

## FEDERAL WILDLAND FIRE POLICIES—Continued

	Current Department of the Interior <sup>1</sup>	Current Forest Service <sup>2</sup>	Proposed Federal
Preparedness .....	Bureaus will maintain an adequate state of preparedness and adequate resources for wildland fire suppression. Preparedness plans will include considerations for cost-effective training and equipping of suppression forces, maintenance of facilities and equipment, positioning of resources, and criteria for analyzing, prioritizing, and responding to various levels of fire situations.	Plan, train, equip, and make available an organization that ensures cost-efficient wildfire protection in support of land and resource management direction as stated in Fire Management Action Plans. Base presuppression planning on the National Fire Management Analysis System.	Agencies will ensure their capability to provide safe, cost-effective fire protection in accordance with land management plans through appropriate planning, staffing, training, and equipment.
Suppression .....	Wildfire losses will be held to the minimum possible through timely and effective suppression action consistent with values at risk and within the framework of land-use objectives and plans.	Conduct fire suppression in a timely, effective, and efficient manner with a high regard for public and firefighter safety.	Fires are suppressed at minimum costs, considering benefits and values at risk and consistent with resource objectives.
Administrator & Employee Responsibility.	Wildfires are considered emergencies, and their suppression will be given priority over normal Departmental programs.	Every Forest Service employee has the responsibility to support and participate in wildfire suppression activities as the situation demands.	Employees who are trained and certified will participate in the wildland fire program as the situation demands; noncertified employees with operational, administrative, or other skills will support the wildland fire program as needed; and administrators will be responsible, accountable, and make employees available.
Protection Priorities.	The standard criterion to be used in establishing protection priorities is the potential to destroy: (1) Human Life, (2) Property, and (3) Resource Values. (National Interagency Mobilization Guide, March 1995, NFES 2092.).	The standard criterion to be used in establishing protection priorities is the potential to destroy: (1) Human Life, (2) Property, and (3) Resource Values. (National Interagency Mobilization Guide, March 1995, NFES 2092.).	Protection priorities are (1) life and (2) property or natural resources, based on relative values at risk, commensurate with suppression costs.
Interagency Cooperation.	Bureaus will coordinate and cooperate with each other and with other protection agencies for greater efficiency and effectiveness.	Develop and implement mutually beneficial fire management agreements with other Federal agencies and countries. Cooperate, participate, and consult with the States on fire protection for non-Federal wildlands.	Fire planning, prescription, preparedness, suppression, monitoring, and research will be conducted on an interagency basis with the involvement of all partners.
Standardization ...	The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) provides a formalized system to agree upon standards of training, equipment, aircraft, suppression priorities, and other operational areas. (Memorandum of Understanding, NWCG; II, Function and Purpose.).	The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) provides a formalized system to agree upon standards of training, equipment, aircraft, suppression priorities, and other operational areas. (Memorandum of Understanding, NWCG; II, Function and Purpose.).	Agencies will use consistent planning processes, funding mechanisms, training and qualification requirements, operational procedures, values-at-risk methodologies, and public education programs for all fire management activities.
Wildland/Urban Interface.	Emergency assistance may be provided to properties in the vicinity of public and Indian lands so long as Departmental lands or the public's interest is not jeopardized. Bureaus will develop and participate in inter-agency fire prevention cooperatives.	Structural fire suppression, which includes exterior and interior actions on burning structures, is the responsibility of State and local government. Structural fire protection from advancing wildfire within the National Forest protection boundary is the responsibility of State and local fire departments and the Forest Service.	The operational role of Federal agencies, as a partner in the wildland/urban interface, is wildland firefighting, hazard fuels reduction, cooperative prevention and education, and technical assistance. Structural fire protection is the responsibility of State and local governments. Federal agencies may assist with exterior structural suppression activities under formal agreements that state the mutual responsibilities of the partners, including funding. (The National Park Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs have full structural protection authority for their facilities on their land and may also enter into formal agreements to assist State and local governments with full structural protection.)