

KLAMATH BASIN FIRE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
KLAMATH RESOURCE AREA

FOREST SERVICE
WINEMA NATIONAL FOREST

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
KLAMATH-LAKE DISTRICT

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
KLAMATH BASIN REFUGES

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION COMMITTEE CHARTER

PURPOSE

The purpose of this committee is to provide overall leadership, direction, and coordination to truly integrate the comprehensive fire programs including suppression, fuels, and prescribed fire activities among agencies in the Klamath Basin.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this committee are to:

1. Develop broad interagency direction and guidance to the fire and fuels programs.
2. Monitor and evaluate interagency program effectiveness by reviewing accomplishments of the fire and fuels programs.
3. Resolve interagency conflicts in the fire and fuels programs.
3. Implement the December 18th, 1995, Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Oregon State Department of Forestry Fire Management policies.

ORGANIZATION

This committee will be made up of the agency administrators or designated acting.

This committee will meet periodically. This is anticipated to be approximately three times per year. Additional meetings may be called as needed by any member of the Committee.

This committee is to operate as a self directed team.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The specific responsibilities of this group are to:

1. Provide broad program leadership, direction, and guidance to the Klamath Basin Fire Management Partnership.
2. Provide clear direction and guidance to the Operations Steering Committee. The charters would include the expected results and authority to act, make recommendations, and provide latitude for decisions.
3. Resolve conflict and recommend actions.
4. Provide coordination to all interagency fire program functions, including the Operations Steering Committee, and provide feedback to committees, task groups and the ORCA Board.
5. Conduct periodic reviews and evaluations to interagency accomplishments.
6. Meet annually with adjacent interagency fire groups to exchange information and coordinate activities. Information from these meetings would be shared with all managers, committees, task groups, and agency administrators.

EXPECTATIONS

All decisions and other actions taken by this committee will be by consensus of the participating agencies.

Steve Ellis
District Manager

Chuck Graham
Forest Supervisor

Bill Hunt
District Forester

Chuck Lundy
Park Superintendent

Phil Norton
Refuge Manager

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VISION STATEMENT

Our long term vision is that a coordinated, interagency fire management program will provide comprehensive and cost effective fire services to the Klamath Basin Fire Management Partnership Area.

Our goal is to achieve a more efficient, effective, and coordinated interagency fire management program. This will encompass all aspects of the program including prevention, planning, training, pre-suppression and suppression activities, fuel management, and prescribed fire.

We recognize that the Klamath Basin Fire Management Partnership is the cornerstone of the effort and will endeavor to ensure its success.

The attached charters serve to initiate effective interagency coordination and cooperation. These will be addressed and fully developed through ongoing and future assignments utilizing the collective expertise of all the employees in the participating agencies.

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INTERAGENCY PRESCRIBED FIRE PROGRAM

TASK GROUP CHARTER

This Task Group will be composed of:

???????????	Crater Lake National Park
Doug Bright	Winema National Forest
Mike Glass	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
???????????	Bureau of Land Management
???????????	Oregon Department of Forestry

This group will act as a self-directed team. Therefore the group will determine its operating methods.

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this group is to develop a coordinated interagency prescribed fire program on a landscape level to restore, maintain, and improve the fire dependant ecosystems of this area.

Specific goals for meeting this objective include:

1. Joining forces in a cohesive, well planned program to maximize cost efficiency and effective use of resources and personnel
2. Increase the use of fire to restore, maintain and improve the local ecosystems. The direction is given to move toward landscape scale burning where appropriate
3. Coordinate efforts with adjoining landowners.
4. Initiate a comprehensive information and education program directed towards the public at large as well as individual landowners.

TASK I - 1997

Develop strategies and tactics to implement the currently planned (or develop new plans) fire program with shared resources and personnel. There is no direction to alter current accomplishment targets. There may be opportunities to increase 1997 targets and these opportunities need to be explored. A benefit anticipated from this activity will be that our personnel will begin to better understand the workings of other agencies. The task group is to work with appropriate resource specialists to produce the necessary resource plans and decision documents. The team needs to identify areas to transition the program toward landscape scale burning

Key questions that the group needs to address:

1. How can we best define how to utilize fire while maximizing cost efficiency?
2. What are operational pitfalls to accomplishing a joint program?
3. What fiscal concerns and barriers exist and how do we resolve these barriers?
4. What planning barriers exist to implementing this directive?
5. How can we best define where to utilize fire on a landscape basis
6. Which management goals and objectives for particular land management units are similar or compatible and which are not

EXPECTED RESULT - A plan to accomplish one or more burn projects by sharing work forces and equipment to actually put fire on the ground in FY 1998 DUE JUNE 30, 1997.

TASK 2 - 1998

Implement the plan developed above

EXPECTED RESULT - COMPLETED PROJECT(S) BY SEPTEMBER 30, 1998 .

PROGRESS AND FINAL REPORTING

This task group is to periodically report to the Coordination Committee on the progress of these tasks. These reports can be in the form of meeting notes sent to the Coordination Committee members or by presentations at a Coordination Committee meeting. Progress reports are due monthly.

The task group should recommend changes in the current program, such as shifting budget and setting priorities, to the Coordination Committee. The Coordination Committee will either make the decision or present the issue to the appropriate agency heads for decision.

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN THE

**Bureau of land Management - Lakeview District
Forest Service - Winema National Forest
Oregon Department of Forestry - Klamath/Lake District
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge
National Park Service - Crater Lake**

For The

KLAMATH BASIN FIRE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to develop and operate a coordinated, interagency fire management program to provide comprehensive fire services to the Klamath Basin Fire Management Partnership. This cooperation serves the mutual interests of the parties and the public.

The goal is to achieve a more efficient, effective, and integrated interagency fire management program for all participating agencies on the lands administered and protected by each agency.

II. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFITS AND INTERESTS

The agencies participating in the MOU all have vested interests in managing and protecting lands under their administrative jurisdictions. The agencies have worked independently with a few exceptions. Reciprocal agreements have existed for years for fire protection services and have served cooperating agencies very well. There is a mutual need to expand this concept. Reduced budgets combined with the public expectation for more efficient and effective government have made it necessary to look for different and more efficient methods to provide the services they expect from public agencies. One arena where efficiencies can be gained is the fire management program of the Klamath Basin. The agencies all have fire management programs funded from public or private funds specifically for use in managing and protecting public and private lands.

The lands of the agencies are so intermingled that many activities become very expensive because of changes in jurisdictional boundaries. Each agency traditionally has worked independently on lands they administer. When a project on lands administered by one agency adjoined lands of another, the project was planned and executed to avoid overlap onto adjacent lands. With the advent of managing lands on landscapes scales as current research is suggesting, the need to look beyond artificial boundaries in performance of projects is essential. This is definitely the case when looking at the use of fire as a management tool - "fire knows no artificial boundaries."

III. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED

1. The name of the cooperative effort shall be the Klamath Basin Fire Management Partnership.
2. This partnership will encompass all aspects of the fire management program including, but not limited to, prevention, planning, training, pre-suppression and suppression activities, fuels management, and the use of prescribed fire (both natural and management ignited). This includes the operation and maintenance of the Klamath Falls Interagency Fire Center. The lands to which this will apply are those administered currently and in the future by the participating agencies.
3. An Interagency Coordination Committee will be established. This committee will be composed of the line officers (administrators) of each participating agency. It is provide leadership, broad direction and guidance, conflict resolution, resources needed to achieve results and communication. The Coordination Committee will charter standing committees and/or task assignments as needed.

4. An Interagency Operations Steering Committee will be established to coordinate and manage the operational aspects of the fire program for the Klamath Basin area. The emphasis of this group will be to support the on-the-ground efforts in pre-suppression, suppression, and prescribed fire programs including fire skills training. Members of the Operations Steering Committee will be selected by the Coordination Committee.

5. Any party(s), in writing, may terminate this instrument in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of expiration upon 30 days advance written notice to the other participating agencies, provided that this agreement shall not be terminated during the fire season. Fire season is defined as May 15 to October 15.

6. This instrument in no way restricts any party(s) from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.

7. Pursuant to Section 22, Title 41, United States Code, no member of, or Delegate to, Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this instrument, or any benefits that may arise therefrom.

8. This instrument expires on December 31, 2000, at which time it will be subject review, renewal, or expiration.

9. The principal contacts for this instrument are the members of the Coordination Committee for each participating agency.

10. Modifications within the scope of this instrument shall be made by the issuance a multilaterally executed modification prior to any changes being performed.

11. This instrument does not obligate any party to an expenditure of funds. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between parties to this instrument will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this MOU as of the last date written below.

Steve Ellis
District Manager

Chuck Graham
Forest Supervisor

Bill Hunt
District Forester

Chuck Lundy
Park Superintendent

Phil Norton
Refuge Manager