

1996 ADDENDUM
PNW INTERAGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

NORTHWEST COORDINATION CENTER

PORTLAND, OREGON

This addendum to the NW Area Preparedness Plan is approved and will remain in effect until rescinded.

USDA Forest Service
Region 6

Richard L. Fenner 5/17/96
Date

USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs
Portland Area Office

Clair Holford 5/22/96
Date

USDI Bureau of Land Management
Oregon and Washington

Chris Sams 5/13/96
Date

USDI Fish and Wildlife Service
Region 1

Thomas J. Dyer 5/23/96
Date

USDI National Park Service
Pacific West Field Area

Rory D. Westberg 6/5/96
Date

PNW INTERAGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this plan is to ensure timely recognition of approaching critical fire situations, establish a process for analyzing situations and establishing priorities, and for implementing actions to respond to these situations.

The objective of this plan is to provide information adequate to make a decision that provides a high probability of attaining an appropriate level of preparedness. This Plan covers READINESS for a potential wildfire incident(s), or an active incident(s), that endanger life, property or natural resources under jurisdiction of federal wildland fire protection agencies in the States of Oregon and Washington.

A process has been developed to compute a Preparedness Level (PL) on a scale of 1.0 to 5.9 to ordinate the level of readiness. At each Preparedness Level, a recommended set of actions is provided. This Plan documents actions to be considered by these Federal agencies in the states of Washington and Oregon; USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management, USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs, USDI Park Service, and the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service.

This Preparedness Plan only addresses wild and prescribed fire. It may be expanded in the future to cover other types of incidents such as floods, earthquakes, and volcanos.

This Plan defines a process whereby a Preparedness Level will be determined for the current day as well as for 3, 10, and 30 day periods of time in the future. It further defines the recommended actions to be considered for these time periods.

To provide for valid information to support this decision, it will be the responsibility of each participating agency to submit accurate situation reports daily during the designated period, to communicate promptly to the NWC Manager situations and concerns needing special consideration in the determination of the PL, and to support actions proposed or implemented under this plan.

DETERMINATION OF PREPAREDNESS LEVELS

A Preparedness Level for the Northwest Area (Oregon & Washington) will be determined by the Northwest Coordination Center (NWC) Manager and transmitted to all agencies covered by this plan. This Preparedness Level is computed for the current day as well as the three future time periods defined. As primary input to this decision, an Initial Preparedness Level (IPL) will be determined using the objective determination of the following three separate items described below.

- 1) A measure of Risk determined by combining prescribed fire and wildfire activity. This measure is used to measure a real and potential need for suppression resources.

- 2) A measure of concern for availability of Type II crews is used as an indicator of overall fire suppression resource availability. For every Type II crew available, it is expected that 7 overhead will be needed based on historical trends.
- 3) A measure of fire season severity as indicated using the historical energy release component (ERC) to determine the dryness of larger fuels and a measure of fire intensity. A Severity Projection Index (SPI) Table provides probabilities the ERC will be at various levels in the future given its level today. This will also yield indications of the progression of drought or wet conditions based on historical conditions by time period.

The determination of the final preparedness level is a management decision and the responsibility of the Northwest Coordination Center (NWC) Manager or designated acting and needs to consider the following:

- 4) This decision must consider the following subjective criteria as a minimum:
 - a) The 3, 10, and 30 day weather forecasts and projections.
 - b) Additional risk of wildfire occurrence or existing wildfire activity not measured by the Initial Preparedness Level. This could include wildfire activity both Nationally and Regionally.
 - c) Social/political considerations.
 - d) Other Considerations.

ACTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AT EACH PREPAREDNESS LEVEL

Actions to be considered are grouped into four categories as follows:

- Actions to reduce large fire workload.
- Actions to increase large fire suppression capability.
- Actions to inform and involve agency officials, industry and the public.
- Actions to evaluate planned and existing prescribed fire activities.

These actions will be considered at each of the benchmark time interval of 3 days, 10 days, and 30 days into the future for each preparedness level. The following matrices address these actions in bullet statement form.

Actions to Be Considered Based On 3 Day Outlook

	<u>Preparedness Level</u>				
	1	2	3	4	5+
<u>Inform and Involve</u>					
Notify agency cooperators of all fires and locations WHO - Locally (neighbor to neighbor)	X	X	X	X	X
Local Units to inform States of possible need for assistance. WHO - Area coordinators and dispatchers	X	X	X	X	X
Notify agency cooperators of key exports and resource commitments. WHO - Northwest Coordination Center			X	X	X
PIO's contacted and kept informed of the fire situation WHO - All agencies			X	X	X
Brief Line Officers daily and more often if necessary on resources available and critical needs WHO - Local State and Area coordinators/dispatchers using established formats			X	X	X
Press releases on fire situation and prevention measures WHO - State and Agency offices			X	X	X
Consider ordering a PIO for the coordination center WHO - Center Manager				X	X
NWC to contact States of possible need for resources such as the National Guard, crews, etc. WHO - Northwest Coordination Center				X	X
<u>Enhance Initial Attack Capability</u>					
Maintain availability status of suppression resources WHO - All units using established formats and situation report	X	X	X	X	X
Local jurisdictions reaffirm minimum initial attack and first reinforcement needs which must be maintained WHO - All local units			X	X	X
Consider repositioning resources WHO - All units at appropriate level (move up)			X	X	X
Consider extending staff hours for shared resources WHO - Northwest Coordination Center				X	X

Actions to Be Considered Based On 3 Day Outlook (Con't)

	<u>Preparedness Level</u>				
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5+</u>
<u>Enhance Large Fire Suppression Capability</u>					
Maintain availability status of suppression resources	X	X	X	X	X
WHO - All units using established formats and situation report					
Establish State/Regional level Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (MAC) as needed			X	X	X
WHO - State and agency directors					
Review staging center plans and agreements			X	X	X
WHO - All units					
<u>Prescribed Fire Activities</u>					
Evaluate existing contingency resources and potential demands for their use and advise local administrators prior to new MIPF.			X	X	X
WHO - NWCC thru MAC to agency administrators					
Consider complete mop-up of management ignited prescribed fires				X	X
WHO - NWCC thru MAC to agency administrators					

Actions to Be Considered Based On 10 Day Outlook

	<u>Preparedness Level</u>				
	1	2	3	4	5+
<u>Inform and Involve</u>					
NWC to brief States of possible need for resources WHO - Northwest Coordination Center				X	X
Brief forest industry of situation and possible needs WHO - States at the proper level				X	X
Consider letter of commitment to fire suppression responsibilities to field from Line Officers WHO - Federal and State unit line authority				X	X
Press releases on fire situation and prevention measures WHO - State and agency area offices				X	X
Brief Line Officers on resources available and critical needs WHO - Northwest Coordination Center via electronic mail				X	X
<u>Enhance Initial Attack Capability</u>					
Alert NIFCC of possible resource need WHO - Northwest Coordination Center	X	X	X	X	X
Local jurisdictions reaffirm minimum initial attack and first reinforcement needs which must be maintained WHO - All local units			X	X	X
Identify possible local resources for suppression use WHO - Local units			X	X	X
Consider hiring additional resources (AD crews, engines, tractors, etc.) WHO - Local units through approved processes			X	X	X
<u>Enhance Large Fire Suppression Capability</u>					
Alert NIFCC of possible resource needs including military and Canadian resources WHO - Northwest Coordination Center				X	X
Recommend Emergency Fire Fighter training program begin WHO - Northwest Coordination Center via electronic mail				X	X
<u>Prescribed Natural Fire Activities</u>					
a. Geographic Area Coordination Center track activity and resource committment to active PNFs WHO - NWCC thru daily situation reporting	X	X	X	X	X

Actions to be Considered Based on a 10 Day Outlook

	<u>Preparedness Level</u>				
	1	2	3	4	5
b. Geographic Area MAC concurs with local agency recommendations for PNF. Evaluation of significant risk which has potential to impact suppression resources will be determined by reviewing PNF Observation Record along with go/no-go decision within 24 hours of discovery.					X X
WHO - NWC convene Geographic area MAC via conference call					
d. Obtain national-level concurrence of proposed PNFs					X X
WHO - Geographic Area MAC agency representative after obtaining approval from geographic area MAC.					

Actions to Be Considered Based On 30 Day Outlook

	<u>Preparedness Level</u>				
	1	2	3	4	5+
<u>Inform and Involve</u>					
Review severity reports, Palmer Drought Index, reports from NIFCC, Meta-fire, etc.	X	X	X	X	X
WHO - Northwest Coordination Center on monthly basis					
<u>Enhance Initial Attack Capability</u>					
Analyze need and request additional emergency funding				X	X
WHO - State and agency line authority					
<u>Enhance Large Fire Suppression Capability</u>					
Identify need for an Emergency Fire Fighter training and recruitment program				X	X
WHO - Local unit level of all units					
<u>Prescribed Natural Fire Activities</u>					
Monitor the progress of all previously approved PNFs				X	X
WHO - NWC to convene geographic area MAC via conference call to confirm previous decisions					