



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Washington, DC 20240

JUL 12 2018

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Memorandum

To: All Regional Directors
Attention: Agency Superintendents
Regional Fire Management Officers

From: ^{Acting} Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Subject: Updated Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement template

The Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement template documents the commitment of state and federal parties to the agreement. Cooperative agreements under this template improves wildland fire management efficiency by facilitating the coordination and exchange of personnel, equipment, supplies, services and funds. This document replaces the January 25, 2007, version, approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

It was necessary to update language in the Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement template (Coop Agreement template) since it was presented and approved by the National Wildfire Coordination Group Executive Committee (NWCG).

Significant or new updates/changes:

- Clause 19, p11 (Protection area boundaries). Office of General Council (OGC) recommends clarification by adding last sentence; "Protection Areas may include lands under the jurisdiction of another agency as authorized by law."
- Clause 22, Fire Prevention, p12. Rephrases sentence about sharing costs, due to OGC's concern about augmentation of funds.
- Fixes references to incorrect clause numbers within the "Cost Share Agreement", Clause #38.
- Records retention length clarification, Clause 53, pl 7.
- Accident Investigations Clause 54, p 17/18. Adds notification requirement to inform National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) "as appropriate."
- Equipment, Supplies and Cache items Clause 57, pl 8. Corrects use of word "repair" for returned items to cache, vs "replace" or reimburse items returned to cache.
- Adds a burden statement and OMB Form number at the end of the body of the agreement, as approved under the Paperwork Reduction Act.
- Removes Glossary term "Reimbursable Assistance (Assistance by Hire)". Grants and Agreements staff recommended the removal because the term creates confusion between when there is reimbursement for the actual costs of assistance provided to cooperating

parties under the reciprocal agreement (i.e. Reimbursable Assistance), and when there is a procurement of services (i.e. Assistance for Hire) for the direct benefit of one of the parties.

- Adds details within Exhibit C, Interagency Cooperation, Clause IV, A. Interagency Dispatch Center, p32. Adds details about how to address components of interagency dispatch Centers, as per Final Report from Interagency Dispatch Implementation Project.
- Minor rephrasing of the language requiring parties to address aerial retardant delivery, especially in the wildland urban interface and in aerial retardant avoidance areas. Subject matter experts involved in the implementation of the compliance report recommendations of the 2011 "Nationwide Use of Aerial Application of Fire Retardants Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision (EIS/ ROD) made the request for this rephrasing.
 - o Adds bullet to the Operating Plan, Exhibit C, Response to Wildland Fire, Special Management Considerations, Clause D, 1, p34, addressing aerial retardant delivery.
 - o Bullet implements the "2011 Nationwide Use of Aerial Application of Fire Retardants Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision (EIS/ ROD)", and the subsequent compliance reports.
 - o Bullet specifies the need for parties to identify special tactical considerations that if there may be an increased potential for damage caused, should it become necessary to limit the use of aerial retardant in some areas, such as the wildland urban interface.

The Agreement template is available from the NWCG website's Partners and Agreements page <https://www.nwcg.gov/executive-board/partners-agreements> or directly at: <https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/docs/master-cooperative-wildland-fire-management-template.docx>

If there are any questions, please contact Robin White, Administrative Officer, at Robin.White@bia.gov or call (208) 387-5493.

Attachments

Memorandum No. 18-003 Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement



Memorandum No. 18-003

Date: 1 June 2018

TO: NWCG Executive Board Members

FROM: Garth Fisher, Chair, NWCG Executive Board

SUBJECT: Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement

This memorandum announces the approval and recommendation for use of the *Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement*. The purpose of the template is to document the commitment of state and federal parties to the agreement. Cooperative agreements under this template improve efficiency of wildland fire management by facilitating the coordination and exchange of personnel, equipment, supplies, services, and funds. This type of cooperation benefits 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. This document replaces the January 25, 2007 version and is approved by the Office of Management and Budget.

Please distribute this information through your agency channels.

The Agreement is available from the NWCG website's Partners and Agreements page

<https://www.nwcg.gov/executive-board/partners-agreements> or directly at:

<https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/docs/master-cooperative-wildland-fire-management-template.docx>

Questions can be referred to Tim Melchert, USDA Forest Service, Co-op Fire Specialist, (208) 387-5887.

Attachment

Distribution:

NWCG Committee Chairs

NWCG Staffs

NWCG standards are interagency by design; however, the decision to adopt and utilize them is made independently by the individual member agencies and communicated through their respective directives systems.