



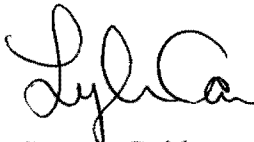
United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
NATIONAL INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER  
3833 South Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705-5354



April 16, 2013

Memorandum

To: All Directors, All Regions  
Attention: Forestry/Fire Management

From: Director, Branch of Wildland Fire Management 

Subject: Fiscal Year 2013 Wildland Fire Decision Support System Guidance

In a memorandum dated March 5, 2009, "Wildland Fire Decision Support System Transition-Schedule and Action Items," direction was given to Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Regional Directors and Regional Forestry/Fire Management staff to use Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) on all fires as a decision support analysis tool to "document fire management decisions to provide a long term operational plan as needed." On April 19, 2011, Wildland Fire decision Support System," additional guidance was given, allowing Regional Office or local unit discretion to **not** enter some fires into WFDSS "after the fact."

This office recognizes that WFDSS inputs often occur after fires are contained/controlled/out and the purpose of documenting extended attack or large fire decisions is not needed. Therefore, from the date of issue of this memorandum, Type 4 and 5 fires that are contained and controlled within the first operational period, (i.e., initial attack) no longer need to be entered into WFDSS. The exception to the rule is for multiple fires combined into a complex. Fires in a complex must be identified separately in WFDSS. No other changes are being added to the guidance provided in the two memorandums identified above.

All Agency/Tribes will continue to use WFDSS to document incident decisions and long term plans for Type 3, 2, and 1 fires (i.e., extended attack and large fires). Below are examples of fire situations and courses of action:

- A preplanned response is to catch the fire during the first burn period of Initial Attack (IA). The IA resources are successful to halt the fires growth, but have 3 to 5 days of mop-up until the fire is declared out. No data entry in WFDSS is required.
- Same preplanned response as above. A fire continues, uncontained/uncontrolled, into the second day (Extended Attack). The fire becomes a Type 3 incident and must be entered into WFDSS and a Decision Document developed.

A line officer from the federal unit with jurisdiction must electronically sign Decision Document in WFDSS, which requires the line officer to have a profile in WFDSS. Relative risk assessments and documented line officer decision are still required for extended attack and large uncontained/uncontrolled fires.

Additionally, WFDSS support personnel have noticed problems, noted below, with auto-fill unit identification and/or units manually changing unit identifiers. These erroneous entries compromise the integrity of reports generated by WFDSS and create confusion concerning unit responsibilities. Please use the correct unit identifiers to ensure jurisdiction is properly identified.

1. Incorrect unit identifiers are automatically filled by WFDSS.
2. Interagency units, with protection agreements for Trust Lands, have incorrectly directed interagency dispatch centers to change unit identifier in WFDSS from the legal owner to the protection agency (NVWNA to NVCAD).
3. BIA Agency/Tribes have changed the Unit Identifier in WFDSS from non-Trust lands, to the local BIA/Tribal Unit ID for threat fires that started off Trust Lands.

WFDSS uses latitude/longitude inputs to show the point of origin of a fire and those coordinates **may** show a unit identifier for the unit having protection responsibilities instead of the legal land owner with jurisdictional responsibilities. WFDSS applications use a geospatial protection layer to determine the unit identifier, which is not always the legal owner. The correct unit identifier should identify the Agency/Tribe having legal jurisdiction on the land where the fire started, not the contracted protection agency. Protection agreements only allow for another agency to provide protection. The legal owner retains the responsibility for reporting.

The BIA WFDSS support group will continue to assist fire management personnel. These specialists are a resource to Agencies and Tribes in implementing modification to Federal Fire Policy and use of WFDSS application. They will act as an identified pool of subject matter experts to provide information, technical guidance and recommendations at all levels. They will also address BIA specific issues in coordination with interagency groups. A group communication list is attached with members' identified roles to facilitate who you can contact in specific support areas with questions or concerns.

For general questions always try the Fire Application Help Desk first (800) 866-224-7677, then contact your BIA Geographic Area Editors. For specific questions or issues please feel free to contact any of the Support Group members on the attached contact list for further information in their specialty support area.