FIRE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES\*

Wilderness Areas

*Note – These guidelines are an example only and do not represent national Forest Service policy.*

# *OBJECTIVES*

* Protect the visual, historic, botanic, aquatic, fish/wildlife, recreational and other values of the designated wilderness area.
* Reduce impacts to sensitive upland and riparian ecosystems.
* Utilize low-impact technologies and techniques when managing fire incidents.
* Use MIST standards on all incidents; unless the following guidelines are more specific.

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| **Suppression** | **Mop-Up** | **Rehabilitation** | GUIDELINES |
|  |  |  | INCIDENT COORDINATION & PUBLIC ADVISORY |
| **X** | **X** | **X** | A Wilderness Resource Advisor shall be assigned to all incidents in Wilderness areas. |
| **X** | **X** | **X** | Coordinate advising the public and wilderness visitors of incident with : post affected campgrounds and trailhead, development of any necessary CFR closure orders with Unit LEO, and scheduled field contacts within 24 hrs of incident, and routinely thereafter. |
|  |  |  | GENERAL - MOTORIZED AND MECHANIZED EQUIPMENT |
| **X** | **X** | **X** | All motorized or mechanized use will be authorized in the Delegation of Authority letter, or ‘Approval for Motorized Equipment in the Wilderness’ (appendix 4-10) form in the Fire Mgt Plan FMRS filing system. |
| **X** | **X** | **X** | Coordinate and review alternative methods to using motorized/mechanized equipment to manage the incident with Dist. Ranger, FMO or Incident Team, and Dist. Rec Staff. This should occur prior to Initial Attack, Extended Attack, and other various stages/routinely during the incident. |
|  |  | **X** | Complete ‘Minimum Requirements Decision Guide’ on all non-emergency use of motorized and mechanized equipment use. |
|  |  |  | FIRELINE and INTERIOR FIRE AREA: |
|  | **X** | **X** | All Fireline: Scatter slash piles along and onto fireline; Knock down all slash piles higher than 18 inches; Pull back all sod (roots down) and cover with slash. Place boulders, logs and slash on all firelines to discourage use and camouflage entrance points. |
|  | **X** | **X** | Fireline within 100 feet where it intercepts trails, roads or stream crossings:   * Obliterate by scattering slash, replace rocks, and flatten berms. * Place boulders, logs and slash on all firelines to discourage use and camouflage entrance points. * Cut stumps flat and close to the ground (4-5 inch height). Cover tops of stumps with layer of dirt. * Chop (with ax or Pulaski) and roughen ends of all stumps and logs cut within view of hiking trail, private lands, etc. |
|  | **X** | **X** | Waterbars: Construct waterbars on firelines on slopes exceeding 10%, including burned over firelines inside the fire perimeter and backup lines. See general MIST guide for waterbar construction – design, locations and spacing. |
|  |  | **X** | Seeding: If seeding is approved by the Wilderness Resource Advisor, use only indigenous species that follow R6 protocols for genetics and noxious weed testing. Broadcast/Scatter seed and rake into ground on all exposed soil. Location, rate and seed mix to be determined by Resource Advisor. (Reference FSM 2323.26b and 2323.43b) |
|  | **X** | **X** | Construct waterbars, scatter slash piles, and pull back sod on all interior access trails or firelines. |
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|  |  |  | CHEMICAL (Foam, surfacant, retardant), PETROLEUM PRODUCTs and PUMP USE: |
| **X** | **X** | **X** | Storage and use of diesel, fuel, and chemicals   * *All amounts:* Store and use outside of designated Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs) Spill pads and plastic liners are required under fuel barrels, jerry cans and tanks. These pads will be changed every 12 hours of use or when 50% saturated. Pads and liners will be bagged and hauled out to drop points or designated site at ICP. * Under 55 gallons per site: See above. * Over 55 gallons per site: Provide spill containment measures for extended use. Provide for spill containment with adequate spill apron. Have fuel spill kit on hand at fuel site. |
| **X** | **X** | **X** | All hazardous waste spills (ie. chemical, fuel, other) shall be promptly reported and properly cleaned up in accordance with the Forest’s Hazmat Plan. |
| **X** | **X** | **X** | Do not pump directly from stream if chemical products are to be injected into the system. If chemicals are used, pump from a fold-a-tank located out of riparian area - minimum 150 feet from water sources, springs, lakes, streams. |
| **X** | **X** | **X** | Avoid back flushing pumps and charged hose into live streams, lake, ponds or wetlands. |
| **X** | **X** | **X** | Spill pads and plastic liners are required under all pumps. These pads will be changed every 12 hours of use or when 50% saturated. Pads and liners will be bagged and hauled out to drop points or designated site at Incident Command Post (ICP). |
| **X** | **X** |  | Use water (no chemical additives) for suppression/mop-up in riparian areas, and near live streams and other water bodies. |
| **X** | **X** |  | Avoid retardant application within designated Riparian Areas (ie. streams, lakes, or ponds), and use special care in mapped areas. Retardant in these areas may be used after pre-approval by District Ranger. |
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|  |  |  | CAMPS (ICP, SPIKE, and COYOTE) & STAGING AREAS |
| **X** | **X** | **X** | Spike & Coyote Camps Location:   * Camps less than 10 people and less than 3 days/site camping in uplands sites (ie. non-riparian sites are more than 200 feet from water or meadows) = No coordination needed with Wilderness Resource Advisor. * Camps proposed for use by more than 10 people, or more than 3 days/site, or use of riparian areas shall require coordination and agreement with the Wilderness Resource Advisor. |
| **X** | **X** | **X** | Human Waste:   * Camps less than 10 people and less than 3 days/site camping in uplands (ie. non-riparian sites more than 200 feet from water or meadows) sites = Use ‘cat hole’ method (shallow holes, buried after each use). * Camps proposed for use by more than 10 people, or more than 3 days/site = Set up portable self-contained toilets in set ‘latrine pits” minimum 200 feet from water sources and riparian areas. |
| **X** | **X** | **X** | Garbage: All garbage and trash shall be packed up and removed from the wilderness area; Burying and/or burning biodegradable and non-biodegradable items is not permissible. |
| **X** | **X** | **X** | Extended Use: Extended use of camps or occurrence of resource impacts may require the use of: ground clothes (ie. Geotextile, Scrim, indoor/outdoor carpet); designated paths; alternate camp location; designated areas for washing, kitchen and sleeping; scheduled trash removal, etc. The wilderness Resource Advisor or wilderness Technical Specialist will coordinate with District Ranger and FMO/ Incident Mgt. Team. |
|  |  | **X** | Camp Site & Staging Area Rehabilitation:   * Return camp to pre-fire size by replacing logs and rocks removed from site. * Remove camp/tent poles, stakes, ‘furniture”, and scatter in nearby timbered area * All heavily used areas that have been modified or compacted, or had vegetation/litter removed will be re-contoured, rocks/logs replaced, soils scarified 2-4 inches, area scattered with needles, twigs, rocks and dead branches. * Scatter seed/fertilizer and rake into ground on all exposed soil. Location, rate and seed mix to be determined by Resource Advisor. |
|  |  | **X** | Access : Replace any boulders, gates, and/or barriers on closed trails opened for camp access. |
|  |  | **X** | Place boulders, logs and slash on all ‘user built ‘foot paths. Discourage future use and camouflage entrance points – pull slash onto paths and construct water bars where needed. |

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|  |  |  | HELICOPTER USE (FLIGHTS AND SLING LOADS) |
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| **X** | **X** | **X** | Noxious Weeds: If a helibase or camp is determined to be a noxious weed site by the Resource Advisor, all equipment, materials, and vehicles ( ie. Sling nets, helicopter skids, loads, crew boots,) will be cleaned/treated prior to every flight/transport into wilderness in order to reduce the spread of noxious weeds. Methods include helibase mitigations, power-spray washed, loads bagged off-site in weed free area, boots & gear inspected and or treated before each flight. |
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|  |  |  | **HELISPOTS/HELIBASE and DROP POINTS** |
| **X** | **X** | **X** | Use District’s pre-approved designated helispots or drop points |
| **X** | **X** | **X** | Coordinate new proposed helibases, helispots or drop sites with Wilderness Resource Advisor prior to use. Field recon with 2 hour lead time will be required to evaluate site disposition and coordination with other Resource specialists. |
| **X** | **X** | **X** | All hazardous waste (chemical, fuel, other) spills shall be promptly reported and properly cleaned up in accordance with the Forest’s Hazmat Plan. |
|  |  | **X** | Helispot/Helibases and Drop Points Rehabilitation:   * Return camp to pre-fire size by replacing logs and rocks removed from site. * All heavily used areas that have been modified or compacted, or had vegetation/litter removed will be re-contoured, rocks/logs replaced, soils scarified 2-4 inches, area scattered with needles, twigs, rocks and dead branches. * Obliterate landing pad and leave in as natural condition as possible: bury painted helispot markers, remove litter, clean up any area where oil or fuel spills ocur, break up compacted soil * Scatter seed/fertilizer and rake into ground on all exposed soil. Location, rate and seed mix to be determined by Resource Advisor. * Place boulders, logs and slash on all foot paths. Discourage future use and camouflage entrance points – pull slash onto paths and construct water bars where needed * Cut stumps flat and close to the ground (4-5 inch height). Cover tops of stumps with layer of dirt. * Chop (with ax or Pulaski) and roughen ends of all stumps and logs cut within view of hiking trail, private lands, etc. |
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|  |  |  | **ROADS and TRAILS (SYSTEM and NON-SYSTEM):** |
|  |  | **X** | Closed Roads/Trails Near Wilderness boundary:   * Replace any boulders, gates, and/or barriers on closed roads or trails that were opened/used for fire access. * Rip road bed (12-18 inches) and cover with adjacent slash on any closed roads opened for fire access. Specific roads or trails to rip will be identified by the Wilderness Resource Advisor. |
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|  |  | **X** | Wilderness Trail Rehabilitation   * If trail is used for fireline, return trail back to standards width and grade. * Reconstruct waterbars with native on-site materials at flagged sites along trails. Resource Advisor to oversee locations, and design. See general MIST guide for waterbar construction – design, locations and spacing. * Rebuild any trail features such as switchbacks, retaining walls, signs, culverts, ditches, puncheons, etc impacted by use. * Remove non-system “trails” used for accessing fire. Restore contour and pace slash rocks on area to discourage use. |
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|  |  |  | PUMP SITES and WATER SOURCES |
| **X** | **X** | **X** | Avoid known cultural, sensitive or recreational sites. |
|  |  | **X** | Pump Sites and Water Source Rehabilitation:   * Remove stream channel modifications from temporary water empoundment/ source developments * Replace any logs, slash, rocks or boulders that were removed to improve the site. * Place slash, branches, duff on any sites were bare ground was made during operation. * Recontour site if is was modified/levelled for tanks or pumps. |
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|  |  |  | SAFETY ZONES and SAFETY AREAS |
| **X** | **X** | **X** | Use District’s pre-approved designated safety zones. |
| **X** | **X** | **X** | Coordinate new proposed safety zones/areas if construction or vegetation alteration is needed with Wilderness Resource Advisor prior to use. Field recon with 2 hour lead time will be required to evaluate site disposition and coordination with other Resource specialists. |
|  |  | **X** | Safety Zone & Safety Area Rehabilitation:   * Return area to pre-fire size by replacing logs and rocks removed from site. * All heavily used areas that have been modified or compacted, or had vegetation/litter removed will be re-contoured, rocks/logs replaced, soils scarified 2-4 inches, area scattered with needles, twigs, rocks and dead branches. * Scatter slash piles at all Safety Zones and Safety Areas. Knock down all slash piles or berms higher than 18 inches * Scatter seed/fertilizer and rake into ground on all exposed soil. Location, rate and seed mix to be determined by Resource Advisor. * Place boulders, logs and slash on all foot paths. Discourage future use and camouflage entrance points – pull slash onto paths and construct water bars where needed |
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