Bureau of Indian Affairs

Colorado River: Strategic Planning Map

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Colorado River Summary

The Colorado River Indian Reservation, the second Indian Reservation in Arizona, was established in 1865 for the "Indians of said River and its Tributaries." Initially, this included the Mohave, whose tie is to the land date from prehistoric time and the Chemehuevi who, for generations, have also resided along the Colorado River from present-day Nevada south into Mexico. In 1945, a portion of the Reservation was reserved for colonization by Indians of other tribes, specifically the Hopis and Navajos. Today, the Colorado River Indian Tribes includes four distinct Tribes- the Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi and Navajo. Although the four Tribes who share the Reservation function today as one geo-political unit, known as the Colorado River Indian Tribes, each continues to maintain and observe its individual traditions, distinct religions, and culturally unique identities (Colorado River Indian Tribes, 2005).

The Colorado River Reservation is comprised of almost 300,000 acres (121,405 ha) of land with 353 square miles (914 sq.km) in Arizona and 66.7 square miles (173 sq. km) in California. It also includes 90 miles (145 km) of river shoreline along the Colorado River. The Reservation holds substantial senior water rights (717,000 acre feet) in the Colorado River, which is almost one-third of the total allotment from the river for the state of Arizona. This water is predominantly used for irrigated farming via an extensive network of irrigation canals that cover the irrigable lands along the river.

Reservation	Acres
Colorado River	271,636

Fire Management Units (FMU)

ASSET PROTECTION UNIT

Primary Objective: Protection of life/property, infrastructure, and high value resources without compromising firefighter safety. Wildland fire may be undesirable. Emphasize fuel treatments to create fire-adapted communities.

Primary Strategic/Operational Considerations:
- Place highest priority on the allocation of available suppression forces to fires threatening sites in the APU over fires in RMU.
- Full perimeter control will receive highest priority for suppression resources.
- Place highest priority on fuels treatments over RMU to create defensible space and increase landscape resiliency.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNIT

Primary Objective: Protection of life/property, infrastructure, and high value resources without compromising firefighter safety. Promote the use of fire as a desirable component of the ecosystem. Coordinate fuels treatments with proposed strategies to implement ignitions to protect values at risk and promote landscape resiliency.

Primary Strategic/Operational Considerations:
- Wildland fire use may be implemented in RMU but secondary to APU.
- Emphasis will be perimeter control where needed, and confinement/point protection elsewhere (based on operational thresholds).
- Coordinate fuels treatments within the RMU to increase opportunities to use confinement and point protection as strategies over values at risk and promote landscape resiliency. Areas with high hazard but in strategic location will be identified for fuels projects to reduce or moderate fire behavior, especially at proplanned strategically located management action points.
- Areas with high hazard but in strategic location will be identified for fuels projects to reduce or moderate fire behavior, especially at proplanned strategically located management action points.
- Cooperators: Cooperator agreements must be in place to determine fire management of wildfire threat occurring on or off trust land.

Colorado River Agency Contacts

Position	Agency/Tribe	Office Phone	Duties Responsibilites
Fire Management Officer (FMO)	Colorado River Agency	928-669-7120	Coordinates supression of all IA wildland fire resources. Initiates WFDSS process.
Aviation Operation	Colorado River Agency	928-669-7120	Coordinates all aviation operaton for the Colorado River Agency
Agency Superintendant	Colorado River Agency	928-669-7111	Signature required for WFDSS decision exceeding wildland fire size threshold involving trust land
Center Manager Prescott Dispatch Center	Prescott Interagency Dispatch Center	928-777-5700	Coordination and dispatch responsibility of interagency cooperators. Wildland fire resource planning and tracking.
Regional Fire Management Officer	Western Regional Office	602-379-6798	Regional coordination and administrative support between field units and BIA-N/FC

Management Action Areas

FMU - All

Public and firefighter safety is always the top priority. Once firefighters are committed to an incident they immediately become the highest value at risk.

- Apply risk management principles with every decision and action.
- Use tribal members when qualified and available to assist with fire and fuels management.
- Protect cultural sites, holy grounds and social values from damage.
- Protect threatened and endangered species to the greatest extent possible.
- Restore and rehabilitate resources lost or damaged by fire or suppression activities.
- Promote fire prevention and education to reduce human-caused ignitions.
- Encourage research to advance understanding of fire behavior, fire effects, fire ecology, fireline safety and fire management.

APU

- Protect or minimize threats and loss to private property, tribal assets and community infrastructure.
- Coordinate security, evacuation, traffic control, road closures and medical emergencies in the Wildland Urban Interface with the appropriate Tribal Fire Department/EMS and Tribal and BIA Law Enforcement.
- Restrict retardant and dozer use near homes and infrastructure unless absolutely necessary for value protection.
- Strategically plan and prioritize over RMUs, fuels treatments to increase fire protection near homes and infrastructure.
- Full perimeter control will receive highest priority for suppression resources.
- Investigate human-caused fires, and assist with prosecution of trespass.

RMU

- Use of wildland fire to protect, maintain and enhance natural and cultural resources is available with appropriate weather, fuel and seasonal conditions supported by documented decision and support process.
- Use roads and natural features as fire control lines, when and where possible, to reduce firefighter exposure and minimize resource damage.
- Emphasis will be perimeter control where needed, and confinement/point protection where required.
- Utilize para-archaeologists to clear dozer lines, and report all previously unknown sites to the Tribal Archaeologists.
- Obtain clearance from the Natural Resources Officer (or designee) before using dip or draft sites.
- Dozers and retardant restricted to areas outside of 300 feet from any stream or water body, known cultural sites and visitor use areas.
- Maintain air quality in and around WUI areas, near high visitor use areas and along main travel corridors. Minimize smoke impacts to any adjacent or potentially impacted designated Class 1 Airsheds.
- Coordinate smoke management with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) when appropriate.
- Coordinate with appropriate adjacent agencies/fire departments for any wildland fire or fuels management activities within ½ mile of exterior boundary of reservation.
- Use MIST tactics near cultural sites. Minimize disturbance to traditional use areas. Minimize impacts to archaeological sites from erosion and direct flame contact.
- Utilize wildland fire to meet fuel treatment and Fire Regime/Condition Class guidelines when weather and fuel conditions warrant.

Mitigation Measures

Land Resources

The following mitigation measures would be implemented in addition to those goals and objectives considered in the 2017 WMP.

- Use natural barriers for line construction and natural openings for helicopter landing areas and fire camps would help to further reduce impacts of fire management activities on soils.
- Refueling chainsaws and other equipment would be done on surfaces where fuel could be contained to avoid/minimize soil contamination.
- During wildfire suppression, apply Use of Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) within areas with soils with high susceptibility to site degradation, and/or low restoration potential.

Water Resources

- Obtain water for controlling or extinguishing prescribed fires from sources that could be accessed safely and that have an agreement in place with the entity or entities with rights to that water source.
- Avoid the use of water for fire control from wetlands and waterbodies designated as impaired for harmful contaminants.
- Use biodegradable soap, bathe away from streams and lakes, and maintain proper disposal of human waste and gray water at fire camps.
- Garlon® 4 Ultra would not be applied within 50 feet of the edge of a waterbody or wetland, or in areas of shallow groundwater.

Air

- Evaluate the local forecast, timing, and season of prescribed burns and wildland fire use to minimize adverse effects on air quality due to stable, high-pressure air mass systems.
- Coordinate with the tribal resource managers to ensure that prescribed burning operations and/or wildland fires do not exceed tribal guidelines or standards.

Living Resources

Wildlife

- Coordinate with the tribal biologists and/or natural resource planners to develop site-specific mitigation measures for wildfire suppression activities, prescribed burning and other hazardous fuels reduction activities, and post-fire stabilization and rehabilitation efforts.
- Fire retardants or other chemicals would not be applied within 0.5 mile of any perennial stream or wetland unless necessary to reduce safety risk to firefighters and residents.
- Fire retardants containing ferrocyanide would not be used.
- Coordinate with the tribal biologists and/or natural resource planners during identification of fire use areas and development of prescribed burn and fuels treatment plans to identify site-specific impacts and mitigation measures, as appropriate.
- Coordinate with the tribal biologists and/or natural resource planners prior to the construction and maintenance of fuel breaks and the creation of defensible space to identify site-specific impacts and mitigation measures, as appropriate.
- Coordinate with the tribal biologists and/or natural resource planners on any fire management activity that occurs within or near drainages that flow into fish habitat.
- Conduct periodic site visits to areas subject to fire management activities and remove invasive species would be conducted, if any are identified.
- If water is drafted from a stock tank or other body of water for fire suppression, it would not be refilled with water from another tank, lakes, or other water sources that may support non-native fishes, bullfrogs, crayfish, or salamanders.
- Site specific BMPs would be developed and implemented for taking water from streams, lakes, and ponds for fire suppression.
- Garlon® 4 Ultra would not be applied within 50 feet of the edge of a waterbody or wetland, or in areas of shallow groundwater.

Federally Listed Threatened or Endangered Species

- During emergency fire suppression activities, a qualified biologist would be assigned to assess and minimize the impacts of fire suppression efforts to federally listed threatened and species.
- If a fire-qualified biologist is available, then a biologist would be sent into the field with the wildland firefighters to identify and avoid suitable habitat for federally listed threatened or endangered species sites by identifying alternative locations to avoid adverse impacts to the sensitive species.
- Prior to any machine and hand fuels treatments as part of planned fuels management, field investigation and/or protocol species surveys would be conducted, and consultation would take place with the applicable tribe, BIA, and USFWS, as appropriate, regarding impacts on federally listed threatened or endangered species. Any potential direct or indirect impacts that would result in a "May Affect But Not Likely To Adversely Affect" determination would need to comply with Section 7 of the ESA administered by the USFWS, and would need to follow the requirements for the determination of effects.
- Staging areas and fire lines would not be established within 0.25 mile of suitable habitat for federally listed species.
- Vehicles and heavy equipment would not be driven through suitable habitat for federally listed species.
- Aerial application of fire retardant would not occur within 0.5 mile of suitable habitat for federally listed species.
- Prescribed fires would not be conducted within 0.5 mile of suitable habitat for federally listed species.
- Mechanical fuels treatment projects would not be conducted in suitable habitat for federally listed species without prior approval from Agency, tribal, or USFWS biologists.
- Herbicide treatments would not be applied within 0.25 mile of suitable habitat for federally listed species.
- The use of wildland fire as a management tool would not occur within 0.5 mile of suitable habitat for federally listed species.
- Prescribed fires would not be conducted within 0.5 mile of occupied southwestern willow flycatcher habitat during the breeding season (i.e., May 1-August 31) or occupied yellow-billed cuckoo habitat during the breeding season (May 1 - September 30).
- Manual and hand fuels treatments projects would not be conducted within 0.25 mile of occupied southwestern willow flycatcher habitat during the breeding season (i.e., May l-August 31) or occupied yellow-billed cuckoo habitat during the breeding season (May 1 - September 30).
- A tribal biologist and/or natural resource specialist should be consulted if planned fire management activities would be conducted within habitat occupied by southwestern willow flycatcher during the breeding season (May 1 - August 31) or occupied habitat occupied by yellow-billed cuckoo during the breeding season (May 1 - September 30).
- Vehicles and heavy equipment would not be driven through or within 100 feet of suitable habitat (i.e. lakes, rivers, or shallow areas) of the bonytail chub, razorback sucker, or roundtail chub.

Migratory Birds

- If any protected species or its nest is documented on tribal lands, the USFWS would be consulted before any planned fire management activities.
- No tree cutting would be done within 0.25 mile of known bald eagle nests.
- No human activity would occur within 0.25 mile of known bald eagle wintering nests and daytime foraging locations between October 15 and April 15.
- No tree cutting would occur within 0.25 mile of the area immediately around bald eagle wintering roost sites and daytime foraging locations between October 15 and April 15.
- The use of wildland fire would not be implemented within 0.5 mile of known nests and roosts of bald eagles.
- No helicopter or aircraft activity or aerial retardant application would occur within 0.5 mile of bald eagle nests between December 1 and June 30 or within 0.5 mile of wintering roost sites and daytime foraging locations between October 15 and April 15.
- Prescribed burn activities would be conducted outside of the bald eagle nesting season (December 1 - June 30), and more than 0.5 mile upwind from bald eagle wintering roost sites and daytime foraging locations.
- Reasonable protective measures would be provided so fire prescription or fuels treatment would not consume dominant, large trees as identified by a resource advisor or qualified biologist, within 0.5 mile of known nests and roosts of bald eagles.
- Pretreatment efforts should provide reasonable protection of identified nesting and roosting trees.
- Surveys for active bird nests of those species protected by the MBTA would be conducted prior to implementing fuels treatments projects. Schedules or design projects would be identified so that adverse impacts to the active nests would be avoided. Removal of active nests or birds protected under the MBTA would require a permit from the USFWS.

Vegetation

- All disturbed soils not otherwise permanently stabilized would be seeded using species native to the project vicinity.
- Where possible, clumps of trees would be left or an irregular pattern of seedling plantings within the area would be made to create a mosaic of vegetation structure and species composition.

Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds

- To prevent the introduction of invasive species seeds, all vehicles and equipment would be washed prior to entering the prescribed fire treatment areas and access areas if along unpaved roads or previously undisturbed terrain.
- To prevent invasive species seeds from leaving the site, all construction vehicles and equipment would be inspected and have all attached plant/vegetation and soil/mud debris removed to the extent possible prior to leaving the project area.
- All disturbed soils not otherwise permanently stabilized would be seeded using species native to the prescribed fire treatment areas and access areas if along unpaved roads or previously undisturbed terrain.

Cultural Resources

- During emergency fire suppression activities, a qualified archaeologist or tribal elder would be assigned to assess and minimize the impacts of fire suppression efforts to cultural resources.
- If a fire-qualified archaeologist is available, then an archeologist would be sent into the field with the wildland firefighters to identify and avoid cultural resources sites by identifying alternative locations for fire lines constructed either by hand or with bulldozers.
- Prior to any machine and hand fuels treatments as part of planned fuels management, cultural resources inventories and mitigations would be conducted, if necessary, and consultation would take place with the applicable tribe, THPO, BIA, and SHPO, as appropriate, regarding impacts on cultural resources. Any direct or indirect adverse effects to cultural resources resulting from planned machine and hand fuels treatments would be avoided, minimized, or mitigated through the NHPA Section 106 review process.
- Prior to any herbicide treatments as part of planned fuels management, cultural resources inventories and mitigations would be conducted, if necessary, and consultation would take place with the applicable tribe, BIA, and SHPO, as appropriate, regarding impacts on cultural resources. Any direct or indirect adverse effects to cultural resources resulting planned herbicide treatments would be avoided, minimized, or mitigated through the NHPA Section 106 review process.
- Prior to any prescribed fire as part of planned fuels management, cultural resources inventories and mitigations would be conducted, if necessary, and consultation would take place with the applicable tribe, BIA, and SHPO, as appropriate, regarding impacts to cultural resources. Any direct or indirect adverse effects to cultural resources resulting planned machine and hand fuels treatments would be avoided, minimized, or mitigated through the NHPA Section 106 review process.
- Prior to any burned area emergency rehabilitation efforts, cultural resources inventories and mitigations would be conducted and consultation would take place with the applicable tribe, BIA, and SHPO, as appropriate, regarding impacts on cultural resources. Any direct or indirect adverse effects to cultural resources resulting from planned emergency stabilization and emergency rehabilitation treatments would be avoided, minimized, or mitigated through the NHPA Section 106 review process.
- Train crew supervisors in the identification of cultural resources to ensure the avoidance of resources to the extent possible. A para-archaeologist would accompany crews using dozers to reduce the potential for inadvertent damage and ensure the protection of sensitive sites.
- All contracts, management policies, and NEPA compliance documents developed to address rehabilitation, stabilization, prescribed burns, or other treatments must include provisions for the identification, documentation, and protection of cultural resources, including provisions for work stoppage and consultation in the event of the discovery of unanticipated cultural resources.

Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS)

The Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) will be used to determine values, probabilities, hazards, and risk for all fires exceeding initial response. In addition, all wildland fire events will be entered into WFDSS. The following DOI Agency Administrator Approval Requirements must be adhered to.

Cost Estimate[1]	WFDSS Approval
Less then $5 Million	Agency Superintendent, Park Superintendent, Field/District/Refuge Manager
$5 Million - $10 Million	State Regional Director [2]
Greater than $10 Million	National Director [2]

[1]DOI- Cost estimate should be based on proportionate agency share of the total estimated cost of the incident. For example, on a Type 1 $20 million fire that is 98% FS, 1% BLM, and 1% BIA, the USFS National Director and the BLM and BIA local agency administrators would be the certifying officials in a jointly published WFDSS decision.
[2]DOI- State/Regional Directors and National Director may delegate WFDSS approval authority as per agency policy.

**Reference - BIA Wildland Fire and Aviation Program Management and Operations Guide (Blue Book)*

Legend

- Airport
- Communication Tower
- Electric Substation
- Mine
- Power Plant
- Heli Spot
- Hospital
- City
- BIA Agency
- FS - Forest Service
- BLM - Bureau of Land Management
- NPS - National Park Service
- Transmission Line
- Oil Gas Pipeline
- Interstate
- Highway
- Major Road or Local Road
- National Trail
- American Indian Reservation
- Reservation Boundary
- Critical Habitat
- Water Body
- Repeater Site

Fire Management Unit
- Asset Protection Unit
- Resource Management Unit

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Map created by Ronald Z. Lodge/Pole
Map Scale: 1" = XXX"
Datum: NAD_83_Zone_11
Scale: 1:80,000
N

0 1 2 4 Miles
0 1 2 4 Kilometers

BLM
WHIPPLE MOUNTAINS
Copper Basin
Gene Wash Reservoir
Copper Basin Reservoir
CALIFORNIA
ARIZONA
Colorado River Agency
Vidal Junction
VIDAL VALLEY
Vidal
Bluewater
USPHS Indian Hospital
Parker
Big River
La Paz Regional Hospital
Gould Rd
Little Rd
E Butte Rd
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
RIVERSIDE COUNTY
Riverside
RIVERSIDE MOUNTAINS
Lost Lake
Lake Pb
Agua Dulce
E Eddy Rd
Patrick Rd
W Scott Rd
Colorado River Indian Reservation
MESQUITE MOUNTAIN
Poston
McCabe Rd
W McCabe Rd
PARKER VALLEY
N Peterson Rd
Marks Rd
Mitchell Rd
Navajo Rd
Nez Rd
Tsosie Rd
Moon Mountain
COLORADO RIVER
Cyprus Mine Rd
LA POSA PLAIN
Landfill Rd
Reeson Rd
DOME ROCK MOUNTAINS
Welsh Rd
BLM
BIG MARIA MOUNTAINS
Blythe Airport
Lapar Rd
La Paz Mountain
KIDDLE CAMP MOUNTAIN
BLM
Quartzsite
Granite Mountain
Palo Verde Hospital
East Blythe
Blythe
Ehrenberg
SAWTOOTH MOUNTAIN
PALO VERDE VALLEY
Cunningham Mountain
South Rd
DOD