00 am daily. The availability of the Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) and other wildland resources (ref. Section 10) are broadcast at approximately 10:00 am daily. This

broadcast may be monitored on the USFS Squaw repeater:

B. Fire Weather Station Locations

Fire weather and danger rating information is available as described in the Preparedness/Protection Planning Section starting on Page 9 of this AOP. The Pickle Gulch Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) is the primary weather station used to measure local fire weather observations for Gilpin County. The station is near the Pickle Gulch Campground at 9380 feet MSL.

C. Data Sharing and Method

Information relative to fire weather and fire danger ratings may be shared as described in the Preparedness/Protection Planning Section starting on Page 9 of this AOP. Special fire weather events and warnings will be broadcasted to all fire agencies as they are received from the National Weather Service or FTC.

D. Fire Danger Signs

Signs are located throughout Gilpin County; maintaining and updating the signs are the responsibility of the local agency, based upon the local fire danger rating. Gilpin County maintains several electronic message boards which can be used to post fire danger ratings, fire restrictions or bans.

E. Joint or Single Agency Press Releases

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

Press releases will use the most current fire danger ratings and fire weather forecasts, as detailed elsewhere in this AOP.

F. Red Flag/Fire Weather Announcements

The National Weather Service in Boulder and Goodland 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: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov>

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 will 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. Requests should be sent directly to the National Weather Service Fire Weather Forecaster in Boulder. Web-based inquiries can submit their spot weather request to: <http://spot.nws.noaa.gov>

9.5 Aviation Operations

I. Federal agencies have mapped aviation issues in their fire management plans. Gilpin County and DFPC have not developed such a map. The following issues should be addressed in the future development of such a map.

- Hazards
- Sensitive Zones (urban-interface, aquatic, wilderness, etc.)
- Heli-spots, Dip Sites
- Automatic Dispatch Zones (tied to preparedness planning)
- Detection Routes
- Fire Retardant Exclusion Zones
- VFire Med 28 Frequency will be used on Type 1,2, and 3 management Fires (See attachment 9 VMED 28 Usage).

II. Flight Following/Frequency Management

Note: There is a radio frequency plan developed for Colorado that identifies frequencies for specific areas of Colorado. This plan is located at each interagency dispatch center. Frequency list must be request through Ft. Collins dispatch and will not be published.

All Air-to-Ground communications will be on the National Interagency Incident Communications (NIICD) assigned A-G frequency for NE Colorado. If all air-to-ground frequencies are assigned to active incidents, or have excessive traffic, additional A-G frequencies must be ordered through FTC Dispatch.

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

III. **Call When Needed (CWN) Aircraft, Tactical and Support Aircraft**

A. Local Resources

Gilpin County does not have any local aircraft resources on contract.

B. State Resources

The DFPC sponsors a State of Colorado aviation program, including fixed wing and rotor wing assets, for use on wildland fires within the State of Colorado. These assets have home bases, but frequently move locations to preposition in areas of risk. Requests to have Combined Forces Air Component (CFAC) assets moved to cover a specific area (such as Gilpin County) should be made by local cooperators through the DFPC Regional BC. Requests on wildfires for all state aviation resources will be made through FTC Dispatch". Request for the DFPC Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA) should be made through the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Line. Use of the CFAC resource or other state interagency aviation resources *will be made at cost to the jurisdictional agency* under the terms of the *Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (WERF)*, as shown in **Attachment 8**.

C. Authorization for Resource Orders

Aviation resource orders within Gilpin County that are not covered by the WERF *may obligate the jurisdictional agency for the cost incurred* for use of that resource, unless a designated county official approves the resource order for county payment. Prior to county use, designated county officials will approve the resource order for county payment. Reference page 19, above, for persons authorized to obligate County funds.

After receiving approval for aircraft use from said authorized people, the Gilpin County Communication Center may place the aircraft order through FTC on behalf of that person. Gilpin County is required to notify the DFPC Regional BC or designee immediately upon ordering any aircraft through FTC, as this may obligate county funds under the WERF. Unless specified otherwise, such aircraft orders from the county shall be considered a request for any appropriate state funding assistance under the WERF.

IV. **Federal Aviation Resources**

Routine requests by cooperators for heavy air tanker use, Lead Planes, Air Attack, helicopters, Helitack Crews and other like resources will be made through the Gilpin County Communication Center to FTC.

Use of federal or interagency aviation resources will be made *at cost to the jurisdictional agency*. Reimbursement for aircraft and retardant use will be at the current rate, except when aircraft use falls under the WERF. Continued use of the aerial resource(s) by the jurisdictional agency will be at cost, and subject to the prior approval of Gilpin County.

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

V. National Guard Resources

If other aircraft resources are unavailable, National Guard helicopters based at the Buckley Air National Guard Base 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 should be "carded" by the appropriate authorities. Cost to the using agency will apply, and may vary from incident to incident.

VI. Fixed Wing and Single-Engine Air Tanker Bases

The closest airports to Gilpin County that are used to serve as fixed wing air tanker bases are the Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport/Jeffco Air Tanker Base (Broomfield, CO), Fort Collins/Loveland Airport (Loveland, CO) and the Pueblo Municipal Airport (Pueblo, CO).

VII. Lead plane/Air Attack Activation

The determination to use a lead plane or air attack on an incident will be made according to the Aerial Supervision Requirements found in the Rocky Mountain Area Mobilization Guide, or if requested by the Incident Commander. FTC will facilitate the response and can advise ICs.

VIII. Aviation Requests and Operations

A. Initial Attack

Aircraft availability for initial attack should be confirmed with FTC or the Gilpin County Communication Center as conditions warrant. Some aircraft are on national contracts. It should be realized that if ordered, aircraft may come from out of state, which may greatly increase the cost and their time of arrival to the fire.

B. Boundary Fires

Aircraft use on fires located along jurisdictional boundaries *will be the responsibility of the ordering agency* if pre-approval or consultation with all affected agencies has not occurred at the time of the resource order.

C. Air Space Restrictions

The Incident Commander may request an air space restriction (Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR)) through Field Team Coordinator (FTC) to the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) if non- fire aircraft pose a hazard for fire air operations.

D. 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 qualified air operations personnel.

E. Qualifications and Restrictions on Air Resource Use

Aircraft being used on Federal lands, or in association with Federal or interagency resources, must be certified, also known as “carded”.

IX. Aircraft Inspection Schedules

Federal fire suppression aircraft are inspected annually by either the U.S. Forest Service or the Department of the Interior - Aviation Management Directorate (AMD) and certified or “carded” for their capabilities. Aircraft being used on federal or in association with federal or interagency resources must be certified for use

9.6 Billing Procedures

Invoicing for reimbursable fires occurring in Gilpin County in which costs are incurred by the county, the cities, fire protection district, or volunteer fire department, 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.

Equipment and personnel will not be dispatched outside of Gilpin County without some prior agreement as to compensation such as the Cooperative Resource Rate Form (CRRF) with the DFPC. CRRF forms, equipment rates, instructions, etc. can be found by contacting the North Central Foothills Region Fire Management Officer (Attachment 8).

Prior to dispatch of local county resources out of their respective jurisdictional/mutual aid areas, those resources will meet minimum NWCG standards for the type of resource requested. Equipment and personnel will not be dispatched outside of Gilpin County without some prior agreement as to compensation, such as the Cooperative Resource Rate Form (CRRF) with DFPC. All wildland resources working on Federal lands beyond the initial attack period (either within or outside of Gilpin County) will meet NWCG standards and be Red Carded for the type of resource requested or assigned to the fire.

Requests for local resources by jurisdictions outside the FTC dispatch service area will be made through FTC. Any agencies that receive direct requests from jurisdictions within the FTC area will notify FTC of the request and their response. FTC will track the movement and assignment of County resources both within and outside of the dispatch

A. Out-of Jurisdiction Assignments

All reimbursement requests for fire cost that go through DFPC will have invoices sent to DFPC billing Office within 30 days after incident resources are released from the assignment. The DFPC Billing Office will attempt to make payment as soon as possible after receiving the invoice. Invoices are required to have the proper documentation

supporting expenses before the process for payment can be completed.

9.7 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.

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.

10 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. This AOP may be utilized as part of the County's master emergency operations plan. The County is encouraged to create AOP's, MOU's and Agreements with their local response agencies.

10.1 Personnel Policy

Each jurisdictional agency in Gilpin County, State of Colorado, and the USFS agrees to follow their personnel policies, procedures and guidelines.

10.2 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.

10.3 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.

10.4 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.

10.5 Previous Agreements Superseded

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

11 Signatures of Authorized Representatives

Gilpin County Signatures

Signature

Kevin Armstrong
Printed Name

Date

County Sheriff
Title

Signature

Linda Isenhart
Printed Name

Date

County Commissioner
Title

Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control Signature

Signature

Tony Simons
Printed Name

Date

Regional Battalion Chief
Title

Federal Land Management Agency Signatures

Signature

Monte Williams
Printed Name

Date

ARNF Forest Supervisor
Title

Signature

Catherine Cook
Printed Name

Date

BLM Rocky Mountain District
Manager
Title