2016 LARIMER COUNTY ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN

Agreement for Cooperative Wildland Fire Protection in Larimer County

Prepared by
Larimer County Sheriff's Office

Reviewed and approved by:

Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Northeast Region;
United States Forest Service, Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests;
Bureau of Land Management, Front Range & Northwest Districts;
National Park Service, Rocky Mountain National Park

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1 PREAMBLE

This annual operating plan is prepared by the Larimer County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) and reviewed and approved by the; Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, North East Region (DFPC), Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests (ARF), Bureau of Land Management Front Range and Northwest Districts (BLM), National Park Service, Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP).

2 PURPOSE

The purpose of the Annual Wildland Fire Operating Plan (AOP) is to set forth the standard operating procedures, agreed upon practices, and responsibilities to implement cooperative wildland fire management on all lands within Larimer 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
- Larimer County, Intergovernmental Agreement for Participation in the Colorado Emergency Fire Fund, CSFS #108
- Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection in Larimer County, CSFS #109

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.

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.

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.

5 INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

5.1 Interagency Dispatch Centers

All parties to this operational plan agree that Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch Center (FTC) will operate as a multi-agency dispatch center to coordinate wildland fire suppression efforts within the ARF, RMNP and Larimer County. FTC will have the ability for staffing seven days a week. FTC will be fully staffed from May 15 to October 15 and available for staffing, for other times, should the need arise.

During the period between October 16 and May 14 annually, FTC will coordinate fire suppression efforts as available.

FTC and/or LCSO Communications Center will notify the DFPC of all fire activities that may exceed local capabilities or impact state and national resources.
The United States Forest Service (USFS) will provide annual maintenance for the remote automated weather station (RAWS) at Estes Park, Redstone, Red Feather and Harbison Meadow.
FTC will manage overhead personnel records in ROSS.
FTC will provide support resources such as lowboy transport, commercial and charter aircraft, heavy equipment, food, logistical support and miscellaneous equipment needs, as resources are available.
FTC will coordinate aircraft requests and tactical aviation resources: air patrol, helicopters, large and single engine air tankers, temporary flight restrictions and air space closures.
FTC will provide interagency frequency and communications coordination.
FTC will provide daily fire information reports: National, regional, local situation reports, resource availability.
FTC will provide prescribed fire support as needed.
FTC will provide support for private land as requested.

5.2 Interagency Resources

Larimer County Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff is the fire warden of the county and is responsible for the planning, and coordination of efforts to suppress 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 the provisions of CRS sections 30-10-513.

Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forest (ARF) and Pawnee National Grassland

The ARF is responsible for all management activities on National Forest System Lands. For this plan, the primary role of the ARF 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 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 natural resources.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

The Bureau of Land Management, Kremmling and Royal Gorge Field Offices are responsible for wildland fire management activities on BLM Lands in Larimer County. Through cooperative agreement with the BLM and ARF, the ARF has initial attack responsibilities for these lands. The ARF will advise the BLM Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit or the Front Range Fire Management Unit of all fires on or threatening BLM lands, regardless of size. A BLM District/Field Office representative will respond when deemed appropriate by the BLM or when requested by the affected cooperators. For large wildland fires requiring extended attack, the BLM will coordinate with ARF fire personnel as soon as possible upon being notified.

National Park Service (NPS)

The National Park Service is responsible for all wildland fire management activities on Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) lands. For this plan, the primary role of RMNP 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. RMNP will serve in a support role during structural fire protection operations and may assist in the exterior structure protection measures where wildfires threaten improvements or where the structure fires threaten natural resources.

Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control

The DFPC is the lead state agency for wildfire. The DFPC will, upon request, aid, support, and assist LCSO and/or federal agencies on wildland fires within Larimer County. Upon mutual agreement between the Larimer County Sheriff or his representative and the DFPC Director or his representative, the DFPC will assume management responsibilities as specified under the provisions of the Emergency Fire Fund Agreement (EFF) when wildland fire(s) exceeds the capability of the county's resources. When a fire is accepted by the state as an EFF incident, an incident cost-share agreement will be developed and entered in to by the DFPC and the respective jurisdictional agencies.

5.3 Standards

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.Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide. Each agency or department is responsible for providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for their personnel in accordance with the NWCG PMS 210-Wildland Incident Management Field 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.

6 PREPAREDNESS

6.1 Protection Planning

This AOP is part of the over-all protection planning for wildland fire within Larimer County. All agencies listed within this plan, agree to meet at least annually to discuss changes to this, and any other plan relating to the reduction of wildland fire losses within the County.

This AOP is not a stand-alone document and as such, all current agreements, MOU's, plans, and standards should be considered when conducting wildfire preparedness and response planning activities.

Each agency retains their legal authority and right to suppress fires as they determine necessary on their lands.

6.2 Protection Areas and Boundaries

The area described by this plan includes all lands within the boundaries of Larimer County, including incorporated cities and towns. And also includes lands administered by the United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service.

For the purpose of this plan in regards to initial attack fire response, the respective signatories agree to permit and encourage the closest suppression resource to take suppression action regardless of administrative boundaries.

A current map of fire protection district, county lands, USFS, BLM, and NPS boundaries and response zones will be kept in Larimer County Dispatch and Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch,

6.3 Methods of Fire Protection and Suppression

Larimer County has several Fire Protection Districts and Departments that provide response within their identified district boundaries and other areas of the county.

The County maintains a regular firefighting force that is available for suppression on all lands within the County.

The USFS maintains a regular firefighting force for protection of USFS lands. These forces are also available throughout the County as needed for suppression duties.

The NPS maintains a regular firefighting force in RMNP primarily for the protection of NPS grounds. These resources are available as needed within the County.

DFPC also maintains a small firefighting force within the County that is available for initial and extended attack as requested.

All of the fire agencies operating within the County have standard agreements in place to provide mutual assistance to each other during wildland fire incidents.

Surrounding Counties have a similar capacity and often provide mutual aid resources to fires within Larimer County.

6.4 Reciprocal (Mutual Aid) Fire Assistance

Mutual aid is defined as assistance provided by a supporting agency or fire protection district to the jurisdictional agency. Supporting agencies will voluntarily, or upon request, take initial attack action in support of the jurisdictional agency. It shall be the responsibility of the agency performing initial attack to notify jurisdictional agencies if those lands are involved or threatened. The jurisdictional agency will not be required to reimburse the supporting agency for costs incurred for the duration of the mutual aid period, unless other arrangements are agreed upon per CRS 29-5-105 through 29-5-110.

Each agency will assume responsibility for its own expenses related to the provision of mutual aid for the first 12 hours or until 2400 of the first operational period (Non-Reimbursable Mutual Aid Period), whichever comes first, unless negotiated otherwise by the jurisdictional agencies. The first operational period is measured from the time of the initial dispatch, tone or report of a fire to a response agency.

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

6.5 Acquisition of Services

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

> FEDERAL RESOURCES (ARF, BLM, NPS): Requests for federal resources, including all personnel and equipment, Caterers, Showers, Radio Systems, Interagency cache items and Mobile Cache Vans shall be ordered through FTC Interagency Dispatch Center.
>
> COLORADO STATE RESOURCES: Requests for state resources shall be coordinated through the FTC Interagency Dispatch Center. If the request cannot be processed through the normal dispatching channels, DFPC or COEM personnel may assist in procuring these resources. Resources requested outside of the FTC ordering process will be documented and FTC will be made aware of the order.
>
> COUNTY RESOURCES: Requests for county resources during initial attack shall be made through the Larimer County Dispatch or FTC as appropriate. Requests for county resources during extended attack shall be made through the FTC Interagency Dispatch Center. Procurement of supplies and services will be coordinated through FTC. If FTC is unable to support procurement needs, LCSO and DFPC will coordinate the establishment of a buying team to support the incident.
>
> AVIATION RESOURCES: All federal and state aviation resources shall be

ordered through the FTC Interagency Dispatch Center. Certain state aviation resources may need to be approved and ordered through DFPC or COEM. In these instances, DFPC or COEM personnel will work with the IC and FTC to acquire the needed resources.

6.6 Joint Projects and Project Plans

The signatories to this plan realize that in many cases, joint planning and implementation of projects to reduce the risk of wildland fire is the best use of funds. To such end, the signatories will endeavor to enter into joint projects and plans whenever it makes sense to do so. Each agency will adhere to their standard planning and agreements process when entering into joint agreements.

Nothing in this AOP precludes nor commits any agency to enter into any joint project or agreements with any other party or agency.

6.7 Fire Prevention

All parties to this operational plan agree that educational efforts should be coordinated with other agencies. The distribution of fire prevention material will be the responsibility of the USFS, NPS, DFPC, CSFS districts and the Larimer County Sheriff's Office, when there are periods of HIGH or EXTREME fire danger or when red flag warnings are issued.

The ARF performs Fire Prevention activities, including visitor and homeowner contacts, patrols and fire danger sign maintenance on National Forest System lands. ARF personnel may also conduct educational programs in adjacent communities, distribution of fire danger information and restrictions to the media and community organizations.

6.8 Public Use Restrictions

Personnel from each of the cooperating agencies will determine the need for restrictions on open burning and/or area closures. Criteria for such restrictions or ban should follow the Fire Restrictions and Fire Ban Criteria found in Appendix F. Whenever possible, restrictions and closures should be coordinated among all cooperators. Unified restrictions are desirable.

The Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch Center shall be advised of any restrictions or bans placed upon any lands covered by this agreement.

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.

6.9 Burning Permits

Most outdoor burning in Larimer County requires a permit signed by both the local fire protection district and the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment. Current rules and process may be found on the County's website
http://www.larimer.org/burnpermit/

6.10 Prescribed Fire (Planned Ignitions) and Fuels Management

All parties to this operational plan recognize the importance of fire as a tool to manage forest resources and all local governments and non-government organizations will follow

CRS 24-33.5-1217. It is also recognized that prescribed fire may transition to a suppression action if unforeseen situations occur. If a prescribed fire results in an uncontrolled wildland fire and interagency resources must be dedicated 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 associated with confine/contain/control and rehabilitation efforts and there is no Non-Reimbursable Mutual Aid Period.

If parties to this plan 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. The burn plan will meet, at a minimum, NWCG standards and comply with all local, state and federal regulations. Agency specific guidance may be more stringent.

Agencies party to this plan agree to cover all costs (personnel and equipment) when assisting in the implementation of other agency prescribed fires, unless otherwise negotiated beforehand in an agreement.

6.11 Smoke Management

For Open Burning of 50 piles or less in a project area that will be extinguished by sunset, 10 acres or less of grass, or 5 acres or less of other vegetation, persons shall obtain an air quality permit from the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment: http://larimer.org/burnpermit

For Open Burning of more than 50 piles in a project area, piles that will not be extinguished by sunset, more than 10 acres of grass or more than 5 acres of other vegetation, or where Air Curtain Destructors are used, persons must obtain and complete an air quality permit from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment: http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-AP/CBON/1251582562056

If an air quality permit is obtained from the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment, a request for an Open Burn Permit will automatically be sent to the Fire Protection District in which the property is located or to the Larimer County Sheriff's Office. A notice stating whether the Open Burn Permit has been approved or denied will be sent to the applicant by first class mail or electronically.

If an air quality permit is obtained from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the applicant must contact and obtain a signed Open Burn Permit from the Fire Protection District in which the property is located or from the Larimer County Sheriff's Office.

Agricultural burning and Federal Agencies are exempt from these rules under CRS.

7 OPERATIONS

7.1 Fire Notifications

LCSO Communications Center will notify FTC and FTC will notify LCSO Communication Center and Emergency Services for all fires reported within the National Forest or areas of said intermixed ownership. FTC will notify Craig or Pueblo Dispatch of all fires on or threatening BLM lands. These notifications

should be made as soon after the initial report is taken as possible.

7.2 Boundary Line Fires

All parties to this operational plan agree to operate primarily under the principle of reimbursement for wildland fire suppression costs. When a fire burns on both sides of a protection boundary or threatens another jurisdiction, and is beyond the Non-Reimbursable Mutual Aid Period, a cost share agreement shall be prepared and approved by the agency representative or designee.

7.3 Response to Wildland Fire

Initial attack is defined as the action taken by the resources on a wildland fire that are first to arrive at the incident.

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

Lightning ignited fires within RMNP or any wilderness area on the ARF 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.

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.

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 Non-Reimbursable Mutual Aid Period ends.

7.4 Special Management Considerations

Fire Operations Guidance in Bark Beetle Stands, See Appendix B, may be employed in the extensive bug killed timber stands where fire behavior and stand conditions could compromise human life and safety using direct control efforts.

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. When fire location is confirmed, FTC will advise if it is in a Greenback Cutthroat Trout exclusion area.

7.5 Repair and Rehabilitation

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 as applicable. Rehabilitation of the fire area is not covered under EFF;

it may be authorized by the DFPC Line Officer only when part of the Incident Action Plan during the EFF period.

7.6 Decision Process

Federal agencies are required to complete an appropriate Decision Support System for all wildland fires that escape initial attack on federally managed lands to determine the appropriate response. This is done via the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS). This procedure requires federal agency administrator participation. DFPC requires that a Decision Support System be completed for all fires that receive a FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant and recommends a Decision Support System are completed for all EFF fires. All agencies involved in extended attack on federal, private and state lands should provide input on the Decision Support System. When a fire is burning, or threatens to burn, on multiple jurisdictions, one Decision Support System should be prepared for the incident that considers all jurisdictions and their interests. When a multi-jurisdiction fire involves federal ownership, one WFDSS will be prepared for the incident, with federal, state and county input included. The State Agency Administrator will facilitate completion and review of the Decision Support System for EFF fires.

7.7 Cooperation

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

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.

Wildland fires burning on, or adjacent to, a known or questionable protection boundary will be the initial attack responsibility of the jurisdictional agencies on both sides of the boundary.

Multi-jurisdictional wildland fires will coordinate suppression management through the use of Unified Command, or a delegation of authority from each jurisdictional agency involved to establish Incident Commander, objectives, strategies, and management requirements.

7.8 Communication

When incidents exceed initial attack, the incident should implement the Fort Collins Zone Type 3 (T3) Incident Communications plan for tactical and command radio traffic. The T3 communication plan uses standardized frequencies that are available to all agencies and departments in the FTC zone. If the FTC Zone Type 3 Incident Communications Plan is in use on an incident, subsequent tactical and command frequencies must be ordered through FTC Dispatch.

7.9 Cost Efficiency

All parties agree to use the most cost efficient resources as applicable.

It is a goal of agencies on this plan 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

Parties to this operational plan agree that in the event of a multijurisdictional wildland fire, a delegation of authority should be utilized by agencies involved to establish Incident Command, objectives, strategies, and cost containment. Appendix C

A written delegation of authority may be used whenever an agency, Incident Management Team (IMT) or individual from other than the jurisdictional authority assumes command of an incident. The delegated individual or IMT has the authority and power to act on behalf of the jurisdictional agency, but does not absolve the jurisdictional authority from any legally owed responsibility.

7.11 Preservation of Evidence

The jurisdictional agency will determine as soon as possible the origin and cause of all wildland fires on their respective lands. Fire investigation will be conducted on all suspected human caused fires. Civil and criminal follow-up action will be the responsibility of the benefiting agency in cooperation with the Larimer County Sheriff's Office if necessary. Fire cause determination is required for EFF fires and for FEMA Fire management Assistant Grant (FMAG) fires.

8 STATE EMERGENCY FIRE FUND (EFF)

The EFF may be used to assist counties with whom the DFPC has signed an Intergovernmental Agreement for Participation in the Colorado Emergency Fire Fund (EFF) 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 his representative, is the only person authorized to approve and implement the fund.

Larimer 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 Larimer County should suppression resource needs exceed the county's capabilities. Larimer County will notify the DFPC Fire Duty Officer immediately by calling (303) 279-8855 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 DFPC forms No. 2 and 3 are completed, the Fire Management Officer or his representative will contact the DFPC State Fire Duty Officer (FDO) and relay the information collected. The Fire Management Officer will also make his recommendation on whether or not the situation warrants implementation of the fund.

The DFPC Director may give his decision directly to the requesting FMO, or it may be relayed through other DFPC personnel or the Colorado Office of Emergency Management personnel. This decision will be documented in writing on the DFPC No. 3 or attachments, as necessary. Upon approval of EFF implementation, an Agency Administrator from the state will be assigned to the incident.

When EFF is implemented, DFPC assumes responsibility and authority for all suppression activity until the fire is returned to Larimer County.

All EFF fires will have a designated Incident Command, and the Larimer County Sheriff (or designated representative) and a State Agency Administrator assigned to the incident. If land administered by another agency is threatened or involved, that agency will provide a representative to the Command structure.

When a fire is approved for EFF implementation within Larimer 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 district and 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 State Agency Administrator, given the specific conditions and needs of the incident.

DFPC will transfer control of an EFF fire back to Larimer County when: fire spread is contained, and Larimer County and the State's 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 State 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. See Appendix A.

9 USE AND REIMBURSEMENT OF INTERAGENCY FIRE RESOURCES

9.1 Cost Share Agreement (Cost Share Methodologies)

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. For wildland urban interface (W/UI) fires involving structures, the distribution of costs should be commensurate with the values protected.

9.2 Training

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.Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide.

9.3 Communication Systems

All agencies signing this plan authorize use of their radio frequencies by other agency personnel for emergency purposes only. All agencies, departments, and fire protection districts which use ARF FM frequencies for tactical or command purposes through FTC, must have radios programmed in "narrow band" mode to facilitate clear transmission and reception.

Fire Protection Districts and Volunteer Fire Departments working an incident, under the auspices of the County, are granted permission to use federal radio frequencies, if needed, to assure safety of the operation. Only the USFS, NPS, DFPC, and LCSO or fire resources coordinating with LCSO Emergency Services during incidents are authorized to transmit on Air-to-Ground frequencies.

A resource order should be placed with the FTC Interagency Dispatch Center as soon as possible for the portable command repeater. Type 3 and 800 MHz communication plan Appendix E.

9.4 Fire Weather Systems

Fire Danger Ratings, Fire weather forecasts, Fire resource status, Local and National Situation Reports, Fire Restriction information and, RAWS observation and planning information are maintained by Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch (FTC) at: http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2ftc/

9.5 Aviation Operations

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 ordering aircraft. However, fire control actions shall not be hampered if concurrence is delayed as a result of communication difficulties. Aircraft may be considered mutual aid, and costs associated with Aircraft should be negotiated between benefiting agencies.

CRS 23-31-309 creates the Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (WERF) to encourage the use of air tankers, helicopters, and crews for initial attack on state and private lands. This fund provides financial support to the county for 1 aviation resource (either the initial load from an air tanker or the first hour of helicopter flight time (including pilot expenses)), and/or one handcrew (the first two full operational periods for a hand crew) per incident. The fund does not cover transit cost for aviation resources not stationed in Colorado, lead planes, aerial observers (air attack), helitack crew time, or other associated overhead expenses associated with aircraft use. These additional costs are the responsibility of the ordering agency or 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. All Air-to-Ground communications will be on the NIICD assigned A-G frequency for NE Colorado. The primary is A-G 9, the secondary is A-G 7. If both frequencies are assigned to active incidents, or have excessive traffic, additional A-G frequencies must be ordered through FTC Dispatch.

LCSO will request and coordinate aviation resources through FTC on Colorado State and private lands per guidelines in the WERF, see Appendix D. LCSO will ensure that the DFPC fire duty officer is notified through FTC when fire conditions require aviation resources assistance.

Criteria for placing aviation resources 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. Once a resource has been placed on contract and staged along the Northern Front Range, the DFPC will keep the FTC advised of any changes in status. The FTC will disseminate this information to county, state, and federal agencies.

Air reconnaissance and detection flights will be coordinated among cooperating agencies through the FTC.

The incident commander on each fire incident will be responsible for initiating any requests for airspace restrictions (TFRs) from the FAA, through FTC.

9.6 Billing Procedures

Federal and County agencies that sign this agreement will not charge or add on any administration or processing costs to an invoice involving local suppression costs. Costs for resources and equipment not used directly for suppression of the assigned incident are subject to negotiation and may be the responsibility of the ordering agency. See Appendix G.

Fire Agencies should not expect to be reimbursed for equipment and/or personnel time for wildland fire incidents that occur within their own response boundaries, unless stipulated in a cost share agreement.

Agency-owned equipment will be reimbursed by the benefiting agency (or agencies) according to the current Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control Equipment Agreements, Rates and Procedures, unless superseded by an annual equipment agreement.

Reimbursement of eligible cooperator expenses is authorized by the Cooperative Wildfire Protection Agreement between the State of Colorado and Larimer County. The Cooperator Resource Rate Form (CRRF) is the process used by DFPC to make reimbursements.

All agency(s) personnel, equipment and supply information must be recorded in a format suitable to the benefiting agency(s) prior to release from the incident. Records

used for submission to the benefiting agency(s) must be approved and signed by an agency representative authorized to obligate the benefiting agency(s) to payment for manpower and equipment on that incident.

For reimbursable incidents, Larimer County's overtime compensation rates are paid based on a 7 day work week beginning on day one of mobilization. Compensation rates are paid at time and a half of the base hourly rate for all hours worked in excess of 8 hours per day for the first 5 days and full time and one half for all hours worked during the remainder of the work week. Compensation includes travel time.

9.7 Cost Recovery

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 fo the anticipated expenses by November 15th of the year in which the wildland fire occurred.

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.

10 GENERAL PROVISIONS

The enforcement of the terms and conditions of this plan and all rights of action relating to such enforcement shall be strictly reserved by the county and the signatories to this plan. Nothing contained in this plan 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 plan that any person receiving services or benefits under this plan shall be deemed an incidental beneficiary only.

10.1 Personnel Policy

All government employees shall be employed at their salary rate. All non- government employees will be paid at agency department rates. If no agency department rates have been set, then DFPC established rates will be used. These can be found at the DFPC website http://dfs.state.co.us/

10.2 Modification

If changes or corrections are necessary after the current years' plan is signed, each agency affected by the proposed change must approve and initial the change in order for it to be effective. All cooperators shall be notified of the proposed change before it is adopted.

10.3 Annual Review

This document will be reviewed by all signatory agencies on an annual basis prior to April.

10.4 Duration of Plan

This plan will remain in effect until such time as the signed 2017 Larimer County Annual Operating Plan replaces it. If no changes are made, a statement letter with signatures of all parties to this AOP will be distributed.

10.5 Previous Plans Superseded

The current signed AOP will supersede any previously signed versions.

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11 SIGNATURES

THIS ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN IS AGREED UPON THIS DATE BY:

Sheriff Larimer County, Colorado	Date
County Manager Larimer County, Colorado	Date
Forest Supervisor Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest	Date
Regional Fire Management Officer Colorado Division of Fire Prevention & Control	Date
Superintendent Rocky Mountain National Park	Date
District Manager, Front Range District Bureau of Land Management	Date
Field Manager, Kremmling Field Office Bureau of Land Management	Date

DATE: 2-10-16
APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY
Larimer County