



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
Washington, DC 20240

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Memorandum

To: All Regional Directors  
From: Acting Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs   
Subject: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Direction for Regional Participation in a GAO (Government Accountability Office) Fuels Activities Engagement

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is reviewing all Department of the Interior (DOI) and Department of Agriculture Wildland Fire Fuels Management Program activities. This review affects wildland fire fuels activities at Central, Regional and Agency offices.

If GAO requests information as it conducts its review, we are requesting all regions and agencies cooperate to the greatest extent possible to provide information in a timely manner. GAO's goal is to identify BIA regional offices that funded significant fuels treatment projects in FY 18 to protect the wildland urban interface (WUI) for urban areas within the given state.

GAO is paying special attention to the following objectives:

1. How do the federal land management agencies identify and prioritize fuel reduction projects, and to what extent is building community resilience included among the factors they consider?
2. In what ways do the agencies collaborate with communities to identify and carry out fuel reduction activities?
3. What steps, if any, have the agencies taken to assess the effectiveness of their efforts to contribute to community resilience?
4. What lessons do recent wildland fire events offer in helping to understand how agencies can best contribute to community resilience?

### BIA Regional Participation with a GAO Fuels Review

BIA Branch of Wildfire Management will facilitate GAO outreach with selected BIA regional office(s). Regional and GAO interaction is meant to assist GAO in understanding BIA fuel reduction programs with regard to protecting the WUI, enhancement of community resilience specifically for fuels treatment in FY18. GAO is considering which offices:

- Are responsible for areas at high risk for wildland fire affecting the WUI;
- Allocate higher levels of spending for fuels treatments specifically to protect the WUI;
- Are comprised of WUIs that are particularly challenging to protect through fuel treatments for one reason or another;
- Have fuel treatment efforts that are innovative in their approach to the WUI; and
- Have regionally specific approaches to allocating fuels funds for project selection.

If you have any questions please contact Mark Jackson, Director of Fuels Management, at (208) 387-5041 or email at [Jarnes.Jackson@bia.gov](mailto:Jarnes.Jackson@bia.gov).