



## Fire Management Board

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FMB Memorandum No. 15-004

Date: 13 July 2015

TO: Tom Harbour, Co-Chair, Fire Executive Council  
Jim Douglas, Co-Chair, Fire Executive Council

FROM: William Kaage, Chair, Fire Management Board

SUBJECT: Wildland Fire Information Systems Interconnect MOU Recommendation

**Purpose:** Under the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) guidance, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is required among all parties prior to interconnecting systems. A Wildland Fire Information and Technology (WFIT) level MOU will facilitate most, if not all IT system interconnections. This MOU is the first step toward redefining our entire strategy and process for interconnecting IT systems sponsored, owned or managed by wildland fire partnering agencies. Any subsequent interconnection plans and the required Interconnection Security Agreements (ISA) would fall under the purview of this MOU. Individual agency MOU numbers are as follows:

FS MOU No. 14-MU-11132543-075, BLM MOU No. FA-MOU14-011, FWS MOU No. FF09R22000-14-4003, BIA MOU No. 2014-K00441-MOU-004, NPS MOU No. G9560140066

**Background:** The WFIT organization develops a common wildland fire, information technology (IT) vision and strategy. This is a single executive level governance body which oversees wildland fire IT investments and activities. WFIT-chartered systems are designed to provide services to specific business areas of wildland fire management and all-hazard incident responses, and may require some form of information resource sharing with other IT systems. Individual agencies also host a number of IT systems, which may provide specific data or desired services to other wildland fire partnering agencies. Federal policy requires federal agencies to institute agreements for establishing secure system interconnections with each other, with non-federal cooperators, and/or with outside service providers.

The primary strategic goal when interconnecting systems is to minimize the costs and impacts to existing systems and resources while allowing enhanced functionality for the wildland fire community. The key for successfully continuing this goal is the WFIT Executive Board's commitment to interconnect systems in a secure manner. The measure of success is to continue the process that will simplify and expedite interconnection planning, reduce the number of agreements through consolidation, and facilitate interconnection life cycle management. Having a consistent, repeatable process provides a methodology to better define the interconnection business needs and provides a more structured approach to risk management, and facilitates effective change management practices throughout the interconnection life cycle.

**Action Requested:** The Fire Management Board requests the Fire Executive Council (FEC) review this proposal, and upon concurrence, forward the MOU to the Agency Directors for signature through the Federal Fire Policy Council.

cc: Fire Management Board Members; Dan Smith (Chair, National Wildfire Coordinating Group)

cc: Fire Management Board, NWCG Executive Board, NWCG Program Management Unit (PMU)