**Happy Camp Complex**

CA-KNF-005956

**Strategic Operations Plan**

09/03/14



**Introduction**

This strategic operations plan outlines the long-term management of the Happy Camp Complex located on the Happy Camp Ranger District of the Klamath National Forest. The strategic operating plan links strategic goals and objectives to tactical goals and objectives.  It can help identify milestones, goals, objectives, and actions which all can be monitored to determine progress of the overall plan.  The strategic plan can help define: where are we now, where do we want to be, how do we get there, and how do we measure our progress.

When prolific lightning strikes occurred on August 11th and resulted in the 20+ fires that comprise the Happy Camp Complex, fire-fighting resources were already scarce, limiting the ability to suppress many of these new starts. A Type 2 Incident Management Team (IMT) was activated 2 days later to manage the fires on the Happy Camp Ranger District of the Klamath National Forest  and included the Huckleberry, Mill, Noranda, Ranch, Tims, China, Bear, El Capitan, Sutcliffe, Delta, Jackson, Thompson, Kemper, Frying Pan, and Falkstein fires. Hampered by smoke inversions, heavy fuels, and steep and inaccessible terrain, the fires spread to 400 acres with limited suppression options.  On August 19th, more lightning resulted in 2 additional fires, the Luther 1 & 2 fires, which were added to the Happy Camp Complex and were quickly contained. As of August 22nd, the Frying Pan and Faulkstein fires remained the largest and most active.

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| Given multiple objectives based on their proximity to different values at risk, private lands, complex course of action items, and difficult logistical support of fires in remote areas a Type 1 Incident Management Team was ordered and in-briefed on August 23rd to supplement the management of the complex.  |

On August 29th the Frying Pan and Faulkstein fires merged. The fires became long-term events due to steep, rugged and largely inaccessible terrain coupled with current and expected weather and fire behavior. Past experiences and climatology records of the Klamath and Scott River drainage indicate a season ending fire event may not occur for a couple months.

Another Type 1 Incident Management Team, CA IIMT Team 1 was in-briefed on September 1st after the Type 2 Team timed-out. Current fire suppression efforts include a combination of direct, indirect and point suppression tactics to take advantage of opportunities that provide for a high probability of success.  The complex is utilizing a full suppression strategy.  The intent of the strategic operating plan is to further build on opportunities that will provide for the highest probability of success for the duration of this incident.

To successfully manage and communicate, the CA Interagency Incident Management Team – Team 1 continued with the development and implementation of the strategic operating plan. This tool can be used for informing and planning of ongoing suppression efforts as well as a communication tool  for agency administrators, public information, and/or information for incoming incident management teams.

**Objectives**

Develop a strategic operating plan to assist in the short-term and long-term management (strategic and operational) of the KNF Happy Camp Complex.

Gather intelligence from the local public and fire agency resources including partners to provide a more robust knowledge/dataset of the area.

Produce timely products to assist the incident management team and agency administrators in the decision making process.

Develop a product that can be used as a communication tool for the concept of:

* The right plan, in the right place, at the right time, with the right assets, and for the right duration

**Management Action Points**

Management Action Points (MAPs) are mapped locations where the fire’s leading edge may reach.  They are places where fire’s arrival identifies a specific fire mitigation action to limit fire spread, to protect values at risk and when to provide updated information.  Each MAP’s description recommends the number and kinds of operational resources needed to accomplish the mitigation.  MAPs can be accomplished sequentially or simultaneously, allowing for better utilization of resources.

MAP actions may be initiated at the discretion of an incident management organization.  Implementation *should not* occur without consideration of current and predicted weather and fire behavior, and of other factors influencing the Happy Camp Complex fires and their management.  These factors will determine the need for implementation of the management actions as well as drive the location, urgency, and intensity of the actions.

All firefighting resources listed in MAP descriptions should be considered as recommendations only.  In order to be safe and effective, Incident Commanders and other fire managers need the flexibility to use any tactical resources needed to meet the objectives of managing these fires.  They should give careful consideration to geographic area preparedness levels and draw-down levels.  **All fire management actions must be based on current and expected fire behavior, including in light of the time of year and season.**

As needed in response to the changing fire situation, it is important to update the recommended plans outlined in this document.  The Happy Camp Complex is not controlled and will grow in size and/or complexity until a season ending event occurs.  New fires may start.  Any of these fires may influence each other.  In response to all of these changes, fire managers should reassess this document’s contingency plans.  Each day’s operational priorities and planned strategic and tactical actions should be assessed in light of the location of the fire’s leading edge relative to MAPs. This document is dynamic; add new MAP’s or change existing ones as needed.