*INTERAGENCY FIRE DANGER OPERATING PLAN*

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**Reviewed By:**

*Replace with Name* - Fire Management Officer Date
(FMO)

*Office*

**Prepared By:**

*Replace with Name - Title* Date

*Office*

*(May be same person as “Reviewed By”, add lines as necessary)*

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# Introduction

The purpose of this document is to improve response to wildland fires through analysis of historic weather and fire occurrence data. This document will help inform decision makers and fire managers with base level analysis of normal conditions and help identify breakpoints for hazardous conditions. This document is critical to improving firefighter and public safety.

## I. Weather Observations

Insert a map of Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) or other points for weather data (e.g., manual sites) here:

Figure 1 Selected Weather Sites

*Units with National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) compliant weather stations managed in Weather Information Management System (WIMS) will identify one fuel model for each station in WIMS as G using the Energy Release Component (ERC) index. If units have not performed detailed analysis to identify thresholds or breakpoints and fed that data back into WIMS it is recommended to use the 80th and 95th percentiles. This data will feed fire danger analysis on a national level and contribute to the maps available at:* [*http://wfas.net/*](http://wfas.net/)*/*

## II. Historical Weather Analysis

*Identify Bureau of Land Management (BLM) standard 80th and 95th percentile values in WIMS for consumption by national products here. Provide details in Appendix 1 on the process used to determine season, etc.*

## III. Fire Weather and Fire Occurrence Operating Procedures

### Roles and Responsibilities

#### Compliance with Weather Station Standards.

*Identify who is responsible (by position(s) not name) for ensuring weather stations are compliant with National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Standards (PMS 426-3) and timeframe for completion (e.g., annual, semi-annual, weekly).*

#### Validation of Historic Fire Data

*Identify who is responsible (by position(s) not name) to validate (and provide corrections) historic fire data and timeframe for completion (e.g., annual, semi-annual, weekly).*

#### Validation of Weather Data

*Identify who is responsible (by position(s) not name) to validate any weather sources outside of WIMS and timeframe for completion (e.g., annual, semi-annual, weekly).*

#### Preparation of FWOAD

*Identify those involved (by name and position) in the preparation of this document.*

#### Update of FWOAD

*Describe who will be responsible (by position(s) not name) for future updates of the FWOAD and timeframe for completion (keeping in mind that data review is required at a minimum of every two years, and a full update every five).*

### Seasonal Trend

*BLM offices may use PocketCards or a seasonal trend analysis until December 2019 and are required to use a seasonal trend analysis after December 2019.*

*A seasonal trend analysis is a comparison of the historic weather/fuels records with current and forecasted weather/fuels information. The most significant indicators of seasonal fire severity will be graphically compared with historical averages and minimums or maximums; this graph will be routinely updated and distributed to fire management personnel throughout fire season. Seasonal trend analysis information may be used as a basis for pre-positioning critical resources, dispatching resources, and requesting additional resources (e.g., through fire severity funding).*

*Use this section to identify the wildland fire indicator(s) used (e.g., collected fuel moistures, ERC, Burn Index (BI), or Buildup Index (BUI)) and where they are posted for the seasonal trend analysis described in FA-IM-2018-22.*

 *Additionally, note the period of data used and typical fire season start and end or if year-round (see Appendix 1 for additional instructions).*

### Daily Schedule

*Insert daily schedule for capturing and archiving fire and weather information. Including who will be responsible (by position(s) not name).*

*Consider:*

* *Signage*
* *Web based information*
* *Seasonal Trend Analysis*
* *PocketCards*

# Appendix 1 – Weather and Fire Occurrence Data

*In this section, document the process used to evaluate weather and fire occurrence data, select representative weather stations, establish fire season length and climatological breakpoints.*

*High quality data is important to inform decisions - it is better to have accurate data for a shorter timeframe than questionable data for a longer term.*

## Weather Data

*Document your weather data analysis in this section, including efforts to address significant missing data and evaluation of anomalies in the data set, noting that corrections to historic RAWS weather data can be entered in WIMS or corrected through the Western Regional Climate Center.*

*Document the process that you used to identify which weather sites are used and insert a map of selected weather sites in Section II.B of the template.*

*Units with NFDRS compliant weather stations managed in WIMS must identify one fuel model for each station in WIMS as G using the ERC index. If units have not performed detailed analysis to identify thresholds or breakpoints and fed that data back into WIMS BLM offices are required to use the 80th and 95th percentiles. This data will feed fire danger analysis on a national level and contribute to the maps available at:* [*http://wfas.net//*](http://wfas.net/)

## Fire Occurrence Data

*Interagency fire occurrence tabular data can be downloaded from:* [*https://fam.nwcg.gov/fam-web/weatherfirecd/*](https://fam.nwcg.gov/fam-web/weatherfirecd/) *. These files are input into FireFamilyPlus and can be downloaded from there and imported into GIS.*

*Department of the Interior (except for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) tabular fire occurrence data should be downloaded directly from the Wildland Fire Management Information (WFMI) website here to best reflect the most recent fire occurrence data:* [*https://wfmi.nifc.gov/fire\_reporting/annual\_dataset\_archive/index.html*](https://wfmi.nifc.gov/fire_reporting/annual_dataset_archive/index.html)*. Options are available to download this data in a Geographic Information System (GIS) ready format; however, there are several other formats that may be appropriate.*

*If needed, historic U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Forest Service fire data for previous years can be downloaded from the National Fire and Aviation Management Web Applications (FAMWEB) site: <https://fam.nwcg.gov/fam-web/weatherfirecd/>*

*Document your fire occurrence source data here, including efforts to address significant missing data and evaluation of anomalies in the data set, noting that corrections to historic BLM Fire Occurrence Data may be completed through WFMI Fire Reports. Additional information on Fire Reporting for DOI bureaus that use WFMI is available here:**<https://wfmi.nifc.gov/cgi/FireReporting.cgi>*

*It is critical that the reader be able to understand the period of data used. The values for a fire season that spans the entire calendar year (Jan – Dec) will be much different from the values for a fire season that only spans part of the calendar year. Therefore, the period of data used for weather and associated start and end dates for fire season or if the fire season is year-round based on fire occurrence data, should be noted in Section IV.B - Seasonal Trend of the template.*