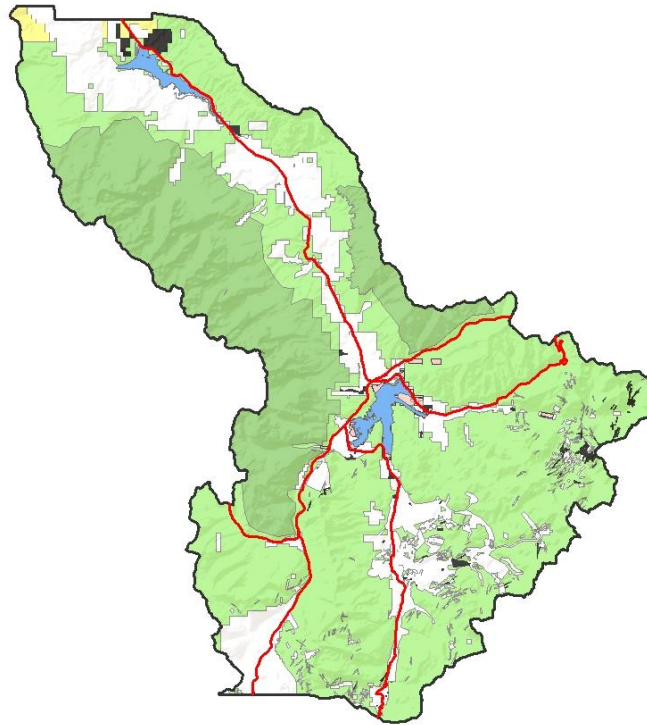


2021 SUMMIT COUNTY WILDLAND FIRE OPERATING PLAN



Source: Esri, USGS, NOAA

STX AOP Summary

STX AOP Summary		
Mutual Aid Zone	Countywide	All firefighting resources, including aviation. <i>*See mutual aid pg.10 for details</i>
Mutual Aid Period	Mutual Aid period will end at either midnight the first day or midnight the second day.	
EFF County?	Yes	
Minimum County Commitment for State Responsibility Fire.	1 SO Command Bus, 1 Road Grader, 3 Water Tenders (1 STX & 2 FPDs), 1 Transportation Bus, 3 Type 6 Engines (from FPDs), 1 ALS Ambulance	
Sheriff	Jaime FitzSimons	(970) 418-0108 (C)
Emergency Manager	Brian Bovaird	(970) 485-5339 (C)
County Dispatch	Summit 911 Center	(970) 668-8600
Grand Junction Dispatch	GJC	(970) 257-4800

Contents

PREAMBLE 4

PURPOSE 4

AUTHORITIES..... 4

RECITALS 4

INTERAGENCY COOPERATION 5

Interagency Dispatch Center 5

Interagency Resources..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Standards..... 7

PREPAREDNESS 8

Protection Planning 8

Protection Areas and Boundaries 8

Methods of Fire Protection and Suppression 8

Reciprocal (Mutual Aid) Fire Assistance..... 8

Joint Projects and Project Plans 9

Fire Prevention 9

Jurisdictional Fire Restrictions 9

Burning Permits.....10

Prescribed Fire (Planned Ignitions) and Fuels Management.....10

Smoke Management10

OPERATIONS11

Fire Notifications.....11

Boundary Line Fires11

Response to Wildland Fire.....12

Special Management Considerations.....12

Decision Process14

Cooperation14

Communication.....15

Cost efficiency15

Delegation of Authority15

Preservation of Evidence.....15

STATE EMERGENCY FIRE FUND (EFF).....15

USE AND REIMBURSEMENT OF INTERAGENCY FIRE RESOURCES15

 Cost Share Agreement (Cost Share Methodologies)15

 Training16

 Communication Systems.....16

 Fire Weather Systems.....16

 Aviation Operations17

 Billing Procedures18

 Cost Recovery.....19

GENERAL PROVISIONS.....19

 Personnel Policy.....19

 Modification19

 Annual Review20

 Duration of Agreement20

 Previous Agreements Superseded20

SIGNATURES.....21

 SUMMIT COUNTY SIGNATURES21

 COLORADO DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL SIGNATURE22

 FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY SIGNATURES22

 FIRE DISTRICT SIGNATURES.....23

Attachment A – GJC_CRC Radio Frequencies24

Attachment B – Maps.....25

Attachment C – Colorado Wildland Fire Funding Guidelines26

Attachment D - EFF27

Attachment E – Fire Restrictions Process28

Attachment F – Sample Cost Share.....29

Attachment G – Aviation Request Forms30

Attachment H – Incident Organizer31

Attachment I – Fire Operations Guidance in Bark Beetle Stands **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

PREAMBLE

This Operating Plan (OP) is prepared pursuant to the Colorado Statewide Wildland Fire Management Annual Operating Plan. The Colorado Statewide Wildland Fire Management Annual Operating Plan was prepared pursuant to the Statewide Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (Statewide Agreement) for the State of Colorado.

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this OP is to ensure prompt response to wildland fires in Summit County, Colorado. The Plan is intended to set forth standard operating procedures, agreed upon procedures, and responsibilities to implement and pay for cooperative wildland fire management in wildland areas within Summit County. The OP recognizes the statutory authority and emergency plans of the Summit County Board of Commissioners, Summit County Sheriff and Fire Protection Districts.

AUTHORITIES

- Colorado Statewide Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement Between:
 - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT – COLORADO Agreement Number BLM-MOU-CO-538
 - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE – INTERMOUNTAIN REGION Agreement Number F1249110016
 - BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS – SOUTHWEST REGION (no agreement number)
 - UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE – MOUNTAIN PRAIRIE REGION (no agreement number)
 - UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE – ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION Agreement Number 21-FI-11020000-001
- Summit County, Memorandum of Understanding for Participation in the Colorado Emergency Fire Fund
- Agreement for Cooperative Wildfire Protection in Summit County

RECITALS

Definitions

Agencies Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) - are those parties hereto having legal, response, and payment obligations for wildland fire occurring within their respective Jurisdictional Boundaries. The Jurisdictional Agencies who are parties hereto are:

- Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC)
- Summit County Sheriff (Sheriff)
- Summit County Board of Commissioners (County or SCO)

- USFS White River National Forest (USFS) – White River National Forest
- USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – Kremmling Field Office
- Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit (UCR)
- Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit (NWCFMU)
- Red, White, Blue, Fire Protection District
- Summit Fire and EMS
- Lower Blue Fire Protection District; response under IGA with Summit Fire and EMS

Local Response Agencies - Local Response Agencies are entities located within Summit County having wildland fire response and suppression capabilities. Local Response Agency rights and responsibilities defined herein are only applicable to those Local Response Agencies who are parties to the Plan. Attached is a contact list for response agencies and other pertinent parties, **Attachment A**

Wildland Area: Means an area in which development is essentially nonexistent, except for roads, railroads, power lines, and similar infrastructure, and in which structures, if present, are widely scattered.

Wildland Fire: Means an unplanned or unwanted fire in a wildland area, including unauthorized human-caused fires, out-of-control prescribed fires, and all other fires in wildland areas where the objective is to extinguish the fire. 29-20-105.5 subsection 2c, d

INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

Jurisdictional Roles

The first fire response agency to arrive at the scene of a wildland fire, regardless of whether the incident occurs within its jurisdiction, shall act as incident commander and be responsible for the initial emergency action necessary to control the wildland fire or to protect life or property until the emergency response agency that has jurisdiction over the incident site arrives.

Chief of Fire District/Department Responsibility

The Chief of the Fire Department in each Fire Protection District in the state is responsible for the management of wildland fires that occur within the boundaries of his or her district and that are within the capability of the Fire District to control or extinguish in accordance with the provisions of section 32-1-1002 (3) (a), C.R.S.

The Fire Chief may utilize mutual aid agreements and unified command with the Sheriff and neighboring Fire Protection Districts to suppress and control fires that cross or threaten to cross the boundaries of the district.

The Fire Chief may transfer any duty or responsibility he/she may assume under this section to the County Sheriff with the concurrence of the Sheriff.

The Fire Chief shall not seek reimbursement from the County for expenses incurred by the District

for their own apparatus, equipment, and personnel used in containing or suppressing a wildland fire occurring on private property within the boundaries of the District.

Summit County Sheriff Responsibility

The Sheriff is the Fire Warden of the county and is responsible for the planning and coordination of efforts to suppress wildland fires occurring in the unincorporated area of the county outside the boundaries of a Fire Protection District, excluding federal lands, or that exceed the capabilities of the Fire Protection District to control or extinguish in accordance with the provisions of section 30-10-512, C.R.S.

In the case of a wildland fire that exceeds the capabilities of the Fire Protection District to control or extinguish and that requires mutual aid and outside resources, the Sheriff shall appoint a local incident management team to provide the command and control infrastructure necessary to manage a county responsibility fire. Upon the transfer of fire management responsibility from the Fire District to the Sheriff, the Sheriff, shall upon said transfer, assume financial responsibility for firefighting efforts on behalf of the county and the authority for the ordering and monitoring of resources.

In the case of a wildland fire that exceeds the capability of the county to control or extinguish, the Sheriff shall be responsible for requesting assistance from the DFPC. The Sheriff and the Director of DFPC shall enter into an agreement concerning the transfer of authority and responsibility for fire suppression and the retention of responsibilities. For the duration of a state responsibility fire, the Sheriff, at the Sheriff's discretion, may serve, or appoint someone to serve as an agency administrator. During a state responsibility fire, the agency administrators shall cooperatively appoint an incident commander.

Upper Colorado River and Northwest Colorado Interagency Fire Management Unit Responsibilities

The UCR and NWCFMU are responsible for managing fires occurring on National Forest lands and lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. BLM lands in Summit County are administered by the BLM-Kremmling Field Office.

Interagency Dispatch Center

Grand Junction and Craig Interagency Dispatch Centers utilize the Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC) to dispatch resources.

Reinforcements and Support

All requests for additional resources will be made by the Incident Commander, in accordance with the current OP, agency policies/procedures, and a current delegation of authority, if applicable.

In the event that applicable ordering procedures are not substantially complied with, the costs of subject additionally ordered resources shall be the responsibility of the party that ordered such resources.

Interagency Procurement

Non-federal participants in this plan may purchase fire suppression supplies through Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). Any other loaning, sharing, exchanging or maintenance of facilities, equipment or support services will be considered on a case-by-case basis as mutually agreed to by the concerned parties.

Interagency Resources

All wildland fire agencies are limited by current staffing and funding levels. Wildfire is normally a seasonal event in Colorado and as such, firefighting capability will vary by time of year.

Cooperator equipment availability status for out of county assignments is maintained in IROC. Grand Junction Interagency Dispatch Center (GJC) will set the status of all cooperator resources to "unavailable" on the last Thursday of the month. Cooperators are responsible to maintain and update the status of their resources in IROC. A password may be requested from Grand Junction Interagency Dispatch Center 970-257-4800.

Standards

During initial action, all agencies (local, state, and federal) accept each other's qualification standards.

The National Incident Management System (NIMS), including the Incident Command System (ICS), will be utilized on all wildland fires.

Unified Command may be used as appropriate, whenever multiple jurisdictions are involved. If there is a question about jurisdiction, fire managers should mutually decide and agree on the command structure as soon as they arrive on the fire; Agency Administrators should confirm this decision as soon as possible. Once this decision has been made, the incident organization in use should be relayed to all units on the incident as well as dispatch centers. In all cases, the identity of the IC must be made known to all fireline and support personnel.

All requests for fire information will be approved by the incident commander utilizing a single fire information officer working in conjunction with the AHJs involved.

An Incident Management Team (IMT) provides on-scene incident management support during incidents or events that exceed a jurisdiction's or agency's capability or capacity. An IMT may be used by the Jurisdictional Agency to assist with logistical, financial, planning, operational and command functions as outlined in the delegation of authority.

An After-Action-Review (AAR) of events and actions taken by suppression forces during wildland fires will be conducted by the AHJ commensurate with the complexity of the incident.

Each party is responsible for inspecting its own equipment annually for use and roadworthiness prior to listing it as available for interagency use with Grand Junction or Craig Interagency

Dispatch Centers.

BLM

Local fire department personnel responding to incidents on BLM lands must:

- Be 18 years of age or older;
- Have and use the required personal protective equipment (PPE) found in Chapter 7; and
- Have a basic level of wildland fire training. The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) course S-190 and S-130 are recommended, both courses can be modified to fit local needs (local fire department requirement).
- Pre-identified incident communication protocols will be established and followed (e.g., frequencies plans, points of contact, and inter-operable radio hardware).
- The Incident Command System (ICS) will be used to manage all incidents

PREPAREDNESS

Protection Planning

Summit County, in coordination with Fire Districts, other Jurisdictional Agencies, and Stakeholders, has developed the Summit County Community Wildfire Protection Plan to prioritize and guide wildland fire mitigation efforts, the terms and conditions of which are hereby incorporated by this reference.

Protection Areas and Boundaries

Jurisdictional Agency boundary lines between Summit County (private and state lands), USFS and BLM lands (Jurisdictional Boundaries) are defined on the White River National Forest map. Fire District boundaries (District Boundaries) are defined on the District Boundaries map, **Attachment B**.

Methods of Fire Protection and Suppression

Reciprocal (Mutual Aid) Fire Assistance

Mutual Aid is a written agreement between or among federal, state, and local agencies in which the agencies agree to assist one another upon request by furnishing such resources as personnel and equipment.

The parties hereto respectively pledge their good faith in attempting to assist each other based on their needs, requests for mutual aid, and the circumstances of a wildland fire. Each party will take appropriate actions to include the suppression and/or management of all wildland fires during the Mutual Aid Time Period and thereafter, and agrees the primary concern is the appropriate management of wildland fires, and none will delay appropriate management efforts while deciding ultimate responsibility and/or cost share for such fires.

Mutual Aid Time Period

- Mutual Aid between the County and Fire Districts lasts for the duration of the subject fire event.
- Mutual Aid between all other parties hereto shall end at either midnight of the first operational period or midnight of the second operational period.
- All mutual aid periods will preferably end at midnight for ease of financial accounting and the development of cost share agreements.

County-wide Mutual Aid

Mutual Aid has been established Countywide without regard to Jurisdictional Boundaries or District Boundaries. Agencies are responsible for their own costs during the Mutual Aid Time Period. It is understood that no party to this Plan shall be required to make resources or assistance available to the requesting party if by so doing would impair the party's ability to provide effective emergency services within its own Jurisdictional or District Boundaries. The level of activity or involvement by assisting AHJ and/or Fire Districts making a response may vary. Upon arrival, the Initial Attack Incident Commander will determine legal description and the need for appropriate jurisdictional fire investigator. Each AHJ is responsible for providing worker's compensation insurance for its own personnel.

The Jurisdictional Agency will not be required to reimburse the Supporting Agency(s) for costs incurred following the initial dispatch of any ground and aviation resources to the fire for the duration of the mutual aid period. Assistance beyond the Mutual Aid period will be reimbursable assistance, and the Supporting Agency may bill the Jurisdictional Agency for resources assigned to the fire outside the Mutual Aid period. It is understood that no supporting Agency will be required to assist, or expected to commit resources to a Jurisdictional Agency.

Joint Projects and Project Plans

The Parties to this Agreement may jointly conduct cooperative projects, within their authority and as authorized by law, to maintain or improve their fire management services and activities.

Fire Prevention

Distribution of fire prevention materials will be handled by each individual agency. Coordinated program delivery is suggested during fire prevention week, open houses, and other local events. Each agency will prepare press releases according to their own prevention plans. Joint press releases and coordination with cooperating agencies is suggested to prevent a conflict in released material. Coordination will take place before any AHJ issues a burning restriction or ban. Summit County Wildfire Council in conjunction with local fire districts provide information and education related to wildland fire.

Jurisdictional Fire Restrictions

The purpose of fire restrictions is to reduce the risk of human caused fires during high fire danger and/or burning conditions, and for the protection of human life and property. Fire restrictions and closures are invoked on federal, state, county, and private lands under federal, state, and local laws, ordinances and regulations. Cooperating agencies should coordinate prevention efforts to provide uniform and consistent information to the public. News releases should be coordinated to prevent duplication, maintain a consistent message to the public, and reduce costs.

Restrictions governing use of open fires during hazardous periods may be made to include all lands in Summit County. The Sheriff, Fire Districts, UCR and NWCFMU will confer prior to implementing fire restrictions to determine the scope of restrictions and a plan for public notification and enforcement. A process flow chart is attached as **Attachment C** to guide interagency implementation of fire restrictions and rescinding fire restrictions. Adherence to this process is strongly encouraged, but it is understood that circumstances could arise making it necessary for an AHJ to this agreement to deviate from the process. Agencies are encouraged to specify the lands that are encompassed by restrictions and to implement and rescind restrictions at the same time.

In the case of any restrictions on burning or public movements because of extreme fire danger, either by Governor's proclamation or by local issue, the county sheriff will be responsible for enforcement on all non-federal land and may assist on federal lands at the request of the appropriate agency.

Nothing in this OP shall be interpreted as a waiver of any party's statutory authority with respect to declaring, regulating, implementing, enforcing or rescinding fire restrictions.

Burning Permits

Local fire chiefs have the responsibility of issuing burning permits in their respective Fire Districts. The burning permit shall require the holder to notify Summit County Communications Center (SCCC) of controlled burning on private land prior to ignition. All pertinent State regulations will be followed.

Prescribed Fire (Planned Ignitions) and Fuels Management

The parties to this Plan will cooperate in the development and implementation of prescribed burning programs and projects including planned ignitions, and modified control strategies and tactics applied to fires within remote areas. Summit County has developed the Summit County Community Wildfire Protection Plan to prioritize and guide wildland fire mitigation efforts on federal and private lands.

Wildland fires resulting from escaped prescribed fires ignited by a party to this Plan shall be the responsibility of that party. The party responsible for the prescribed fire will reimburse other parties to this Agreement consistent with the terms and conditions contained herein for costs incurred in suppression of such fires.

If parties to this Plan conduct a cooperative prescribed fire, details covering cost sharing, reimbursement, and responsibility for suppression costs, should it escape, shall be agreed upon and documented in the burn plan.

Smoke Management

All prescribed fire will conform to the state standards to minimize emissions using all available methods that are feasible and economically reasonable in order to minimize the impact or reduce impacts of air quality standards and visibility goals.

Smoke permits are under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Public Health and Environment. DFPC follows state and federal regulations managed by the Colorado Air Pollution

Control Division. Federal agencies as parties to this OP will follow state and federal regulations managed by the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division.

Fire managers will inform the public of the status on wildland and prescribed fires through local press, radio and television to increase public awareness.

OPERATIONS

Fire Notifications

- The responsible jurisdiction must be notified of wildland fire on, or threatening, its lands as soon as possible. Notification of the jurisdictional agency will be made by the Dispatch Center handling the initial attack fire forces.
- SCCC should be notified of all wildland fires in Summit County. SCCC should notify the appropriate interagency dispatch center of all wildland fires occurring in their respective dispatch zones.
- DFPC should be notified when 1) non-federal wildland fire escapes initial attack, or 2) threatens structures, or 3) air resources are ordered for non-federal suppression efforts.
- The initial attack incident commander should size up the wildland fire utilizing the appropriate Incident Organizer (**Attachment D**) and relay the size-up directly to the appropriate dispatch center.

Denver Water Board and Colorado Springs Utilities: It shall be the responsibility of responding Fire Districts to ensure the SCCC notifies the DFPC if Denver Water Board or Colorado Spring Utilities lands are suspected to be involved or threatened.

Denver Water Board Notifications: Primary notification regarding wildfire threatening properties and/or water collection system infrastructure: DW Dispatch: [303-628-6801](tel:303-628-6801)

Colorado Springs Utilities Notifications: Primary notification regarding wildfire threatening Utilities properties and/or raw water collection system infrastructure: Colorado Springs Utilities Dispatch (24 hours): 719-668-8800

Contingency notification regarding wildfire threatening Utilities properties and/or raw water collection system infrastructure: Colorado Springs Utilities, Catamount Wildland Fire Team Chief, Mike Myers Mobile (work): 719-491-0753; (personal) 719-332-3088 (office): 719-668-8766

Boundary Line Fires

If a fire crosses, or threatens to cross, jurisdictional boundaries and becomes a boundary fire (see definition below) a Unified Command may be utilized. The purpose of the Unified Command will be to meet as a group and identify one common set of objectives for implementation by the suppression forces. The Unified Command may recommend to agency administrators the

reimbursement responsibilities and resource sharing between the agencies. No party should delay suppression efforts while deciding jurisdictional responsibilities for fires in which suppression is the appropriate response.

The Unified Command will include representatives from those entities that have financial responsibilities for the fire. In the event of a fire burning on lands of two or more jurisdictional agencies that are normally not dispatched by the same dispatch center, the Unified Command will coordinate and determine which dispatch center to coordinate with. The county EOC should be involved in this coordination.

Boundary Fires include:

- A fire burning in two or more agency jurisdictions, or will soon burn across the boundary, when the boundary line is known
- The fire location is known, but the jurisdictional boundary on the ground is unknown.
- The location of a reported fire is uncertain in relation to the jurisdictional boundary.

Response to Wildland Fire

County-wide initial attack

The closest forces of the parties hereto should be dispatched without regard to Jurisdictional or District Boundaries. Parties hereto will initiate appropriate management activities on wildland fires regardless of Jurisdictional or District Boundaries when it is within their capability to do so. Local Response Agencies will not initial attack fires if such initial attack puts its personnel at unreasonable risk (such as a remote fire discovered at night) or if asked to stand down by the Jurisdictional Agency. Local Response Agencies taking action should notify the applicable Jurisdictional Agency as soon as possible. The Jurisdictional Agency should assume responsibility for management of the fire at the earliest possible time, or as otherwise agreed or provided for herein.

The Sheriff authorizes local response agencies to respond to private property wildfire outside district boundaries (CRS 30-10-512).

Dispatching and resource ordering process

All requests for local, non-federal fire resources will be made through the SCCC. Requests for assistance beyond the capabilities of local non-federal fire resources can also be made through SCCC.

All requests for federal fire resources will be made through the appropriate interagency dispatch center (GJC or CRC).

Special Management Considerations

Aerial Retardant Use - The use of aerial retardants on all lands is restricted within approximately 300 feet of lakes, rivers and live streams and all pre-identified retardant avoidance areas.

Due to altered fuel conditions, personnel operating within the bark beetle environment should be aware of the imminent danger presented by dead and dying trees falling at an increasing rate across a broad forested landscape. The USFS-R2 Fire Operations Guidance in Bark Beetle Stands is in **Attachment E**.

Traffic control will be coordinated by the appropriate law enforcement agency, upon request, to expedite the routing of vehicles to and from major fires and to exclude unauthorized personnel from the fire area.

Denver Water Board and Colorado Springs Utilities Lands

Summit County Fire Districts will respond to wildland fires and follow through on all necessary suppression actions on DW and CSU properties that fall within their respective District Boundaries.

The DFPC will not serve as landowner representative for the utilities. Summit County and Sheriff will act with a reasonable standard of care in management response to a wildfire on utility owned lands until a representative from the utility can arrive at the wildfire. Summit County and Fire District(s) accept no fiscal responsibility on behalf of the utilities. When a utility's property is involved, Summit County and Fire District(s) will sign a cost share agreement when the agreement acknowledges the utility's cost responsibility.

Use of mechanized earthmoving equipment such as bulldozers, graders, etc. will not be permitted on Denver Water lands without the expressed approval of the Denver Water.

Federal Lands

Use of roads on federal lands presently closed to vehicular travel (outside of wilderness areas) is hereby authorized to all participants of this operating plan as follows:

- Access for detection and suppression is allowed on established roads behind locked gates.
- Access for suppression only is allowed on roads that have been designated as "closed".
- Detection and reporting within areas marked as "D-polygon" (A pre-determined area that may provide an opportunity to let fire play its natural role in the ecosystem, with minimal fire management oversight) on the map provided to local wildland fire response agencies.

Suppression efforts should not be taken unless authorized by the U.S. Forest Service or the BLM Kremmling Field Office.

Detection or suppression within designated wilderness, wilderness study areas and/or "Roadless" areas, as designated on the map provided to local wildland fire response agencies, is authorized as follows:

- The use of mechanized equipment (vehicles, chainsaws, pumps, etc.) within wilderness areas is prohibited, unless specifically authorized by USFS.
- Non-mechanized detection and suppression efforts are authorized in those portions of wilderness areas that are not part of a "D polygon" area.

- Detection and reporting only is authorized within Wilderness Areas that are also within a “D polygon” area. Natural ignitions in these areas will be evaluated for and may be managed for multiple management objectives.

Repair of Wildland Fire Suppression.

Repair of wildland fire suppression damage is the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency/agencies or landowner unless otherwise agreed to by the Agency Administrators. Rehabilitation is not covered under state funds. It may be authorized by the DFPC Agency Administrator only when part of the incident action plan during the state responsibility period.

Repair of wildland fire suppression damage on Denver Water (DW) and Colorado Springs Utilities lands (CSU) is the responsibility of DW and or CSU, unless otherwise agreed to by the Agency Administrators at the time of fire close out. All efforts will be made by agencies involved in suppressive action to minimize damage through the use of Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST), or through rehabilitation activities conducted at the time of the incident. Examples of these rehabilitation activities would include; water barring firelines; placement of logs or rocks across firelines; spreading slash across heavily disturbed areas, etc.

Decision Process

Federal agencies are required to complete a Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) decision document on all fires on federal lands that escape initial attack.

A Decision Support System (DSS) may be completed for fires that have the potential to be designated as a state responsibility Fire or that affects multiple jurisdictions and has the potential to go into extended attack. DFPC may assist with a non-state responsibility DSS, but has no authority to sign unless it is a state responsibility Fire.

All agencies involved in extended attack on private and state lands will provide input to the DSS. The DFPC Agency Administrator will facilitate completion and review of the DSS for these fires. When a fire is burning on or threatens to burn on multiple jurisdictions, one DSS should be prepared that considers all jurisdictions and their interests.

Cooperation

Summit County Building Code adoption of the International Residential Building Code, chapter 45 (local amendment), requires wildland fire hazard mitigation for new construction. Colorado State Forest Service assigns each new subdivision with a rating of low, moderate, or high. Each agency or department will provide land use reviews (plat reviews) to Summit County Community Development as requested. Reviewing agencies and departments will keep each other informed of findings as they pertain to wildland fire hazards and may when pertinent, coordinate reviews of land use plans. Agencies and departments will coordinate and cooperate on any fuel reduction plans or other wildland fire hazard mitigation activities affecting numerous homeowners or entire subdivisions.

Communication

Cost efficiency

If a fire affects or is likely to affect more than one agency, representatives from the affected jurisdictions should coordinate to determine the suppression strategies for managing the incident.

Delegation of Authority

In the event initial attack occurs on or near a jurisdictional boundary, the on-scene ranking officers of each AHJ shall convene as soon as practical following initial dispatch and response to the incident, and mutually agree upon a course of action/strategic direction and tactics as well as appoint an Incident Commander.

In the event of an extended attack incident (normally of Type 3 Complexity or greater), a verbal Delegation of Authority will be provided to the Incident Commander prior to the transfer of command and a written Delegation of Authority will be issued to the Incident Commander no later than 12 hours after the transfer of command.

Preservation of Evidence

It will be the responsibility of the AHJ to take appropriate law enforcement action. Law enforcement personnel from non-jurisdictional agencies may assist upon request from the AHJ. The AHJ Agencies will have responsibility for investigating fires and any civil or criminal actions taken. The Summit County Sheriff will coordinate fire investigation for state responsibility Fires. Fire Districts will cooperate with investigations upon request. Responding units will make every effort to identify and protect the area of origin and report all evidence to the Jurisdictional Agency.

State Emergency Fire Fund (EFF)

Summit County is a participant in the Emergency Fire Fund program. This process formalizes the transfer of a qualifying fire from a County Responsibility Fire to a state responsibility Fire. Details are outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding for Participation in the Colorado Emergency Fire Fund.

Federal Agencies: are almost always involved even when the fire is entirely on private or state land. Their policies and concerns must be addressed on all fires.

USE AND REIMBURSEMENT OF INTERAGENCY FIRE RESOURCES

Cost Share Agreement (Cost Share Methodologies)

A cost share agreement should be considered for any multi-jurisdiction fire that goes beyond the mutual aid period and/or utilizes non-mutual aid resources. Cost share agreements should be negotiated as soon as practical, signed by agency administrators, and may be updated as needed. A copy of all cost share agreements should be provided to the DFPC Battalion Chief. Attachment – F contains an example Cost Share Agreement.

Example cost share methodologies include, but are not limited to:

- Each Agency assumes its own costs expended in in the fire control effort.
- Division of costs based upon percentage ownership.
- Each agency agrees to a negotiated portion of the suppression costs.
- Utilizing 'in kind' contributions to offset direct costs.

Summit County will be involved in all cost share agreements that are expected to be paid by Summit County.

Indirect costs charged to Summit County by or on behalf of the Colorado Department of Public Safety are identified in the current Cooperative Wildfire Protection Agreement .

Training

Fire training courses are offered periodically by the Summit Fire Authority, UCR and NWCFMU, the DFPC and other agencies. As these courses or events are scheduled, the host agency will notify other Fire Districts and will invite them to participate. Wildland fire training needs should be coordinated through local training committee and the appropriate Zone training committee. Trainees/applicants will submit their nominations according to their agency policy.

The UCR, CRC and DFPC will, to the extent possible, utilize Fire District personnel on prescribed and unplanned fires to improve qualifications and readiness. AHJ personnel will be assigned to positions consistent with their qualifications or as trainees for target positions. AHJ personnel are invited to shadow their position counterparts when a local Type 3 or higher incident management team is activated.

Communication Systems

Federal, state, and county radio systems are largely incompatible and are not interoperable at this time; however, all fire agencies in Summit County are equipped with Fire Emergency Radio Network (V-FIRE 21) capabilities. V-FIRE 21 (154.2800) may be used for inter-agency communication on a wildland fire if SCCC operations channels are not compatible with any agency's radios.

All agencies to this plan are authorized to transmit on the assigned Interagency Air-to-Ground frequencies during wildfire incidents. If additional Air-to-Ground frequencies are required, they must be requested from GJC or CRC.

For the purpose of conducting business authorized by this operating plan, all parties to this operating plan agree that assisting agencies may use the jurisdictional agency's radio frequencies as needed to conduct emergency communications on fires. No party to this operating plan will use, or authorize others to use, another agency's radio frequencies for purposes beyond the scope of this operating plan. See **Attachment G** for current Frequency list.

Fire Weather Systems

The Grand Junction Interagency Dispatch Center (GJC) will monitor local fire danger levels

utilizing data from the Soda Creek RAWs and the UCR Timber Special Interest Group (SIG) in Weather Information Management System (WIMS). GJC will make fire weather, Red Flag warnings, and other fire information available to cooperators via fax and the internet at: https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2gjc/weather/index.html

A "Red Flag Warning" is defined by the National Weather Service as the imminent or actual occurrence of:

- Significant increase in surface wind speeds.
- Dry thunderstorm outbreaks.
- High Lightning activity level (LAL).
- Significant decrease in relative humidity.
- First episode of thunderstorm after a hot, dry period.
- Any combination of weather and fuel moisture conditions that would cause extensive wildland fire occurrences.

A "Fire Weather Watch" is issued to advise the agencies of the possible development of Red Flag conditions.

Aviation Operations

Aviation Requests and Operations

All requests for air support resources will be made to the GJC or CRC. Risk management should be employed when making the request for aviation support and the decision to conduct a mission requires weighing the risk against the benefit of the mission and deciding whether the risks are acceptable.

When air support is requested by any agency for suppression efforts, the request must include the following:

- Type and kind of aviation resource being ordered
- Lat/Long (Degrees decimal minutes)
- Ground Contact for who will be working with the aircraft on the incident.
- Additional hazards. (Other aircraft, aerial hazards, fire/weather conditions, etc..)
- Confirm A/G frequencies.

Personnel whom are ordering aircraft shall use the Air Support Request form in **Attachment H**.

The Sheriff, designee, or local fire protection district/department will notify the DFPC Battalion Chief immediately when aircraft is ordered for county jurisdiction fires.

GJC or CRC will make a courtesy call to SCCC and DFPC for all orders of air support resources. SCCC will then notify Summit County Sheriff and local Fire Protection District.

With some exceptions, aircraft use does not fall under mutual aid described in that section of this OP.

Lead Plane/Air Attack/Aerial Supervision Activation

Heavy air tankers are dispatched with a lead plane when one is available. Single engine air tankers with an initial attack qualified pilot may be dispatched without a lead plane. Anytime heavy air tankers or multiple aircraft are ordered an aerial supervision platform will be ordered as well. Aerial Supervision is required to be ordered as outlined in the PMS-505 Interagency Aerial Supervision Guide.

Multi-Mission Aircraft:

The DFPC Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA) have been funded for detection and aerial intelligence purposes, to assist local jurisdictions with initial attack wildland fire response on state and private lands within the State of Colorado. The MMA is integrated with the Colorado Wildfire Information System (CO-WIMS), a geospatial database that displays incident images and details to local fire managers in near real time through a web-based application. MMA detection missions and access to CO-WIMS are free to the parties of this OP.

For wildland fires the MMA should be ordered through GJC/CRC utilizing the MMA Order Form. GJC/CRC will coordinate with CSP Dispatch to place the order. The details of the mission and specific needs will then be coordinated between the DFPC Duty Officer and the requesting resource. A latitude and longitude should be provided if possible.

Billing Procedures

If reimbursement for any incident is agreed to at the local level, the Fire District may invoice the AHJ directly. If deemed necessary, the County may aggregate expenses incurred by the County and Fire Districts to suppress fires on federal jurisdictions and may present an invoice for such expenses to DFPC who will then reimburse the County and Fire Districts and subsequently bill the jurisdictional federal agency or agencies.

Federal agencies may submit bills and statements for reimbursements from County and/or Fire Districts for federal suppression on non-federal lands to DFPC. DFPC will make such reimbursement and subsequently invoice the County or Local response Agency as appropriate.

Denver Water & Colorado Springs Utilities Lands

- Payment for reimbursable costs on DW and CSU lands require that they be notified of fires by the responding agency
- Payment for reimbursable costs on DW and CSU lands must be coordinated through the DW Board or CSU. Contact DFPC for assistance.

Cooperative Resource Rate Forms

Cooperative Resource Rate Forms (CRRF) should be utilized by cooperating agencies to document rates. In the absence of a CRRF, the Colorado Cooperator Resource Standard Rates Schedule will be utilized. Cooperator reimbursement procedures, forms, and examples can be found at:

<http://dfpc.state.co.us/programs-2/emergency-management/wildland-fire-management/wildland-fire-billing>

Cooperating agencies must have an approved CRRF to be available in IROC for out of local area dispatch. Resources assigned to a state responsibility Fire from the cooperating agency without a current CRRF will be reimbursed using established standard state cooperator equipment rates. Cooperator equipment should not be signed up using an Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement (EERA).

Cost Recovery

Reimbursable Costs

Costs incurred by a Jurisdictional or Local Response Agency for services that exceed Mutual Aid fire protection may be reimbursed by the applicable Jurisdictional Agency, based on the signed cost share agreement. To be reimbursable, services provided by such assisting agencies beyond Mutual Aid fire protection must be requested by the applicable Jurisdictional Agency.

Any costs incurred by Jurisdictional Agencies for the initial attack period and beyond, and for additional time or efforts which may be requested by the DFPC or DW or CSU shall be considered reimbursable, as funds are available. An agency that provides a reasonable initial attack response on DW or CSU lands when the jurisdictional agency is unable to respond, may also request reimbursement as funds are available, from the DW Board or CSU.

Payments for reimbursable costs on DW and CSU lands require that DFPC be notified of fires by the responding agency.

Non-reimbursable Costs

The County and Fire Districts hereby agree that each of their respective directly incurred costs relating to the provision of fire response and suppression activities on private property in Summit County are not reimbursable from or to each other.

Except as otherwise specifically provided for herein, each party hereto agrees to assume responsibility for its own expenses during the Mutual Aid Period.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Personnel Policy

The parties are subject to the personnel laws, rules, and policies of their respective organizations.

Modification

Modifications within the scope of this Operating Plan shall be made by mutual consent of the Parties, through the issuance of a written modification signed and dated by all Parties prior to any

changes being performed. Any Party shall have the right to terminate their participation under this Operating Plan by providing six months written notice to the other Parties.

Annual Review

This Operating Plan is reviewed annually by April 1st and revised, as needed. Operating plans will remain current until a revised Operating Plan is signed by all parties.

Duration of Agreement

This Operating Plan is executed as of the date of last signature and remains in effect for five years unless modified or superseded. If the current Colorado Statewide Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement is superseded by a new Agreement, this Operating Plan may remain in effect to the extent that it does not conflict with provisions of the new Agreement, but only until such time that all activities and conditions can be incorporated into a new Operating Plan.

Previous Agreements Superseded

Once signed, this OP supersedes the previous OP.

SIGNATURES

SUMMIT COUNTY SIGNATURES

Signature

Date

Jaime FitzSimons

County Sheriff

Printed Name

Title

Signature

Date

Elisabeth Lawrence

Board of County Commissioners

Printed Name

Title

Signature

Date

Kathleen Neel

Summit County Clerk

Printed Name

Title

COLORADO DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL SIGNATURE

Signature

3/20/2020
Date

Tyler Campbell
Printed Name

Headwaters Region Battalion Chief
Title

FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY SIGNATURES

Signature

Date

Scott Fitzwilliams
Printed Name

Forest Supervisor
Title

U.S. Forest Service-White River National Forest
Federal Agency, Unit

Signature

Date

Elijah Waters
Printed Name

Northwest District Manager
Title

Bureau of Land Management-Northwest District
Federal Agency, Unit

FIRE DISTRICT SIGNATURES

Signature

Date

Travis Davis
Printed Name

Fire Chief
Title

Summit Fire and EMS Authority
Fire District

Signature

Date

Jim Keating
Printed Name

Fire Chief
Title

Red White and Blue Fire Protection District
Fire District

Signature

Date

C.J. Winkler
Printed Name

Board President
Title

Lower Blue Fire Protection District
Fire District

Attachment A – Contact List

Attachment B – Maps

Attachment C – Fire Restrictions Process

Attachment D – Incident Organizer

Attachment E – Fire Operations Guidance in Bark Beetle Stands

Attachment F –Example Cost Share Agreement

Attachment G – GJC_CRC Radio Frequencies

Attachment H – Aviation Request Forms

