

**MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND
STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT**

Between

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Eastern States

UEI: LWKLJKSQNA8

Agreement # _____

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Southeast Region

UEI: ZK1LYM6WE3C4

Agreement # _____

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Eastern Region

UEI: FAEQN3LV59K3

Agreement # _____

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Southeast Region

UEI: MYTDK1R5BBQ6

Agreement # GA-2023-MA

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE

Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest

UEI: G2EGL5TJE6N3

Agreement # **23-FI-11080300-008**

STATE OF GEORGIA

Forestry Commission, GA

UEI: HJGLBLZN9EW7

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I. AUTHORITIES

Reciprocal Fire Protection Act of May 27, 1955, as amended (69 Stat. 66; 42 U.S.C. 1856)

Disaster Relief Act of May 22, 1974, (42 U.S.C. 5121 as amended)

Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 93-288)

Homeland Security Act of 2002 (H.R. 5005-8)

Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5 (HSPD-5)

Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006. (P.L. 109-295, 120 Stat. 1355)

National Indian Forest Resources Management Act (P.L. 101-630, Title III) (Interior Agencies)

Service First, Section 330 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2001, Pub. L. 106-291, 114 Stat. 996, 43 U.S.C. sec. 1701 note, as amended (FS, DOI)

Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999, as included in P.L. 105-277, section 101(e);

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of Oct. 21, 1976, (P.L.94-579; 43 U.S.C.)(BLM)

~~NPS Organic Act (16 U.S.C.1)~~ NPS 54 U.S.C. § 102711 (NPS)

National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee, 80 Stat. 927, as amended) (FWS)

National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-57) (FWS)

National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600) (FS)

US Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Acts

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Agreement (hereinafter called the Agreement) is to document the commitment of the Parties to this Agreement to improve efficiency by facilitating the coordination and exchange of personnel, equipment, supplies, services, and funds among the Parties to this Agreement in sustaining wildland fire management activities, such as prevention, preparedness, communication and education, fuels treatment and hazard mitigation, fire planning, response strategies, tactics and alternatives, suppression and post-fire rehabilitation and restoration.

In addition to improving efficiency in addressing wildland fire management activities, this Agreement facilitates improved coordination regarding other incidents. The National Response Framework (NRF) applies to all federal departments and agencies that may be requested to provide assistance or conduct operations during all-hazard events. However, this Agreement **ONLY** covers all-hazard events that are, or may become, declared as emergencies or major disasters that occur under the auspices of a Presidential Declaration of Emergency or Major Disaster under the Stafford Act, which may include wildland fire and non-wildland fire emergencies or major disasters. These events also require a coordinated response by an appropriate combination of state and tribal entities, along with the Federal Agencies.

This Agreement documents the commitment of the Parties to provide cooperation, resources, and support to the Secretary of Homeland Security and Administrator of the Federal Emergency

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Management Agency (FEMA) in the implementation of the NRF, as appropriate and consistent with their own authorities and responsibilities.

III. PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT

The Parties to this Agreement are:

The State of Georgia and the Georgia Forestry Commission hereinafter called Georgia or when referred jointly with other states in this Agreement called, States; and

The United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Region 8, Chattahoochee-Oconee NF, hereinafter called the “USFS”; and

The United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Southeast Region, hereinafter called, NPS; and

The United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior Regions 2/4, hereinafter called, FWS; and

The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Regional Office, hereinafter called, BIA; and

The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States, hereinafter called, BLM.

The USFS, NPS, FWS, BIA, and the BLM may hereinafter be jointly called, Federal Agencies.

The Federal Agencies, States, and other entities signatory to this Agreement will hereinafter be referred to as, Parties to this Agreement.

IV. TERMINOLOGY, EXHIBITS AND SUPPLEMENTS

Words and phrases used herein may have different meanings or interpretations for different readers. To establish a common understanding, some words and phrases as used herein are defined in the Glossary of Terms, attached as Exhibit A. The hierarchy of terminology will be those defined by statute or regulation, those defined in policy, those defined in this template and then all other agency and interagency documentation.

In the event of a conflict, the applicable definitions for the response type, wildland fire vs Stafford Act responses will take precedence. For wildland fire, that is the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology, found on the Toolbox tab of the NWCG webpage (<https://www.nwcg.gov> or by direct link at <https://www.nwcg.gov/about-the-nwcg-glossary-of-wildland-fire>), and Stafford Act Response terminology corresponds to the FEMA National Incident Management System (NIMS) Glossary, available at in the NIMS document (https://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/NIMS_core.pdf).

1. Incorporation of Exhibits into Agreement

The following Exhibits are hereby incorporated into this Agreement (Note: Exhibit H relates only to Stafford Act responses):

- Exhibit A Glossary of Terms
- Exhibit B Principal Contacts
- Exhibit C Operating Plan Template
- Exhibit D Reimbursable Billings and Payments
- Exhibit E Cost Share Agreement Instructions

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- Exhibit F Cost Share Agreement Template
- Exhibit G Supplemental Fire Department Resources Template
- Exhibit H Use and Reimbursement for Stafford Act Shared Resources
- Exhibit I Supplemental Project Agreement Template
- Exhibit J Fire Suppression Planning and Operations Guide
- Exhibit K US Fish & Wildlife Maps (Within the State of Georgia)

Several of the referenced Exhibits are intended to be used as templates and as such completion and/or execution of those Exhibits do not require formal modification to this Agreement. Also, as necessary, the Parties may introduce new or revised Exhibits at the geographic, statewide, or sub-geographic areas as a component of the Operating Plans without necessitating a formal modification to this Agreement, so long as they do not conflict with the provisions of this Agreement.

2. Acknowledgement of Supplements to the Agreement

Supplements to this Agreement, including Operating Plans, Joint Projects and Project Plans, Supplemental Project Agreements, and Cost Share Agreements will further describe working relationships, financial arrangements, and joint activities not otherwise specified under the terms of this Agreement.

3. Hierarchy and Precedence for Agreements, Exhibits, Operating Plans, etc.

Any inconsistencies in this Agreement and attachments thereto shall be resolved by giving precedence in the following order:

1. This Agreement
2. Geographic or Statewide Operating Plan
3. Sub-geographic (Local) Operating Plan
4. Cost Share Agreements
5. Exhibits to this Agreement
6. Joint Projects, Project Plans, or Supplemental Project Agreements

V. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

1. **Commencement/Expiration:** This Agreement shall be effective and in effect for five years, beginning from the date of the last signature.
2. **Modifications:** Modifications within the scope of this Agreement shall be made by mutual consent of the Parties to the Agreement, by the issuance of a written modification, signed and dated by all Parties to the Agreement, prior to any changes being performed. No Party is obligated to fund any changes not properly approved in advance.
3. **Termination:** Any Party to the Agreement shall have the right to terminate its participation under this Agreement by providing one year advance written notice to the other Parties.
4. **Annual Review:** If deemed necessary, prior to (insert date) representatives of the Parties to the Agreement will meet and review matters of mutual concern. Operating Plans, at all levels, will be reviewed annually. If necessary, Operating Plans will be revised.

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5. **Previous Agreements Superseded:** This Agreement supersedes the following:

- 17-FI-11080300-028 Georgia Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement, 09/17/2017
- FWS MOU # F18MU00001 Georgia Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement, 09/17/2017

Existing supplemental agreements and operating plans may remain in effect to the extent that they do not conflict with the provisions of this Agreement, but only until such time that all activities and conditions covered by those agreements or plans can be incorporated into geographic, statewide, or sub-geographic area operating plans provided for under this Agreement.

VI. RECITALS

1. Lands for which the State is responsible for wildland fire protection in Georgia, and the lands for which the respective Federal Agencies are responsible, are intermingled or adjacent in some areas, and wildland fires on these intermingled or adjacent lands may present a threat to the lands of the other.
2. The Parties to this Agreement maintain fire protection and fire management organizations.
3. It is to the mutual advantage of the Parties to this Agreement to coordinate efforts for the prevention and detection of, and responses to wildfires, fuels management, suppression, non-wildland fire emergencies (as authorized), and cooperative projects for resource and protection objectives in and adjacent to their areas of responsibility, and to limit duplication and improve efficiency and effectiveness.
4. It is the intent of the Parties to this Agreement that state and NPS, USFWS, and USFS resources be available to assist in fire management activities on all federal lands, and on other lands upon which the Federal Agencies are responsible to protect.
5. It is the intent of the Parties to this Agreement that federal resources be available to assist in fire management activities on all state and private lands the States is responsible to protect.
6. The USFS, BLM, BIA, NPS, and FWS have entered into a National Interagency Agreement for Wildland Fire Management to cooperate in all aspects of fire management.
7. It is noted that local fire resources are often mobilized within a state pursuant to a separate state MOU or Agreement with local fire departments or fire organizations, with reimbursement handled according to the terms detailed within that MOU or Agreement.
8. It is expected that all federal, state and local agencies will coordinate assistance and operations during Stafford Act responses by following the procedures and requirements established in the NRF. This Agreement documents the commitment of the Parties to provide cooperation, resources, and support to the Secretary of Homeland Security and Administrator of the FEMA in the implementation of the NRF, as appropriate and consistent with their own authorities and responsibilities. Some state and local resources are limited by statute to wildland fire response, requiring the governor to specifically approve mobilization outside of their state for non-fire emergencies. State emergency declarations and responses for all-hazard and non-Stafford Act responses are outside the scope of this Agreement.
9. The Responsibilities of the Parties to this Agreement shall be distinguished as follows:

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- A. **Jurisdictional Agency**—Agency having land and resource management responsibility for a specific geographical or functional area as provided by federal, state or local law. Under no circumstances may a Jurisdictional Agency abdicate legal responsibilities as provided by federal or state law.
- B. **Protecting Agency**—Agency responsible for providing direct incident management within a specific geographical area pursuant to its jurisdictional responsibility or as specified and provide by contract, cooperative agreement, or other agreement or arrangement.
- C. **Supporting Agency**—Agency providing suppression or other support and resource assistance to a Protecting Agency.

In consideration of the mutual commitments and conditions herein made, the Parties agree as follows:

VII. INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

- 1. **Southern Area Coordinating Group (SACG):** provides coordination and recommendations for all interagency fire management activities in Georgia. Membership, procedures, and guidelines will be agreed to and documented in the SACG Charter (Memorandum of Understanding and/or Standard Operating Procedures).
- 2. **National Incident Management System:** The Parties to this Agreement will operate under the concepts defined in the NIMS. In implementing these concepts, Parties to this Agreement will be expected to follow the NWCG's minimum standards as defined in the *Wildland Fire Qualifications Systems Guide*, PMS-310. NWCG recognizes the ability of cooperating agencies at the local level to jointly define and accept each other's qualifications for initial attack, extended attack, fire operations, and prescribed fire. The NWCG minimum standards are NIMS compliant. The following NIMS concepts will be followed as they are implemented: Incident Command System (ICS), qualifications system, training system, the management of publications, and participating in the review, exchange and transfer of technology as appropriate for providing qualified resources, and for the management of incidents covered by this Agreement.
- 3. **Operating Plans:** Operating plans will be developed using Exhibit C, Operating Plan Outline, at the geographic, statewide, or sub-geographic area level, as appropriate, and will tier to this Agreement. Operating Plans may be written for more than one year, but should be reviewed annually, and will be subject to modifications, as warranted. No Operating Plan tiered to this Agreement should be written beyond the expiration date of this Agreement. The following operating plans are listed in descending order of precedence:

A. Southern Area Geographic Area Operating Plans (if applicable)

Southern Area Geographic Area Operating Plans will address issues affecting Geographic Area-wide cooperation. The Geographic Area Operating Plan will be approved by the signatory of state and federal SACG member agencies. The Southern Area Mobilization Guide will be incorporated by reference and be considered part of the Geographic Area Operating Plan.

B. Statewide Operating Plans

Statewide Operating Plans will address issues affecting statewide cooperation. The Statewide Operating Plans will be approved by the signatory state and federal SACG members.

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The Statewide Mobilization Guides will be identified and considered part of the Statewide Operating Plans.

C. Sub-Geographic (Local) Area Operating Plans (if applicable)

Sub-geographic area operating plans will be developed that outline the details of this Agreement for sub-geographical areas. Unit Administrators will have the responsibility for developing and approving sub-geographic area operating plans. Unless superseded by the Geographic Area or Statewide Operating Plans, sub-geographic area operating plans will apply.

D. Project Plans (if applicable)

Project plans are developed for specific non-suppression, fire related projects or activities. (See related clause: Joint Projects and Project Plans).

4. **Interagency Dispatch Centers:** The Parties to this Agreement agree to maintain, support, and participate in Interagency Dispatch Centers, as appropriate.

Staffing, funding, and level of participation will be agreed to by the affected Parties to this Agreement and documented in geographic, statewide, or sub-geographic area operating plans and/or appropriate mobilization guides.

5. **Southern Area Coordination Center:** The Parties to this Agreement recognize the Southern Area Coordination Center in Atlanta, Georgia as the Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) for the Southern Geographic Area. The Parties to this Agreement will coordinate, mobilize and demobilize emergency management resources through the GACC as appropriate. Parties to this Agreement are not precluded from independent movement of their own resources.
6. **Interagency Resources:** Interagency funding, staffing, and utilization of resources and facilities will be pursued by the Parties to this Agreement whenever an interagency approach is appropriate and cost effective. Shared staffing and funding will be commensurate with each Parties use of resources, will be agreed to and documented in operating plans, and will be subject to the availability of appropriations.
- To the extent practical, additional preparedness resource requests will be coordinated. The coordination process will be identified in the appropriate geographic, statewide, or sub-geographic area operating plan.
7. **State-to-State Response:** Should a state Party to this Agreement intend to utilize the assistance of the USFS to accept the reimbursement amounts expended for resources and services provided from another State, and have the Forest Service pay that amount to the State seeking reimbursement, that State shall agree to meet the associated reimbursement obligations and requirements, including any reasonable administrative fees, as agreed upon by the State and the Forest Service, and detailed in Exhibit D, Reimbursable Billings and Payments.
8. **Standards:** The Parties to this Agreement desire to achieve common standards within the Parties' best interest, recognizing differing agency missions and mandates. Each Party to this Agreement recognizes that other Parties' standards are reasonable, prudent, and acceptable. This clause does not affect the Jurisdictional Agency's land management standards.

VIII. PREPAREDNESS

1. **Protection Planning:** Annually, before February 1st, sub-geographic area Unit Administrators will determine efficiencies to be gained from reciprocal assistance and acquisition of protection services. Operating plans will document decisions. Plans should be reviewed, and agreement reached concerning such items as placement of crews, engines, air tankers, helicopters, fixed and aerial detection, regulated use, closures and other joint fire suppression efforts.
2. **Protection Areas and Boundaries:** Protection areas, as defined by boundaries, will be mapped and or described, and made a part of geographic, statewide, or sub-geographic area operating plans. Protection Areas may include lands under the jurisdiction of another agency as authorized by law.
3. **Methods of Fire Protection and Suppression:** One agency may provide fire protection services on lands under the jurisdiction of another, within their authority and as authorized by law. The following are different methods to provide those services:

- A. **Reciprocal (Mutual Aid) Fire Protection:** As deemed appropriate, the Agencies may, by agreement in Operating Plans, establish reciprocal initial attack zones for lands of intermingled or adjoining protection responsibility. Within such zones, 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 costs incurred following the initial dispatch of any ground resources to the fire for the duration of the mutual aid period. The mutual aid period in Georgia is 48 hours.

- B. **Reimbursable (Cooperative) Fire Protection:** The Protecting Agency may request suppression resources of other Agencies for its protection work. Such resources shall be paid for by the Protecting Agency. See applicable item regarding Reimbursable Billings and Payments, Exhibit D.
- C. **Exchange (Offset) Fire Protection:** Agencies may exchange responsibility for fire protection for lands under their jurisdiction. The rate of exchange will be based upon comparable cost, acreage involved, complexity, and other factors, as appropriate, and mutually agreed to by the Agencies. Exchange zones will be documented in Operating Plans.

If an imbalance exists, the Protecting Agency with the surplus of acres will bill the Jurisdictional Agency for the difference on a per acre basis as computed under Contract or Fee Basis Protection. Imbalance means a deviation exceeding the range of variation agreed to between the Parties.

When a Protecting Agency takes suppression action on lands it protects for the Jurisdictional Agency, and the Jurisdictional Agency is requested to assist, the Protecting Agency will reimburse the Jurisdictional Agency for their assistance. The exception is if the Parties involved are federal wildland fire agencies. The National Interagency Agreement for Wildland Fire Management between the Department of the Interior wildland fire agencies and the USDA Forest Service provides that the Parties agree not to bill each other for suppression services.

- D. **Contract (Fee Basis) Fire Protection:** For an agreed upon fee, one Agency may assume fire protection responsibilities on lands under the jurisdiction of another Agency. The terms and

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conditions of such arrangements must be included in Operating Plans and carried out through an appropriate procurement document.

4. **Joint Projects and Project Plans:** The Parties to this Agreement may jointly conduct cooperative projects, within their authority and as authorized by law, to maintain or improve their fire management services and activities. These projects may involve such activities as prescribed fire/fuels management, preparedness, fire analysis/planning, rehabilitation, training, prevention, public affairs, and other beneficial efforts in support of interagency fire management. Such projects will be documented in separate, local agreements, or other appropriate written documents, executed by the authorized signatories of the involved Parties. This may include a Supplemental Project Agreement, as in Exhibit I, or other written document.
5. **Fire Prevention:** The Parties to this Agreement agree to cooperate in the development and implementation of fire prevention programs. Unit Administrators will ensure that fire prevention goals and activities are planned at local levels and are addressed in the appropriate operating plans. Specific fire prevention plans should be developed by local interagency fire management personnel. The Parties to this Agreement may pool resources and each Party pay its own costs. Unit Administrators are encouraged to participate in local fire prevention cooperatives, organizations, or groups, where applicable.
6. **Public Use Restrictions:** Guidelines for implementing restrictions and closures shall be established by a separate MOU or Agreement, and/or in an Operating Plan.
7. **Burning Permits:** Burning permit procedures, where applicable, will be included in local operating plans. If authorized by state and federal law, federal employees or their agents may be granted authority by the states to issue burn permits when it is determined to be in their mutual interest.
8. **Prescribed Fire and Fuel Management:** The Parties to this Agreement agree to cooperate in the development and implementation of planned ignitions, prescribed fire and fuels management programs.

Any Party to this Agreement may provide assistance to another Party as requested and agreed to for the purposes of performing planned ignitions, prescribed fire or other fuels management work. Conditions of the assistance and details related to reimbursement will be agreed to and documented through the procurement or Joint Projects and Project Plans (as referenced in Joint Projects and Project Plans, Clause #21). Any instrument processed under this clause shall be in accordance with each Party's applicable laws, regulations, and policy requirements.

9. **Smoke Management:** Within their authorities, the Parties to this Agreement agree to cooperate in smoke management efforts for wildfires and prescribed fires. The need for air resource advisors is increasing and additional technical expertise may be available through State air quality and regulatory agencies. The state may facilitate the request and utilization of state air regulatory agencies as resource advisors during any wildfire and prescribed fire incident that could benefit from such additional technical expertise.

IX. OPERATIONS

1. **Closest Forces Concept:** The guiding principle for dispatch of initial attack suppression resources is to use the closest available and appropriate resource regardless of which Party owns or controls the resources, and regardless of which Agency has protection responsibility or jurisdiction.

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2. **Fire Notifications:** Each Party will promptly notify the appropriate Protecting Agency of fires burning on or threatening lands for which that agency has protection responsibility. Likewise, protecting Agencies will promptly inform jurisdictional agencies whenever they take action on fires for which the Protecting Agency is responsible. Fire reports will be sent to jurisdictional agencies within the timeframes established in the applicable Operating Plan, Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding.
3. **Boundary Line Fires:** A boundary line fire, as defined in Exhibit A, Glossary of Terms, will be the initial attack responsibility of the protecting agencies on either side of the boundary. Neither agency will assume the other Agency is aware of the fire or that the other agency will take action. Each agency will make every reasonable effort to communicate with the other concerning the fire. When protecting agencies have arrived at the site of the fire, the agencies will mutually agree to the designation of an Incident command organization.
4. **Independent Action:** Except as otherwise limited in geographic, statewide, or sub-geographic area operating plans, nothing herein shall prohibit any Party, on its own initiative, from going upon lands known to be protected by another Party to this Agreement to engage in suppression of wildfires, when such fires are a threat to lands under that Party's management or protection responsibility. In such instances, the Party taking action will promptly notify the Protecting Agency. Such actions will be commensurate with the land management considerations of the Jurisdictional Agency, and subject to the laws and regulations of the Jurisdictional Agency.
5. **Escaped Prescribed Fires:** Wildfires resulting from escaped prescribed fires that were ignited by, managed at the direction of, or under the supervision of one of the Parties to this Agreement shall be the responsibility of the Jurisdictional Agency. If the Parties to this Agreement jointly conduct or manage a prescribed fire, the responsibility for suppression costs, should it escape, shall be agreed upon and documented in the Project Plan. Unless otherwise agreed, all suppression costs and associated damages are the responsibility of the Jurisdictional Agency. The Parties to this Agreement will not hold each other responsible under this clause for escaped prescribed fires originating on private land, or on state or federal lands not protected by one of the Parties to this Agreement.
6. **Response to Wildland Fire:** All fire suppression action conducted by one Party on lands of another Party shall be consistent with the Jurisdictional Agency's fire management policy, preplanned objectives for the area in which the fire occurs, and the terms of this Agreement.

A *Special Management Considerations* section in the Operating Plan, addressing resources and other management concerns, will be used by Unit Administrators of the Agencies to identify areas of special management consideration, and to communicate appropriate fire management actions and any restrictions on firefighting tactical techniques to an Incident Commander.

Unless otherwise agreed, the Jurisdictional Agency will provide an Agency representative or appropriate environmental technical specialist to advise a Protecting Agency of any special management considerations that may influence suppression action. The Incident Commander will incorporate special management considerations into the incident planning process, subject to the delegation of authority.

Each Operating Plan must address how the entities will handle cost sharing for wildland fires that spread to another jurisdiction. Entities should recognize that, as in the, *Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy* (2009), a wildland fire may concurrently be managed for one or more objectives. Additionally, objectives can change as the

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fire spreads across the landscape, affected by changes in environmental conditions, human influence, and institutional factors. Simply stated, some portions of a wildland fire may receive a protection objective while other portions are managed for multiple objectives, and those portions and objectives might change at some time over the duration of the event. The intent should never be to allow a wildland fire to burn onto a jurisdiction that does not want it. All Parties should be involved in developing the strategy and tactics to be used in preventing the fire from crossing the jurisdictional boundary, and all Parties should be involved in developing mitigations that would be used if the fire crosses jurisdictional boundaries.

7. **Delegation of Authority:** Operating Plans will document procedures and criteria for Unit Administrators to specify direction, authority, and financial management guidelines to Incident Commanders.
8. **Preservation of Evidence:** As initial action is taken on a fire, the initial attack forces will preserve information and evidence pertaining to the origin and cause of the fire. Protecting and Jurisdictional Agencies shall render mutual assistance in the gathering of evidence to the fullest extent practicable. Affected Parties to this Agreement will meet to determine an appropriate investigation process.
9. **Stafford Act Response:** For Stafford Act Responses, procedures and requirements established in the NRF shall be utilized by Parties to this Agreement to authorize and accomplish any required response or support tasks. Any Party requesting support pursuant to a Stafford Act Response shall issue written instructions and funding limitations to any Party providing cooperation, resources or support. Mobilization activities will be accomplished utilizing established dispatch coordination concepts pursuant to the current *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*.

X. USE AND REIMBURSEMENT OF INTERAGENCY FIRE RESOURCES

1. **Appropriated Fund Limitation:** Nothing in this Agreement shall require the Parties to this Agreement to obligate or expend funds, or require the United States, the State of Georgia, or the other Parties to this Agreement to enter into any contract or other obligation for the future payment of money in excess of or in advance of appropriated funds available for payment to meet the commitments of this Agreement and modifications thereto, except as specifically authorized by law.
2. **Length of Assignments:** Consideration must be given to the health and safety of personnel when assigned to fires. The Parties to this Agreement agree that Incident Commanders will release suppression resources to their primary responsibilities as soon as priorities allow. Incident Commanders shall adhere to work/rest policies specified within the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*.
3. **Cost Share Agreement:** Whenever multiple jurisdictions are affected due to the location of a fire, it is mandatory to develop and implement a Cost Share Agreement (or Apportionment Process, if applicable). The Operating Plan must address how the Parties to this Agreement will handle cost sharing for wildland fires that spread to another jurisdiction. Acceptable forms of the cost share mix are limited to those listed in item #10 of Exhibit F, Cost Share Agreement. A cost share agreement will be approved by the responsible Unit Administrators (as defined in Exhibit A, Glossary of Terms) or their authorized representatives when the incident involves lands of more than one Protecting Agency (see Clause 26, Boundary Line Fires and Exhibit F, Cost Share Agreement).

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A Cost Share Agreement that addresses temporary support functions or facilities may be developed to document cost sharing, especially at times of high fire danger or activity.

4. **Procurement:** At the time of the incident, the affected agencies will determine the appropriate procurement procedures that will be utilized.
5. **Licensing:** Drivers and equipment operators will hold appropriate operating licenses to meet state and federal laws and employing agency regulations and policies. Employees of the Parties to this Agreement may operate each other's vehicles provided the operator is qualified by the current operating guidelines and training requirements of their own Agency. Driving and operating equipment will be for official purposes only.
6. **Text Messaging While Driving:** In accordance with Executive Order (EO) 13513, Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging While Driving, any and all text messaging by federal employees is banned: a) while driving a government owned vehicle (GOV) or driving a privately owned vehicle (POV) while on official government business; or b) using any electronic equipment supplied by the government when driving any vehicle at any time. All cooperators, their employees, volunteers, or contractors are encouraged to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging when driving company owned, leased or rented vehicles or GOVs when driving while on official government business or when performing any work for or on behalf of the government.
7. **Training:** The Parties to this Agreement will cooperate to assure that training needs are provided that will produce safe and effective fire management and aviation programs. The intent is to champion high-quality training, to minimize training costs by sharing resources, and to standardize training.
8. **Communication Systems and Facilities Access:** The Parties to this Agreement may mutually agree to allow one another the use of communications systems such as radio frequencies, computer system access, data transmission lines, and communication sites when there is a mutual benefit to the Parties to this Agreement. Such arrangement shall be approved only by Agency authorized personnel and in accordance with agency laws, regulations and policies governing security of systems and facilities.
9. **Fire Weather Systems:** The Parties to this Agreement will cooperate in the gathering, processing, and use of fire weather data, including the purchase of compatible sensing systems and the joint use of computer software. All such use shall be in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws, software and other applicable licenses. The Parties to this Agreement will jointly evaluate and agree to any deletions or additions to the system. The common and agreed upon fire danger rating system for the Southern Geographic Area is National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS).

The Parties to this Agreement agree to cooperate and coordinate the utilization of Incident Meteorologist (IMET) services to support responses to wildfires, as described within the Interagency Agreement for Meteorological and other technical services (IMET Agreement) between the National Weather Service (NWS) and the federal wildland fire agencies. The Parties shall follow the provisions described in the IMET Agreement, along with the procedures detailed within the Operating Plan for this Agreement.

**MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT
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10. **Aviation Operations:** The Parties to this Agreement agree to cooperate in the use of aviation resources to foster effective and efficient use of aircraft and personnel. (Refer to the Southern Geographic Area Operating Plan for specific direction in the use of aircraft.)

All aviation activities, including Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) shall be conducted in accordance with each Agency's aviation rules, policies, and directives; applicable Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR's), and Public Law 103-411, the Independent Safety Board Act Amendments of 1994, which amended 49 U.S.C. Sec. 101, 1118, 1131, 40102, and 40109 and Public Law 105-137 the Aviation Insurance Reauthorization Act of 1997, which amended 49 U.S.C. Sec. 40101, 40102, 44302, 44305, 44306, 44308, and 44310.

11. **Billing Procedures:** The Parties agree to follow the policies and procedures detailed in Exhibit D, Reimbursable Billings and Payments.
12. **Cost Recovery:** Authority to recover suppression costs and damages from those responsible for causing a fire varies depending on contracts, agreements, permits and applicable laws. As soon as possible after a fire, the Authorized Representatives of affected Parties will attempt to reach mutual agreement on the strategy that will be used to recover suppression costs and damages from the individuals responsible for such costs and damages. If possible, all costs should be determined prior to the initiation of cost recovery efforts. Such strategy may alter interagency billing procedures, timing and content as otherwise provided in this Agreement. As authorized by law, any Party may independently pursue civil actions against individuals to recover suppression costs and damages, though adequate notice should be provided the other Parties to the Agreement. In those cases where costs have been recovered from an individual, reimbursement of initial attack, as well as suppression costs to the extent included in the recovery, will be made to the Party taking reciprocal action, as authorized by law.
13. **Stafford Act Use and Reimbursement:** The use and reimbursement for resources when responding under the Stafford Act shall be governed by the provisions contained in Exhibit H, Use and Reimbursement for Stafford Act Shared Resources.

XI. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. **Personnel Policy:** Employees of the Parties to this Agreement shall be subject to the personnel rules, laws and regulations of their respective agencies, unless they are employed temporarily by another Party to this Agreement and the authority under which such temporary employment is authorized provides that such employees shall be subject to the employing Party's personnel laws and regulations.
2. **Supplemental Fire Department Resources:** There are situations when additional support personnel are necessary for national mobilization and the need can be filled by supplemental personnel available to the fire district. When this situation arises resources will be mobilized via the process outlined in Exhibit G, Supplemental Project Agreement Template.
3. **Mutual Sharing of Information:** Subject to applicable state and federal rules and regulations, including the Privacy Act, Parties to this Agreement may furnish to each other, or otherwise make available upon request, such as maps, documents, GIS data, instructions, records, and reports including, but not limited to: fire reports, employment records, and investigation reports as either Party considers necessary in connection with the Agreement.
4. **Freedom of Information Act:** Public access to grant or agreement records must not be limited, except when such records must be kept confidential and would be exempted from disclosure

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pursuant to Freedom of Information Regulations (5 U.S.C. 552). Requests for research data are subject to 2 CFR 215.36

Public access to culturally sensitive data and information and information of Federally recognized Tribes may also be explicitly limited by P.L. 110-234, Title VIII Subtitle B §8106 (2008 Farm Bill).

5. **Record Retention:** All records related to this Agreement should be retained by the Parties in accordance with Agency regulations and policies, but no less than three years from the date that all Agreement projects have been completed, ~~or (xx date), whichever is later~~. If any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit or other action involving the records has been started by a Party to the Agreement, that Party should provide notification to any other Party to the Agreement of the need to retain records until the litigation, claim, negotiation, audit or other action is resolved.
6. **Accident Investigations:** When an accident occurs involving the equipment or personnel of a Supporting Agency, the Protecting Agency shall immediately notify the jurisdictional and supporting agencies. As soon as practical, the Protecting Agency shall initiate an investigation of the accident. The investigation shall be conducted by a team of representatives from the affected agencies, as appropriate. As appropriate, the Parties agree that the Protecting Agency will provide notification of the accident to the National Transportation Safety Board, or the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and other appropriate Agencies.
7. **Purchaser, Contractor, Operator, Permittee, Etc., Fires:** The Protecting Agency will notify the Jurisdictional Agency of any fire suspected to have been caused by a purchaser, contractor, operator or permittee, etc., of the Jurisdictional Agency as soon as it becomes aware of the situation. The Protecting Agency will be responsible for management of the fire under the provisions of this Agreement. Parties to the Agreement will meet and confer to determine a cost recovery process as outlined in Cost Recovery Clause.
8. **Waiver of Claims:** Parties to the Agreement shall each be responsible for their own losses arising out of the performance of this Agreement, and each Party hereby waives any claim against any other Party for loss or damage of its property and/or personal injury or death of its employees or agents occurring as a consequence of the performance of this Agreement; provided, this provision shall not relieve any Party from responsibility for claims from third Parties for losses for which the Party is otherwise legally liable. This waiver does not extend to ordinary expenses incurred as part of the cost of the fire (gloves, fuses, hose, etc.). This provision pertains to claims between the respective state and federal agencies and does not pertain to claims advanced by third Parties.

Claims requesting compensation for property loss or damage, personal injury, or death resulting from the negligence or other wrongful acts of employees performing under this Agreement will be received by the Jurisdictional Agency and forwarded to the hiring, or home agency of the allegedly negligent employee for processing.

Employee claims for loss of or damage to personal property must be submitted to the Jurisdictional Agency and then forwarded to the hiring, or home agency of the employee for processing in accordance with the hiring agency's administrative procedures.

9. **Equipment, Supplies, and Cache Items:** The Parties recognize that wildland fire suppression will often involve the use of equipment, supplies, and cache items. Equipment, supplies, and cache items checked out (such as pumps, hoses, nozzles, etc.), or supplied by one Party and

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received by another Party, shall become the responsibility of the receiving/supporting Party. Equipment, supplies and cache items shall be returned in the same condition as when received, reasonable wear and tear excepted. Notwithstanding the general Waiver of Claims Clause, Parties agree that the receiving/supporting Party shall replace or reimburse for damage in excess of reasonable wear and tear, and shall replace or reimburse items lost or destroyed, except for damage occurring as a result of negligence by the receiving/supporting Party. The receiving/supporting Party will replace or reimburse for items lost, destroyed, or expended with items of like or similar standard from the fire cache or supply unit on the incident, or via an authorization for replacement using a unique request number. Insurance or other reimbursement options should be pursued, if such options are available, prior to replacement or reimbursement for lost, stolen or destroyed items.

10. **Transported Equipment:** Equipment transported or operated by Supporting Agency personnel in transit to or from an incident is considered under the control of the Supporting Agency. When arrangements are made with a transportation service provider to deliver equipment, the Party making arrangements for the transportation should ensure that the transportation service provider will be responsible for all loss and damage to equipment or supplies consigned on the bill of lading.
11. **Authorized Representatives:** By signature below, all signatories to this Agreement certify that the individuals (Agency Representative, Agency Administrator, Unit Administrator) listed in this document are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this Agreement.

Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB Control Number for this information collection is 0596-0242. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated between 4 to 24 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

**MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT
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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the last date written below

**USDOJ FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Southeast Region**

BRETT HUNTER

Digitally signed by BRETT
HUNTER
Date: 2023.08.14 09:32:02 -04'00'

Assistant Regional Director – National Wildlife Refuge System

Date: _____

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**USDOI NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Interior Region 2**

MARK FOUST Digitally signed by MARK FOUST
Date: 2023.09.01 10:43:56 -04'00'

Eastern Region Regional Director

Date: _____

**STEVEN
SPONAUGLE** Digitally signed by STEVEN
SPONAUGLE
Date: 2023.08.10 07:40:18 -04'00'

Contracting Officer

Date: 08/10/2023

**MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT
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**USDOJ BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT
Eastern States Office**

FRANK RADFORD

Digitally signed by FRANK
RADFORD
Date: 2023.08.24 12:26:28 -04'00'


Frank (Dave) Radford, Associate State Director (Actin g)

Date: 08/24/2023

**MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT
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**USDOJ BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Eastern Region**

**KIMBERLY
BOUCHARD**

 Digitally signed by KIMBERLY
BOUCHARD
Date: 2023.08.24 10:15:41 -05'00'

Kimberly A. Bouchard, Regional Director

Date: _____

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STATE OF GEORGIA
Department of Forestry

Tim Lowrimore Digitally signed by Tim Lowrimore
Date: 2023.09.07 15:35:32 -04'00'

_____, State Forester

Date: _____

Michele Gray Digitally signed by Michele Gray
Date: 2023.09.08 08:34:34 -04'00'

Agreements Coordinator

Date: _____

**MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT
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**USDA FOREST SERVICE
SOUTHERN REGION, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest**



Digitally signed by JUDY TOPPINS
Date: 2023.09.12 09:08:49 -04'00'

JUDY TOPPINS, Forest Supervisor

Date: 09/12/2023

VICKI TAYLOR

Digitally signed by VICKI TAYLOR
Date: 2023.08.03 15:16:15 -05'00'

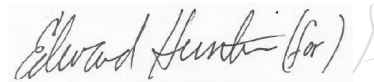
VICKI TAYLOR, Agreements Specialist

Date: 08/03/2023

**MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT
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Concurrence of this Agreement by:

**USDA FOREST SERVICE
REGION 8
CHATTAHOOCHEE-OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST**



Digitally signed by EDWARD HUNTER
Date: 2023.08.07 08:22:19 -04'00'

KEN ARNEY
Regional Forester, Southern Region

Exhibit A. Glossary

GLOSSARY

Agencies: Governmental agencies that have direct fire management or land management responsibilities or that have programs and activities that support fire management activities.

Agency: A division of government with a specific function offering a particular kind of assistance. In ICS, agencies are defined either as jurisdictional (having statutory responsibility for incident management) or as assisting or cooperating (providing resources or other assistance).

Agency Administrator: The official responsible for the management of a geographic unit or functional area.

Agency Representative: A person assigned by a primary, assisting, or cooperating federal, state, local, or tribal government agency or private entity that has been delegated authority to make decisions affecting that agency's or organization's participation in incident management activities following appropriate consultation with the leadership of that agency.

Area: The lands in a described geographic area that are managed and/or protected by the Parties within this Agreement.

Area Command (Unified Area Command): An organization established (1) to oversee the management of multiple incidents that are each being handled by an ICS organization or (2) to oversee the management of large or multiple incidents to which several Incident Management Teams have been assigned. Area Command has the responsibility to set overall strategy and priorities, allocate critical resources according to priorities, ensure that incidents are properly managed, and ensure that objectives are met and strategies followed. Area Command becomes Unified Area Command when incidents are multi-jurisdictional. Area Command may be established at an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) facility or at some location other than an ICP.

Boundary Line Fire: Fire occurrences on lands of intermingled and/or adjoining protection responsibilities.

Closest Forces Concept: Dispatch of the closest available initial attack suppression resources regardless of which agency owns or controls them, and regardless of which agency has protection responsibility.

Confine: Restrict the wildfire within determined boundaries, established either prior to, or during the fire. These identified boundaries will restrict the fire, with no action being taken to put the fire out.

Contain: Restrict a wildfire to a defined area, using a combination of natural and constructed barriers that will stop the spread of the fire under the prevailing and forecasted weather conditions, until out.

Control: Aggressively fight a wildfire through the skillful use of personnel, equipment, and aircraft to establish firelines around a fire to halt the spread and to extinguish all hotspots, until out.

Controlled Burn: Synonymous with Prescribed Fire.

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Cost Share Agreement: A document prepared to distribute costs on a multi-jurisdictional incident (see Exhibit F, Cost Share Agreement Template).

Direct Costs: Direct costs are those items of expense specifically identified with the delivery or completion of a project or program. Examples include, but are not limited to, personnel costs (salary and fringe benefits), equipment costs, travel, materials, supplies, and contracts.

Direct Protection Area: That area which, by law or identified or authorized pursuant to the terms of this Agreement, is provided protection by the Parties. This may include land protected under exchange or payment for protection.

Disaster: See **Major Disaster**.

Emergency: As defined by the Stafford Act, an emergency is, “any occasion or instance for which, in the determination of the President, Federal assistance is needed to supplement State and local efforts and capabilities to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States.”

Emergency Support Function (ESF): Used by the Federal Government and many State governments as the primary mechanism at the operational level to organize and provide assistance. ESFs align categories of resources and provide strategic objectives for their use. ESFs utilize standardized resource management concepts such as typing, inventorying, and tracking to facilitate the dispatch, deployment, and recovery of resources before, during, and after an incident.

Escaped Prescribed Fire: a prescribed fire that has exceeded or is expected to exceed prescription parameters or otherwise meets the criteria for conversion to wildfire. The criteria are specified in, *Interagency Prescribed Fire – Planning and Implementation Procedures Reference Guide*.

ESF Primary Agency: A Federal Agency with significant authorities, roles, resources, or capabilities for a particular function within an Emergency Support Function of the NRF. A Federal Agency designated as an ESF primary agency serves as a Federal Executive Agent under the Federal Coordinating Officer (or Federal Resource Coordinator for non-Stafford Act incidents) to accomplish the ESF mission.

Extended Attack: Actions taken on a wildfire that has exceeded the initial response.

Federal: Of or pertaining to the Federal Government of the United States of America.

Fee Basis Acquisition of Services: One agency provides fire management services on the lands under the jurisdiction of another and payment is provided for the service. For a given fee, one agency can become the Protecting Agency for the other. The fee (or cost) is the price for the work agreed to be performed on each acre of land.

Fire Management Activities and/or Services: Any or all activities that relate to managing fire or fuels on lands under the jurisdiction of any agency to this Agreement. Activities include, but are not limited to: suppression, prescribed fire/fuels management, fire analysis/planning, rehabilitation, training, prevention, public affairs, post-fire rehabilitation, and restoration activities in fire management.

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Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC): The physical location of an interagency, regional operation center for the effective coordination, mobilization and demobilization of emergency management resources.

Geographic Area Coordinating Group (GACG): Interagency, regional fire management bodies.

Hazard: Something that is potentially dangerous or harmful, often the root cause of an unwanted outcome.

Hazard Mitigation: Any cost effective measure which will reduce the potential for damage to a facility from a disaster event.

Hazardous Material: For the purposes of ESF #1, hazardous material is a substance or material, including a hazardous substance, that has been determined by the Secretary of Transportation to be capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property when transported in commerce, and which has been so designated (see 49 CFR 171.8). For the purposes of ESF #10 and the Oil and Hazardous Materials Incident Annex, the term is intended to include hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants as defined within the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan, known as the National Contingency Plan (NCP). See 40 C.F.R. Part 400 for additional information.

Incident Command System (ICS): A standardized, on-scene emergency management construct specifically designed to provide for the adoption of an integrated organizational structure that reflects the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents, without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries. ICS is the combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating with a common organizational structure, designed to aid in the management of resources during incidents. ICS is used for all kinds of emergencies and is applicable to small as well as large and complex incidents. ICS is used by various jurisdictions and functional agencies, both public and private, or organized field-level incident management operations.

Incident Commander (IC): The individual responsible for all incident activities, including the development of strategies and tactics and the ordering and release of resources. The IC has overall authority and responsibility for managing and conducting incident operations.

Incident Management Team (IMT): The IC and appropriate Command and General Staff personnel assigned to an incident.

Indirect Costs: Indirect costs are those items of expense incurred as part of general management and administrative support of an organization. These costs are not attributable to a specific project, program or output, but are distributed among many benefiting activities. Often they are proposed as a percentage of direct project costs and are referred to as administrative costs, overhead, or burden. Examples may include office space, computer equipment, postage, utilities, salaries for administrative activities, such as procurement, personnel, accounting, and so forth.

Infrastructure: The manmade physical systems, assets, projects, and structures, publicly and/or privately owned, that are used by or provide benefit to the public. Examples of infrastructure include utilities, bridges, levees, drinking water systems, electrical systems, communications systems, dams, sewage systems, and roads.

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Initial Attack Zone: An identified area in which predetermined resources would normally be the initial resource to respond to an incident.

Jurisdictional Agency: The agency having land and resource management responsibility for a specific geographical or functional area as provided by federal, state or local law.

Initial Action: The actions taken by the first resources to arrive at a wildfire.

Initial Attack: The first aggressive response to a wildland fire based on values to be protected, benefits of response, and reasonable cost of response.

In-Kind Donations: Donations other than cash (usually materials or professional services) for disaster survivors.

Interagency: Coordination, collaboration, communication among cooperating agencies.

Land/Resource Management Plan (L/RMP): A document prepared with public participation and approved by an agency administrator that provides general guidance and direction for land and resource management activities for an administrative area. The L/RMP identifies the need for fire's role in a particular area and for a specific benefit. The objectives in the L/RMP provide the basis for the development of fire management objectives and the fire management program in the designated area.

Major Disaster: As defined by the Stafford Act, any natural catastrophe (including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought) or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion, in any part of the United States, which in the determination of the President causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance under this act to supplement the efforts and available resources of States, local governments, and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby.

Mission Assignment: The mechanism used to support federal operations in a Stafford Act major disaster or emergency declaration. It orders immediate, short-term emergency response assistance when an applicable State or local government is overwhelmed by the event and lacks the capability to perform, or contract for, the necessary work.

Mitigation: Activities designed to reduce or eliminate risks to persons or property or to lessen the actual or potential effects or consequences of an incident. Mitigation measures may be implemented prior to, during, or after an incident. Mitigation measures are often developed in accordance with lessons learned from prior incidents. Mitigation involves ongoing actions to reduce exposure to, probability of, or potential loss from hazards. Measures may include zoning and building codes, floodplain buyouts, and analysis of hazard-related data to determine where it is safe to build or locate temporary facilities. Mitigation can include efforts to educate governments, businesses, and the public on measures they can take to reduce loss and injury.

Mobilization: The process and procedures used by all organizations—federal, state, local, and tribal—for activating, assembling, and transporting all resources that have been requested to respond to or support an incident.

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National: Of a nationwide character, including the federal, state, local, and tribal aspects of governance and policy.

National Incident Management System (NIMS): The NIMS provides a systematic, proactive approach to guide departments and agencies at all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private-sector to work seamlessly to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity, in order to reduce the loss of life and property and harm to the environment. NIMS works hand in hand with the NRF. NIMS provides the template for the management of incidents, while the NRF provides the structure and mechanisms for national-level policy for incident management.

National Response Framework (NRF): The NRF guides how the nation conducts all-hazards response. The Framework documents the key response principles, roles, and structures that organize national response. It describes how communities, States, the Federal Government, and private-sector and nongovernmental partners apply these principles for a coordinated, effective national response. And it describes special circumstances where the Federal Government exercises a larger role, including incidents where federal interests are involved and catastrophic incidents where a State would require significant support. It allows first responders, decision makers, and supporting entities to provide a unified national response.

NWCG: National Wildfire Coordinating Group; the NWCG is an interagency, intergovernmental body that establishes operational fire management standards and procedures such as qualification and certification protocols, allocation or resources protocols, equipment standards, training programs.

Offset: Exchange of fire protection services in specific locations that is anticipated to be of approximately equal value between agencies.

Operating Plan: A document reviewed annually, updated as necessary, and authorized by the appropriate officials for implementing the Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement in their respective areas of responsibilities.

Party: An entity that is signatory to this Agreement.

Planned Ignition: The intentional initiation of a wildland fire by management actions to meet specific objectives.

Preparedness: Activities that lead to a safe, efficient, and cost effective fire management program in support of land and resource management objectives through appropriate planning and coordination.

Prescribed Fire: Any fire intentionally ignited by management actions in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and regulations to meet specific objectives.

Prevention: Activities directed at reducing the incidence of fires, including public education, law enforcement, personal contact and reduction of fuel hazards (fuels management).

Procurement Documents: Agency specific documents for acquisition of goods or services that include financial obligation.

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Protecting Agency: Agency responsible for providing direct incident management within a specific geographical area pursuant to its jurisdictional responsibility or as specified and provided by contract, cooperative agreement, etc.

Protection: The actions taken to mitigate the adverse effects of fire on environmental, social, political, economic, and community values at risk.

Protection Area: That area for which a particular fire protection organization has the primary responsibility for attacking an uncontrolled fire and for directing the suppression actions.

Protection Boundaries: The exterior perimeter of an area within which a specified fire agency has assumed a degree of responsibility for wildland fire control. It may include land in addition to that for which the agency has jurisdiction or contractual responsibility.

Reciprocal Fire Protection: The act of helping a neighboring Protecting Agency through written agreement for mutual aid in furnishing fire protection, which includes personal services and equipment required for fire prevention, the protection of life and property from fire, and firefighting. Reciprocity is attained by agreeing among agencies regarding the kind, location and numbers of firefighting resources which will automatically be made available as part of the initial response to a wildfire, regardless of the Protecting Agency. The kind, locations, and numbers of resources which constitute reciprocity are defined in or through local operating plans.

Reconciliation Process: The process for tracking incidents for all Parties to this Agreement for the purpose of issuing one annual billing for each paying Party.

Recovery: The development, coordination, and execution of service- and site-restoration plans for impacted communities and the reconstitution of government operations and services through individual, private-sector, nongovernmental, and public assistance programs that: identify needs and define resources; provide housing and promote restoration; address long-term care and treatment of affected persons; implement additional measures for community restoration; incorporate mitigation measures and techniques, as feasible; evaluate the incident to identify lessons learned; and develop initiatives to mitigate the effects of future incidents.

Reimbursable Costs: All costs associated with operations and support ordered on a resource order or under a Joint Project or Project Plan by or for an incident or project within the provisions of this Agreement.

Resources: Personnel and major items of equipment, supplies, and facilities available for assignment to incident operations and for which status is maintained. Resources are described by kind and type and may be used in operational support or supervisory capacities at an incident or at an EOC.

Response: Activities that address the short-term, direct effects of an incident. Response includes immediate actions to save lives, protect property, and meet basic human needs. Response also includes the execution of emergency operations plans and of incident mitigation activities designed to limit the loss of life, personal injury, property damage, and other unfavorable outcomes.

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As indicated by the situation, response activities include: applying intelligence and other information to lessen the effects or consequences of an incident; increased security operations; continuing investigations into the nature and source of the threat; ongoing public health and agricultural surveillance and testing processes; immunizations, isolation, or quarantine; and specific law enforcement operations aimed at preempting, interdicting, or disrupting illegal activity, and apprehending actual perpetrators and bringing them to justice.

Response to Wildland Fire: The mobilization of the necessary services and responders to a fire based on ecological, social, and legal consequences, the circumstances under which a fire occurs, and the likely consequences on firefighter and public safety and welfare, natural and cultural resources, and values to be protected.

Severity Funding: Suppression funds used to increase the level of pre-suppression capability and fire preparedness when predicted or actual burning conditions exceed those normally expected, due to severe weather conditions.

Stafford Act Response: the mobilization of the necessary services and resources to a request from FEMA under the provisions of the Stafford Act and based on the procedures and requirements established in the NRF.

State: Any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession of the United States. (As defined in section 2(14) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Public Law 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135, et seq. (2002).)

Strategic: Strategic elements of incident management are characterized by continuous, long-term, high-level planning by organizations headed by elected or other senior officials. These elements involve the adoption of long-range goals and objectives, the setting of priorities, the establishment of budgets and other fiscal decisions, policy development, and the application of measures of performance or effectiveness.

Sub-Object Class Code: Detailed codes used by the Federal Government to record its financial transactions according to the nature of services provided or received when obligations are first incurred.

Supplemental Fire Department Resources: Overhead tied to a local fire department generally by agreement who are mobilized primarily for response to incidents/wildland fires outside of their district or mutual aid zone. They are not a permanent part of the local fire organization and are not required to attend scheduled training, meetings, etc. of the department staff.

Supporting Agency: An agency providing suppression or other support and resource assistance to a Protecting Agency

Suppression: Management action to extinguish a fire or confine fire spread beginning with its discovery.

Threat: An indication of possible harm, or danger.

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Tribe: Any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaskan Native Village as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaskan Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688) [43 U.S.C.A. and 1601 et seq.], that is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

Unified Command: An application of ICS used when there is more than one agency with incident jurisdiction or when incidents cross political jurisdictions. Agencies work together through the designated members of the Unified Command to establish their designated Incident Commanders at a single Incident Command Post and to establish a common set of objectives and strategies and a single Incident Action Plan.

Unit Administrator (Line Officer): The individual assigned administrative responsibilities for an established organizational unit, such as Forest Supervisors or District Rangers for the Forest Service, District Manager for the Bureau of Land Management, Area Forester, District Forester, or State Forester as designated for the State Forest Service, Agency Superintendent for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Park Superintendent for the National Park Service, and Refuge Manager (Project Leader) for Fish and Wildlife Service. May also include managers for a Tribe, state, county or local government entity.

United States: The term “United States”, when used in a geographic sense, means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, any possession of the United States, and any waters within the jurisdiction of the United States. (As defined in section 2(16) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Public Law 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135, et seq. (2002).)

Unplanned Ignition: The initiation of a wildland fire that was unplanned, regardless of cause.

Wildfire: An unplanned, unwanted wildland fire including unauthorized human-caused fires, escaped wildland fire use events, escaped prescribed fire projects, and all other wildland fires where the objective is to put the fire out.

Wildland Fire: Any non-structure fire that occurs in vegetation or natural fuels. Wildland fire includes prescribed fire and wildfire.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetation fuels.

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Exhibit B. Principal Contacts

PRINCIPAL CONTACTS. The Principal Contacts for this instrument are as follows. These points of contact will review this instrument at least annually.

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Eastern Region
545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700 Nashville, TN 37214
Paul Ryan, Regional Fire Management Officer
Phone: 615/564-6780 / 239/826-6755
FAX: 615/564-6701
Email: paul.ryan@bia.gov

Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States
273 Market St. Flowood, MS 39232
Bart Kicklighter, State Fire Management Officer
Phone: 606/919-4663 / 601/397-7330
FAX: 601/919-4700
Email: bkicklighter@blm.gov

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Interior Regions 2/4
1875 Century Blvd NE, Suite 420 Atlanta, GA 30345-3390
Vince Carver
Phone: 404/679-7225
FAX: 404/679-7272
Email: vince_carver@fws.gov

USDA Forest Service
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest
1755 Cleveland Hwy, Gainesville, GA 30501
Mike Davis, Forest Fire Management Officer
Phone: 770/297-3080
FAX: 770/297-3034
Email: michael.davis1@usda.gov

DOI National Park Service
Interior Region 2
100 Alabama Street SW, 1924 Building Atlanta, GA 30303
Shawn Nagle
Phone: 404/507-5624
FAX: 404/562-3200
Email: shawn_nagle@nps.gov

State of Georgia, Georgia Forestry Commission
Georgia Forestry Commission
PO Box 819, Macon, GA 31020
Frank Sorrells
Phone: 478/751-3490
FAX: 912/381-7503
Email: fsorrells@gfc.state.ga.us

Exhibit C. Operating Plan Template

Operating Plan Template

Between

STATE OF GEORGIA

Forestry Commission, GA

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Southeastern States Region

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Interior Region 2

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Eastern Region

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Interior Regions 2,4: South Atlantic Gulf and Mississippi Basin

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE

Southern Region, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest

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 09/12/2023. 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.

I. PURPOSE

This is a Statewide Operating Plan applicable to all signatory Parties within the state of Georgia. 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.

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

III. INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

1. **Interagency Dispatch Centers:** At a minimum, address within this plan (or provide reference to) the following components:
 - A. **Purpose and Overview** - Reference: VII. Interagency Cooperation, 4. Interagency Dispatch Centers
 - B. **Administrative Oversight/Structure**
 - i. Executive Board— N/A
 - ii. Operations Group— N/A
 - C. **Dispatch Organization**
 - i. Staffing Will be determined by each agency to fit the needs of the ongoing incident.
 - D. **Roles and Responsibilities**
 - i. Center Manager - The Chattahoochee-Oconee NF Center Manager position is currently vacant.
 - ii. Assistant Center Manager(s) – N/A
 - iii. Others (as applicable) – N/A
 - E. **Dispatch Services**
 - i. Initial and Extended Attack - Reference: IX. Operations
 - ii. Mobilization, Demobilization and Support - Reference: VII. Interagency Cooperation, 4. Interagency Dispatch centers

Interagency Dispatch Centers:

The Georgia Forestry Commission (State or GFC) and the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests (USDA Forest Service) have separate dispatch centers located across the state of Georgia. The State maintains a dispatch center (known as Central Response) in Macon. The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest maintains a dispatch center at the Supervisors Office in Gainesville. This U.S. Forest Service dispatch center also serves as the Georgia Interagency Coordination Center (GA-GICC) and currently serves as the interagency state coordination center dispatching for the interagency community.

The FWS does not maintain a dispatch center but rather utilizes the GA-GICC. An exception is the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge which is dispatched under the Florida Interagency Coordination Center (FL-FICC).

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All participating agencies recognize that the GA-GICC has responsibility for coordinating interagency fire management activities across the state. Whereas each participating agency will dispatch its own resources across the state throughout their jurisdictional lands and report any major changes in resource availability to GA-GICC.

Dispatch outside the state will be ordered and received through GA-GICC with the following possible exceptions:

- State Compact Agreement resources being ordered or filled through the State.
- Initial attack resources may be shared between different agencies on a local geographic level according to pre-arranged agreements.

Other Fire Control and Related Facilities:

The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest has responsibility for several lookout and/or radio tower repeater sites on NF lands that include: Johns Mountain, Fort Mountain, Grassy Mountain, Buzzards Roost, Brawley Mountain, Brasstown Bald, Glassy Mountain, Chenocetah, Mathis, and Oakland.

- iii. Aviation - Reference: X. Use and Reimbursement of Interagency Fire Resources, 10. Aviation
- iv. Prescribed Fire - N/A
- v. All Hazard - Agencies within this agreement will meet All Hazard requests from their respective dispatch centers unless it requires the services of the Georgia Interagency Coordination Center for national events or for declarations.

F. Funding

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

2. Interagency Resources:

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

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

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.

IV. PREPAREDNESS

5. **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.
– N/A
6. **Protection Areas and Boundaries:** Identify areas (map and/or describe).

Chattahoochee-Oconee NF

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/conf/maps-pubs/?cid=FSEPRD706439&width=full>

7. **Methods of Fire Protection and Suppression:**

- Reciprocal (Mutual Aid) Fire Assistance: Document reciprocal initial attack zones. Document the length of the mutual aid period, normally 24 hours.

Reciprocal initial attack is any form of free direct assistance from one fire agency in support of another during a wildfire emergency, based upon a pre-arrangement between agencies involved. If the agency having jurisdictional authority requests continued assistance from the initial attack agency, except for aerial resources, suppression costs are reimbursable at 0001 hrs. following the first 48 hours of operations after the incident reported date, unless otherwise documented by both agencies. If the jurisdictional agency cannot be contacted by the responding agency, suppression action will be *continued* by the responding agency past the 48 hours, with suppression costs reimbursed by the jurisdictional agency for suppression action taken. Actions taken until the jurisdictional agency is contacted, will be the minimum deemed necessary to maintain safety and to protect values at risk, and in line with normal dispatch protocols for the given scenario or situation encountered by the responding agency.

Aircraft used on initial attack operations will be reimbursed unless waived by the Agency Administrator, Forest Fire Management Officer, State Fire Chief, or designee of the responding agency. Reimbursement rates will be used on flight hours and applicable support costs. Rates for the State can be found in Chapter 100 of the Southern Area Mob Guide or upon request from the Georgia Forestry Commission. The USFWS will also use the rates identified in Chapter 100 of the Southern Area Mobilization Guide. Federal rates will be based on the applicable contract. Each responding agency will submit invoices as outlined in the “Fire Suppression Billings” section.

The availability of initial attack resources will be provided upon request.

Reciprocal Zones: The agencies to this OP agree to define reciprocal zones along the boundaries of the federal agencies’ lands in the state. A reciprocal zone is defined as a geographical area between two or more jurisdictions onto which representatives from these jurisdictions would respond on initial attack. Due to the complexities of boundary locations and maintaining detailed maps on these zones, agencies to this OP agree to define the reciprocal zone as 1 mile on either side of the federal agency boundary.

Protection, Firefighting Equipment and Facilities Available for Cooperative Use: In rare instances, the agencies to this OP may loan to each other, without charge, fire suppression and

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related equipment as needed and if available. In lieu of established agreements (i.e., Good Neighbor Authority) resource order forms will be used to request and document use of the loaned equipment. The receiving agency shall be responsible for normal maintenance and any repairs made necessary by the borrowing agency's use. The receiving agency should bear any costs related to shipping or handling for securing loaned equipment.

- **Acquisition of Services:** Identify areas for reimbursable (cooperative), exchange (offset) or contract (fee basis) fire protection services. Method used to establish fee or rate of exchange. Terms and conditions. Work to be done by Protecting Agency and its responsibilities.

Cooperative resources being ordered between State and Federal agencies beyond 48 hours will be considered for reimbursement of services. Documented resource orders and appropriate time/equipment/aircraft use forms will be used to construct actual reimbursement charges for extended attack fires.

- 8. Joint Projects and Project Plans:** List or reference joint cooperative projects. – N/A

These projects may involve such activities as prescribed fire/fuels management, preparedness, fire analysis/planning, rehabilitation, training, prevention, public affairs, and other beneficial efforts in support of interagency fire management. Implementation of such projects will require a separate, local agreement, or other appropriate written document, executed by the authorized signatories of the involved Parties. This may include a Supplemental Project Agreement, as in Exhibit I or other written document.

- 9. Fire Prevention:** Identify goals, activities, resources available, and opportunities for cost sharing.

The agencies in this OP should have periodic planning sessions to coordinate prevention efforts. They will determine the most effective and efficient ways to carry out the prevention plans. This should begin at the local field level with support from management. Although as trends are observed it may be initiated by lead agency fire program managers and directors.

The Agency Administrators or their designated representatives will coordinate the disseminations of Southern Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention (SCFFP) materials such as press releases, TV and radio spots, etc., to avoid duplication of efforts.

Fire Prevention Education Teams (FPET) should always be considered as available for dispatch to local fire prevention education resources and to bring special planning, logistics, and operations expertise relevant to prevention education during larger, complex severity situations that exceed the capabilities of local organizations. These teams are called out during periods of high fire danger or fire activity, during other natural disasters and all-risk incidents. The standard resource request procedure applies to the FPET.

- 10. Public Use Restrictions:** Include implementation procedures or incorporate by reference the document containing those procedures. For example, the NW Operating Plan states "Guidelines for Coordinated Public Use Restrictions Memorandum of Understanding, NFS 92-06-52-51, May 1992, is incorporated by reference".

The agencies to this OP will implement and enforce respective closure orders and bans on outdoor burning as empowered by laws and regulations. Before taking such action, agencies will determine the seriousness of the situation and will exercise every reasonable effort to ensure coordinated and simultaneous action.

11. **Burning Permits:** Document procedures where applicable, which may include burning permits, fire restrictions and burn bans.

With few exceptions the Georgia Forestry Commission regulates the issuance of burn permits. The federal agencies listed in this OP participate within and honor that system.

Participating agencies recognize the Georgia EPD Summer Burn Ban that falls between May 1 through September 30th in 54 Georgia counties. Participating agencies also recognize there are parameters for prescribed fire use in certain locations.

<https://epd.georgia.gov/air-protection-branch/open-burning-rules-georgia/burn-types>

12. **Prescribed Fire (Planned Ignitions) and Fuels Management:** Identify planned projects.

Agencies to this OP will notify adjoining agencies of planned prescribed fire projects. Each agency will assist each other with hazardous fuels mitigation projects as their agency policy allows. The state will provide shape files and acres completed under the Community Protection Grant Program to the Chattahoochee-Oconee NF after the completion of the state's fiscal year in order for those acres to be tracked in the FACTS database for reporting requirements.

13. **Smoke Management:** Local considerations; use of Air Resource Advisors.

The State's smoke management guidelines will be followed by all agencies included in this plan. Reference: Basic Smoke Management Plan April 16th, 2008.

V. OPERATIONS

1. Fire Notifications:

- Specify notification procedures and timelines.
- Establish timeframes when final Fire Reports will be sent to jurisdictional agencies.
- Describe the level of communication required with neighboring jurisdictions regarding the management of all wildland fires, especially those with multiple objectives.

Agencies will notify protecting agency of any fires detected on such agency's lands as quickly as possible. This includes false alarm and natural out fires as well as fires responded to. The reporting agency will provide adequate information to meet the protecting agency's standards for fire reporting. Fire reports will be sent to the Jurisdictional Agencies within 5 days after a fire is declared controlled.

2. Boundary Line Fires: Specify notification procedures.

Fires within reciprocal zones may be responded to by either agency's resources. Responders should respect pre-suppression plans, SOP's and fire management policy and objectives established in the protecting agency's guiding documents (Land and Resource Management Plan, Fire Management Plan, Trail of Tears Corridor, etc.). Agency Administrators or their designated representatives must be notified as quickly as possible in order to ensure resource advisors and fire resources are assigned to assist the responding agency.

3. **Independent Action on Lands Protected by Another Agency:** Discuss any special land management considerations that affect independent action initial attack. Describe areas, if any, where there are exceptions to this clause and state reasons.

Trail of Tears/Unicoi Turnpike: Reference Exhibit J in regard to these locations. The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest must be made aware of wildfires immediately upon verification of any threat to these corridors. Actions shall follow those laid out in Exhibit J *Fire Suppression and Operations Guide Trail of Tears National Historic Trail/Unicoi Turnpike Corridor*.

4. **Response to Wildland Fire:**

Special Management Considerations:

- Identify areas where there are resource and other management concerns, i.e. special management considerations, appropriate fire management actions, any restrictions in firefighting tactical techniques, etc. (*Note: This information could be incorporated by reference to a land or resource management plan.*)
 - Identify any tactical strategies that may need to be considered in order to limit the potential for increased damage to private and public property, infrastructure investments or critical habitat, when it is necessary to limit the use of aerially delivered fire retardant in certain locations, such as the WUI or in an aerial retardant avoidance area.
 - Jurisdictional agencies, which may include state and private lands, should identify the conditions under which wildland fire may be managed to achieve benefit, and the information or criteria that will be used to make that determination (e.g., critical habitat, hazardous fuels and land management planning documents) *Note: This information could be incorporated by reference to a land or resource management plan.*
 - Identify how suppression costs related to special management considerations will be allocated.
- Trail of Tears/Unicoi Turnpike
 - National Historic Trails
 - The use of Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) will be used on all federal wilderness areas and on all NPS lands. MIST tactics will vary depending on location. Agency Administrator guidance will be sought prior to initiating suppression actions.

U.S. Forest Service: No mechanized equipment (chainsaws, leaf blowers, aircraft, etc.) will be used in federally designated wilderness areas except by approval of the Forest Supervisor. Verbal approval may be given and appropriate approval forms will be submitted for signature. Dozer and/or tractor plow use must be approved by the United States Forest Service Regional Forester. If available, Wilderness Resource Advisors (WREAD) should be assigned as quickly as possible to the incident.

Chattahoochee National Forest wildernesses include: Cohutta, Big Frog, Rich Mountain, Blood Mountain, Brasstown, Tray Mountain, Mark Trail, Raven Cliffs, Southern Nantahala, and Ellicott Rock.

Agency guiding documents (Land and Natural Resource Management Plan, Forest Management Plan, state agency Memorandums of Understanding, etc.) and fire suppression policies will be

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followed with regards to development of appropriate fire management strategies and tactics on all wildfires. Incident Commanders will be trained by their respective agencies to anticipate the need to adjust strategies and tactics on cooperator lands, especially in sensitive areas such as marshes and wetlands, within riparian zones or waterways, or along National Historic Trails.

Delivery and reporting of wildland fire chemicals near waterways will follow the policy expressly stated in the Red Book, Chapter 12 and/or the respective agency's Fire Management Plan, if more restrictive than the Red Book.

- **U.S. Forest Service:** Retardant may not be used within 300 feet of waterways and drainages on National Forest lands. An exception is the Conasauga River where it is located on National Forest lands in Murray and Fannin counties. Retardant is not to be used within 500 feet of this riparian area.
 - **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:** Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (GA-OKR) has a local response area Operating Plan with the Georgia Forestry Commission. Operations for Okefenokee will be subject to the local Operating Guide. In addition, Okefenokee is tied to Florida Interagency Coordination Center for interagency dispatch needs.
5. **Decision Process:** Identify the process by which the Parties will 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.

The agency that has borne more than its apportioned share of the costs shall bill the other agency for the difference between its expended costs and its apportioned share of the total costs, Exhibit F, Supplemental Fire Suppression and Cost Share Agreement in the Master Cooperative Agreement. To the extent practicable, the agencies shall agree on the resources needed to meet overall suppression objectives. However, this does not preclude an agency committing additional resources to meet its needs, in which event, that agency shall bear the cost of that added resource. An exception to this may be lightning fires on federal lands being managed for multiple objectives.

Additional resources mentioned below shall coordinate with the current Incident Management structure.

Initial Attack

In Reciprocal Zone: When Agencies to this Agreement have resources available, they may take initial attack actions on fires within the reciprocal zone. This may be based on the closet force concept if the fire managers involved from each agency agree on the actions to be taken. When an agency makes the initial attack on a fire that would normally be considered the primary responsibility of the other agency, the agency primarily responsible will take over the fire as soon as possible after initial attack.

Outside Reciprocal Zone: When a fire is reported to an agency to this plan on lands outside the Reciprocal zones and not under the jurisdiction of the agency receiving the report, the agency receiving the fire report will notify the agency with jurisdictional responsibility that a

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fire has occurred. The agency with jurisdictional responsibility will dispatch appropriate fire control resources to the fire or may request assistance from the agency that reported the fire. If requested assistance is provided, agency resources will make a wildfire response consistent with the jurisdictional agency's fire management policy and land and resource management plans to all wildland fires. Suppression costs may be reimbursable by the agency having jurisdictional responsibility. Each agency will bill at their agency's current resource rate. If the jurisdictional agency cannot be contacted by the responding agency, suppression action will be continued by the responding agency and services rendered may be billed by the responding agency.

Joint Jurisdictional Fires: Joint jurisdictional fires are those burning on or threatening two or more jurisdictions. Except for non-reimbursable initial attack resources specified previously, costs, if billed, shall be apportioned by a method agreeable to both agencies. The Agency Administrators, with guidance from their fire management staff, will determine cost apportionment for each of these fires at the time.

Exceptions to this include: lightning fires on federal lands being managed for multiple objectives and fires on federal wilderness areas that threaten private/state jurisdiction. Typically, the federal agency will bear all of the cost.

Extended Attack

- *Joint Jurisdiction Fire Procedures on Extended Attack Incidents:* The Unified Command organization should be used when it is more effective and efficient. Some examples of when to establish Unified Command are:
 - Joint fires burning on lands where two or more agencies to this Plan have responsibility.
 - Two or more Agencies to this Plan have significant values at risk.
 - Significant resources committed by agencies to this Plan.
- 6. **Cooperation:** Identify how to involve all Parties in developing the strategy and tactics to be used in preventing unwanted wildland fire from crossing the jurisdictional boundary, and how all Parties will be involved in developing mitigations which would be used if a wildland fire does cross jurisdictional boundaries. - N/A
- 7. **Communication:** Describe the level of communication required with neighboring jurisdictions regarding the management of all wildland fires, especially those with multiple objectives. Communications should occur prior to fire seasons and during the early stages of wildland fires. Agencies managing fires, especially those with multiple objectives, should consider: firefighter and public safety, predicted weather conditions, resource 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. - N/A
- 8. **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

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consider include loss and benefit to land, values at risk, resource, social and political values, and existing legal statutes. - N/A

9. **Delegation of Authority:** Describe procedures and criteria to specify direction, authority and financial management guidelines that local Unit Administrators will use to inform Incident Commanders.

The Agency Administrator for the jurisdictional agencies will delegate responsibility to the incoming Incident Commander according to the Agency Administrators' agency policies.

10. **Preservation of Evidence:** Evidence will be preserved in accordance with applicable Agency regulations and policies.

Evidence will be preserved in accordance with applicable Agency regulations and policies. Responding agencies will do everything within their ability to locate and protect the origin of all fires so that cause may be properly investigated and determined.

11. **Law Enforcement:** Agencies to this OP will coordinate with the other to render mutual aid assistance in law enforcement activities, the gathering of evidence and in actual court prosecutions to the fullest extent practicable in accordance with the following protocols:

- On fires that start on federal agency property and burn entirely on federal property, the federal agency will lead the investigation and charge suspects.
- On fires that stay entirely on state jurisdictional lands, the State will lead the investigation and charge the suspects.
- On multi-jurisdictional wildfires, the affected agencies to this OP will consult on the investigation and determine which agency will take the lead and determine the appropriate law enforcement action.
- Responding agency will assist with all fire investigations to the extent possible.

12. **Resource Ordering:** Agencies to this OP shall coordinate with each other prior to ordering resources for another agencies fire. It is recommended that to alleviate ordering and resource tracking issues, all resources should be ordered from a single dispatch center whenever possible. When this is not possible and separate dispatch centers are used for whatever reason, ordering managers from each jurisdictional agency may be used to coordinate.

Ordering High Cost Resources: An Incident Commander must get the approval of the jurisdictional agency before ordering high costs resources such as Incident Management Teams, large air tankers, Type 1 helicopters, and high altitude infrared photography.

13. **Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy:** Naturally occurring lightning wildfires on federal lands can be concurrently managed for multiple objectives, including both suppression and resource benefits. These objectives can change as the fire spreads across the landscape. Objectives are influenced by values at risk; environmental changes such as fuels, weather, topography; human influences such as social tolerance and understanding; and institutional factors such as governmental jurisdictions having different objectives. In close cooperation with adjoining jurisdictions, the jurisdictional agency will determine the management response to a wildland fire on its land with discretion and objectives identified in the applicable LRMP and/or FMP, or statute.

14. **Resource Advisors:** Unless otherwise agreed, the jurisdictional agency may provide a resource advisor to advise to responding agency of any special management considerations that may influence suppression action. The cost of this individual shall be paid by the jurisdictional agency. The Incident Commander will incorporate special management considerations into the incident planning process, subject to the delegation of authority.

VI. USE AND REIMBURSEMENT OF INTERAGENCY FIRE RESOURCES

1. **Cost Share Agreement** (Cost Share Methodologies) Describe how costs will be shared when a fire spreads into another jurisdiction. 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.
- The cost sharing methodologies that will be utilized should wildfire spread to a neighboring jurisdiction in a location where fire is not wanted.
 - The cost share methodologies that will be used should a jurisdiction accept or receive a wildland fire and manage it for multiple objectives.
 - 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:
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.

Cost Share Methodologies will be completed in the event that wildfires burn onto other jurisdictions past the reciprocal initial attack period. Refer to Exhibits E & F for templates and instructions; also refer to Chapter 80 in PMS-902 “NWCG Standards for Interagency Business Management”. Cooperators will also follow formal manual and handbook policy direction from

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their agencies, as applicable, to review/approve/sign the cost share agreement. As aforementioned in this Operating Plan, there are several ways to determine the best cost share mix: A, B and C are typically used on smaller, less complex incidents with similar values and uses and are usually under the 48 hours threshold; D and E on larger, more complex incidents, such as those with both WUI and wildlands. Actual costs from all cooperator's official financial systems of record will be used to settle cost shares. States calculate actual cost of equipment based on a review of the incident's emergency use invoices (OF-286) and equipment rates as described in Chapter 100 of the Southern Area Mobilization Guide. Any necessary deductions (i.e., fuels if wet) are made prior to billing. Rates listed in Chapter 100, are the same as what the state considers their actual rates which are found in their "fire manual". Chapter 100 clarifies mobilization rates.

See Appendices E and F for the required information and template for the U.S. Forest Service Cost Share Agreement.

- Escaped Prescribed Fire(s): A cost share agreement will be done immediately once a prescribed fire is declared as escaped. See Clause 31. Escaped Prescribed Fires.
- Lightning Fire(s): Lightning fires that are allowed to burn for resource benefit will have a cost share completed immediately once the management decision is made if the fire is threatening another jurisdiction. See Operating Plan Section V. Operations, 22. Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy.

2. Training: Identify training needs, schedules, resources available, and opportunities for cost sharing.

Each agency will coordinate and cooperate with making emergency response training available to each other. Cost will be kept to a minimum for lodging, meals, and supplies needed for the training session. Trainee opportunities on incidents will be made available to each agency as appropriate and in accordance with each agency's policies. When trainees are assigned to an incident a fully qualified person will supervise, coach, and review the trainees' assignment as per PMS 310-1.

3. Communication Systems: Identify specific radio frequencies, computer system access, data transmission lines, communication sites, and communications equipment shared between Parties. 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.

Agencies to this Plan will provide shared radio frequencies for use by the agencies when assisting the owner agency. Each agency will ensure that the Interagency Air to Ground and Air to Air frequencies are programmed in all agency aircraft. A primary frequency will be identified on the resource order. Agency Communication Technicians/Specialist will work together to provide information as necessary.

Agencies to this agreement will allow communication equipment to be located in/on their facilities as allowed under each agencies policies and procedures.

The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest has responsibility for several lookout and/or radio tower repeater sites on NF lands that include: Johns Mountain, Fort Mountain, Grassy Mountain, Buzzards Roost, Brawley Mountain, Brasstown Bald, Glassy Mountain, Chenocetah, Mathis, and Oakland.

4. **Fire Weather Systems:** Specify maintenance, use and management, if any.

It is the intention of the agencies to this Plan to coordinate fully on fire management activities. This coordination requires that agencies have access to National Weather Service (NWS) SPOT forecasts and to utilize the NWS generated National Fire Danger Rating System Point Forecasts.

The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Piedmont and Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuges are utilizing a required State Fire Danger Operating Plan for their respective locations.

The agencies to this Plan will be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of their respective remote automated weather stations. The agencies to this Plan make mutual use of each other's automated stations for suppression and prescribed fire. Because of the importance of having these stations monitoring forest conditions year-round, mutual assistance can be provided and extended as time permits in order to assure their continued operation.

5. **Incident Meteorological (IMET) Services:** Describe the procedures for requesting and obtaining IMET services from the NWS. 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.

Incident Meteorologists (IMET's) will be considered and used as available and ordered through standard ordering procedures.

6. **Aviation Operations:** Identify and document any local aviation agreements.

Requests for aircraft assistance for in-state incidents will be made through the appropriate State channels and the appropriate federal agency dispatcher as per standard interagency dispatching procedures.

- Costs for personnel, equipment and aircraft are at the applicable rates on file with each respective agency to this agreement and are current rates at the time of use. Reimbursement for air tanker drops will be for actual flying time to and from the fires and retardant costs. When the receiving agency specifically requests the relocation of aircraft the receiving agency will pay ferry flight costs.

- **Air Tankers**

Federal air tankers may periodically be based at Lake City, Florida and Chattanooga, Tennessee and are available for State use by ordering through the GA-GICC. Those costs will be the responsibility of the ordering agency.

The State maintains two Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATS). They can be positioned at various locations as needed.

USFS Portable Air Tanker Bases (PATB)-either National Contract or USFS owned will be ordered through GA-GICC. If requested by the State, all associated costs will be borne by the State and will be the responsibility of the State until returned.

- **Patrol Aircraft**

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The State maintains a number of fixed wing aircraft dedicated to aerial detection purposes and are on call for requests as needed by those listed in this Plan.

- **Helicopters**

The State maintains one helicopter that is moved as needed to various locations within the state depending on forecasted fire danger conditions.

Federal Helicopters: Agency owned and contracted helicopters are stationed at various locations and at various times (contract periods) throughout the state and the Southern Area. Resource requests will be placed through the GA-GICC. Daily availability costs may or may not be charged to the requesting unit. Reimbursement for services may include all costs under the applicable contract (ex. flight time, fuel, extended standby, hangar fees, per diem, etc.).

7. **Public information:** It is the intent of the agencies to this OP to fully cooperate in seeking out media opportunities associated with fire management activities. For those agencies listed in this OP respective Public Affairs Officers/Specialists should make every attempt to collaborate together for the good of all agencies.
8. **Incident Business:** Incident Management Teams assigned to incidents (Type I, II, III) will manage the incident business through eISUITE or other acceptable systems and according to the NWCG Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management.
9. **Reimbursable Services:** Reimbursable in-state services will be rendered only at the request of the other agency. Out of state reimbursable services will be rendered at the request of the designated officials in the agencies to this Plan. In all cases, personnel salaries and overtime for agencies to this Plan will include the costs of retirement, Social Security, health insurance and other similar costs that the respective agency is normally responsible for paying. The salary rates, including all of these additional costs, will be current at the time of the rendered services.

Personnel of agencies to this Plan will complete, maintain, and provide daily documentation on all incidents. This will include at a minimum, daily time reports showing hours worked and equipment use records for equipment showing hours/mileage operated. Additional forms may be required depending on incident requirements.

Applicable rates will be the rate that is currently in use at the time of dispatch.

Emergency firefighter (AD) rates as found in the current AD Pay Plan.

State equipment and aircraft rates as found in Chapter 100 of the Southern Area Mobilization Guide.
10. **Resources Dispatched as Federal Employees (Administratively Determined-AD):** State employees who are sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service or any other federal agency must follow the respective agencies protocols and procedures for annual hiring. State personnel must also have the approval of their immediate Supervisors and Area Fire Management Officers (FMO's). AD's will process expenses for reimbursement in accordance with the stipulations of the current pay plan for emergency workers. State employees who are sponsored by the U. S. Forest Service will be required to provide their annual AD paperwork by January 31st unless another date has been decided and relayed forward. The U.S. Forest Service requires applications

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for sponsorship and will typically only sponsor those individuals that are currently rostered on IMT's or who have qualifications that will support local, regional, and/or national shortages.

- 11. State Crews or Single Resources Dispatched as State Employees:** When State personnel are dispatched to federal agency incidents as state employees, the State will be reimbursed for their salaries, fringes, overtime, and state per diem at the current federal rates. The federal agency will reimburse the State when employee's travel expenses, lodging, meals, etc. are handled by the state. No travel advances from the federal government will be made. Federal reimbursement rates are used for resources responding to federal assignments within the state of Georgia and outside the 48-hour reciprocal period. Utilize this link for those rates:

https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/ibc-standard_rates.pdf

- 12. Out of State Dispatching:** When the federal agency needs the services of the State's equipment, supplies, and/or personnel dispatched on state time for incidents outside of Georgia, the GA-GICC shall make the request through the State Expanded Dispatch Center. Reimbursement for these services will be through the use of the federal reimbursement rate when out of state assignments are non-Southeast Compact related. Utilize this link for those rates:

https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/ibc-standard_rates.pdf

13. Name Requests:

- a. State name requests must have prior approval by the Georgia Forestry Commission.
- b. Federal name requests must provide thorough justifications for the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC).

VII. BILLING PROCEDURES

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

1. Suppression Billing:

A. Billing information, provide:

- Agency name and billing address
- Financial Contact (name, phone, email)
- Agency Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)
- Billing timeframes – Provide contact information for written request for extensions beyond timeframes established in Exhibit D, Reimbursable Billings and Payments. Indirect Cost Rates, if applicable
- 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:
 - Points of Contact
 - Process for handling requests
 - Any standardized reports information

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Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests

POC: Forest Fire Management Officer (Forest FMO), 770/297-3080

Process for handling requests: State reimbursement packages will go directly to the Forest FMO. These can be emailed electronically. The Forest FMO or designee will review and will seek approval from the appropriate official using these guidelines:

- If Forest Service costs exceed \$20 million, Regional Foresters will submit final disposition of costs to the secondary reviewing official, the Chief Financial Officer, no later than 180 days after demobilization of the incident.
- If Forest Service costs are \$15 to \$20 million, final disposition of costs can be settled with the Regional Forester as the secondary reviewing official.
- If Forest Service costs are less than \$15 million, final disposition of costs can be settled at a level determined by the Regional Forester, at minimum the local Line Officer as the secondary reviewing official.

Once reviewed and completed the Forest FMO or designee will email the incident reimbursement package to ASC_COOP@usda.gov

US Fish and Wildlife Service

POC: Rick Struhar, rick_struhar@fws.gov , 404/353-2004

Bills can be submitted via email to the POC.

Appropriate process will be implemented depending on location and dollar amount.

Bureau of Land Management

POC: Christina Phillips, csphillips@blm.gov , 775/621-6629

Bills can be submitted via email to the POC.

Appropriate process will be implemented depending on location and dollar amount.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

POC: Paul Ryan, paul.ryan@bia.gov , 239/826-6755

Bills can be submitted via email to the POC.

Appropriate process will be implemented depending on location and dollar amount.

National Park Service

POC: Sandra Mallard, Sandra_mallard@nps.gov , 404/507-5627

Bills can be submitted via email to the POC.

Appropriate process will be implemented depending on location and dollar amount.

2. **Fee Based Services** – Billings will be in accordance with separate written agreement or contract(s). – N/A
3. **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. – N/A

4. **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. – N/A

VIII. **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. **Principal Contacts:** Refer to Exhibit B of Master Coop Agreement – Principal Contacts. Complete and add to this Operating Plan.
2. **Personnel Policy:** See Exhibit XX – 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 (XX) FD employees and the (XX) FD will be reimbursed for their actual costs.
3. **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.
4. **Annual Review:** This Operating Plan is reviewed annually by March 1st and revised, as needed.
5. **Duration of Operating Plan:** This Operating Plan is executed as of the date of last signature and remains in effect through 09/12/2028 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.
6. **Previous Instruments Superseded:** List, as applicable.
7. **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.

IX. REVIEW AND SIGNATURES

The Geographic Area Operating Plan will be approved by the signatory state and federal NWCG member agencies.

The Statewide Operating Plans will be approved by the signatory state and federal SACG members.

Unit Administrators will have the responsibility for developing and approving sub-geographic area operating plans.

Each signatory agency may have policies/procedures for entering into agreements (including this Operating Plan) that require additional review by attorneys, agreement specialists, or contracting officers.

USDOI FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE SOUTHEAST REGION

BRETT HUNTER  Digitally signed by BRETT
HUNTER
Date: 2023.08.14 06:21:14 -04'00'

Chief National Wildlife Refuge System Interior
Southeast Region

Date: _____

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**USDOJ NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
INTERIOR REGION 2**

TRAVIS NEPPL Digitally signed by TRAVIS NEPPL
Date: 2023.09.02 08:35:03 -05'00'

Regional Director

Date: _____

Contracting Officer

Date: _____

**MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT
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**USDOJ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EASTERN STATES OFFICE**

FRANK RADFORD Digitally signed by FRANK
RADFORD
Date: 2023.08.24 12:25:43 -04'00'

Eastern States Associate Director (Acting)

Date: 08/24/2023

Contracting Officer

Date: _____

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**USDOJ BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
EASTERN REGION**

**KIMBERLY
BOUCHARD**

Digitally signed by KIMBERLY
BOUCHARD
Date: 2023.08.24 10:16:11 -05'00'

Eastern Region Regional Director

Date: _____

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STATE OF GEORGIA
Georgia Forestry Commission

Tim Lowrimore  Digitally signed by Tim Lowrimore
Date: 2023.09.07 15:36:21 -04'00'

State Forester

Date: _____

Michele Gray  Digitally signed by Michele Gray
Date: 2023.09.08 08:35:42 -04'00'

Director of Administration

Date: _____

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USDA FOREST SERVICE
Southern Region, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest



Digitally signed by JUDY
TOPPINS
Date: 2023.09.12 09:09:38 -04'00'

JUDY TOPPINS, Forest Supervisor

Date: 09/12/2023

VICKI TAYLOR

Digitally signed by VICKI TAYLOR
Date: 2023.08.03 15:15:40 -05'00'

VICKI TAYLOR, Agreements Specialist

Date: 08/03/2023

Exhibit D. Reimbursable Billings and Payments

Reimbursable Billings and Payments

I. Suppression Billings

The Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service will not bill each other for suppression costs. However, pre-suppression costs, fair sharing for interagency dispatch centers costs, prevention costs, and other fire management costs will be billed in accordance with existing agreements or other written documents.

Parties to this Agreement may opt to use a “Reconciliation Process” for tracking incident costs for all Parties to this Agreement for the purpose of issuing one annual billing to the paying Party. If the Reconciliation Process is not utilized, parties to the Agreement shall utilize the applicable Incident by Incident process.

1. **Reconciliation Process:** state and federal agencies agree to consolidate billing and minimum balances.

All Georgia costs of fires occurring in and out of Georgia, regardless of jurisdictional boundary, will be compiled based on each agencies’ costs. A reconciliation balance sheet will be developed and billed as one consolidated amount. This cost tracking method will reduce actual payments and ensure that a fair division of suppression costs can be made between the Federal Agencies and the State in a timely fashion. Agency and Cooperator costs are identified by fire number and code and tracked on an annual balance sheet. Federal balance sheets (and State balance sheets depending on funding laws) must align with a single fiscal year. A final division of cost responsibilities based on jurisdiction, minimum thresholds and cost share agreements will be negotiated by 09/30 of each year.

Minimum Billing Threshold is \$100 and applies to all fires included in this process. It does not apply to out-of-state responses. The minimum threshold does not apply to costs for cooperating fire departments under a separate agreement with the state when working outside their jurisdictional boundary or requested by a resource order for extended attack.

The USDA Forest Service will be responsible for managing the balance sheet which includes all agencies’ costs and cost share information. Actual costs are tracked by each agency for each incident. Agency actual costs are subject to audit procedures identified in item #, Audit Procedures. The balance sheet is verified but may be disputed based on the cost share allocation, severability of costs and actual costs submitted for each fire. The balance sheet will result in a final settlement between all Parties and one transfer of funds is required to reconcile the fire season, unless a request is submitted to complete reconciliation prior to the end of fire season, at which point a settlement will be done for expenses to the requested date.

Billing Time Frames for Reconciliation Process: Agencies will submit invoices within 30 days of final reconciliation. Requests for extensions beyond 30 days for invoice submittal must be presented in writing to the reimbursing agency. Operating plans will include contact information for written requests for extensions.

2. Incident by Incident Process

A. **Federal Billings by Incident:** There are not billings between the Federal wildland fire agencies, pursuant to the Master Interagency Agreement for Wildland Fire Management.

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Federal Agencies will submit bills for their reimbursable costs to the States whenever (insert state(s)), state agencies are the Protecting Agency, and a billing is appropriate.

- B. **State Billings by Incident:** When one of the States is the Supporting Agency and the fire is within the State of Georgia, the State will bill the Protecting Agency for reimbursable costs when a billing is appropriate. Anytime the States respond to a Federal Agency fire outside of Georgia, the State will bill all applicable costs to the jurisdictional Federal Agency or agencies. Operating plans will include billing location information.
- C. **Billing Time Frames:** Agencies will submit invoices within 180 days of the demobilization of the incident. Extensions beyond 180 days for invoice submittal must be presented in writing to the reimbursing agency. It should be noted that some categories of expenses may often require subsequent billings outside of the 180-day period, such as: outstanding cost shares, claims, aircraft expenses, and fire cache costs.

Operating plans will include contact information for written requests for extensions. Absent a written extension of time granted by the reimbursing agency, the final itemized bill should be submitted to the reimbursing agency within 180 days of the demobilization of the incident. After a final billing has been sent, and if additional costs are identified, a supplemental billing may be issued if agreeable to applicable Parties.

Each Party to this Agreement will strive to provide appropriate Parties of an estimate of the amount of reimbursable bills they expect to submit within 90 calendar days in each reimbursable action.

3. **Severity:** Costs incurred on severity assignments within the state of [state] will be billed individually to the Jurisdictional Agency. Severity assignments are reimbursable under the Reciprocal Fire Protection Act.
4. **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT):** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, effective January 2, 1999, US Treasury Regulation, Money and Finance at 31 CFR 208.3 requires that federal payments are to be made by EFT unless waived in accordance with specific circumstances set forth in 31 CFR 208.4.

In order to receive EFT payments, the payment recipient shall register in System for Award Management (SAM) and are required to validate their information in SAM once per year. The payment recipient is also required to have a DUNS number. The DUNS number is assigned by Dun & Bradstreet, Inc. (D&B) to identify unique business entities. For more information, refer to <https://www.sam.gov/portal/SAM/##11>.

Each Party to this Agreement shall provide the following information in the operating plan.

- Agency name and billing address
 - Financial Contact (name, phone, email)
 - Agency DUNS
5. **Billing Content:** The following items will be included as a minimum for each bill, noting that a resource order is not always required or available in order for a bill to be valid. Provide as a minimum on each invoice/bill:
- Agency name, address, phone number, and agency financial contact
 - Invoice or bill number
 - Agreement number

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- Incident name and number
- Dates of the incident covered by the billing
- Location and jurisdictional unit
- Appropriate Fire code or charge code
- Summary cost data for the amount being billed

Summary data may include but is not limited to, a list of personnel, travel, and equipment expenses; and a listing by vendor name and amount spent for supplies and services procured. Generally, cost source documents will not be required unless summary cost data is disputed, there is a Fire Management Assistance Grant, or unless specific agency regulations require cost source documents.

At times, supplemental information, summary data or additional billing documentation may be requested and provided if agreed upon by the Parties. The process for handling such requests should be documented in the Operating Plan.

6. **Payment Due:** Whenever this Agreement provides for billing, the agency receiving the bill has an obligation to pay. Once bills are received by the reimbursing agency, payment will be made in accordance with that agency's payment processes outlined in the operating plan.
7. **Services Received and Certification of Billings:** Reimbursing agencies must provide written notice of incorrect invoices to billing agencies within the timeframes specified in the annual operating plan.
8. **Financial Dispute Resolution:** If a conflict arises between the agency's payment processes, the terms of the billing document, or the costs associated with the billing document, the Parties should attempt to resolve the differences. If the differences cannot be resolved after consultation between the Parties, the Parties follow their dispute resolution processes.
9. **Review Procedures:** The Parties agree to jointly conduct a review; sampling transactions of the incidents managed under this Agreement. Findings that are inconsistent with the normal or accepted way of doing business will be reconciled on a case-by-case basis. Any decision to further examine records will be considered on a case-by-case basis and appropriate follow up action agreed upon by all agencies involved.

II. Payment for Protection Services (use if appropriate)

Geographic, Statewide or Sub-Geographic (local) operating plans and procurement documents or agreement will establish billing procedures for Fee Basis Protection Services.

III. Non-Suppression Billings

All non-suppression costs shall be billed and paid in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Supplemental Project Agreement, separate agreement, procurement, or other appropriate written document, executed by the authorized signatories of the involved Parties within their legal authorities.

IV. Accounting Records

Cooperators must maintain records incident by incident which adequately identify the source and use of funds. These records must contain information pertaining to expense related to each incident, unobligated balances, liabilities outlays or expenditures, and income. Such documents must be made available to the Federal Agency upon request.

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V. Internal Control

Effective control and accountability must be maintained for all federal funds, real and personal property, and other assets. Cooperators must keep effective internal controls to ensure that all federal funds received are separately and properly allocated to each incident and used solely for authorized purposes.

VI. Reimbursable Costs

Documented costs incurred as the result of an incident are reimbursable. All costs must be reasonable, allowable, and allocable. Costs must be consistently treated as either direct costs or indirect costs. Consistent treatment of costs is a basic cost accounting principle and is specifically required to assure that the same types of costs are not charged as both direct costs and indirect costs. Every effort should be made to classify costs incurred for the same purpose, in like circumstances, consistently as either direct or indirect.

Direct Costs: Direct costs are those items of expense specifically identified with the delivery or completion of a project or program. General examples include, but are not limited to, personnel costs (salary and fringe benefits), equipment costs, travel, materials, supplies, and contracts.

For the purposes of this Agreement, these may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Actual costs directly incurred for “move-up and cover” or “backfill” resources.
- Agency costs of individuals assigned to the incident or project for salary, benefits, and overtime including premium pay if and when it is earned according to the policies, laws, and rules governing the employees of the Supporting Agency.
- Agency costs for transportation including, but not limited to, airline fees, vehicle rental fees, fuel and oil, and agency established mileage fees.
- Agency costs for per diem and lodging of resources assigned to the incident when such services are not supplied by the incident.
- Additional support dispatching, warehousing or transportation services supporting a resource order or project.
- Operating expenses for equipment assigned to the incident, such as fuel, oil, and equipment repairs.
- Cost of reasonable and prudent supplies expended in support of the incident or project.
- Usage cost of equipment in support of the incident or project, contract equipment costs and operating costs for agency equipment.
- Aircraft, airport fees, retardant costs and retardant and other fire chemical costs.
- Agency-owned equipment lost, or damaged, by the Supporting Agency when accompanied by the appropriate agency source documentation to include insurance deductible paid.
- Charges from the state for state controlled resources such as inmate crews, National Guard resources and county and local resources.
- Agency-owned equipment and supplies lost, damaged, or expended by the Supporting Agency.

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- Cost or replacement of reasonable and prudent supplies expended in support of the incident. What is reasonable and prudent is determined by the protecting and/or Jurisdictional Agency or the fire team within the limits of their delegated authority or identified in the current Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook (IIBMH).

Indirect Costs: Indirect costs are those items of expense incurred as part of general management and administrative support of an organization. These costs are not attributable to a specific project, program or output, but are distributed among many benefiting activities. Often they are proposed as a percentage of direct project costs and are referred to as administrative costs, overhead, or burden. Examples may include office space, computer equipment, postage, utilities, salaries for administrative activities such as procurement, personnel, accounting, and so forth.

Indirect cost rates may vary for each agency. Application of indirect cost rates will be addressed within the Operating Plan (Exhibit C).

When indirect cost rates are applied to federal reimbursements, the Parties agree to the following:

1. If the payment recipient has never received or does not currently have a negotiated indirect cost rate, they are eligible for a de minimis indirect cost rate up to 10% of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC). MTDC is defined as all salaries and wages, fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and contracts up to the first \$25,000 of each contract.
2. For rates greater than 10%, the payment recipient shall provide either an applicable negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA) from a cognizant Federal Agency, or an indirect cost rate summary in a format that clearly defines the indirect cost rate and MTDC.
3. The payment recipient must maintain adequate documentation to support the methodology and computation of the indirect cost rate. Documentation must be made available to the Federal Agency upon request.
4. Failure to provide adequate documentation supporting the indirect cost rate could result in disallowed costs and repayment to the Federal Agency.

VII. Source Documentation

Accounting records for each incident must be supported by source documentation such as cancelled checks, paid bills, time and attendance records, contract or sub-award documents, etc. Such documents must be made available to the Federal Agency upon request.

Exhibit E. Cost Share Agreement Instructions

Each of the numbered instructions below corresponds to form items that require further explanation. Supplemental cost share agreements will be numbered consecutively following the original (#1) for each fire. Supplements may be added at any time. Where insufficient room is available for necessary information, additional sheets or addendums may be added. Small revisions to this Agreement may be completed on a single page, describing the change to the original agreement, and obtaining new signatures from those involved.

A Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement exists between all major wildland fire protection agencies in Georgia. This Agreement authorizes general mutual aid, including reciprocal and cooperative fire protection services elaborated upon in geographic, statewide, or sub-geographic area operating plans. Other cooperative agreements exist between fire management agencies that authorize fire management services between agencies at the sub-geographic level. The objective of the Cost Share Agreement is to establish and document the cost sharing and basic organizational structure in response to specific fires.

Cost Share Agreements will be negotiated between agencies involved in specific on-the-ground fire suppression activities. These agreements are mandatory when more than one jurisdictional responsibility for fire protection is affected by the placement of the fire. The Agreement will not affix liability for fire cost payment by either Agency based upon responsibility for the fire origin. The designated representatives of each Agency with protection responsibility are responsible for completing and signing the Agreement.

1. List the fire name agreed upon by Parties involved.
2. Give the origin or best estimate of origin location by legal description.
3. Estimate the size at the time of the Supplemental Agreement.
4. List the Parties involved in fire suppression operations and respective agency fire numbers.
5. List the date and time that the Agreement is in effect. That time could be prior to or following the time that negotiations are made for the Agreement.
6. Check the appropriate command structure for the fire.

DEFINITIONS:

UNIFIED COMMAND – A method for all Agencies with jurisdictional responsibility to contribute to determining the overall objectives for the incident; interagency ICS team structure.

SINGLE COMMAND STRUCTURE – One Agency manages the incident with liaison and concurrence of objectives from other involved Agencies.

List the appropriate personnel filling ICS positions on the fire.

1. List any special conditions or resource objectives, e.g., dozer restrictions, mechanized restrictions, bald eagle nest, high value plantation. Operational responsibility for the fire will be defined in this section (if appropriate). Respond to this item only if Agency forces have specific segments of the fire. This information will not determine cost responsibility, unless specified in Item 11. Examples are: Divisions A and B; all structural protection areas; specific campground.

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2. List the Agency having legal responsibility for structural protection, and any pertinent control information or contacts.
3. List operation conditions or directions pertaining specifically to: air operations, base camp and food service, and fire investigation. Costs pertaining to these decisions shall be documented in Item #10.
4. Fire suppression costs shall be determined from the information supplied in this item. There are several ways to determine the best cost share mix. A, B, and C are typically used on smaller, less complex incidents on lands with similar values and uses; D and E on larger, more complex incidents, such as those with both WUI and wildlands:

Each Agency pays for its own resources – fire suppression efforts are primarily on jurisdictional responsibility lands.

- A. Each Agency pays for its own resources – services rendered approximate the percentage of jurisdictional responsibility, but not necessarily performed on those lands.
- B. Cost share by percentage of ownership or Agency jurisdictional responsibility.
- C. Cost is apportioned by geographic division or by 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 campgrounds.
- D. 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.

The following are not reimbursable:

- Responsibility for tort claims or compensation for injury costs.
 - Non-suppression rehabilitation costs are the responsibility of the Jurisdictional Agency.
 - Non-expendable property purchases will be the responsibility of the Agency making the purchase.
 - Support costs (i.e., office dispatchers, warehouse workers, etc.), unless they are charging to an emergency code assigned to the incident.
 - The cost centers that should be considered in this Agreement:
 - Fireline Resources: Dozers, engines, fallers, transports, water tenders, hand crews, line overhead.
 - Fire Camp Operations and Support: Overhead, buses, camp crews, communications, food, refrigerator units, showers, toilets, water trucks, cache supplies, rescue/med, camp facility.
 - Air Support: Helicopters, (with support) air tankers.
 - Cost apportionment by period (i.e., state mobilization or conflagration, Fire Management Assistance Grant declaration, additional jurisdictional involvement).
5. List any specific conditions relative to this Agreement, such as: dispatch procedures, one Agency representing another, notifications, incident information, coordinated intelligence, etc.
 6. Signatures of authorized personnel. List any attachments to the Agreement. Give the date of the last revision or former Supplemental Agreement for the same fire.

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Exhibit F. Cost Share Agreement

The purpose of this Agreement is to provide for a coordinated cooperative fire suppression operation on this fire and to describe the cost divisions. This Agreement is a supplement to the Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement executed between the Agencies listed, on (date).

1. Fire Name: _____ Origin Date: _____ Time: _____
2. Origin: Township _____ Range _____ Section _____
3. Estimated Size _____ Acres at the time of this Agreement _____
4. Agency _____ Fire # _____ Accounting Code _____
Agency _____ Fire # _____ Accounting Code _____
Agency _____ Fire # _____ Accounting Code _____
Agency _____ Fire # _____ Accounting Code _____
5. This Agreement becomes effective on: _____ at _____ and remains in effect until amended or terminated.
6. Overall direction of this incident will be by () Unified Command, or by () Single Command structure. Identify below personnel filling the following positions:

Position	Name(s)	Agency
Incident Commander	_____	_____
Agency Administrator Representative	_____	_____
Liaison	_____	_____
Finance	_____	_____
Operations	_____	_____

7. Suppression action will be subject to the following special conditions and land management considerations:

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8. Geographic responsibility (if appropriate) by Agency is defined as follows:

Agency _____ Geographic Responsibility _____

Agency _____ Geographic Responsibility _____

Agency _____ Geographic Responsibility _____

Agency _____ Geographic Responsibility _____

9. The Agency responsible for structural protection will be _____

10. Special operational conditions agreed to (include as appropriate air operations, base camp, food service, fire investigation, security, etc.) List cost share information in Item #11:

11. Fire Suppression COSTS will be divided between Agencies as described:

Cost Centers:	Agency:	Agency:	Agency:

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7. 12. Other conditions relative to this Agreement (notifications, incident information, etc):

13.

<hr/> Agency	<hr/> Agency	<hr/> Agency	<hr/> Agency
<hr/> Signature	<hr/> Signature	<hr/> Signature	<hr/> Signature
<hr/> Title/Date	<hr/> Title/Date	<hr/> Title/Date	<hr/> Title/Date

List of Attachments (if any) _____/_____/_____

Exhibit G. Supplemental Fire Department Resources Template

These provisions apply only to Supplemental Fire Department Resources, and not to regular fire department personnel. Supplemental Fire Department Resources are defined as overhead tied to a local fire department generally by agreement who are mobilized primarily for response to incidents/wildland fires outside of the district or mutual aid zone. They are not a permanent part of the local fire organization and are not required to attend scheduled training, meetings, etc. of the department staff.

When mobilizing Supplemental Fire Department Resources outside of the fire district or mutual aid zone the following will apply.

Mobilization

Mobilization will follow established ordering procedures as identified in the National, Geographic, and Local Mobilization Guides. Resources will be mobilized from the Host Dispatch Zone in which the department is located. Personnel will be provided a copy of the resource order request after confirmation of availability and prior to departure from their home jurisdiction. Resource orders shall clearly indicate incident assignment, incident location, expected incident arrival time, and any additional special needs or equipment authorizations, e.g., cell phones, laptops, rental vehicles, etc.

Reimbursable Costs

Reimbursable costs for personnel include compensation rates for hours worked, benefits, transportation, and per diem. It is the intent of this provision that the Supplemental Fire Department Resource be paid a regular compensation rate for all hours worked plus an overtime compensation rate for actual overtime hours worked, including travel. Reimbursable costs shall not include portal to portal pay or the portion of benefits personally paid by the employee. Travel and per diem reimbursements will be based on the Federal Travel Regulations.

Any costs for backfill personnel are not reimbursable for personnel hired as Supplemental Fire Department Resources.

An indirect cost allowance up to ten percent of the direct salary and wage cost of providing the service (excluding overtime, shift premiums, and fringe benefits) is allowed.

Personnel

All personnel will possess an active Incident Qualification System (IQS) or equivalent incident qualification documentation commensurate with all applicable NWCG 310-1 standards for training and qualifications. Personnel will be qualified for their assigned positions. XXFD is responsible for annually certifying and maintaining the qualifications of their Supplemental Fire Department Resources. XXFD will bear the cost of training for their Supplemental Fire Department Resources.

Any personnel to be mobilized under this Exhibit will be listed in the Operating Plan by name, position(s), and identified as SR. While on assignment, these individuals are XXFD employees and the XXFD will be reimbursed for their actual costs.

Rate Determination

The basis for the computation of base hourly rate is the classification level of the position filled according to the attached matrix. Base hourly rate shall be no more than step 5 of the appropriate GS wage adjusted for locality pay at the location of the fire district. These rates can be found on the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) website <https://www.opm.gov>, Salaries and Wages. Personnel are hired at the rate of the position being filled, not their highest qualification.

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The hourly compensation rates identified in the Operating Plan are computed as follows:

- 1) Regular Compensation Rate: The rates listed include base hourly rate determined above plus employee benefits. Employee benefits include those costs actually incurred by the XXFD for the employment of these individuals, such as employer liability, workers compensation, employer share of social security, etc.
- 2) Overtime Compensation Rate: 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.
- 3) Hazard Pay Rate – Hazard pay differential may be paid to those employees performing work that meets the definition of hazardous duty as defined in the IIBMH. Compensation rates are paid at 25 percent of the base rate when performing duties that meet the definition of hazardous duties. All hazard pay differential is based on a 24-hour day from 0001-2400 and shall be paid for all hours in pay status during the calendar day in which the hazardous duty is performed.

Days off at Incident

Days off at the incident will be paid for 8 hours. Work/rest guidelines will be followed, and mandatory days off will follow current guidelines (IIBMH) Once travel to the home unit commences, days off will not be paid.

Transportation and Per Diem

Per Diem reimbursements will be based on the Federal Travel Regulations. The payment rate for POVs and rental vehicles used to support Supplemental Fire Department Resources shall be at the current Federal Travel Regulation rate.

Signature and Date

(Agency Administrator)

(Federal Agency)

Signature and Date

(Fire Chief)

(Local Fire Protection District Or appropriate Official at State Level)

Attachment to Exhibit G. Supplemental Fire Department Resource – Classification Matrix

OPM GENERAL SCHEDULE	AREA COMMAND	COMMAND	OPERATIO NS	AIR OPS	PLANS	LOGISTICS	FINANCE	SUPPORT
GS-2						RADO		
GS-3			FFT2	ABRO	DPRO	SECG		EDRC
GS-4			FALA	HECM		EQPI		
			FFT1					
GS-5		ICT5	ENOP		SCKN	BCMG	CLMS	
						EQPM	EQTR	
						INCM	INJR	
						ORDM	PTRC	
						RCDM		
						SECM		
GS-6		ICT4	CRWB	AOBS	DOCL	COMT		EDSD
			DOZB	DECK	FOBS			
			ENGB	HELB	TNSP			

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OPM GENERAL SCHEDULE	AREA COMMAND	COMMAND	OPERATIO NS	AIR OPS	PLANS	LOGISTICS	FINANCE	SUPPORT
GS-6 (continued)			FALB	RAMP				
			FELB					
			STAM					
			TRPB					
			WHSP					
GS-7		IOF3		HELM	GISS	EMTB		
				SEMG		EMTI		
GS-8		SOF3	DOZ1	ATBM	DMOB	COML	COMP	EDSP
			TFLD	HEB2	HRSP	FACL	COST	IADP
			STCR		RESL	FDUL	TIME	
			STDZ		SITL	GSUL		
			STEN			MEDL		
			STLM			SPUL		
			STPL			CTSP		
GS-9			FALC	HLCO			PROC	
				HEB1				

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OPM GENERAL SCHEDULE	AREA COMMAND	COMMAND	OPERATIO NS	AIR OPS	PLANS	LOGISTICS	FINANCE	SUPPORT
GS-9				SECO				
GS-10		ICT3	DIVS	ASGS	FBAN	EMTP		CORD
			STPS	ATGS	LTAN			INTL
								PETM
GS-11		ICT2	OPBD	AOBD	PSC2	LSC2	FSC2	ARCH
		THSP – Deputy ICT2	OSC2			SVBD		IBA2
		PIO2				SUBD		MCCO
		LOFR						PETL
		SOF2						
GS-12	ACAC	PIO1	OSC1		PSC1	LSC1	FSC1	IBA1
	ACPC	SOF1						
	ACLC							
GS-13	ACDR	ICT1						
		THSP – Deputy ICT1						

Exhibit H. Use and Reimbursement for Shared Resources in Stafford Act Response Actions

1. Stafford Act Declarations: Transfers performed for this Agreement are under the Disaster Relief Act, 42 U.S.C. § 5147. This Agreement is automatically incorporated by reference into any Resource Order that is issued under it, constituting a binding obligation. The billings, inclusive of copies of this Agreement, the Mission Assignment and subsequent Resource Order(s), and expenditure documentation, will define the specific services, supplied goods and costs (by sub-object class code) for each order, and subsequent obligation and payment.

Reimbursement payments for Stafford Act Response activities will be accomplished by submission of billings to the ESF primary agency (i.e., the agency which issued the Mission Assignment or sub-tasking). The ESF primary agency will review, approve the documentation, and return to the sub-tasked agency with referencing documentation to process the billing. Each sub-tasked agency is responsible for submitting its own billing documentation to the ESF primary agency for reimbursement.

2. Federal Reimbursable Assistance: Federal Reimbursable Assistance resources must be requested by the ESF primary agency or supplied through established dispatch systems and must be recorded by the Mission Assignment and subsequent Resource Order process. Resources not documented in this manner are not reimbursable. Funds to cover eligible expenses will be provided through and limited by the amount of reimbursement approved and provided from FEMA. Expenditures eligible for reimbursement for Federal Agencies in accordance with 44 CFR 206, subpart A, section 206.8 paragraph c include:

- A. Overtime, travel and per diem of permanent Federal Agency personnel.
- B. Wages, travel and per diem of temporary Federal Agency personnel assigned solely to performance of services directed by the (FEMA) Associate Administrator or the (FEMA) Regional Administrator in the emergency or major disaster.
- C. Cost of work, services, and materials procured under contract for the purposes of providing assistance directed by the (FEMA) Associate Administrator or the Regional Administrator.
- D. Cost of materials, equipment, and supplies (including transportation, repair and maintenance) from regular stocks used in providing directed assistance.
- E. All costs incurred which are paid from trust, revolving, or other funds and whose reimbursement is required by law.
- F. Other costs submitted by an agency with written justification or otherwise agreed to in writing by the (FEMA) Associate Administrator or the (FEMA) Regional Administrator and the agency.

3. State/Tribe Reimbursement Process: State/Tribe Reimbursement refers to those resources that are to be reimbursed by the ESF primary agency. State/Tribe Reimbursement resources must be requested by the ESF primary agency or supplied through established dispatch systems and must be recorded by the Mission Assignment and subsequent Resource Order process. Resources not documented in this manner are not reimbursable. Funds to cover eligible expenses will be provided through and limited by reimbursement from FEMA. Expenditures eligible for reimbursement include:

- A. Wages, overtime, travel and per diem of State/Tribal personnel.

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- B. Wages, travel and per diem of temporary State/Tribal personnel assigned solely to performance of services directed by the (FEMA) Associate Administrator or the (FEMA) Regional Administrator in the major disaster.
- C. Cost of work, services, and materials procured under contract for the purposes of providing assistance directed by the (FEMA) Associate Administrator or the Regional Administrator.
- D. Cost of materials, equipment, and supplies (including transportation, repair and maintenance) from regular stocks used in providing directed assistance.
- E. All costs incurred which are paid from trust, revolving, or other funds and whose reimbursement is required by law.
- F. Other costs submitted by an agency with written justification or otherwise agreed to in writing by the (FEMA) Associate Administrator or the (FEMA) Regional Administrator and the agency.

Note: In order to meet FEMA's policies regarding mission assignments and timely billing, all State and local resources dispatched to a FEMA incident under a valid cooperative/interagency agreement with a state, local agency or a tribe must submit invoices for reimbursement to the appropriate Federal Agency no later than 90 days after demobilization of the incident. Any invoices not submitted within this timeframe are subject to non-payment. Extensions beyond 90 days for invoice submittal must be presented in writing to the reimbursing agency. Operating Plans will include contact information for written requests for extensions. Absent a written extension of time granted by the reimbursing agency, the final itemized bill must be submitted to the reimbursing agency within 90 days of the demobilization of the incident.

4. Duration of Assignments: Consideration must be given to the health and safety of personnel when assigned to incidents. Parties agree that Incident Commanders will release resources to their primary responsibilities as soon as priorities allow. Incident Commanders shall also adhere to rest and rotation policies of respective responding agencies. Mobilization activities shall be accomplished utilizing established dispatch coordination concepts per the current National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

5. Procurement: The State derives its procurement authority from its inherent powers and its own laws and is therefore not subject to federal procurement laws. Whenever the (State/Tribe) is responsible for the management of an incident (including an incident within the Direct Protection Area of a Federal Agency), the State will comply with State laws and regulations covering procurement. Procurement costs by one Party in support of another that are reasonable and prudent may be charged back to the Protecting Agency. All property procured under a Mission Assignment becomes the property of FEMA.

6. Loaned Equipment: Equipment loaned by one Party to another shall become the responsibility of the borrower and shall be returned in the same condition as when received, reasonable wear and tear excepted. The borrower will repair or reimburse for damages in excess of normal wear and tear and will replace or reimburse items lost or destroyed.

7. Billing Procedures

A. Incident Billings:

When State is the Supporting Agency operating under a Mission Assignment or sub-tasking from the ESF Primary Agency and the incident is within the State lands, the State will bill the

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ESF Primary Agency. When the State is the Supporting Agency and the incident is outside the State's jurisdiction, the State will bill the ESF Primary Agency.

- B. Agencies will share their respective individual incident Resource Order numbers for cross referencing purposes, if requested.
- C. Billing Estimates/Timeframes: On incidents where costs are incurred pursuant to Operating Plans, the billing Party shall submit a bill or estimate for reimbursement as soon as possible, but not later than 90 days after the incident is controlled.
- D. Extensions beyond 90 days for invoice submittal must be presented in writing to the reimbursing agency.
- E. Operating Plans will include contact information for written requests for extensions. Absent a written extension of time granted by the reimbursing agency, the final itemized bill must be submitted to the reimbursing agency within 90 days of the Stafford Act Response. For obligation purposes, the Federal Agencies will submit unpaid obligational figures to the State by June 30th. The State will submit unpaid obligational figures to the appropriate Federal Agency by September 1 for the previous federal fiscal year. All obligations will be submitted by incident name, date, Mission Assignment number (MA), and federal job code.
- F. Billing Content: Bills will be identified by incident name, date, MA, location, jurisdictional unit, and supported by documentation to include but not limited to separate invoice by MA; list of personnel expenses including base, overtime, and travel; and supplies/services procured by vendor name and dollar amount. Billings for State incident assistance may include administrative overhead, not to exceed the applicable (*State/Tribe*) indirect cost rate.

8. Billing Addresses:

All bills for services provided to the State will be mailed to the following address for payment:

Georgia Forestry Commission
Administrative Department
PO Box 819
Macon, GA 31201

All bills for services provided to the Forest Service and all Federal and State units who are not Parties to this Agreement will be mailed to the following address:

USDA Forest Service
ATTN. Fire Management Officer
1755 Cleveland Hwy
Gainesville, GA 30501

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All bills for services provided to the Department of the Interior/BLM will be mailed to:

Bureau of Land Management
Attn. ES Fire Business
273 Market Street
Flowood, MS 39232

All bills for services provided to the Department of the Interior/NPS will be mailed to:

National Park Service
Accounting Operations Center
Attn: IPAC Section
PO Box 100000
Herndon, VA 20170

All bills for services provided to the Department of the Interior/BIA will be mailed to:

USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs
National Interagency Fire Center
Attn. Robin White
3833 South Development Ave.
Boise, ID 83705

All bills for services provided to the Department of the Interior/Fish and Wildlife Service will be mailed to:

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Chief, Division of Fire Management
1875 Century Blvd
Atlanta, GA 30345

9. Payment Due Dates: All bills will have a payment due date 60 days after the date of issuance. If payment cannot be made before the 60 days expire, then a 30-day extension, with oral or written justification, may be requested.

10. Disputed Billings: Written notice that a bill is contested will be mailed to the billing agency within 60 days of issuance of the final bill and will fully explain the area of dispute. Contested items will be resolved not later than 60 days following receipt of written notice. The uncontested portion of the bill will be paid, and a new bill will be issued for the contested amount.

11. Payments: Payments will refer to the bill number and incident name and will be sent to the appropriate billing address.

Exhibit I. Supplemental Fire Project Agreement

Federal Agency Project Agreement No. (a)

Cooperator Project Agreement No. (b)

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRE PROJECT AGREEMENT

Between

(c)

And

(d)

This Supplemental Fire Project Agreement (Agreement) is hereby made and entered into by and between (e) , hereinafter referred to as “the Cooperator,” and (f) , hereinafter referred to as the Federal Agency under the Reciprocal Fire Protection Act of May 27, 1955, (69 Stat. 66; 42 U.S.C. 1856a) and under the provisions of the Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement No. (g) , executed between the Parties.

Project Title: (h)

I. BACKGROUND

As referenced above, the Parties (directly or through their respective agencies) entered into a Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (Master Agreement). The Master Agreement allows for the Parties to cooperatively conduct projects or share resources for fire protection and prevention, which includes such activities as prescribed fire/fuels management, preparedness, fire analysis/planning, rehabilitation, training, public affairs, and other beneficial efforts in support of interagency fire management.

II. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Agreement is to document the Parties’ contributions and cooperation regarding (i) . This project is further described in the hereby incorporated Financial and Project Plan, attached as Exhibit (j) .

III. THE COOPERATOR SHALL:

- A. Perform in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and with the Financial and Project Plan, Exhibit (j) .
- B. Bill the Federal Agency for actual costs incurred, not to exceed (k)\$, as agreed to in the attached Financial Plan.

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- C. Upon presentation of a Bill for Collection, reimburse the Federal Agency for actual costs incurred, not to exceed (l)\$, as agreed to in the attached Financial Plan.

10.

IV. THE FEDERAL AGENCY SHALL:

- A. Perform in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and with the attached Financial and Project Plan, Exhibit (j) .
- B. PAYMENT/REIMBURSEMENT. The Federal Agency shall reimburse the Cooperator for the Federal Agency's share of actual expenses incurred, not to exceed (k)\$, as shown in the attached Financial Plan. The Federal Agency shall make payment upon receipt of the Cooperator's (m) invoice. Each invoice from the Cooperator must display the total project costs for the billing period.

Each invoice must include, at a minimum:

1. Cooperator's name, address, and telephone number
2. Federal Agency project Agreement number
3. Invoice date
4. Performance dates of the work completed (start and end)
5. Total invoice amount for the billing period

The invoice must be forwarded to: (n)

Send a copy to: (o)

6. REIMBURSABLE BILLING. The Federal Agency shall bill the Cooperator (m) for funds sufficient to cover the costs for the specific payment period, not to exceed (l)\$ as shown in the attached Financial Plan. All reimbursement billings must be completed within the same fiscal year as Federal Agency expenditures. Overhead is assessed at the rate of (p) percent.

Billings must be sent to: (q)

The Federal Agency is required to issue bills for expenditures incurred under reimbursable agreements at the end of or prior to the end of each federal fiscal year. Therefore, an out-of-cycle bill may be received by the Cooperator.

If payment is not received to the satisfaction of the Federal Agency by the date specified on the bill, the Federal Agency shall exercise its rights regarding the collection of debts owed to the United States.

7. (r) SPECIAL BILLING REQUIREMENTS – FINANCIAL DOCUMENTATION. Reimbursable billings shall be issued at the prescribed frequency based on expenditures recorded in the U.S.

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Forest Service accounting system for work performed. Bills for Collection reflect an aggregate amount for the billing period. U.S. Forest Service Transaction Register listing itemized expenses will be provided upon request at the end of a project or annually for long-term agreements. Provision of the Transaction Register or other supporting documentation accompanying individual bills will be limited to agreements over \$2,500, and only when cooperator requirements are clearly defined within this clause.

The special billing requirements are: (s)

8. (t)**SPECIAL BILLING REQUIREMENTS – PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION.** The U.S. Forest Service Program Manager shall provide the Cooperator with a written report that meets the Cooperator's specific documentation requirements.

V. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:

9. (u)**PRINCIPAL CONTACTS.** Individuals listed below are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this Agreement.

(v)Principal Cooperator Contacts:

Cooperator Program Contact	Cooperator Administrative Contact
Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: FAX: Email:	Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: FAX: Email:

(w)Principal Federal Agency Contacts:

Federal Agency Program Manager Contact	Federal Agency Administrative Contact
Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: FAX: Email:	Name: Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: FAX: Email:

10. **LIABILITY.** As set forth under the provisions of the Master Agreement.

11. (x)Mutually agree to the Burn Plan as incorporated in this Agreement, and to any agreed upon revision thereof. If the revision to the Burn Plan does not materially affect the purpose and/or terms of the Agreement, but rather only revises the implementation of the project, then a modification to this Agreement is not necessary. The most recent revision of the Burn Plan will automatically be incorporated into this Agreement and a copy will be provided to the Principal

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Contacts listed above.

12. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this Agreement and the Master Agreement, the Master Agreement shall take precedence.
13. (y) PURCHASE OF ASSETS. Any assets (such as equipment, property, or improvements) purchased by the Federal Agency with the Cooperator's contributions shall become the property of the Federal Agency, unless otherwise documented via separate authority and instrument.
14. (z) PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS. Improvements placed on federal land at the direction, or with the approval of, the Federal Agency becomes property of the United States. These improvements are subject to the same regulations and administration of the Federal Agency as would other agency improvements. No part of this Agreement entitles the Cooperator to any interest in the improvements, other than the right to use them under applicable Federal Agency Regulations.
15. PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES. This Agreement in no way restricts the Parties from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
16. ENDORSEMENT. Either Party's contributions made under this Agreement do not by direct reference or implication convey endorsement of each other's products or activities.
17. ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION. In the event of any issue of controversy under this Agreement, the Parties may pursue Alternate Dispute Resolution procedures to voluntarily resolve those issues. These procedures may include, but are not limited to, conciliation, facilitation, mediation, and fact finding.
18. MODIFICATION. Modifications within the scope of this Agreement must be made by mutual consent of the Parties, by the issuance of a written modification signed and dated by all properly authorized, signatory officials, prior to any changes being performed. Requests for modification should be made, in writing, at least (aa) days prior to implementation of the requested change. Neither Party is obligated to fund any changes not properly approved in advance.
19. TERMINATION. Either Party, in writing, may terminate this Agreement in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of expiration. Neither Party shall incur any new obligations for the terminated portion of this Agreement after the effective date and shall cancel as many obligations as possible. Full credit shall be allowed for each Party's expenses and all non-cancelable obligations properly incurred up to the effective date of termination.
20. COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION DATE. This Agreement is executed as of the date of last signature and is effective through (bb) at which time it will expire unless extended.

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If the referenced Master Agreement is superseded by a new Master Agreement, this project agreement may remain in effect to the extent that it does not conflict with the provisions of the new Master Agreement, but only until such time that the project can be completed or modified to be incorporated within the terms of the new Master Agreement.

21. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES. By signature below, the Parties certify that the individuals listed in this document as representatives of each Party are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this Agreement.

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(cc)

(dd) _____, (ee) _____ Date _____
(ff)

(gg)

(hh) _____, (ii) _____ Date _____
(jj)

(kk)The authority and format of this Agreement have been reviewed and approved for signature.

(ll)

(mm) _____ Date _____
U.S. Forest Service Grants & Agreements
Specialist

**MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT
GEORGIA MASTER USFS AGREEMENT #23-FI-11080300-008**

INSTRUCTIONS for Supplemental Project Agreement

All provisions in this instrument are mandatory, unless otherwise excepted. This project agreement may only be used between a Federal Agency and a cooperating state, local, tribal gov't (or subdivision thereof) under a Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement.

(Master Agreement)= Referring to approved (2007 or newer) national agreement template used by/between federal wildland fire agencies and State/Tribal gov't.

(a) Federal Agency Project Agreement No. For example, Forest Service uses the following format: FY-FP-11RRUUS-XXX.

(b) Cooperator Project Agreement No. Insert Cooperator project agreement number, if applicable.

(c) Insert name of Cooperator (state, local, tribal, or subdivision thereof).

(d) Insert name of Federal Agency, including applicable Region, Office, or Unit.

(e) Insert Cooperator name as cited above.

(f) Insert Federal Agency name as cited above.

(g) Insert corresponding Federal Agency Agreement # as identified on the Master Coop Agreement.

(h) Insert project title.

(i) Enter brief project description.

(j) Insert alpha or numeric reference to the Exhibit added that provides a Financial and Project Plan. Note: The Project Plan may include tasks/projects defined in the Operating Plan (as referenced in the Background section), or it may be a Burn Plan, if applicable.

(k) Insert amount. If the Federal Agency is not obligating funds for reimbursement to the Cooperator, then delete this provision.

(l) Insert amount. If the Federal Agency is not collecting funds from the Cooperator, then delete this provision.

(m) Select and insert the appropriate billing cycle: monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual. Note: quarterly dates (December 31, March 31, June 30, and September 30), semi-annually (March 31, and September 30) or annually (September 30 or earlier).

(n) Insert Federal Agency name as cited above and billing address. (For Forest Service, use Albuquerque Service Center, Payments – Grants & Agreements, 101B Sun Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109, FAX: 877-687-4894)

(o) Insert other contact name and address, if applicable, otherwise delete.

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(p) Insert the Federal Agency burden/overhead rate. Enter 'shall not be assessed' if burden is not applicable.

(q) Enter Cooperator's name, name of point of contact, and mailing address to which billing documents should be sent.

(r) If the Federal Agency is not the Forest Service or if the Forest Service is not collecting funds, delete this provision.

Optional, if the Cooperator requires financial documentation with each bill. This provision alerts ASC-RACA that the Forest Service shall provide transaction registers with any billing to the Cooperator under this Agreement.

Also, Choose one of the following: with each bill, upon project completion, or annually

(s) Insert special billing requirements here, such as whether the billing requirements are either with each bill, upon project completion, or annually.

(t) If the Federal Agency is not the Forest Service or if the Forest Service is not collecting funds, delete this provision.

Optional provision if the Cooperator requires an accomplishment or program report with each BFC. This provision alerts ASC-RACA that the Forest Service must coordinate BFCs with the PM for submission to the Cooperator.

(u) May be changed to accommodate additional contacts.

(v) Insert ALL of the requested information below. If information is unavailable, then make a good-faith effort to obtain.

(w) Insert ALL of the requested information below. If information is unavailable, then make a good-faith effort to obtain.

(x) If a Burn Plan is not attached, remove this provision.

(y) If the Federal Agency is not collecting funds from Cooperator, delete this provision.

(z) Mandatory provision IF property improvements result from a project on federal lands.

Do not use this provision if improvements are owned by the Cooperator and covered under another instrument such as a Special Use Permit or license.

(aa) Insert a notification period that is no less than 30 days.

(bb) Insert the expiration date not greater than the expiration date of the Master Agreement.

(cc) Insert date of signature.

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(dd) Insert name of signatory official for Cooperator.

(ee) Insert Cooperator signatory official's positional title.

(ff) Insert Cooperator's organizational name.

(gg) Insert date of signature.

(hh) Insert name of Federal Agency Signatory Official.

(ii) Insert Federal Agency signatory official's positional title.

(jj) Insert Federal Agency Region, Office, or Unit.

(kk) If the Federal Agency is not the Forest Service, this signature block may be deleted.

(ll) Insert date of signature.

(mm) Insert G&A Specialist's name.

Exhibit J. Fire Suppression Planning and Operations Guide

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail / Unicoi Turnpike Corridor *(September 21, 2016)*

Scope: The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail (NHT)/Unicoi Turnpike Corridor (TOT/UT) is currently known to cross the landholdings of five National Forests within the Southern Region: Ozark NF, Cherokee NF, Nantahala NF, Pisgah NF, and the Chattahoochee NF. Recent events require a regional approach to wildland fire management within the TOT/UT to ensure consistent tactics are applied on wildfires occurring within the 1500' corridor of the TOT/UT.

Planning:

Proactively developing a cohesive TOT/UT strategy with State, County, and local Fire Department personnel is crucial to the success of the protection and preservation of the TOT/UT. Items listed below should serve as the foundation for collaborative discussions. This document is designed to serve as guidance to suppression response on National Forest lands.

- Raising awareness and educating the wildland fire community:
 - TOT/UT objectives as well as associated management requirements will be communicated using existing processes, and include:
 - Utilize the Fire Management Reference system (FMRS) and Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) to highlight the location of the TOT/UT and associated management requirements fire response personnel must utilize. These will be used by agency personnel and local cooperators (responding to fires on NFS lands) as well as part of a briefing packet for out-of-area resources. These must be updated as additional TOT/UT trail segments are identified and ground verified. It is possible that further research may identify additional portions of the Sumter NF, St. Francis NF, and LBL to the TOT/UT.
 - Fire managers will review guidelines annually.
- The defining of TOT/UT objectives and management requirements as part of the pre-planned response will entail two separate, but related, fire planning guides:
 - WFDSS
 - Management requirements, outlined as TOT/UT tactics, will be spatially identified in WFDSS as 'Management Requirements'. These management requirements are pre-loaded into WFDSS and incorporated into every affected WFDSS decision. This spatial layer may also be utilized in a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) tool.
 - This will inform fire managers and Line Officers of the fire's location in the TOT/UT and is a vital planning tool.
 - Management requirements will identify legal requirements, objectives, and suppression tactics.
 - The Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP)
 - Each State/Forest unit has or will have an FDOP. Within this plan there are specific guidelines and response protocol that alert dispatch, and ultimately suppression responders, of the wildfires' proximity to pre-identified values.

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The TOT/UT would be a pre-identified value and any 'Management Requirement' would then communicated.

- These outputs and decisions derived from the FDOP may also be loaded into a CAD tool.

Operations:

Agency prioritizes safety, risk informed decision making and learning. Operations will embrace the concept of "Stop, Think, Discuss and Act".

STOP:

Determine the location of the fire and whether TOT/UT protocols should be implemented.

THINK:

Think safety first when planning and coordinating a response with firefighters, cooperators, dispatch and line officer(s).

Think cultural sites: get permission for all activities from appropriate line officer.

Think MIST: Minimize disturbance to vegetation and soils when accessing and suppressing fires in the TOT/UT. Use existing and natural lines, no ground disturbance on the trail bed.

The Incident Commander (IC) must adhere to:

1. Suppression/Communication Guidelines within the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail / Unicoi Turnpike Corridor (Described below).
2. Legal Requirements of the National Historic Protection Act, American Indian Religious Freedom Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Executive Order 13007 – American Indian Sacred Sites.

DISCUSS:

Communication Guidelines:

1. Within 24 hours the Forest Supervisor will notify the Regional TOT Team of any wildfire activity within the TOT / UT 1500' wide corridors.
2. The archeologist assigned to the fire, or the Tribal Liaison will provide the Forest Supervisor the information necessary for informing the Regional TOT Team.
3. The Regional TOT Team will contact the appropriate consulting Tribes and the NPS.

Objectives:

1. Firefighter and public safety will remain the first priority.
2. Protecting the integrity of the trail bed of the Trail of Tears and Unicoi Turnpike.
3. Protect all entrenched sections, all associated archeological / cultural resource sites, and all interpretive signage.

ACT:

Suppression Guidelines:

1. No dozer disturbance should occur within the TOT / UT 1500' wide corridor, 750' either side of the trail bed, nor around any TOT / UT associated cultural resource sites without archaeological survey clearance.
2. No dozer or other ground disturbance may occur on or across the TOT / UT trail bed.

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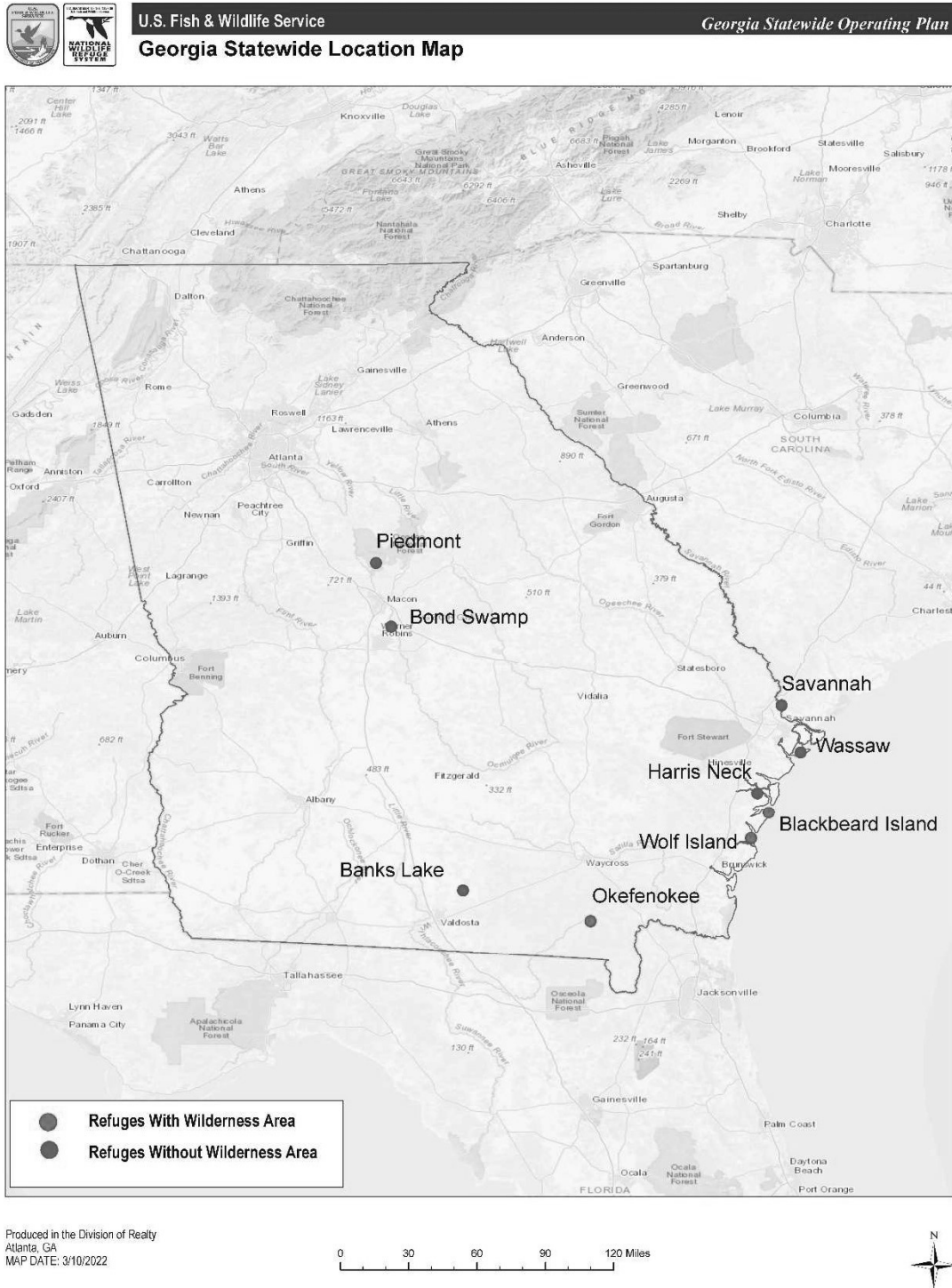
3. Minimum impact suppression tactics, to include existing barriers, handlines, hose-lays, wet/foam lines, aerial water/fugitive retardant drops, and firing will serve as the preferred method of control lines within the 1500' wide corridor.
4. No new parking areas or drop points may be constructed within the 1500' TOT / UT corridor. Existing areas and points may not be enlarged and should only be hand cleared. Construction of Safety zone locations within 1500' wide TOT / UT corridor must be coordinated with an archaeologist on the ground.

Maps for the Trail of Tears Historic Trail and Unicoi Turnpike Corridor:



<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B6GqO1Vg-MwsdkFuNUhVNlg0X0U>

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Exhibit K. US Fish & Wildlife Maps (Within the State of Georgia)



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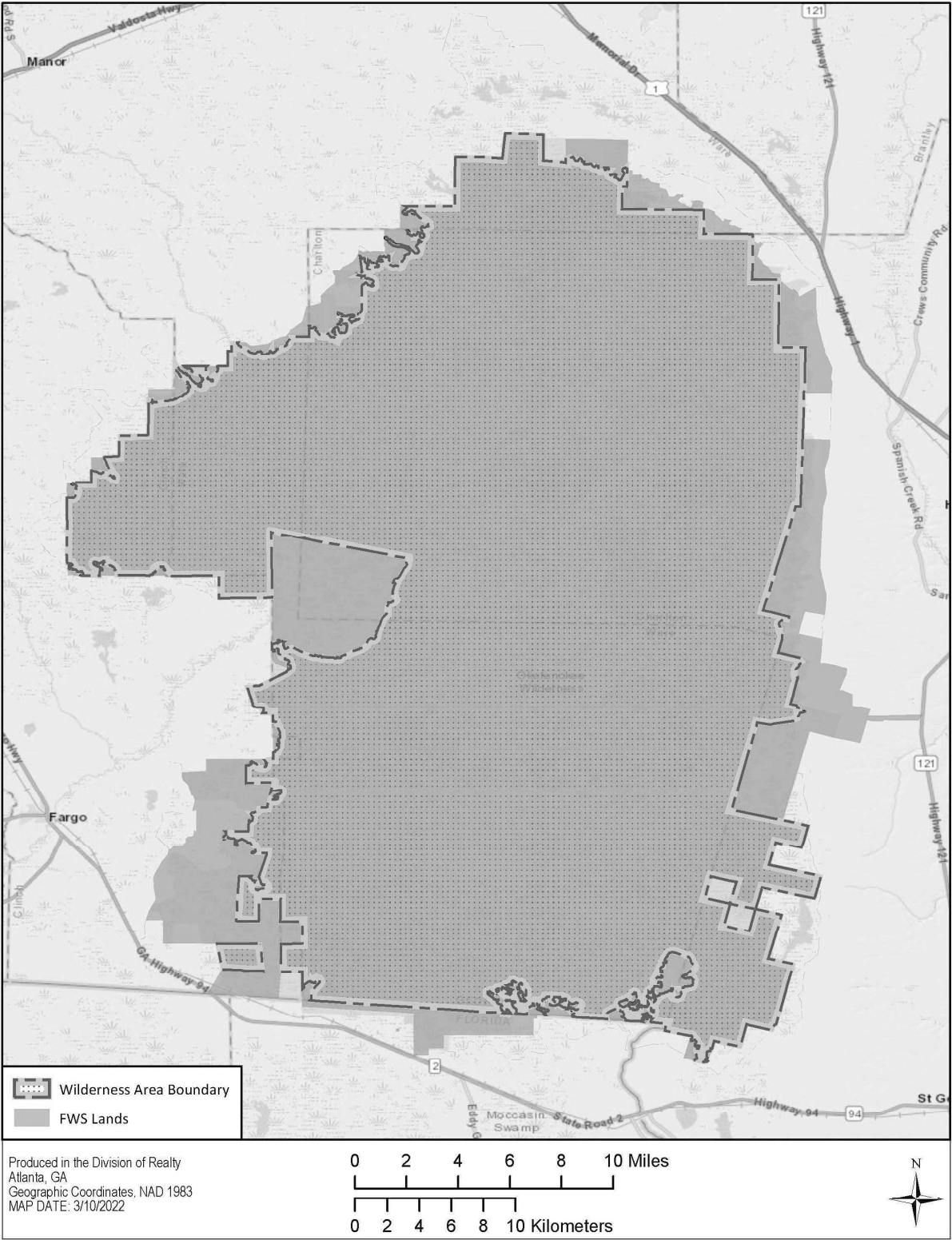


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

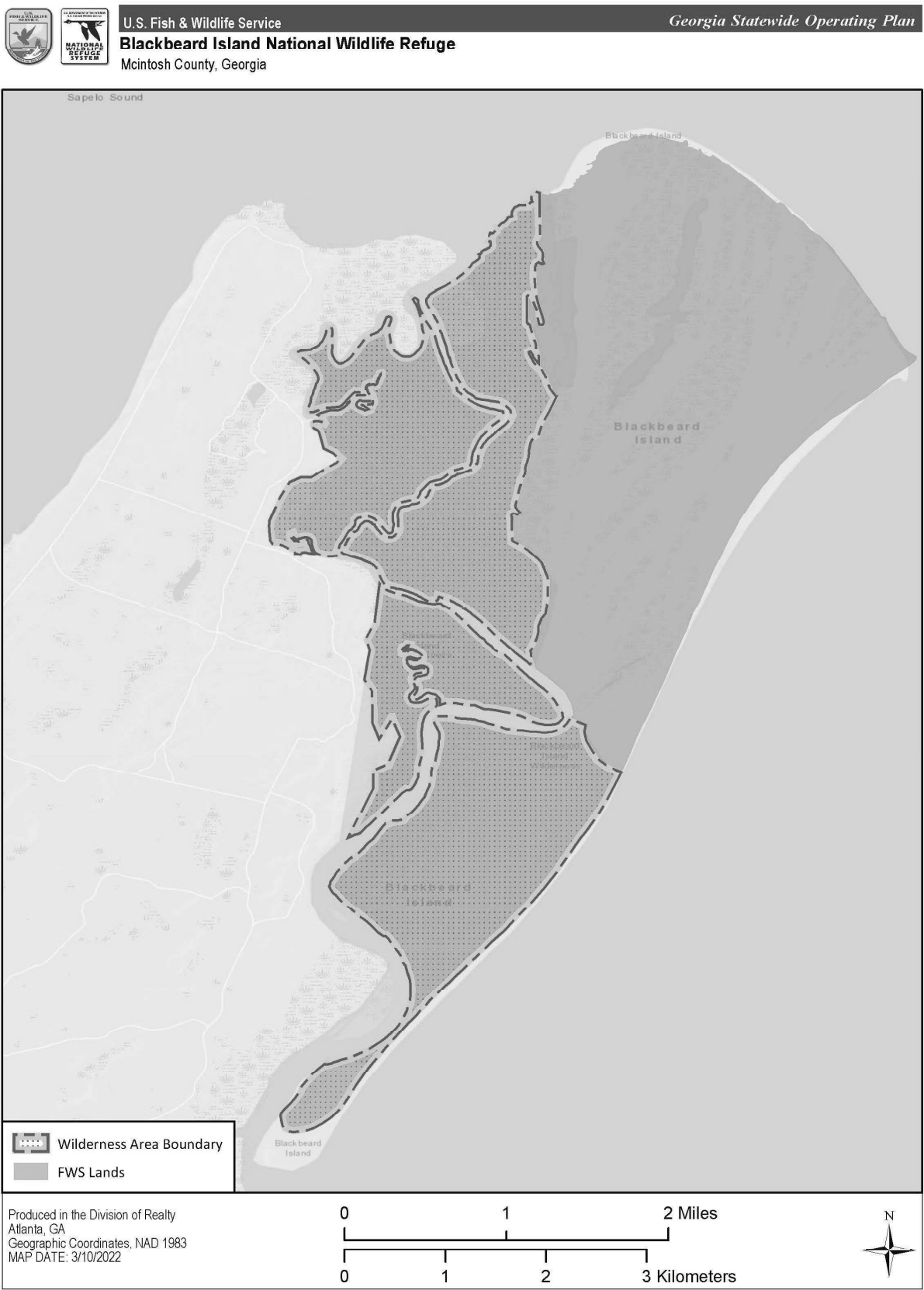
Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

Charlton, Clinch and Ware Counties, Georgia and Baker County, Florida

Georgia Statewide Operating Plan



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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Wolf Island National Wildlife Refuge

McIntosh County, Georgia

Georgia Statewide Operating Plan



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USFWS Lands within the State of Georgia QR Code



USFWS Wilderness within the State of Georgia QR Code

