



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Washington, DC 20240
JAN 10 2018

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Memorandum

To: All Regional Directors

From: Director, Bureau Indian Affairs *Bay Rie*

Subject: Preliminary Guidance for Fiscal Year (FY)2018 Wildland Fire Management Budget under the Continuing Resolution (CR)

The Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) has taken steps to help the Bureaus to decrease the carryover problems which is addressed in the OWF Policy Memorandum 2017-009. The memorandum established a 2% maximum for prior year carryover for wildland fire management programs. Additionally, it lists exempted programs and outlines how OWF is addressing future carryover.

To ensure the bureau has strong fiscal accountability in wildland fire programs, line officers must ensure that program managers are responsible for budget management and are working toward timely distribution of funds to agencies and tribes. Please continue to work with your programs to update and meet the required reporting and accountability deadlines even while we operate under various CRs. The Branch of Wildland Fire Management (BWFM) has established fiscal milestones for Preparedness and Fuels activities for all regional offices.

Preparedness

Preparedness carryover (unobligated funds) will be withdrawn from regional offices and reallocated nationally to create a sustainable wildland fire management workforce. This will be accomplished by investing in our personnel, with a strong emphasis on education, training, and succession planning to meet the future challenges of wildland fire management.

Wildfire Prevention

Prior FY unobligated funds may remain allocated at the regional level for no longer than two (2) years; carryover amounts that extend beyond a second fiscal year will be reallocated from the Region by the BWFM.

Fuels Management

The Fuels Management Program has established a fiscal obligation target of 99.5% for fuels funding. Regions that meet or exceed the 99.5 percent spending/obligation rates become eligible for a funding increase in the next fiscal year (if funds are available). Regions failing to spend or obligate 99.5 percent of their current FY budget will incur a budget reduction the following year. Fuels carryover (unobligated funds) may remain at the regional level but should be entirely obligated by the end of the next fiscal year. Fuels carryover that extends beyond the second fiscal year will incur further budget reductions and reallocation of funds by the BWFM.

We would like to thank you and your staff for working to ensure these critical funds were obligated in a timely and responsible manner. Wildland Fire Management program funds are used to protect life, property and trust assets. As such, any delays in allocating funds may lead to the inability of field level resources to execute this mission.

In addition, for your reference, the Department's Office of Wildland Fire Policy Memorandum 2018-002 and the DOI Allocation Spreadsheet are attached which releases the Department of the Interior Wildland Fire Budget Allocations (through CR) for FY 2018.

This policy memorandum is effective immediately and will remain in effect until rescinded or modified. For additional information, please contact Linda Tatum, Budget/Planning Director, BWFM at (208) 387-5696; email linda.tatum@bia.gov or Adrian Grayshield, Lead Planner BWFM at (208) 387-5156; email adrian.grayshield@bia.gov.

Attachments: OWF Policy Memorandum 2018-002; Preliminary Guidance for Fiscal Year 2018 Funds Execution and Wildland Fire Budget Allocations under Continuing Resolution.
OWF Policy Memorandum 2018-004; Additional Guidance for FY 2018 Funds Execution and Wildland Fire Budget Allocations under Continuing Resolution.
Office of the Secretary Memorandum; Guidance for FY 2018 Funds Execution Under P.L. 115-56, the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018, and Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2017.
OWF Policy Memorandum 2017-009; Revision of OWF Policy Memorandum 2017-004: Wildland Fire Management Program Carryover Funding Balances.
OWF Policy Memorandum 2017-004: Wildland Fire Management Program Carryover Funding Balances.
2018 DOI Allocation Spreadsheet, Continuing Resolution.
Guidance for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Wildland Fire Management Budget.

cc: Regional Forestry and Fire Management Regional Fuels Specialists
Section Heads, BwFM