

Bureau of Land Management

BLM California's Wildland Fire Response

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Bureau of Land Management

- Organization
- Immediate response to wildland fires
- Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation responses
- Case example by Chris Lloyd, Ukiah Field Office



BLM California



15.2 million acres
(15% of the state)

State Office

3 Districts

15 Field Offices



Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)

FLPMA = Multiuse Mission



BLM California: Fuels and Fire Management Program

- 300 employees and 180 seasonal employees in the fuels and fire program
- \$4.2 million annually to reduce hazardous fuels
- Engines, hand crews, and helicopters to suppress wildfires



BLM's Immediate Response to Wildland Fire



BLM's Immediate Response to Wildland Fire

- Agreements covering BLM-administered lands
 - BLM responsible for suppression east of Sierra crest
 - CAL FIRE responsible for suppression west of Sierra crest
 - Various other agreements for initial attack



BLM's Immediate Response to Wildland Fire

- BLM agency representatives (AREP) and resource advisors (READ) work within Incident Command System (ICS)
 - Advise Incident Commander (IC) on issues of importance during suppression operations
 - Help resolve issues caused by suppression



BLM's Immediate Response to Wildland Fire: Tribal Involvement

- Initial attack (caught early)
 - Depends on size and complexity of fire
- Extended attack (major fire)
 - Depends on size and complexity of fire
 - Recommend contacting the BLM Field Manager with BLM-specific questions and concerns



Post-Fire: Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation

- Emergency Stabilization (ES)
- Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR)
- Applies only to BLM-administered lands



Emergency Stabilization



Emergency Stabilization

- Planned actions within emergency timeframe
 - Field Office submits plan to BLM State and Washington Offices within 21 days of containment
 - Approval of funding within 6 days
 - Actions must be taken within one year of containment



Emergency Stabilization: Tribal Involvement

- Planned actions within emergency timeframe
 - Compliance with NEPA, Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act, etc. is required
 - Tribal consultation is required
 - Timeframe is much shorter than typical undertaking



Burned Area Rehabilitation

- Repair and improve fire-damaged lands unlikely to recover naturally to management approved conditions
- Not an opportunity to address pre-fire management issues



Burned Area Rehabilitation

- Planned actions within three-year timeframe
 - Field Office submits BAR plan to BLM State Office by end of the fiscal year in September
 - BLM State Office submits budget request to BLM Washington Office
 - Funding approval by October 31 and sometimes sooner



Burned Area Rehabilitation: Tribal Involvement

- Planned actions within three-year timeframe
 - Compliance with NEPA, Section 106 NHPA, etc. is required
 - Tribal consultation is required
 - Timeframe is often shorter because the BAR plan is submitted with the ES plan



Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation: Tribal Involvement

- Implementation of ES and BAR projects
 - Ongoing Tribal involvement: monitoring, tribal contractors, etc.

