

## Integrated Fuels and Vegetation Treatment Program Review

<b>Location:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Unit(s) Reviewed:</b>		<b>Reviewed By:</b>	

**Introduction:** This checklist and accompanying interview questions are used to evaluate the Fuels and Vegetation Treatment Program components of a National Forest/BLM Unit. Interview questions are provided as suggestions to guide a conversation with line officers / staff to get a better portrayal of the Fuels and Vegetation Treatment Programs. On the ground field trips to treatment and activity sites is important to get the full picture.

**Key Code:** E = Exceeds    M = Meets    NI = Needs Improvement    NR = Not Reviewed

Element/Activity	Code	Remark
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### A. INTEGRATED VEGETATION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

1. A satisfactory 3 to 5 year Integrated project plan that prioritizes projects based on hazards, risks to communities and resources, human and resource values, and collaborative efforts with other local/state/federal agencies to determine which projects will be implemented.		
2. All projects are tiered to the Land / Resource Management Planning direction.		
3. Healthy Forest authorities HFRA / HFI being utilized?		
4. Are ecological concepts integrated with vegetation management?		
5. Are Fuels Prescriptions and Silviculture Prescription integrated? Are soil concerns addressed?		
6. Leadership is engaged in the analysis, selection and treatment process.		
7. Procedures exist that incorporate monitoring results to guide future fuels management actions (Adaptive Management, Soils etc.).		
8. Collaboration and coordination with other agencies on fuels/veg. projects is occurring and constructive across boundaries. i.e. service first		
9. Collaboration with adjacent landowners and communities is occurring.		
10. NF and BLM Units are aware of state "Communities-at-Risk" and "Communities-of-Interest."		
11. WUI funds are being spent appropriately on WUI activities and treatments.		
12. Cost per acre treated is reasonable when compared to similar programs and the adjacent area.		
13. NF / BLM Units are completing at least an average of 95% of target acres for last three years.		

### B. PRESCRIBED FIRE PLANNING PROCESS

1. Prescribed fire plans meet Chapter 18, Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations 2007.		
2. Complexity ratings adequately portray environment surrounding the prescribed fire projects.		
3. Smoke management plans are followed and coordinated.		
4. Go/No Go checklists are completed and signed.		
5. Burn bosses prepare a post-fire report.		
6. Staffing for prescribed burns is adequate with sufficient qualifications.		
7. Technical reviews are completed for all prescribed burn plans. (ie Soils, Silviculture, Wildlife)		
8. Resource Specialist are available and utilized when necessary.		
9. Prescribed fire treatments are achieving objectives.		
10. The prescribed fire objectives in prescribed fire plans (burn plans) are consistent with NEPA, silvicultural prescription and Soils.		
11. AAR's are conducted after each operational period.		
12. Prescribed Fire areas are on a maintenance schedule.		
<b>C. NON-FIRE TREATMENTS</b>		
1. Biomass utilization is occurring when possible and under the direction of a forest wide biomass strategy.		
2. Mechanical treatment objectives are clearly identified, and quantitative.		
3. Mechanical treatments are meeting objectives.		
4. Mechanically-treated areas are on a maintenance schedule.		
5. Adverse effects of mechanical treatments are being mitigated. (including invasives and soils)		
6. Non-fire treatments are being monitored and results analyzed.		
7. Resource Specialist are available and utilized when necessary. (ie Soils, Silviculture, Wildlife)		
<b>D. COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE</b>		
1. Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) are completed for all communities receiving Community Assistance funding.		
2. CWPP's reflect an interagency collaborative strategy across the landscape to mitigate risks to the community.		
<b>E. FIRE ECOLOGY &amp; FIRE EFFECTS</b>		
1. Monitoring plan exists, or contained in other documents.		
2. Fuels specialist provides input to Fire Management Plan and fuels project plans.		
3. The fuels specialist and lead monitor are meeting regularly with fire and resource managers to evaluate treatments and plan future treatments.		

4. Fire effects monitoring is coordinated with other monitoring, i.e., Inventory & Monitoring (I&M); Exotic Plants Monitoring, etc.		
5. Fire effects data is analyzed and summarized.		
6. Information from monitoring data and analysis is used to guide management decisions and direction.		
7. Monitoring is done on an appropriate number of prescribed fire and non-fire treatments at an acceptable frequency.		
8. Field check on monitoring plots is satisfactory.		
<b>F. MONITORING</b>		
1. Treatments are being monitored and results analyzed		
2. Monitoring plan exists, or contained in other documents.		

### Interview / Discussion Questions

1. Are the direction / process for coordination on hazardous fuels and vegetation management projects prioritizations clear?
2. What specific issues or problems do you have with the fuels \ vegetation management program? What solutions?
3. Are line officers actively involved in the fuels\ vegetation management program and is the program a priority?
4. How well integrated is the Fuels \ Vegetation Management Program in the other staff areas?
5. Are you monitoring mechanical treatments?
6. Does your unit use biomass harvest activities to meet your fuels \ Vegetation Management program goals?
7. Do you intend to use biomass harvest activities and sales in the future?
8. Is smoke management an issue for accomplishing your fuels \ Vegetation Management program?
9. Do you have issues about reporting and tracking systems? Do you have a solution?
10. Who (Local collaborators, Program Managers, etc) is involved in the project prioritization process?
11. In areas covered by standard soil surveys (includes all of eastern Washington and parts of eastern Oregon) risk ratings (risk of damage to soil by fire) could be used to prioritize areas for treatment (i.e. treat highest risk areas first). Risk ratings could also be useful in developing effects analysis and/or burn plan.
12. Can it be shown that all proposed treatment areas meet Regional and Forest Plan soil quality standards? (This is especially important in areas to be treated mechanically).
13. If soils have been rated for their risk of damage by fire, is there a monitoring component in place that will either confirm or help to adjust ratings and future project prescriptions?
14. Forest soils staff reviewed the prescribed burn plan especially if burns have been planned on high risk soils?
15. Has forest soils staff assisted in developing objectives for prescribed burns, especially if burns have been planned on high risk soils? Has a monitoring plan developed and implemented?
16. Does Forest biomass strategy (if one exists) deal with soil disturbance and nutrient removal concerns?
17. Will non-fire treatments and biomass utilization projects be required to meet Regional and Forest Plan soil quality standards? If so, how does the Forest plan to document compliance?