




United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

October 21, 2016

OWF POLICY MEMORANDUM 2016 – 013

To: Director, Bureau of Land Management
Director, National Park Service
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
Director, U.S. Geological Survey

From: Bryan C. Rice, Director – Office of Wildland Fire 

Subject: Guidance for Fiscal Year 2017 Funds Execution and Continuing Resolution
Wildland Fire Budget Allocations

Purpose: This memorandum provides direction regarding the Department of the Interior (DOI) Wildland Fire Budget allocations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, based on Public Law 114-223, the Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, covering October 1, 2016 through December 9, 2016. The bill provides funding at the daily rate of the FY 2016 funding level including an across-the-board reduction of 0.496 percent.

Scope: Fire management funded programs and activities in the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the National Park Service (NPS), the Office of Wildland Fire (OWF), and the Common Services fire activities. This memorandum supplements previously issued FY 2016 budget guidance provided in OWF Policy Memorandum 2015-009. Final guidance will be issued when an appropriation is enacted.

Table 1 includes continuing resolution (CR) funding levels based on FY 2016 allocation levels, minus the across the-board-reduction and an adjustment to the facilities activity. Facilities funding based on CR levels does not provide sufficient flexibility for individual bureaus to complete work. In close coordination with bureau fire program leadership, BLM will receive the full \$1.2 million for facilities activities during the initial CR with the remainder to be distributed to the Bureaus over FY 2017 after December 9, 2016. This approach will ensure completion of several small/medium repair and maintenance projects for BLM while still addressing the other Bureau needs through the remainder of the year.

Table 1. FY 2017 CR Funding

	(\$000s)						
Wildland Fire Management	BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	OWF	Parent	Total CR Funding
Preparedness	\$12,265	\$35,191	\$5,259	\$7,193	\$1,402	\$465	\$61,775
Suppression	5,034	13,148	1,229	4,781	19	31,454	55,665
Fuels Management	7,480	13,818	3,939	4,431	720	149	30,537
Resilient Landscapes	163	1,135	244	366	-	-	1,908
Burned Area Rehabilitation	801	2,220	314	284	-	1	3,620
Facilities	-	1,227	-	-	-	-	1,227
Joint Fire Science Program	-	1,143	-	-	-	-	1,143
Total Funding	\$25,743	\$67,882	\$10,985	\$17,055	\$2,141	\$32,069	\$155,875

Resilient Landscapes

The CR level funding for Resilient Landscapes is also available for existing collaborative projects and the project detail information is reflected in Table 2. These collaboratives represent broad geographic areas and several ecosystem types across the continental United States. Each collaborative has a primary agency identified from BIA, BLM, FWS, and NPS, with the activities administered by OWF.

Table 2. FY 2017 Resilient Landscapes CR Funding

	(\$000s)					
Resilient Landscapes Funding	BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	Total	
Bi-State		\$196			\$196	
Bruneau-Owyhee		95			95	
Grants Grove Peninsula				60	60	
Greater Sheldon Hart Mountain	10		67		77	
Longleaf Pine-South Atlantic		9	163	15	187	
Santa Clara Mesa	153				153	
Southern Arizona				79	79	
Southern Utah (Utah Southern)		668			668	
Southwest Colorado		167	14	15	196	
Valles Caldera				197	197	
Total	\$163	\$1,135	\$244	\$366	\$1,908	

Additional FY 2017 Resilient Landscapes funding will be allocated based on review of the *FY 2016 Wildland Fire Resilient Landscapes Annual Accomplishment Report (Due Date – November 25, 2016)*. The report is an opportunity for the collaborative to demonstrate their success reaching Wildland Fire Resilient Landscape (WFRL) goals, treating landscapes, sharing lessons learned, and reporting FY 2016 accomplishments and funding status.

Time Frame: The P.L. 114-223 covers a period of 70 days, which is 19.18 percent of the FY. The CR provisions and cautions are outlined in the Departmental memo provided as Attachment 1. This Policy Memorandum is effective immediately and remains in effect until rescinded or modified.

Policy: In addition to the across-the-board reduction there may be additional sequestration of funding during FY 2017. The amount of a 2017 sequestration of discretionary funding will not be known until January 2017. Bureaus should execute the amount provided in the CR allocations but keep in mind the possibility of additional sequester reductions after January. No funds have been held in the “Parent” account to cover potential sequester of funds.

Bureau CR allocation amounts are available now; transfers were completed on October 13 and October 19, 2016 and the bureaus were notified of the Treasury transaction numbers.

In addition to funding levels provided in the Tables 1 and 2, the following guidance and direction applies:

Common Services Activities: The across-the-board reductions have been applied to each of the common services activities. Carryover funding available from the FY 2016 common services activities has been applied to the individual activity budgets, as available. Applying the available carryover reduces the amount of FY 2017 funding required to fund the common services activities.

Preparedness and Fuels Programs: In light of continued refinement of the proposed Risk Based Wildland Fire Management module, it was not used to inform this allocation.

Under a CR, bureaus are reminded that Fuels Management activities undertaken within the Wildland Fire Management account are ongoing and are not prohibited by the SEC. 104 provision language. Bureaus should take full advantage of opportunities to implement fuels treatments during the period of the CR, but should exercise prudence to ensure adequate funding for staff and other program activities throughout the year. Internal management controls for hiring of personnel should be followed.

Contacts: Any questions relating to Resilient Landscapes can be directed to David Overcast, Program Lead for Fuels and Landscapes. All other questions can be directed to Nora Peterson, Budget Officer, Office of Wildland Fire at 202-606-0518.

cc: Interior Fire Executives
Interior Fire Directors

Attachment: Guidance for FY 2017 Funds Execution Under the Senate Amendment to H.R. 5325, Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017