

# *DRAFT TEMPLATE/GUIDE (Version 3.0) FOR* **BLM WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION, EDUCATION & MITIGATION PLAN**

*The purpose of this Prevention, Education and Mitigation Plan template is to provide a description, guidelines, and strategy for the programs listed below. It is intended for use at the local unit level and interagency participation is strongly encouraged. This plan can be as basic or detailed as desired as some of the components are required while others are optional. When completing the plan, please keep in mind your intended audience. For example, this plan could be used to educate and provide information and direction for new employees, detailers, prevention teams, key cooperators, management and other internal audiences. Finally, if your local unit has already completed a fire prevention or similar plan, there is no need to create a new plan. Please just ensure that your current plan addresses the items listed below.*

## **1. Table of Contents**

## **2. Introduction and Background** – Provide an overview of your District/Unit

- a. Provide a map of the geographic area covered in this plan.
- b. If the plan is interagency, be sure to list all participating agencies.
- c. Units may choose to provide a Table of Organization here for all programs included in this plan or just identify contributing personnel for each program listed below.

## **3. Wildland Fire Prevention Program:** *Fire Prevention includes all efforts to reduce unwanted human-caused wildland fires through the use of education, engineering and enforcement. Funding for this program typically comes from the BLM fire preparedness account but can also be supplemented with Community Assistance funding, fire trespass collections or other fire reimbursable accounts as appropriate.*

- a. Narrative/Overview – provide a short paragraph describing the prevention program at your unit. Include items such as budget, contributing personnel, major emphasis areas, and key partners in the effort.
- b. Statistics – At a minimum, provide 5 & 10 year averages for number of fires, cause and number of acres burned for the area covered in this plan (these averages should be updated at least every two years). Statistical data can either be inserted here or attached to this plan as an amendment. This data is available from the Wildland Fire Management Information (WFMI) system.
- c. Geographical Assessment - List or illustrate (on a map) the unit's areas of highest concern for unwanted human-caused fire starts. This can be accomplished through an analysis of the **Risk** (potential for ignition), **Hazard** (potential for spread – fuels & topography), and **Values** (potential for economic loss) for each of these areas. Areas that are rated High for potential Risk, Hazard and Value should be the highest priority areas for fire prevention efforts. (Could use fire management plan maps for this effort)
- d. Leading fire causes (and growing trends) – Each unit should examine the statistical and geographic data above and identify their most common fire causes along with other factors such as their location, time of the year, day of the week, time of day, what

activities are causing them and who is causing them. May want to consult fire investigators here also.

- e. Fire Prevention Strategies – Now that you’ve identified which activities are causing your fires, who is causing them, where and when they are occurring and possibly why, what is your strategy to prevent them? What are your key messages and who are your key audiences? This could be done chronologically for each period of fire season or by listing your top wildland fire causes and the actions planned to prevent them. (If this information is part of a Communication Plan, just attach it and reference it here).
- f. Outreach Opportunities – In chronological order, list annually reoccurring events and opportunities for prevention messages, booths, presentations, etc.
- g. Sign Plan - Reference or attach
- h. Fire Restrictions Plan - Reference or attach

#### 4. **Community Assistance (CA) Program - WUI Education, Planning & fuels**

**treatments on non-federal land:** *The Department of Interior’s (DOI) CA program began in 2001 as a result of the “National Fire Plan” (DOI Appropriations Act of 2001/Public Law 106-291) which provided unprecedented funding and emphasis for working with communities to reduce the risk and impact of wildland fire. The program is funded out of BLM’s Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program and is generally administered by Mitigation and Education Specialists who provide subject matter expertise and funding through Assistance Agreements to cooperating entities such as non-profits, fire departments, universities, and local, county and state governments.*

- a. Narrative/Overview – Provide a short paragraph describing the Community Assistance (CA) program at your unit along with contributing personnel. Include local CA budget for last and current year.
- b. Communities at Risk - Identify WUI areas or communities at risk from wildland fire including any risk rating that may have been assigned to them. (May provide link to websites, Communities at Risk listing, or other sources of risk rating data and maps that illustrate WUI areas).
- c. Key Partners - List those entities that are collaborating with you on your WUI mitigation & education efforts – especially those receiving CA funds.
- d. Strategies & Accomplishments – List CA activities in the following areas for, at a minimum, the last year. May also want to include accomplishments or averages for previous 5 years:
  - Hazardous fuels reduction treatments – Please include CA treatments (on non-federal land) as well as an overview of WUI HFR treatments on BLM land.
  - Education products and programs for local communities
  - Planning (Community Wildfire Protection Plans, or equivalent, completed)

#### 5. **Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) Program:** *The DOI’s RFA program also began in 2001 as a result of “National Fire Plan” funding and direction. The program provides funding to eligible Rural Fire Departments (RFDs) that are in the vicinity of DOI lands for needed wildland fire equipment, supplies, training and prevention. BLM funding is provided through Assistance Agreements either directly to RFDs or through State and Local Governments. A 10% match of*

*cash or in-kind services is required. RFA program funds are appropriated by Congress annually and are therefore sometimes not available, such as in fiscal years' 2008, 2011 & 2012. \*\* Note: this section is optional for FY 2012 since RFA program has not been funded since FY 2010.*

- a. Narrative/Overview – Describe how this program is delivered at your unit and the contributing personnel (If program is run at the State level, include that process here).
- b. RFA Program Accomplishments - Include information such as how many RFDs applied, how many received funding, amount funded, local or statewide prioritization process, etc. At a minimum, include previous year's RFA program accomplishments.
- c. \* Rural Fire Department Listing (within District Boundary)

**6. Ready Reserve (RR) Program:** *The DOI's Ready Reserve Program (RRP) provides free wildland fire training to RFD firefighters at locations and times that fit their needs. It was established in 2006 to compliment RFA and the funds come from the BLM Preparedness account. The intent of RRP was to get more RFD firefighters qualified in wildland fire positions and able to participate both in local Type 3 organizations and nationally - on off-unit assignments. The BLM RRP program is delivered in a variety of different ways across the country. These funds can be passed through Assistance Agreements or contracts to entities such as State fire organizations, universities & technical colleges, RFDs, contractors, fire academies and others. The funds can also be used internally to pay for BLM employees to conduct the training. Training courses provided under the RRP program can be the standard NWCG courses, other wildland fire training courses, or simulation exercises aimed at improving mutual response amongst local cooperating fire agencies.*

- a. Narrative/Overview - Describe how this program is delivered at the unit including funding amount and contributing personnel. (If program is run at the State level, include a brief overview of that process here). Are the RR funds used internally or are they passed through an Assistance Agreement or contract to conduct the training?
- b. Ready Reserve Program Accomplishments & Focus Areas - This can include items such as the number of RFD firefighters receiving training, types of training offered (NWCG courses, Simulation Exercises, etc.), cost per student, and number of RFD firefighters becoming qualified in wildland fire positions as a result of this training.

**7. Fire Investigation & Trespass (Cost Recovery) Program:** *BLM requires that all human-caused wildland fires be investigated to determine origin and cause. When intent or negligence can be established, cost recovery must be pursued by using the administrative, civil, or criminal process. Wildland fires are investigated by trained and qualified personnel (INVs) in cooperation with Law Enforcement. In 1999, BLM was given the permanent authority to return cost recovery funds back to the State that collected them and guidance for the use of these funds is issued via Instruction Memorandum (IM) to the field on an annual basis.*

- a. Narrative/Overview - Describe how this program is administered at your unit including things such as who is involved, number of qualified investigators (INVs), coordination with Law Enforcement, common fire causes & growing trends, etc.

- b. Major accomplishments/workload - Include an estimate of how many fires are investigated each year, average number you proceed on annually for potential collection, examples of major cases or initiatives at the unit, etc.
- c. District Trespass Operating Plan – Attach Plan or reference here.
- d. Expenditures - If Trespass collections are returned to your District, please provide a brief description of what these funds are spent on.

**8. \* Communication Plan (Separate Doc)**

- a. Intro and background
- b. Purpose of Plan – Goals and objectives
- c. Stakeholder Analysis (internal and external audiences)
- d. Key messages or talking points for program (for each month of fire season)
- e. Listing of key events for outreach and education activities.
- f. Media Information
- g. Key contacts list

\* = Not required