



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Washington, DC 20240

Memorandum

To: All Regional Directors
Attention: All Agency Superintendents
All Regional and Local Unit Fire Management Officers
Division of Wildland Fire Management

Through Deputy Bureau Director, Field Operations

From: Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Subject: Guidance for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Wildland Fire Management Budget

This memorandum is to inform all Line Officer and Wildland Fire Program Managers of the need for timely distribution of funds to agencies and Tribes.

The Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) Policy Memorandum (PM) 2023-005 outlines P.L. 117-328 enacted December 29, 2022. This includes appropriations and guidance for Preparedness, Suppression Operations, Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund, Emergency Stabilization and Severity, Fuels Management, Burned Area Rehabilitation, Facilities Construction and Maintenance, and Joint Fire Science Program as well as guidance for Carryover and Recoveries.

Preparedness

Preparedness carryover (unobligated funds) may be withdrawn from regional offices and reallocated nationally to create a sustainable wildland fire management workforce. Emphasis will be placed on the monitoring and allocation of prior year funds. Carryover funds will be monitored and when supplemental preparedness funding requests are submitted, carryover funds will be considered throughout the approval process.

Wildfire Prevention

Prior FY unobligated funds may remain allocated at the regional level for no longer than two (2) years; carryover amounts that extend beyond a second fiscal year will be reallocated from the Region by the Division of Wildland Fire Management (DWFm).

Fuels Management

The Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) issued PM 2021-002 on January 26, 2021 that directs reporting and fund obligation to within 2% of a bureau's fiscal allocations. The Director of BIA on April 06, 2021 established policy for Fuels Management that minimum fiscal year obligation target will be 98% for each region. Regional Directors are responsible to ensure regional Fuels annual allocations are efficiently and effectively obligated and that fiscal year carryover does not exceed 2% by September 30 and that prior fiscal year carryover is obligated by March 31 of the following year. Carryover of no-year Wildland Fire Management funds may pay for current year labor expenditures, fuels projects and related expenses.

Reserved Treaty Rights Lands (RTRL)

The Office of Wildland Fire notified BIA that the RTRL program budget has increased from \$11M in FY22 to \$15M in FY23. RTRL project needs have evolved which require administrative adjustments that will support continued program growth and success. To meet future demand of required staff and crew personnel and implement the intent of Workforce Development, current RTRL project budget and length maximums require modification.

BIA philosophy and policies support RTRL as another essential management component for BIA and tribes, as such I am directing the following:

- RTRL project budget maximum is increased to \$4M per project and may be expended over 5 years.
- Regional Fuels programs are responsible for the coordination with applicable programs to ensure program related planning and accomplishments are recorded in the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS) and the data is entered by the date requested.
- All annual reporting requirements must be complete before additional funding is distributed to an ongoing project or new project proposal.
- RTRL projects funded with Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds must enter the proposals in NFPORS prior to receiving funding. It is the responsibility of the region to ensure that RTRL / BIL projects do not blend funding with and other funding source.

We would like to thank you and your staff for working to ensure these critical funds were obligated in a timely and responsible manner. Wildland Fire Management program funds are used to protect life, property, and trust assets. As such, any delays in allocating funds may lead to the inability of field level resources to execute this mission.

Disaster Relief Funding

In addition to funding in 23XA1125TR, BIA has also received Preparedness funding in Disaster Relief (DR). 23XA1125DR is also the fund that will support Suppression operations in FY23. Regarding Suppression, Severity and Stabilization funding, the following codes should be used.

Suppression:

AA* / 23XA1125DR / AF2500000.999900 / WBS (FIRE CODE)

Severity:

AA* / 23XA1125DR / AF2510000.999900 / WBS (FIRE CODE)

ES (Emergency Stabilization):

AA* / 23XA1125DR / AF2520000.999900 / WBS (FIRE CODE)

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding

BIA continues to receive BIL funding in 22XA1125BI. The attached PM outlines a second year of BIL funding in both Preparedness and Fuels Management.

In addition, for your reference, the Department's OWF Policy Memorandum 2023-005 and the DOI Allocation Spreadsheet are attached which releases the Department of the Interior Wildland Fire Budget Allocation for FY 2023.

This policy memorandum is effective immediately and will remain in effect until rescinded or modified. For additional information, please contact Michael Nutter, Budget Director, DWFM at (208) 914-8324; email michael.nutter@bia.gov.

Attachments

- OWF Policy Memorandum 2023-005; Guidance for Full-Year Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Allocations and Execution for the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328)
- 2023 DOI Allocation Spreadsheet v10.Omni
- IA00012601 FY23 22 Fuels Carryover Memo
- DOI Wildland Fire Program Policy Memorandum No. 2023-006, "Guidance for Second Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Allocations and Execution for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58)"