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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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In Reply Refer To:  
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EMS Transmission 06/17/2015  
Instruction Memorandum No. FA IM-2015-028  
Expires: 09/30/2018

To: State Directors, State Fire Management Officers, State Fire Planners  
From: Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation  
Subject: Fire Management Plan Template

**Program Area:** Fire Management Planning

**Purpose:** This Instruction Memorandum (IM) establishes the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wildland fire management planning guidance as it relates to Fire Management Plans (FMP).

**Policy/Action:** The Fire Management Plan template (Attachment 1) replaces the 2009 interagency template included with instructions in Appendix E of the 2012 BLM Fire Planning Handbook (H-9211-1) and provides BLM guidance consistent with the December 15, 2014 Department of the Interior (DOI) Framework (Attachment 2). Fire Management Plans must be converted to the updated template when a full plan update is indicated by the Annual Review Checklist. Existing plans may continue to be maintained in the format consistent with the era of their completion until a full plan update is indicated by the annual review checklist included as part of the template. Additionally, the annual review checklist should be utilized to document plan maintenance and update needs for all FMPs.

**Timeframe:** This policy is effective immediately and will remain in place until superseded.

**Budget Impact:** Minimal, because the new template itself does not require plan updates. However, changes in land management direction or conditions would trigger Fire Management Plan updates and the new template will streamline this process by reducing redundant descriptions.

**Background:** The DOI members of the Interagency Fire Planning Committee, with agreement from the Fire Management Board and the Office of Wildland Management (OWF), determined that FMPs should be commensurate with the scope and complexity of unit fire programs.

Because of this, the DOI Fire Planners developed a new Fire Management Plan Framework that is scalable to accommodate the scope and complexity of fire programs. The new DOI FMP framework also affirms that FMP information can be represented in various formats including text-based, spatial, and/or digital. As always, these new modes of representing FMPs must be consistent with direction provided in land use plans. The BLM updated the FMP template consistent with the new DOI framework.

The new framework and updated BLM FMP template no longer require or recommend the use of Fire Management Units (FMUs), although offices may still use well thought out FMUs that are consistent with and clearly tied to Land Use Plan direction. Additionally, the template includes extensive suggestions for incorporation by reference to facilitate the use of mapsheets or other methods to spatially display information and to reduce re-stating information that is readily available elsewhere (e.g. Preparedness Plans, Prevention Plans, etc.).

The template as well as example mapsheets and Frequently Asked Questions will be posted to the BLM Fire Planning Intranet site: <http://web.blm.gov/internal/fire/fpfm/planning.html>  
For non-BLM audiences the template will also be posted to the BLM Fire Planning Internet Website: <http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/fireplanning.htm>

**Manual/Handbook Sections Affected:** This transmission replaces the 2009 interagency template and associated BLM direction included in Appendix E of the Fire Planning Handbook, H-9211-1.

**Coordination:** The Fire Management Plan Template has been coordinated with WO-200, the Fire and Aviation Directorate, the Interagency Fire Planning Committee, and has gone through state and field level review.

**Contact:** If you have questions, concerns or comments, please contact Jolie Pollet, Division Chief, Fire Planning and Fuels Management, at 208-387-5198, or Kristy Swartz, Fire Planning Specialist, at 208-387-5326.

Signed by:  
Howard Hedrick, acting  
Acting Assistant Director, Fire and Aviation

Authenticated by:  
Yesenia Ramirez-Gil  
Mail and File Clerk

**Attachments:**

- 1 – 2015 BLM FMP Template (16pp)
- 2 – 2014 DOI FMP Framework (4pp)

**Distribution:**

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