



Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy Implementation Strategy

Procedures, Perspectives, and Implications

Briefing for:
IMR/PWR FMO Workshop – San Antonio, TX
January 27, 2009

Purpose & Objectives

- Review fire policy evolution and the 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy
- Examine the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy Implementation Strategy



Purpose & Objectives

- Discuss how this policy implementation strategy should change the response to wildland fire
- Review major management implications



Wildland Fire Policy

- **Evolving Process**
 - Fire control
 - Fire management
- **Recent Policy Reviews**
 - 1989
 - 1995
 - 2001
 - 2008



Wildland Fire Policy

- Why are we revising the Implementation Strategy?
 - Interagency cooperation and communications
 - Escalating fire suppression costs
 - Confusion about policy implementation (AMR)
 - Issues where policy implementation conflicted with policy



Wildland Fire Policy

- What is it all about
 - Nine guiding principles important to success
 - Seventeen Federal Wildland Fire Management Policies
 - Qualifying statements



Guiding Principles

1. Firefighter and public safety is the first priority in every fire management activity.
2. The role of wildland fire as an essential ecological process and natural agent of change will be incorporated into the planning process.
3. Fire Management Plans, programs, and activities support land and resource management plans and their implementation.





Guiding Principles (cont.)

4. Sound risk management is a foundation for all fire management activities.
5. Fire management programs and activities are economically viable, based on values to be protected, costs, and land and resource management objectives.

Guiding Principles (cont.)

6. Fire Management Plans¹ are based on the best available science.
7. Fire Management Plans¹ incorporate public health and environmental quality considerations.

¹ Fire Management Plans is a generic term referring to unit level strategic plans for wildland fire and known by the names of Land, Resource and Fire Management Plans



Guiding Principles (cont.)

8. Federal, state, tribal, and local interagency coordination and cooperation are essential.
9. Standardization of policies and procedures among federal agencies is an ongoing objective.



Policy Statements

1. Safety
2. Fire Management and Ecosystem Sustainability
3. Response to Wildland Fire
4. Use of Wildland Fire
5. Rehabilitation and Restoration
6. Protection Priorities



Policy Statements (cont.)

7. Wildland Urban Interface

8. Planning

9. Science

10. Preparedness

11. Suppression

12. Prevention



Policy Statements (cont.)

13. Standardization

14. Interagency Cooperation

15. Communication and Education

**16. Agency Administrator and
Employee Roles**

17. Evaluation



Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy Implementation Strategy

- **Seventeen Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy Statements**
 - Updated to reflect changes in human, resource and institutional dimensions
 - Management Intent (added)
 - Implementation directions (added)

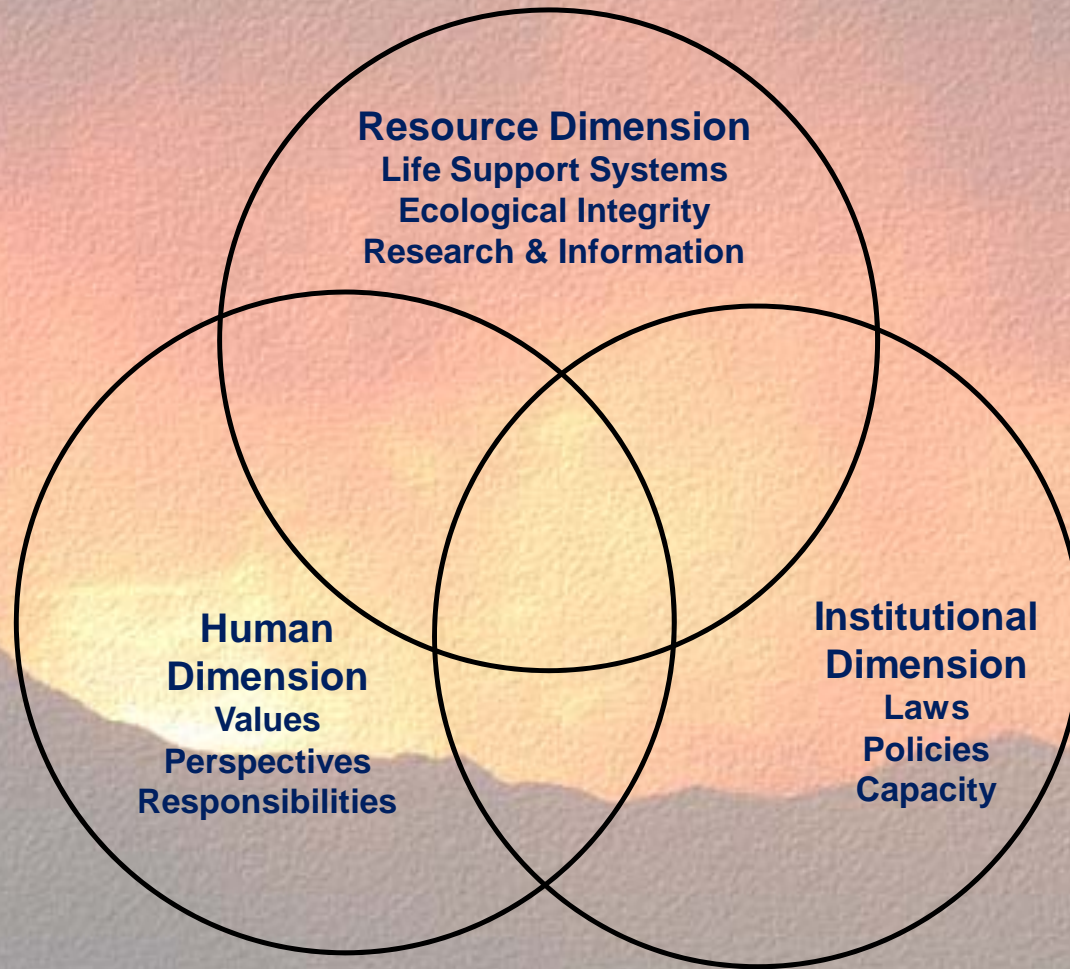


2009 Policy Implementation Strategy

- a program of action that does not automatically place priority on one strategy over another without analysis of specific information
- a common planning process for all agencies, resulting in one plan across agency boundaries



Considers the forces of decisional influence



How this policy implementation strategy should change the response to wildland fire

- **Management for multiple objectives on a fire or combination of fires**
- **Two types of fire**
 - Planned ignitions (Prescribed)
 - Unplanned ignitions (Wildfire)
- **Single decision support process**



How this policy implementation strategy should change the response to wildland fire

- Initial response to human-caused wildfire will continue to be suppress at the lowest cost with the fewest negative consequences with respect to firefighter and public safety



Management Implications

- Language in planning documents
- Cultural shift in initial response thought process
- Flexibility to adjust objectives on the fly as human, resource and institutional dimensions shift



Management Implications

- Decisions keyed to Land, Resource and Fire Management Plans
- Higher levels or coordination with state and local cooperators



Seeking More Information

- http://www.nifc.gov/fire_policy
- Send questions or comments to:
- e-mail: fire_help@fs.fed.us with "Fire Policy" as the Subject.

