



Memorandum No. 16-014

Date: 17 June 2016

TO: NWCG Executive Board Members

FROM: John Glenn, Chair, NWCG Executive Board

SUBJECT: Solicitation of comments on draft revisions to the *NWCG Prescribed Fire Complexity Rating System Guide (PMS 424)*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Glenn", is positioned to the right of the "FROM:" field.

The prescribed fire complexity analysis revision task team, under the NWCG Fuels Management Committee, is seeking comments on proposed revisions to the *NWCG Prescribed Fire Complexity Rating System Guide (PMS 424)*. Please forward this to prescribed fire plan preparers, prescribed fire practitioners, agency administrators, fire management officers, and other pertinent personnel in your agency and encourage them to respond to this request. Detailed information on the revision process and on how to submit comments is provided below.

The *Prescribed Fire Complexity Rating System Guide* was developed to assist personnel in determining a relative complexity when planning and implementing prescribed fire. The guide was originally published in 1995 and updated in 2004.

Since 2004 there have been significant advancements in our understanding of risk analysis and complexities associated with risk mitigation. During the 2012/2013 review and update of the *Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide (PMS 484)* a substantial number of comments were received relating to the need to update the *Prescribed Fire Complexity Rating System Guide*.

The NWCG Fuels Management Committee tasked an interagency task team to evaluate, review and provide recommendations on the 2004 *Prescribed Fire Complexity Rating System Guide*. The task team developed a survey to seek field input to the evaluation and review process. It provided an opportunity to gain insight into how the field understands the prescribed fire complexity analysis process and outcomes. The survey resulted in a substantial amount of comments, suggestions and recommendations. Based on the survey results and task team recommendations, the task team revised the PMS 424 to ensure the guide provides sufficient analysis, assessment and mitigation of risks associated with planning and implementing prescribed fire.

The Fuels Management Committee is interested in receiving comments on the draft revised prescribed fire complexity analysis and process. Comments can be provided by reviewing attached documents. If at all possible, the preferred method is to review a prescribed fire using this analysis (*Complexity Analysis_fillable* sheet.) Your review will help us ensure the analysis works, reduces subjectivity, and provides a basis for consistent method to evaluate complexity for prescribed fire implementation.

To facilitate field input to the evaluation process, please use the template - *Comment Sheet_Prescribed Fire Complexity Analysis Process*. Comments should be reviewed and consolidated at the Agency and NWCG committee and non-Governmental organization levels. Please submit your comments by September 30, 2016 to BLM_FA_NWCG_Products@blm.gov.

This memorandum, *Prescribed Fire Complexity Rating System Guide* (PMS 424), Complexity Analysis spreadsheet, and the comment template can be accessed electronically at <http://www.nwcg.gov>, under Bulletin Board on the left hand side of web page.

If you have questions please contact your Agency or Bureau task team representative:

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