



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Washington, DC 20240

APR 14 2017

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Memorandum

To: All Regional Directors

From: Director, Bureau Indian Affairs

Subject: Guidance for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Wildland Fire Management Budget

This memorandum is to inform all Line Officers and Wildland Fire Program Managers of the need for timely distribution of funds to agencies and tribes.

We realize that the current Continuing Resolution (CR) impacts reporting and obligation requirements. Please continue to work with your programs to update and meet the required reporting and accountability deadlines even while we operate under the CR. Be aware, you may be required to adjust specific deadlines to meet these requirements.

Although in past years the Department has experienced high levels of fire funding carryover, this past year the Department has reduced the carryover amounts by almost half due to your diligent work. Thank you to you and to your staff for ensuring 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 resources to execute this mission.

To this end, line officers must ensure that program managers are responsible for budget management. To assist in this endeavor, the Branch of Wildland Fire Management (BWFM) has established fiscal milestones for Preparedness and Fuels activities for all regional offices. The agency-wide goal will remain focused on continuing to reduce the carryover amounts and increasing our dedication to fiscal effectiveness. If funds are not allocated by the (attached) timeframe, preparedness carryover (unobligated funds) will be withdrawn from regional offices and reallocated nationally to create a sustainable wildland fire management workforce.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.

Prevention carryover (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.

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 initiate 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 initiate further budget reductions and reallocation of funds by the BWFM.

In addition, for your reference, the Department's Office of Wildland Fire Policy Memorandum 2016-013 and 2016-016 are attached and releases the Department of the Interior Wildland Fire Budget Allocations (through CR) for FY 2017.

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 or by email linda.tatum@bia.gov.

Attachments:

- (1) OWF Policy Memorandum 2016-013; Guidance for Fiscal Year 2017 Funds Execution and Continuing Resolution Wildland Fire Budget Allocations;
- (2) OWF Policy Memorandum 2016-016; Additional Guidance for Fiscal Year 2017 Funds Execution for Wildland Fire Budget Allocations;
- (3) Guidance for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Wildland Fire Management Budget;
- (4) ES Initiation FY17 Funding Request form 9_2016; and
- (5) Budget Management Control Schedule – FY 2017.

cc: Regional Fire Management Officers
Regional Fuels Specialists
Section Heads, BWFM