

## **Attachment B – District 2**

This Plan is between the USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM) High Plains District, High Desert District & Wind River/Bighorn Basin District, USDI Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), USDA Forest Service (USFS) Medicine Bow/Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland, USDI US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Park Service (NPS), Wyoming State Forestry Division (WSFD), Converse County, Goshen County, Natrona County, Natrona County Fire Protection District and Casper Mountain Fire District, City of Casper, Town of Bar Nunn, Town of Evansville, Town of Mills, the Wyoming Military Department-Camp Guernsey, Albany County, Albany County Fire District #1, Town of Rock River, City of Laramie, Carbon County, City of Rawlins, Laramie County Fire District #1, Laramie County Fire Authority, Laramie County Fire District #3, Laramie County Fire District #4, Laramie County Fire District #5, Laramie County Fire District #6, Laramie County Fire District #9, Laramie County Fire District #10, Laramie County, Platte County, Platte County Fire District 1F, Platte County District 2F, Guernsey Rural Fire District, Chugwater Fire Protection District, Antelope Gap Rural Fire District and Hartville Fire Department.

### **Forest Service County Grants and Agreements**

Albany, Carbon, Converse, Natrona and Platte County – (22-FO-11020600-011).

### **Interagency Dispatch Centers:**

1. The Entities agree to participate in the neighborhood dispatch system. The Entities give authority to the dispatch center to provide the services required in support of the appropriate center's charter and operating plan. For specifics, see the dispatch center plans.
2. For fires on or near State, BLM, USFS, USFWS & NPS ownership, Casper Interagency Dispatch Center will be used for the dispatch contact. For fires located in southwestern Natrona County and northwestern Carbon County that fall under BLM Wind River/Bighorn Basin District jurisdiction Cody Interagency Dispatch Center will be notified. Fire dispatch on private lands and within the incorporated boundaries of cities and towns will be conducted utilizing protocols and procedures adopted by the local Jurisdictional Entity.

### **PREPAREDNESS**

Description of reciprocal fire protection zone:

1. Within the reciprocal fire protection zone, each Entity shall assume its own full

cost of expenditures until the reciprocal period described below expires, following the initial report of the fire to the jurisdictional Entity, with the exception of WSFD as described in the Sub Geographical Agreement. Costs incurred after the reciprocal fire protection period ends will be reimbursed by the protecting Entity. The protecting Entity will be determined as soon as possible. All fires will be reported to the protecting Entity.

2. All lands party to this agreement are considered a reciprocal fire protection zone, with the exception of Wyoming State Park lands, as well as human caused fires resulting from training activities occurring on Wyoming Military Department lands – Camp Guernsey. All costs associated with fire suppression, containment and control on Wyoming Military Department – Camp Guernsey lands are to be paid by the Wyoming Military Department.
3. WY-BLM became the protecting agency for all BOR lands within the state of Wyoming. As such, BOR lands shall be protected under the same terms as BLM lands; that is, mutual aid periods, billable responses, and cost share processes shall be the same for BOR as BLM. Both BLM and BOR will be signatory to this AOP. All bills for fires on BOR lands shall be sent to BLM for payment.
4. Following the initial report of the fire to the jurisdictional Entity, and within the reciprocal fire protection zones, each Entity, with the exception of WSFD as described in the Sub Geographical Agreement, shall assume its own full cost of expenditures for the first operational period (midnight) following the initial report of the fires to the jurisdictional Entity.
5. Costs incurred after the reciprocal fire protection period ends will be reimbursed by the protecting Entity. The protecting Entity will be determined as soon as possible. All fires will be reported to the protecting Entity.

For all wildfires on State Parks administered land, bills should go to the Agency with surface jurisdiction.

6. In all counties with BOR lands entities will notify the BOR Agency Administrator as listed in Attachment B-2 “Call List” as soon as possible when Initial Attack is not sufficient to control a fire.
7. Reciprocal protection is not construed as an automatic commitment for the maximum reciprocal fire protection period for each county listed above. Therefore, priority will be given to the release of a supporting Entity when it is mutually agreed upon by the initial attack forces that the fire situation is such that the protecting Entity’s forces on the scene can adequately control the incident. Furthermore, within its capabilities, the protecting Entity will render support to the supporting Entity to include but not limited to food, water, and additional forces to expedite release of the supporting Entity in advance of the

maximum reciprocal fire protection period for each county, as listed above.

8. For incidents that go beyond the reciprocal period (mutual aid) it should be noted in the Cost Share Agreement that reciprocal (mutual aid) period will not apply; all costs will begin at the start of the incident. (i.e., For the sake of the agreement, all costs will be collected from the beginning of the incident and no mutual aid period will apply.)

#### Reimbursable Fire Protection Services:

1. All counties, with the exception of Wyoming State Park lands are considered as a reimbursable protection zone after the first operational period (midnight) of reciprocal protection. All Wyoming State Park lands are fully reimbursable upon the initial report of the fire.
2. All counties party to this agreement are considered as a reimbursable fire protection zone after the end of first operational period (midnight) of reciprocal protection.
3. For any fires on State Park Lands located in all counties party to this agreement, State Parks administrative office will be contacted as soon as possible. State Parks contact information is listed in Attachment B-2 "Call List" of this AOP.

## **OPERATIONS**

### Special Management Considerations:

#### **Federal Partners Party to this Agreement**

All unplanned fires on federal land require a response and a decision. This is best communicated with clear objectives and an "incident strategy". The incident strategy is based on the following criteria:

- Should lead to meeting the objectives
- Risk to firefighters (Life First Concepts/Risk Management – probability and the consequences of fire impacting values at risk vs. the risk to firefighters put in place to mitigate the risk of fire impacting values.)
- Fuels, Weather and Topography influencing the fire and the anticipated spread of the fire
- Values truly at Risk: Communities, Infrastructure, Watersheds, Social, Ecological, Cultural, etc.
- Partner agencies and their objectives (if the fire is or is expected to be multi-jurisdictional)
- Cost of meeting objectives
- Smoke Management: Coordination with the States and monitoring
- Desired conditions (outlined in the Land Management Plan Objectives or other

- documents)
- Resource Availability
- Fire modelling Tools
- Seasonality – duration of fire/change in conditions

Agency Administrators and Fire Managers assess the criteria above and then develop a strategy to successfully manage the fire, and meet objectives. The strategy may use natural barriers, changes in weather, fuel changes or rely heavily on the efforts of firefighters and aircraft. It could be a combination of all these elements (and usually is).

### **Fire Operations Guidance in Bark Beetle Killed Stands – USFS/R2**

Due to altered fuel conditions, personnel operating within the bark beetle environment should be aware of the imminent danger presented by dead and dying trees, falling at an increasing rate across a broad forested landscape.

#### **Purpose and Intent**

Fire Operations Guidance is mindful of Foundational Fire Suppression Doctrine in the Forest Service. The first principle is: No resource or facility is worth the loss of human life; however, the wildland fire suppression environment is complex and possesses inherent hazards that can---even with reasonable mitigation---result in harm to firefighters engaged in fire suppression operations. In recognition of this fact, we are committed to the aggressive management of risk.

This guidance provides a collection of potential hazards unique to bark beetle forests, including appropriate practices that have evolved over time within the wildland fire service. It does not provide absolute solutions to the unlimited number of situations that could occur.

This guidance within bark beetle stands was provided with the intention of being used in conjunction with existing fire risk management documents. No further protocols or rules are necessary to make informed risk management decisions for fire operations in bark beetle stands.

The following hazard guidance is provided:

#### **Tactical Hazards**

- Withdrawal and/or reassessment should be considered if any of the following are present:
  - o Thunderstorms in the immediate vicinity.
  
  - o Wind speeds are strong enough that canopy movement is observed (consider that wind speeds at eye level in sheltered areas may not indicate the much greater winds aloft).

- o Reliable communication cannot be established with the appropriate Dispatch Center and remain in place 24/7 when resources are engaged.
- Due to limited ingress or egress in remote areas or in terrain without vantage points, consider using an aerial platform for risk assessment and size up.

### **Potential Fire Behavior Hazards**

- Due to increased potential of extreme fire behavior, when ERCs approach the 90th percentile, air reconnaissance should be on scene within 1 hour of detection.
- The following situations, though possible on any wildfire, may be accentuated in bark beetle stands:
  - o Accelerated transition to crown fire (when needles are present)
    - o Increased rate of spread (surface fire)
    - o Resistance to control (heavy dead and down)
    - o Frequent spotting, including long range ( >.25 miles)

### Special Lands Designations:

If a wildfire is responded to that occurs on or near lands with special designations (such as Congressionally designated Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas (BLM), Recommended/Proposed/Potential Wilderness, Areas of Critical Concerns (BLM) or Sage Grouse Habitat), the jurisdictional agency will be contacted and coordinated with to ensure allowable tactics are used. Agencies with lands that have these special designations will provide the corresponding layer to dispatch, so that responding resources can be made aware of the special designation.

### Other Considerations:

On Mortenson and Hutton Lake NWR's, all use of fire retardant or other suppression chemicals will require prior approval from the Project Leader or alternate due to Threatened and Endangered species concerns with the Wyoming Toad. If there is any discharge of fire suppression chemicals into the water sources for these two locations, then the Project Leader or alternate will be notified immediately.

### **Entirety of Agreement:**

This Agreement consisting of 58 pages, the current Wyoming Wildland Fire Resource Mobilization Guide, and interagency dispatch operating plans represents the entire and integrated Agreement between the Entities.