



WASHINGTON



THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Memorandum of Understanding Joint Management of Wildland Fire Information and Technology

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of the Interior establishes a common management and governance approach for standardizing business processes and providing standardized information and technology services in a timely, consistent, reliable, integrated, innovative, and cohesive manner to meet the business requirements and priorities of the wildland fire community.

Guiding Principles

The common, interagency approach to managing and governing wildland fire information and technology is based on the following principles that shape information and technology program activities and ensure delivery of solutions and services that are appropriate and suitable for wildland fire needs:

- Wildland fire business requirements and priorities, regardless of agency, shape and drive information and technology solutions and services;
- Shared interagency governance leads, manages, and oversees delivery of standardized information and technology services and provides accountability to the wildland fire business community;
- Information and technology investments are managed using lifecycle management tools, including regular review and evaluation of all investments;
- Innovation, flexibility, adaptation, and collaboration are encouraged;
- Solutions and services are interoperable and interconnected;
- Standardized solutions and services improve effectiveness (to meet business requirements) and efficiency (to provide services in the most cost effective manner);
- Solutions and services reduce complexity to users; and
- Supporting capabilities such as training and user support are integral to development and delivery of all solutions and services.

Goals

The interagency wildland fire information and technology program will focus on four principal goals:

- **Systems and Applications** – Standardized, integrated solutions and services that enable informed, timely, and documented business decisions;
- **Data and Information** – Accurate, consistent, reliable, and accessible data and information across landscapes, organizations, applications, programs, and platforms;

- **Infrastructure and Connectivity** - A secure, integrated environment that enables efficient, effective voice and data interconnection and accessibility regardless of organization affiliation or user location; and
- **Technology and Innovation** – Technology, research, and innovation to enable and enhance wildland fire business.

Governance and Management

Governance and management of the interagency wildland fire information and technology program will be based on an integrated and cohesive structure while maintaining the integrity of the reporting relationships of personnel within the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and U.S. Department of the Interior wildland fire management programs. This structure provides a clear, single interface point between the wildland fire “line of business” and the investment decision-making structures of both Departments. The purpose of this structure is to provide a single, unified capability to identify requirements and priorities, to efficiently make investment decisions, and to manage all of those investments as a single portfolio.

Common Investment Decisions

The U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service investment review boards will work together to make joint decisions approving wildland fire information and technology strategy, multi-year plans, and individual investment proposals. These joint decisions will constitute final investment decisions for both Departments. This approach ensures coordination of strategy and investment decisions between the mission business requirements of wildland fire and other programs in the two agencies and ensures coordination with the Chief Information Officers with respect to policy, infrastructure, and service delivery.

Wildland Fire Information and Technology Executive Board

A Wildland Fire Information and Technology Executive Board (Executive Board) will be chartered with responsibility for leading and overseeing the wildland fire information and technology program and investment portfolio. The Executive Board approves strategies, policies, and investments for transmittal to U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service investment review boards for joint review and approval. The Executive Board will be comprised of senior level leadership of both Departments, including wildland fire, offices of the Chief Information Officers, and non-fire program areas.

Program Board

The Executive Board will charter a Program Board and additional interagency boards as necessary to provide coordinated implementation of the wildland fire information and technology program in a manner that efficiently organizes and manages the work of information and technology personnel and other resources from multiple agencies and organizations.

Life-Cycle Management and Multi-Year Planning

The wildland fire information and technology management structure will implement standardized project development and steady state investment management practices and procedures. Under the leadership and direction of the Executive Board, the wildland fire information and technology program will adhere to the principles and concepts of life-cycle management to ensure that investment decisions are made and implemented systematically and wisely to best meet the mission requirements of wildland fire, are coordinated with other program areas, and result in best value and continuing improving return. The Executive Board will develop and maintain a multi-year comprehensive plan of all investments and program support.

Coordination and Collaboration

The governance and management of wildland fire information and technology will operate collaboratively and in coordination with other programs and organizations, including the governance management structures of the wildland fire program, the offices of the Chief Information Officers, and other agency program areas. The governance and management structures will include provisions for working with partners in other federal agencies and with non-federal partners as necessary to identify requirements and implement the program.

Implementation

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry and the U.S. Department of the Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Safety, Resource Protection, and Emergency Services are the officials responsible for taking appropriate actions to implement the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Approval



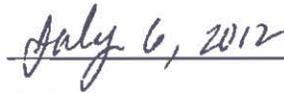
Harris Sherman
Under Secretary – Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Department of Agriculture



Date



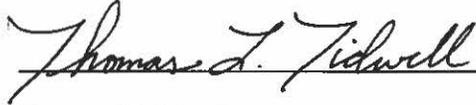
Rhea Suh
Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management and Budget
U.S. Department of the Interior



Date

Concurrence

JUL 23 2012



Thomas L. Tidwell
Chief, U.S. Forest Service

Date

Michael J. Pool
Acting Director, Bureau of Land Management

Date

Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director, National Park Service

Date

Daniel M. Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Date

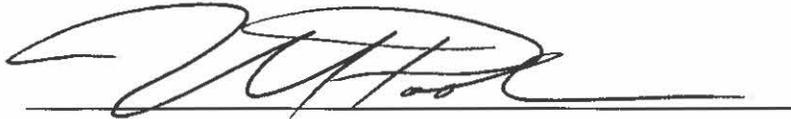
Michael S. Black
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date

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for Peggy O'Dell
Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director, National Park Service

JUN 29 2012

Date

Daniel M. Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

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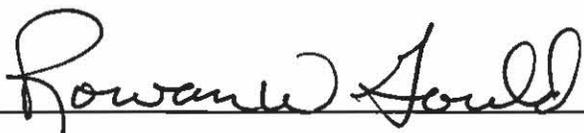
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Acting Director, Bureau of Land Management

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Jonathan B. Jarvis
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Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

JUL 19 2012

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Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

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Thomas L. Tidwell
Chief, US Forest Service

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Robert V. Abbey
Director, Bureau of Land Management

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Jonathon B. Jarvis
Director, National Park Service

Date

Dan Ashe
Director, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Date



Michael S. Black
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

5/8/12

Date

Marcia McNutt

Marcia McNutt
Director, U.S. Geological Survey

5/11/12

Date

Ernest Mitchell
Administrator, U.S. Fire Administration

Date