

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

- I. AUTHORITY. The Departments of Agriculture and the Interior are authorized to enter into cooperative agreements by the Protection Act of 1922 (42 Stat. 857; 16 U.S.C. 594) and the Public Land Administration Act of 1960 (74 Stat. 506; 43 U.S.C. 1361-1364). In addition, the Secretaries have entered into Memoranda of Understanding dated January 28, 1943, and February 21, 1963, to provide adequate wildfire management and protection to the lands under their respective jurisdictions. State representation is authorized by the Clarke-McNary Act of June 7, 1924, Sec 1, (43 Stat. 653, 16 U.S.C. 564).
- II. FUNCTION AND PURPOSE. To establish an operational group designed to coordinate programs of the participating agencies so as to avoid wasteful duplication and to provide a means of constructively working together. Its goal is to provide more effective execution of each agency's fire management program. The Group provides a formalized system to agree upon standards of training, equipment, aircraft, suppression priorities, and other operational areas.
- Agreed upon policies, standards, and procedures are implemented directly through regular agency channels.
- III. MEMBERSHIP. The National Wildfire Coordinating Group shall consist of one official or his representative from each of the following agencies or offices:
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| a. Bureau of Indian Affairs | g. Division of Forest Fire & Atmospheric Sciences Research, Forest Service |
| b. Bureau of Land Management | |
| c. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | h. Division of Cooperative Fire Protection, Forest Service |
| d. National Park Service | |
| e. Boise Interagency Fire Center, Bureau of Land Management | i. Boise Interagency Fire Center, Forest Service |
| f. Division of Fire Management, Forest Service | j. National Association of State Foresters |

- IV. ORGANIZATION. During Calendar Year 1976, the Group will be chaired by a U.S. Department of Agriculture representative, and during Calendar Year 1977 the Group will be chaired by a U.S. Department of the Interior representative. In subsequent years, the chairman will be elected from within the Group to serve a term of one year. The Chairman may appoint a recorder, secretary, and other officers necessary for the functioning of the Group.
- V. COMMITTEES. The Chairman may establish working teams to carry out the functional work of the Group. The working team chairman shall be selected by the vote of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group. Membership shall be invited from organizations having the greatest expertise and interest in the particular subject matter. Working team reports and recommendations shall be submitted to the Group for review, approval, and further action.
- VI. AUTHORITY OF CHAIRMAN. The Chairman may call and conduct meetings, establish working teams, and submit Group recommendations to member agencies for action.
- VII. MEETINGS, REPORTS. Meetings shall be held at least three times a year in Washington, D.C., or other appropriate locations. The Chairman shall submit necessary reports and have minutes prepared for each meeting and distributed to the Group members.
- VIII. FINANCING. Salary, travel, and incidental costs of representatives and committee members shall normally be borne by their respective agencies. Any extraordinary costs shall be covered by a written agreement among the agencies.
- IX. This Memorandum of Understanding is effective as of the date of the last signature. It shall remain in effect until terminated by either party upon thirty (30) days' written notice to the other.

SIGNED:

Earl L. Butz
Secretary of Agriculture

Date:

MAR 18 1976

SIGNED:

Thomas S. Riffe
Secretary of the Interior

Date:

2-27-76