SOUTHERN AREA REGIONAL COORDINATION GROUP OPERATING PLAN

FOR INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT
NUMBER
19-IA-11083150-016

Between

The United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Region Eight (8); and

The United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, (Intermountain, Southeast, Northeast, Midwest) Region; and

The United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, (2, 4, 5) Region; and

The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, (Eastern, Southern Plains, Eastern Oklahoma);

The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Southeastern States Region;

This Operating Plan is hereby made and entered into by and between the parties pursuant to the Interagency Agreement (FS Agreement # 19-IA-11083150-014) signed and dated March 18, 2019. 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.

I. PURPOSE
This is the Southern Area Regional Coordination Operating Plan applicable to all signatory parties within Southern Area. Its purpose is to set forth agreed upon services to be provided between the federal and state wildland fire management agencies within the Southern Area.

1. This plan covers, but is not limited to, the use of agency owned, leased or contract fixed and rotary wing aircraft; cooperative use, funding, administration and contracting of airtankers and helicopters; Southern Area Incident Management Teams, Prescribed Fire and other non-fire activities; The Southern Area Multi-Agency Coordination Group.

2. This action plan provides for each agency's responsibilities in meeting its share of the cooperative effort.

3. This plan will not be construed as a binding document upon each agency should funds not be appropriated by the Congress of the United States.

4. This plan will be revalidated at an annual winter SACG meeting of each year.

5. Since each Agency mutually benefits from this Agreement, administrative costs will not be exchanged, except as required by individual Agency regulation. In the event Agencies are required to bill for administrative costs, each proven Agency shall charge administrative costs in kind.
II. AVIATION

A. Airtankers
   1. The Forest Service, regularly contracts for Airtankers to be located at Airtanker bases in
      Chattanooga, TN; Lake City, FL; and locations with Portable Airtanker Base Trailers
      (PAB) on as needed bases.
   2. These Airtankers are available for interagency use throughout the Southern States,
      National Parks, Fish and Wildlife Refuges, Bureau of Indian Affairs and National Forests
      under the priorities listed in the Southern Interagency mobilization guide.
   3. Financing of Airtankers
      a) Forest Service will pay for availability of airtankers.
      b) National Park Service will staff the airtanker base located at Chattanooga, TN.
      c) Each Agency may provide detailers and funding per incident at Airtanker Base; and
         other Portable Retardant Bases, on as needed basis.
      d) Fund allocation will be specified in an Annual Financial Plan.

B. Helicopters
   1. The Forest Service has contracts for nineteen helicopters to be used within the Southern
      Area.
   2. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has an agency owned helicopter based at Merritt
      Island, Florida.
   3. The National Park Service has two agency owned helicopters; one based at Big Cypress
      National Preserve and one based at Everglades National Park.
   4. Agencies can share these assets as needed, based on availability and mutual coordination.
   5. The Annual Financial plan addresses funding for the use of these resources for non-fire
      incidents, such as prescribed fire.

C. Agency Aircraft and Pilots
   1. When an Agency owns or leases aircraft for personnel transport, cargo, photography, fire,
      and other uses, these aircraft and pilots are available for interagency use. The using agency
      will pay an hourly use rate, plus pilot's overtime and per diem. No administrative costs
      will be exchanged. Payment for aircraft use may include daily Fixed Overhead Rate
      (FOR), hourly use rate and pilot's per diem and overtime. Flight scheduling is through the
      Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC) Aircraft Desk.
   2. Except as provided by attachments, agency pilots may be used by the other agencies for
      missions when pilots meet requirements of using agency. Pilot travel, per diem and
      overtime will be paid by benefiting agency. Request for pilot services will be made
      through the normal dispatch channels.

III. CREWS
A. Interagency Hotshot Crews
   1. The Southern Area Hosts Four Interagency Hotshot Crews.
      a. Asheville Interagency Hotshot Crew, USFS, headquartered at Asheville, NC. The
         mission of the Asheville Hotshots is to offer enhanced leadership training opportunities
         to challenge individuals in a Type 1 crew setting. The crew is generally available
         January through May each year.
      b. Augusta Interagency Hotshot Crew, USFS, headquartered at Augusta Springs, VA. The
         crew is generally available March through September each year.
      c. Cherokee Interagency Hotshot Crew, USFS, headquartered at Unicoi, TN. The crew is
         generally available March through June and late July and November each year.
      d. Jackson Interagency Hotshot Crew, BLM, headquartered at Jackson, MS. The crew is
         generally available June through October each year.
IV. SOUTHERN AREA INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAMS
   A. The SACG provides oversight to the Southern Area Incident Management teams. SACG is responsible for determining the appropriate numbers and types of teams for the Southern Area.
   B. The SACG selects Incident Commanders (IC’s) for the teams and participates in the selection of team members.
   C. The agencies included in SACG provide funding in support of the Incident management teams. Funding is outlined in the annual financial plan.

V. SOUTHERN AREA MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATING GROUP (SAMAC)
   A. The Southern Multi-Agency Coordination Group will be activated by the SACG and may meet on a daily basis to establish priorities and provide direction to SACC at a PL-3 or greater.
   B. The Southern Multi-Agency Coordination Group consists of a representative from the following: Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF).
   C. Delegated Authorities include:
      a. Establish priorities of fire and all-hazard management activities
      b. Direct, control and allocate regional and national resources within the Southern Area
      c. Implement decisions of the NMAC / SACG
      d. Develop geographic area strategies, including safety, risk management, and contingency plans.
      e. Provide financial management coordination and oversight
      f. Provide for internal and external communication protocols

VI. PRESCRIBED FIRE AND NON-FIRE INCIDENTS
   A. The agencies signatory to this agreement may share resources for Prescribed Fire through separate Service First Interagency Agreements (IA) between the 2 cooperating agencies addressing the exchange of funds.
   B. The agencies signatory to this agreement may share resources for non-fire use, such as Law Enforcement, Search and Rescue, Natural Disasters, Pest Control, etc., through separate Service First IAs between the 2 cooperating agencies addressing the exchange of funds.

VII. FUNDING
   A. The Southern Area Regional Coordinating Financial Plan will be approved annually. The next fiscal year budget will be submitted to and approved by SACG prior to June 15th annually.
   B. The plan will include contributions by each agency and the purpose of contributions.
   C. Financial obligations of each contributing agency are payable at the end of each fiscal year for the upcoming year.
   D. Transfer of funds will be conducted using the Interagency Agreement (IA) mechanism.
   E. Specific contribution amounts and breakdowns are listed in the Southern Area Regional Coordinating Financial Plan.

VIII. AGENCY OFFICERS
   SACG members are delegated responsibility for carrying out this Agreement by their administrators. Those individuals will review, modify, and approve the Operating Plan by close of business at the annual winter SACG meeting.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the last date written below

USDOI FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

[Signature]

Regional Director, Acting

Date: 12-7-18
USDOI BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
SOUTHERN PLAINS REGION

Regional Director
Date: 12/14/18

Contracting Officer
Date: 11/29/19

USDOI BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
EASTERN REGION

Regional Director
Date: 

Contracting Officer
Date: 

USDOI BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
EASTERN OKLAHOMA REGION

Regional Director
Date: 11/9/18

Contracting Officer
Date: 

USDOI BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
SOUTHERN PLAINS REGION

Regional Director
Date: ____________________

Contracting Officer
Date: ____________________

USDOI BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
EASTERN REGION

Regional Director
Date: 11/3/18

ASHLEY WARCWICZ
Digitally signed by ASHLEY WARCWICZ
Contracting Officer
Date: 2019.01.31 14:23:22 -06'00'

USDOI BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
EASTERN OKLAHOMA REGION

Regional Director
Date: ____________________

Contracting Officer
Date: ____________________
USDOI BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
SOUTHERN PLAINS REGION

Regional Director
Date: ______________________

Contracting Officer
Date: ______________________

USDOI BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
EASTERN REGION

Regional Director
Date: ______________________

Contracting Officer
Date: ______________________

USDOI BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
EASTERN OKLAHOMA REGION

[Signature]
Regional Director
Date: 11/19/18

[Signature]
Contracting Officer
Date: 12/14/18