



U.S. National Park Service

Fire Management Plan Framework

Abbreviated Fire Management Plan (FMP)

version 02/2021

The National Park Service (NPS) developed the Abbreviated FMP Framework for use by Park units with rare wildfire events (protection-only objectives) and limited or no fuels management program [Reference Manual \(RM\) 18, Fire Management Planning Chapter 4](#). Fuels treatments may be implemented under this plan only when they are used to decrease risk of wildfire. If a Park unit is approved through NEPA to manage fire for resource objectives, this template cannot be used, and the Full Fire Management Plan Framework must be utilized.

DIRECTIONS

Follow the instructions and fill in the template. Any section or subsection indicated with a * is not required if the fire program does not include these elements. The [blue hyperlinks](#) should remain in the document to provide additional information, link to current policy and reduce redundant text. Text that is *italicized* should be included in that section of the FMP. A crosswalk may be attached as an optional appendix if using mapsheets or ArcGIS Online to display the FMP.

COVER PAGE / SIGNATURE PAGE - the FMP should be recommended for approval by an Interagency Fire Program Management Standard (IFPM) qualified Fire Management Officer (FMO) and signed/approved by the Park Superintendent (page i).

ANNUAL UPDATE (ii) - The Park Superintendent and FMO must sign the FMP [Annual Update Checklist](#) to maintain currency of the FMP. All approved changes must be incorporated in the FMP and the Annual Update Checklist must be added to the FMP immediately following the cover-page (page ii).

DOCUMENT REPOSITORY - FMP Documents should be uploaded to the [NPS Wildland Fire, Planning & Budget Share Point Site](#).

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Intent: Introduce the reader to the purpose of the fire management plan (FMP), the park unit area covered by the FMP including vicinity and other maps if not representing FMP spatially. Maps may be included as an appendix.

Include the italicized text: *“The mission of the National Park Service Wildland Fire Program is to manage wildland fire to protect the public, park communities, and infrastructure, conserve natural and cultural resources, and maintain and restore natural ecosystem processes ([NPS Wildland Fire Strategic Plan, NPS 20xx](#)). Each park unit with burnable vegetation must have an approved Fire Management Plan that will address the need for adequate funding and staffing to support the fire management program. ([Directors Order #18, Wildland Fire Management, NPS 2008](#)). To align with the DOI FMP Framework, the NPS developed fire management planning guidance described in NPS [Reference Manual \(RM\) - 18, Fire Planning, Chapter 4 \(2019\)](#), that considers fire program complexity and efficient and effective planning direction.”*

1.1 Program Organization

Describe the general organizational structure of the fire management program including: where the fire program sits in the overall park unit organizational program structure; if the park unit is part of a greater organizational park group, zone, or network and if the park unit have their wildfire suppression managed by other entities through an agreement.

1.2 Fire Management Actions

State that the response to all wildfires will be suppression. Fuel treatments, if applicable to the unit, are described in Section 3.2.

1.3 Environmental Compliance

This section is for the environmental compliance documents that support the FMP (i.e. Categorical Exclusion (C.E.) Environmental Assessment (E.A.), Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI)). List the relevant documents (and date of signature, if applicable to the document) and [Planning, Environment & Public Comment \(PEPC\)](#) Project ID numbers. National Historical Preservation Act (NHPA) /Section 106, Environmental Species Act (ESA) /Section 7 consultation documentation should be uploaded in PEPC. Documents should be included in the FMP compliance folder on the [NPS Wildland Fire, Planning & Budget Share Point Site](#).

1.4 Park Unit/Resource Management Planning

List park unit planning documents such as the Foundation Document, Resource Stewardship Strategy, etc that inform the direction in this fire management plan. Include the [PEPC Project ID numbers](#).

2.0 WILDLAND FIRE PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Intent: This section of the FMP describes the overall fire management program direction from the park unit planning documents listed in Section 1.4. Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) Strategic Objectives and Management Requirements are described in Section 3.1.2.

2.1 Goals

List the goals of the fire management program within the park unit (public and firefighter safety must be identified in a specific goal statement). Goals are broad statements describing an end state or outcome.

2.2 Objectives

List the overarching programmatic objectives of the fire management program within the park unit. These objectives may vary within specific areas, units, or zones of the park unit. Objectives are subordinate to goals, are narrower in scope and measurable.

3.0 WILDLAND FIRE OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE

Intent: This section of the FMP describes the management of wildfires and fuels treatments if applicable to the unit.

3.1 Management of Wildfires

Describe the actions required for the suppression response expanding upon section 1.2.

Initial Response Procedures

Describe the initial response procedures so that park staff and incident responders are clear on the actions required. Include safety considerations to provide responders with situational awareness and mitigate risks associated with the suppression action. The Park initial response plan is part of Appendix D – Preparedness Documents [Red Book, Preparedness, Chapter 10](#). Current Initial Response direction is located in [RM - 18, Managing Wildfire, Chapter 2](#) and [Red Book, Incident Management and Response, Chapter 11](#).

Transition to Extended Response

Describe the process for transitioning from initial response to extended response. Include triggers and the subsequent steps to follow. Identify the location for the transfer of Command Package, sample Delegation of Authority from Park Superintendent to incoming incident commanders, or incident management team if these documents have been developed. Refer to the [Red Book, Incident Management and Response, Chapter 11](#), for current direction on wildfire command and organizational structure.

Minimum Impact Strategy and Tactics (MIST)

List unit specific MIST protocols if they have been developed. Unit MIST guidelines may be found in the Fire Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA), Wilderness Minimum Resource Decision Guide (MRDG), Biological Opinion (B.O.) and other documents. Minimum Impact Strategy and Tactics (MIST) are guidelines are listed in [Exhibit 1 of RM - 18, Managing Wildland Fire, Chapter 2](#).

Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS)

Include the italicized text: *“The Wildland Fire Decision Support System ([WFDSS](#)) will be used to document the management objectives and strategies if a wildfire escapes initial attack or exceeds initial attack response.”* Current direction on WFDSS pertaining to the NPS can be found in the [Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations \(Red Book\) in Chapters 3 and 11](#). [Management Requirements](#) and [Strategic Objectives](#) are derived from land and resource management plans, as well as related compliance documents, and provide the framework, and limitations/challenges for wildfire response. NPS recommends pre-loading M.R. and S.O. pre-season in the [WFDSS Production System \(Red Book, Incident Management and Response, Chapter 11\)](#). Units are encouraged to develop and review these prior to the fire season. Management Requirements and Strategic Objectives may be attached as an optional appendix.

3.2 *Fuels Treatments

Sections with noted with a * are not required if the fire program does not include these elements.

Mechanical and prescribed fire fuels treatments may be implemented under this plan only when they are used to decrease risk of wildfire. If a Park unit is approved through NEPA to manage fire for resource objectives the Full Fire Management Plan (FMP) Framework must be utilized.

***Fuels Management Goals and Objectives**

Describe the broad programmatic fuels management goals and objectives. These come from the land and resource management plans listed in section 1.4 that describes the need for vegetation management. These should not be confused with specific goals and objective for implementing fuels treatments outlined in the prescribed fire plan.

***Fuels Treatments**

Describe the prescribed fire and/or non-fire treatments, the target vegetation types, and areas of the park unit where fuel treatments will be implemented. Describe how fuels projects and mitigation priorities are selected and how the park unit prioritizes projects for implementation. Include the italicized text: *“Activities proposed in the Fire Management Plan will be planned and implemented in accordance with [RM 18, Fuels Management Chapter 7](#), the [Interagency Prescribed Fire Implementation Guide](#), and the [Red Book, Fuels Management, Chapter 17](#).”*

***Multi-year Fuels Treatment Plan**

Include the italicized text: *“The Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR) Module in NFPORS is the national system for submitting proposed projects for approval, tracking accomplishments of the program, reporting performance and measuring accomplishments for NPS. A three year Planned Program of Work (PPOW) can be found in the [National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System \(NFPORS\)](#). The [NPS Active Management Dashboard](#) displays Fuels Treatments accomplished by the National Park Service’s Wildland Fire Management program.”* A multi-year fuels treatment plan may be attached as an optional appendix. Additional information can be found in [RM 18, Fuels Management Chapter 7](#), the [Interagency Prescribed Fire Implementation Guide](#), and the [Red Book, Fuels Management, Chapter 17](#).”

***Defensible Space**

Describe any defensible space work performed at the unit. Include the italicized text: *“The NPS has adopted the [International Code Council’s \(ICC’s\) International Urban-Wildland Interface Code](#) (2006; revised 2018) through the parameters described in [Executive Order Wildland-Urban Interface Federal Risk Mitigation](#) (May 18, 2016). Contained in the ICC’s code ([sections 603 and 604](#)) are descriptions of defensible space and maintenance requirements for urban wildland interface areas.”* Reference [RM - 18, Fuels Management, Chapter 7](#) for additional information.

Describe any structure protection efforts for the unit. Include the text italicized text: *Current information on NPS Structure Protection needs can be found at NPS Wildland Fire Risk Assessment (WFRA).* <https://wildfire-risk-assessments-nifc.hub.arcgis.com/>

3.3 Preparedness

Describe the park unit's range of preparedness activities. Include interagency agreements, compilation of weather/severity data, etc. Refer to [RM - 18, Preparedness, Chapter 5](#) and [Red Book, Preparedness, Chapter 10](#) for current preparedness direction. The park must conduct preparedness reviews on an annual basis using approved NPS [Interagency Preparedness Review Checklists](#). Include the italicized text: "*The Annual Delegation of Authority, Inter-Park Agreement (where applicable), Cooperative and Interagency Agreements, Fire Danger Operating Plan, Step-up Plan - Staffing Plan and Initial Response Plan are found in the Appendix section of this FMP. Reference [Red Book, Preparedness, Chapter 10](#) for preparedness planning requirements.*"

3.4 Post-Fire Programs and Response

Include the italicized text: "*The park unit is responsible for taking prompt action after a wildfire to minimize threats to life or property, and to prevent unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources. [RM - 18, Post Wildfire Programs, Chapter 18](#) and the [Red Book, Incident Management and Response, Chapter 11](#) provide direction on current post fire program processes and timeframes.*"

4.0 PROGRAM MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Intent: Describe actions to incorporate fire effects monitoring data, scientific research, and the FMP annual update.

4.1 Monitoring

If applicable, develop a monitoring plan(s) as per [RM - 18, Fire Ecology and Monitoring, Chapter 8](#) and reference the location of the Fire Monitoring Plan.

4.2 Climate Change

Describe briefly the current climate trends that may affect fire management strategies in the park unit. NPS summaries provided by the Climate Change Response Program ([DataStore - Project - \(Code: 2221882\) \(nps.gov\)](#)), published studies on NPS climate trends ([GIF - Anthropogenic Climate Change \(berkeley.edu\)](#)) and/or local scenario planning or vulnerability assessments should be referenced, as applicable. For park units that incorporated climate change trends or projections into elements of this FMP, summarize the research or planning efforts that occurred and how they informed the current fire management direction.

4.3 Annual Fire Management Plan Update

Include the italicized text: *Fire Management Plans do not expire and remain in effect until superseded by a new or revised plan. However, annual updates are required for the plan to be valid for the current year. Once the [Annual Update Checklist](#) is completed the Superintendent must sign the FMP Annual Update Checklist. All approved changes must then be incorporated in the FMP and the Annual Update Checklist must be added to the FMP immediately following the cover-page. The revised FMP, including the signed Annual Update Checklist, must be uploaded to the [NPS Wildland Fire, Planning and Budget SharePoint RM - 18, Fire Management Plans, Chapter 4](#). Fire Management Plans that do not have a current Annual Update Checklist are not considered current. Contact your Regional Fire Planner for region specific deadlines and protocols.*

REQUIRED APPENDICES - these may be included as an appendix, location identified or link to the document. ([Red Book, NPS Program Organization and Responsibilities, Chapter 3 and Preparedness, Chapter 10](#))

- A. Annual Delegation of Authority
- B. Inter-Park Agreement (where applicable)
- C. Cooperative and Interagency Agreements
- D. Preparedness Planning Documents
 1. Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP)
 2. Preparedness Level Plan
 3. Step-up Plan/Staffing Plan
 4. Initial Response Plan