

Operating Plan Template

Between

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service, Interior Region 3, 4, 5

Fish and Wildlife Service Interior Regions 2 and 4

STATE OF ARKANSAS

Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, West Central Office

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Region 8, Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests

This Operating Plan is hereby made and entered into by and between the Parties pursuant to the Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (Agreement) signed and dated 09/10/2020. This Operating Plan, inclusive of any referenced attachments or Exhibits, is tiered to the Agreement. A formal modification to the Agreement is unnecessary but shall not contradict the Agreement.

All portions of this Operating Plan should be addressed. State if any item is not applicable, but do not remove the item. To facilitate review of this Operating Plan, do not change the format or delete sections. Items may be added as necessary to each of the sections.

PURPOSE

This is a Statewide Operating Plan applicable to all signatory Parties within the State of Arkansas. Its purpose is to address statewide issues affecting cooperation, interagency working relationships and protocols, financial arrangements, sharing of resources, and joint activities/projects. The Southern Area Mobilization Guide is considered part of this Operating Plan.

RECITALS

Stafford Act responses and related NRF activities will be accomplished utilizing established dispatch coordination concepts. 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, resource and fire management plans and decision support documents, for a unit's wildland fire and fuels management program.

Protecting Agencies implement the actions documented and directed by the appropriate planning documents and decision support documents for initial and extended attack on wildfire incidents. They

MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT

provide the supervision and support including operational oversight, direction and logistical support to IMTs.

INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

Interagency Dispatch Centers: At a minimum, address within this plan (or provide reference to) the following components:

A. Purpose and Overview

The Southern Area Coordinating Group (SACG) addresses statewide or local issues affecting cooperation, interagency working relationships and protocols, financial arrangements, sharing of resources, and joint activities.

The primary coordination center for the agencies within the State of Arkansas will be the Arkansas-Oklahoma Interagency Coordination Center (AOICC), located in Hot Springs, AR.

To accomplish our mission, AOICC operates within a formalized interagency dispatch system. Requests from the Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC) are routed through AOICC to local unit offices. Requests within the center are allocated according to basic dispatch principals (type, location, cost) regardless of agency and/or ownership. All incidents and resulting requests are given equal consideration based on values at risk and resource availability.

B. Administrative Oversight/Structure

- i. Executive Board – N/A
- ii. Operations Group – N/A

C. Dispatch Organization

- i. Staffing

Position	Funding
Center Manager - GS-9/11 - PFT	USFS – Ouachita National Forest
Assist. Center Manager – GS-8/9 - PFT	USFS – Ouachita National Forest
Initial Attack Dispatcher – GS-5/6/7 - PFT	USFS – Ouachita National Forest
Initial Attack Dispatcher – GS-5/6/7 - PFT	USFS – Ouachita National Forest
Initial Attack Dispatcher – GS-5/6/7 - PFT	NPS/+TBD - Ouachita National Forest <i>(Vacant)</i>
Initial Attack Dispatcher – GS-6/7 – PFT	BIA – Eastern Oklahoma Region

D. Roles and Responsibilities

- i. Center Manager

The Center Manager is responsible for the overall management of all AOICC operations as well as serving as a liaison to each of the member agencies regarding dispatch related business. The CM collaborates with local unit administrators to establish procedures and protocol in accordance with local, regional, and national agency specific policies. During periods of critical fire danger and/or fire business, the CM is responsible for increasing

MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT

the lines of communication with local unit duty officers, neighboring dispatch centers, and the Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC). The Center Manager also serves as the lead for expanded dispatch operations. The Center Manager is supervised by the USFS – Forest Assistant Fire Management Officer.

ii. Assistant Center Manager(s)

The Assistant Center Manager serves as the assistant to the CM. This position will assume the roles of the CM in his/her absence as delegated. In the absence of the CM, the ACM will ensure that local policy and procedures are complied with and will coordinate with the CM, excluding personnel issues and policy changes. The Assistant Center Manager is responsible for directing floor operations and expanded dispatch operations when needed for mobilization and demobilization and the status of all resources operating within the AOICC area of influence in accordance with agency procedure and policy. The Assistant Center Manager is supervised by the Center Manager.

iii. Aircraft Dispatcher (ACDP)

The Aircraft Dispatcher(s) is responsible for dispatching and the status of all aircraft operating within the AOICC area of influence in accordance with agency procedure and policy. The Aircraft Dispatcher is supervised by the Center Manager.

iv. Initial Attack Dispatcher (IADP)

The Initial Attack Dispatcher(s) is responsible for dispatching and the status of all resources operating in the AOICC area of influence in accordance with agency procedure and policy. The Initial Attack Dispatcher is supervised by the Center Manager.

E. Dispatch Services

i. Initial and Extended Attack

Ouachita National Forest: AOICC provides initial attack response, flight-following, weather data gathering and dissemination, resource needs including aviation, personnel tracking, fire reporting, SIT/209 reporting and expanded operations for all hazard incidents.

Ozark-St. Francis National Forest: AOICC provides initial attack response, flight-following, weather data gathering and dissemination, resource needs including aviation, personnel tracking, fire reporting, SIT/209 reporting and expanded operations for all hazard incidents.

National Park Service – Interior Regions 3,4,5: AOICC provides initial attack response, flight-following, personnel tracking, fire reporting, SIT/209 reporting, Fire Code, IQCS and expanded operations.

Fish and Wildlife Service – Interior Regions 2 and 4: AOICC provides assistance with resource needs, flight-following, personnel tracking, fire reporting, Fire Code, SIT/209 reporting and expanded operations.

Arkansas Department of Agriculture – Forestry Division: AOICC coordinates and provides expanded operations, including aviation, and out-of-area resource mobilization.

ii. Mobilization, Demobilization and Support

MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT

The Arkansas-Oklahoma Interagency Coordination Center (AOICC) provides for cost-effective mobilization, demobilization and support of resources between the agencies party to this agreement and the Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC).

iii. Aviation

The Arkansas-Oklahoma Interagency Coordination Center (AOICC) provides for cost-effective mobilization, demobilization and support of aviation resources between the agencies party to this agreement and the Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC).

iv. Prescribed Fire (if applicable)

The Arkansas-Oklahoma Interagency Coordination Center (AOICC) provides for cost-effective mobilization, demobilization and support of prescribed fire resources between the agencies party to this agreement and the Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC).

v. All Hazard (law Enforcement, Natural Disaster, etc., as appropriate)

The Arkansas-Oklahoma Interagency Coordination Center (AOICC) provides for cost-effective mobilization, demobilization and support of all-hazard resource needs (floods, tornados, hurricanes, etc.), as requested, between the agencies party to this agreement and the Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC).

F. Funding

- i. Cost Sharing between participating agencies for the operations and maintenance of the dispatch center – N/A
- ii. Financial plan (attach as Appendix) – N/A

2. Interagency Resources:

- Identify funding and staffing of joint resources and facilities commensurate with each Agency's use.
- Identify the process by which additional preparedness resources requests will be coordinated.
- If applicable, cite the operating plan for management of IMTs and where it is available.
- Supplemental Fire Department Resources (if applicable).

The Arkansas Forestry Division is responsible for suppression activities on all state and private lands in the state of Arkansas, and the Federal agencies are responsible for suppression activities on Federal lands in the state of Arkansas. For initial attack fire suppression actions, the agencies in this agreement will operate under the "closest forces concept", *Guide for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy* (Feb. 2009) P7. "Responses to wildland fire will be coordinated across levels of government regardless of the jurisdiction at the ignition source." Thus, they may dispatch the closest available and appropriate resources regardless of which party owns or controls the resources, and regardless of which agency has the protection responsibility or jurisdiction. For All Risk / All Hazard incidents (floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, search & rescue, etc.), all parties may offer 24 hour mutual aid assistance, upon request by the Jurisdictional Agency, under the same concept. All Risk / All Hazard incident response will be managed on a case by case basis.

During periods of local, regional or national emergencies, it may be necessary to request assistance from the Arkansas Forestry Division for fire resources to be sent outside the state. When the Forest Service, Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests mobilizes State affiliated resources, they will be employed

MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT

under the AD authority per Region 8 direction by letter dated *July 20, 2018 – Direction for State Sponsored Administratively Determined (AD) Personnel.*

The rate of pay will be according to the NWCG Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management. This rate is all-inclusive, and no additional pay will be added for hazardous duty.

Agencies signatory to this agreement may assist each other in all-hazard incidents (floods, tornados, hurricanes, etc.) for up to 24 hours. Supporting resources of each agency will charge to their agencies established job code.

3. Standards: Reference common standards; reference direction for land management and aircraft use.

Standards and special considerations during response will be communicated by the jurisdictional agency to the responding agency after the notification. If no considerations are communicated the responding agency will engage based on common practices. It is imperative to notify the jurisdictional agency in a timely manner (ASAP or within 30 minutes) to gain direction or notification of such considerations.

It is recommended that special considerations are communicated preseason or shared in a data layer. Such special considerations might include but are not limited to aerial retardant avoidance areas, sensitive historic values, archeological sites, and infrastructure.

4. Supplemental Fire Department Resources: (if none are to be utilized, indicate this is N/A) – N/A

- Identify any Supplemental Fire Department Resources that may be mobilized
- Identify hourly compensation rates for any Supplemental Fire Department Resources, as instructed in “Rate Determination” clause of Exhibit G.

(insert other items, as applicable)

PREPAREDNESS

1. Protection Planning: Determine efficiencies and document decisions regarding acquisition of protection services and reciprocal assistance. Identify placement of crews, engines, air tankers, helicopters, fixed and aerial detection, regulated use, closures, and other joint fire control efforts.

In the event that protection planning is deemed necessary, such planning will be conducted by and between the agencies to this agreement where jurisdictional boundaries necessitates joint participation in protection planning.

Protection Areas and Boundaries: Protection areas vary according to the circumstances of each individual wildfire event. Federal agency actions will be (generally) limited to those wildfires that either threaten or are located on federal jurisdictional areas unless a request for assistance on state and private lands is made to the federal agency by the Arkansas Forestry Division. Actions taken by any responder on reciprocal protection areas will be based on the Closest Forces Concept and shall be consistent with the Jurisdictional Agency’s fire management policy.

Likewise, the Arkansas Forestry Division actions are generally limited to state and private jurisdictional lands unless a request for assistance on federal lands is made by a federal agency to Arkansas Forestry Division, except as defined under the **Methods of Fire Protection and Suppression** clause given below.

Methods of Fire Protection and Suppression:

- Generally, the closest available and appropriate resources will initiate suppression action on any wildfire on reciprocally protected lands regardless of land ownership.

MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT

- The Protection Agency will not be required to reimburse the supporting agencies for its costs of fire suppression whenever those resources have been dispatched based on Closest Forces Concept, with the exception of air operations.
- Conditions and circumstances during any particular initial attack may dictate expansion of the stated reciprocal fire assistance and area particularly when issues of life, property, simultaneous resource commitments, and/or extreme fire behavior become an emergency consideration.
- Resources will charge to their established job code until the non-billable mutual aid period, **generally 24 hours**, is met, at which time they will convert to the established job code for the incident. Maps depicting areas under reciprocal protection will be maintained at each state dispatch office, AOICC and Malvern Dispatch.
- All requests for assistance will be processed through AOICC.
- The requesting agency agrees to assume responsibility for making necessary arrangements and paying all expenses for lodging and meals for personnel from the sending agency.
- **Aviation:** Air tactical resources will be utilized on a reimbursable basis on all wildland fires, regardless of reciprocal status of the fire.
- All requests for USFS aerial suppression assistance on wildland fires (fixed or rotor wing) on privately owned lands outside of the Reciprocal Fire Protection area defined above will be made by the Director, State Fire Management Chief, or State Forester or designated representative. The USFS will bill the State by separate billing for the costs of the assistance.
- Requests for State aerial suppression assistance on wildland fires (fixed or rotor wing) on USFS or federally protected lands inside the Reciprocal Fire Protection area defined above will be made by the Forest Fire Management Officer, Forest Assist. Fire Management Officer, Agency Duty Officer or designated representative. The State will bill the requesting agency by separate billing for the costs of the assistance. State aviation resources must meet and be carded to Federal standards before they can be used on Federal lands.
- **Acquisition of Services:** All areas that are not under reciprocal protection will be managed according to cooperative protection standards. Assistance from the agency that does not have protection responsibility will be reimbursable. However, if the fire is controlled with initial attack forces within the first 24 hours, there will be no charges or reimbursement by either agency, with the exception of air operations.
- USFWS recognizes and agrees to equipment rates identified for the State of Arkansas in Chapter 100 of the Southern Area Mobilization Guide for billable suppression assistance beyond the 24 hour reciprocal period.

Joint Projects and Project Plans: If any of the federal agencies and the state agency want to engage in joint cooperative projects, such as prescribed fire/fuels management, preparedness, fire analysis/planning, rehabilitation, training, prevention, public affairs, and other beneficial efforts in support of interagency fire

MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT

management, a Supplemental Fire Project Agreement (as outlined in Exhibit I of the Agreement) will be prepared.

Fire Prevention: Each agency will retain rights to limit public use on lands under their jurisdiction concerning burn bans and fire restrictions. Whenever feasible agencies should coordinate the implementation of restrictions together so there is consistency in a given area.

Each agency agrees to cooperate in the development and implementation of fire prevention programs. Unit Administrators will assure the fire prevention goals and activities are planned at local levels and are addressed. Specific fire prevention plans should be developed by local interagency fire management personnel. Each agency may pool resources and share costs. Unit Administrators are encouraged to participate in local fire prevention cooperatives, organizations or groups, where applicable.

All parties agree that in order to avoid duplication of effort in fire education/prevention/prevention sign programs, representatives from the all agencies will meet each year to agree on areas to be served by each or to be handled jointly. Each agency will emphasize measures to reduce the risk to communities and the environment according to the direction given through the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy in the National Fire Plan.

Public Use Restrictions: Closure orders, red flag alerts and burn bans may be put into effect by either agency under its authority; however, before such action is taken, each agency will determine the seriousness of the situation and every reasonable effort will be made to insure uniform and simultaneous action by the agencies to the extent possible

Burning Permits: Each agency will follow their individual policies on lands under their jurisdiction. Whenever feasible, agencies should coordinate the implementation of restrictions together so there is consistency in a given area.

Prescribed Fire (Planned Ignitions) and Fuels Management: Information concerning prescribed fire or other fuels managements projects will be coordinated at AOICC. State dispatch offices will be notified each day concerning prescribed burns that are being conducted.

Smoke Management: All participating agencies will follow federal and state smoke policy guidelines in relation to individual and joint projects of the jurisdictional agencies.

OPERATIONS

Fire Notifications: When any party to this agreement takes independent action on fires that threaten or involve lands protected by another agency, the jurisdictional dispatch center will be notified as soon as possible and or no later than 30 minutes of time of report with location of incident and suppression action being taken. In order for appropriate fire notifications to be made, it is required that parties share data layers outlining jurisdictional boundaries with participating dispatch centers. If data is not shared, the jurisdictional agency and/or agencies may not be notified.

It is the Incident Commander's responsibility to coordinate with the jurisdictional agency on the status of wildfires from contain to out.

Fire Reports will be sent to jurisdictional agencies within 10 days of incident start date.

~~**Boundary Line Fires:** Boundary line fires will be the initial attack responsibility of the protecting party(s) on either side of the boundary. Neither party will assume the other is aware of the fire or is taking action.~~

MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT

The officer-in-charge who arrives first at the fire will act as Incident Commander. When both parties have arrived, the designation of the Incident commander will be mutually agreed upon and announced to dispatching offices of each agency and all responding personnel.

Independent Action on Lands Protected by Another Agency: Each agency may take independent action in reciprocal areas on any lands under protection responsibility of the other agency.

During the initial attack, each responding agency shall be responsible for damage to equipment or personal injury regardless of jurisdiction.

Generally, there are no special land management considerations that affect independent action during initial attack. However, areas having special designation as wilderness, heritage or other resource issues on federal lands that are associated with suppression activities will be directed by jurisdictional agencies based on land management criteria due to specific governing policies.

The USFS agrees to permit the State to have use of available Forest Service equipment and personnel on the Crossett Experimental Forest (CEF) for emergency use on the CEF and adjacent lands in Ashley and Drew counties.

The State agrees to assist in fire line maintenance, fire suppression, prescribed burning and maintenance of fire suppression equipment owned by the Forest Service and to assist in preparation for the annual Crossett Forestry Field Day.

Response to Wildland Fire:

Special Management Considerations:

On National Forests areas designated as Wilderness, the use of mechanical equipment will not be undertaken except with the advance approval of the Forest Supervisor and/or Regional Forester, on a case-by-case basis.

Locations of National Forest Wilderness areas, intermittent water ways, riparian, wilderness, heritage, gas lines, WUI and historical areas such as Trail-of-Tears are identified on maps located at the AOICC.

US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) – The use of Minimal Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) shall be used on all USFWS nationally designated Wilderness areas. No application of retardant or foam within 300 feet of water ways. No use of heavy equipment within 300 feet of water ways. The use of heavy mechanized equipment is within the range of appropriate management responses for suppression activities.

Decision Process: For fires which are expected to exceed initial attack capabilities all parties involved with lands involved will meet to develop and document decisions regarding suppression strategies and tactical actions that are cost efficient and consider loss and benefit to land, values-at-risk, resource, social and political values and existing legal statutes.

Cooperation: Pre-season meeting should be held to discuss areas which require a higher priority protection. Values at risk would be identified and ranked in order of priority. This would help set priority in the event that multiple fire starts occurred at the same time and required prioritization. The group should also identify those areas requiring fuels treatment/mitigation for future analysis.

Communication: Local level of communication is required. Communications should occur prior to fire season and during the early stages of wildland fires. Agencies managing fires, especially those with multiple objectives, should consider: fire fighter and public safety, predicted weather, conditions, resource

MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT

drawdown, proximity to values at risk, smoke, current and anticipated fire activity and time of season. Neighboring jurisdictions should provide prompt notification to agencies when concerns exist about fires that are managed strategically and have the potential to impact adjacent jurisdictions.

The appropriate management response (Confine, Contain and Control) will be selected for each incident. In the event that the fire will impact adjacent jurisdictions, all parties may be asked to participate in the development of the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS).

Cost efficiency: Jurisdictions will identify conditions under which cost efficiency may dictate where suppression strategies and tactical actions are taken (i.e., it may be more cost effective to put the containment line along an open grassland than along a mid-slope in timber). Points to consider include loss and benefit to land, values at risk, resource, social and political values, and existing legal statutes.

Delegation of Authority: In the event that an overhead team is called in to stage or assume control of an incident, all agencies with jurisdictional responsibility will prepare the delegation of authority as and WFDSS for the Incident Commander.

Preservation of Evidence: Point-of-origin and evidence will be preserved in accordance with applicable Agency regulations and policies.

USE AND REIMBURSEMENT OF INTERAGENCY FIRE RESOURCES

Cost Share Agreement: The type of cost share methodology utilized will vary according to a great variety of environmental, resource, tactical, political, and other considerations. The following factors should be discussed in order to clarify how such factors will influence the ultimate selection of a cost share methodology for any given wildland fire.

- i. The cost sharing methodologies that will be utilized should wildfire spread to a neighboring jurisdiction in a location where fire is not wanted.
- ii. The cost share methodologies that will be used should a jurisdiction accept or receive a wildland fire and manage it for multiple objectives.
- iii. Any distinctions in what cost share methodology will be used if the reason the fire spreads to another jurisdiction is attributed to a strategic decision, versus environmental conditions (weather, fuels, and fire behavior) or tactical considerations (firefighter safety, resource availability) that preclude stopping the fire at jurisdictional boundaries. Examples of cost sharing methodologies may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - iv. When a wildland fire that is being managed for multiple objectives spreads to a neighboring jurisdiction because of strategic decisions, and in a location where fire is not wanted, the managing jurisdiction may be responsible for wildfire suppression costs.
 - v. In those situations where weather, fuels or fire behavior of the wildland fire precludes stopping at jurisdiction boundaries, cost share methodologies may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Each jurisdiction pays for its own resources – fire suppression efforts are primarily on jurisdictional responsibility lands.

MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT

- b. Each jurisdiction pays for its own resources -- services rendered approximate the percentage of jurisdictional responsibility, but not necessarily performed on those lands.
- c. Cost share by percentage of ownership.
- d. Cost is apportioned by geographic division or percent of effort. Examples of geographic divisions are: Divisions A and B (using a map as an attachment); privately owned property with structures; or specific locations such as campground.
- e. Reconciliation of daily costs (for larger, multi-day incidents). This method relies upon daily agreed to costs, using Incident Action Plans or other means to determine multi-Agency contributions. Reimbursements must be followed up by a final bill.

Training: Interagency training opportunities can be made available. This can include, but is not limited to the annual fire refresher, wildfire academies and in-house training. Each agency agrees to operate under the National Incident Management System (NIMS) standards as developed by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). Employees of each agency signatory to this agreement may participate as student and/or instructor in training courses and exercises hosted by the other agency on a non-reimbursable basis.

Communication Systems: Radios for interagency communications are installed at the following locations.

Arkansas-Oklahoma Interagency Coordination Center – Hot Springs, AR; Arkansas Forestry Division – Malvern Dispatch office, Malvern, AR.

When it becomes necessary for either agency to operate radio equipment belonging to the other agency, all operating procedures of the agency owning the equipment will be followed.

All signatories of this agreement may have access to participating agencies radio frequencies in support of fire operations. Radio operations shall be according to approved policy, regulations and procedures. Use of these frequencies shall be limited to fire personnel. Each agency will maintain its own radios and will cooperate to the fullest extent in maintaining efficient communications between the agencies.

Each agency may install the others radio frequencies in its radio for use in cooperative activities. All federal licensing requirements will be followed.

Radio communications will be maintained between ground resources, aircraft, State Dispatchers and Forest Service Dispatchers.

Access to systems and facilities will be approved only by agency authorized personnel and in accordance with agency laws, regulations, and policies governing security of systems and facilities.

Fire Weather Systems: The State and Federal agencies will share information from RAWS stations owned and/operated by each respective agency. Each agency will be responsible for maintenance of their own RAWS stations on a yearly basis.

Incident Meteorological (IMET) Services: The procedures shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the Interagency Agreement for Meteorological and Other Technical Services (IMET Agreement), and shall not conflict with the procedures of the Mobilization Guides. Reimbursement and expenditures for IMET Services shall follow the procedures detailed within the IMET Agreement.

MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT

IMET request will be routed through the jurisdictional dispatch center. The procedures shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the Interagency Agreement for Meteorological and Other Technical Services (IMET Agreement), and shall not conflict with the procedures of the Mobilization Guides. Reimbursement and expenditures for IMET Services shall follow the procedures outlined in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, NFES 2092.

Aviation Operations: Identify and document any local aviation agreements. – N/A

BILLING PROCEDURES

(Refer to Exhibit D of the Master Coop Agreement–Reimbursable Billings and Payments)

Suppression Billing:

Billing information, provide:

- i. Agency name and billing address
- ii. Financial Contact (name, phone, email)
- iii. Agency Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)
- iv. Billing timeframes – Provide contact information for written request for extensions beyond timeframes established in Exhibit D, Reimbursable Billings and Payments.
- v. Indirect Cost Rates, if applicable
- vi. Identify a process for handling any supplemental billing information, summary data or additional billing documentation. Such supplemental billing information, summary data or additional billing documentation may be requested and provided if agreed upon by the Parties. The process should include:
 - a) Points of Contact
 - b) Process for handling requests
 - c) Any standardized reports information

Fee Based Services – Billings will be in accordance with separate written agreement or contract(s).

Non-Suppression Billings: As described in this Operating Plan, the Parties may jointly conduct cooperative projects and/or share resources to carry out non-suppression activities in support of interagency fire management. These joint projects or activities may involve sharing of costs and/or a transfer of funds between the Parties involved, at which time a separate, local agreement, procurement, or other appropriate written document will be required. Billing will be defined under the terms of that document.

Stafford Act Billings

- Refer to Exhibit H of the Master Coop Agreement – Use of and Reimbursement for Shared Resources in Stafford Act Response Actions
- Billing timeframes – Provide contact information and process required for any written request for extensions beyond timeframes established in Exhibit H.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Principal Contacts: Refer to Exhibit B of Master Coop Agreement – Principal Contacts. Complete and add to this Operating Plan.

MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT

Arkansas Department of Agriculture Forestry Division	US Fish and Wildlife Service
#1 National Resources Drive Little Rock, AR 72205	Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge 5531 US-82 Crossett, AR 72082
Robert Murphy State Fire Chief	Matthew Johnson Prescribe Fire Manager
Phone: 870-723-8110	Phone: 870-415-0185
Fax: NA	Fax: NA
Email: Robert.d.murphy@agriculture.arkansas.gov	Email: Matthew.Johnson@fws.gov
National Park Service	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Buffalo River National Park 402 North Walnut Harrison, AR 72601	1266 Lock and Dam Road Russellville, AR 72082
Fenn Wimberly Fire Management Officer	Randy Brents Prescribe Fire Manager
Phone: 316-706-3881	Phone: 877-967-7577
Fax: NA	FAX: NA
Email: fenn.wimberly@nps.gov	Email: rmbrents@agfc.state.ar.us
US Forest Service, Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests	
100 Reserve Street Hot Springs, AR 71901	
Joshua Graham, Forest Fire Mgmt. Officer	
Phone: 501-321-5313	
Fax: 501-321-5353	
Email: joshua.j.graham@usda.gov	
Malvern Dispatch Center	AOICC – Arkansas-Oklahoma Interagency Coordination Center
198 Airport Road Malvern, AR 72104	100 Reserve Street Hot Springs, AR 71901
Phone: 505-346-2660	Phone: 501-321-5232
Fax: 501-332-4447	Fax: 501-321-5382
Email: afc.dispatchcenter@arkansas.gov	Email: araoc@firenet.gov

MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT

Personnel Policy: See Exhibit N/A – Supplemental Fire Department Resources. List personnel to be mobilized under the terms of that Exhibit by name, position(s), and identified as Single Resource. While on assignment, these individuals are (N/A) FD employees and the (N/A) FD will be reimbursed for their actual costs.

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 one year advance written notice to the other Parties.

Annual Review: This Operating Plan is reviewed annually by **October 15** and revised, as needed.

Duration of Operating Plan: This Operating Plan is executed as of the date of last signature and remains in effect through **September 10, 2025** unless modified or superseded.

If the current Master Coop Agreement is superseded by a new Agreement, this Operating Plan may remain in effect to the extent that it does not conflict with provisions of the new Agreement, but only until such time that all activities and conditions can be incorporated into a new Operating Plan.

Previous Instruments Superseded:

Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement between the US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Ouachita National Forest, Ozark-St. Francis National Forest and the State of Arkansas, Arkansas Forestry Commission – #15-FI-11080900-001.

and,

Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement between the US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Ouachita National Forest, Ozark-St. Francis National Forest and State of Arkansas, Arkansas Game and Fish - #15-FI-11080900-002.

FWS Agreement No. 40181BK001.

Authorized Representatives: By signature below, all signatories to this Operating Plan certify that the individuals listed in this document are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this Operating Plan.

REVIEW AND SIGNATURES

MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT

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REVIEW AND SIGNATURES

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Interior Regions 2 and 4

SAMI GRAY Digitally signed by SAMI GRAY
Date: 2021.08.09 17:33:03
-05'00'

SAMI GRAY

Zone Fire Management Officer

Date: _____

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REVIEW AND SIGNATURES

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Interior Region 3, 4, 5

HERBERT FROST

Digitally signed by HERBERT FROST
Date: 2021.09.15 15:31:40 -05'00'

Regional Director

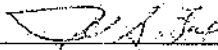
Date: _____

MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STATFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT

Authorized Representatives: By signature below, all signatories to this Operating Plan certify that the individuals listed in this document are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this Operating Plan.

REVIEW AND SIGNATURES

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Forestry Division



JOE FOX
State Forester

Date: 6-25-21

Agreements Coordinator

Date: _____

MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT

Authorized Representatives: By signature below, all signatories to this Operating Plan certify that the individuals listed in this document are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this Operating Plan.

REVIEW AND SIGNATURES

STATE OF ARKANSAS

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

David Cannon for

Pat Fitts *Austin Booth*

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Director

Date: *9/21/21*

Agreements Coordinator

Date: _____

MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the last date written below

**USDA FOREST SERVICE
REGION 8,
OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST
AND
OZARK-ST. FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS**

KENDERICK ARNEY Digitally signed by KENDERICK ARNEY
Date: 2021.05.24 14:21:31 -04'00'

KEN ARNEY
Regional Forester, Southern Region