

### III. Wildland Fire Management Strategies

Chapter III further refines the broad programmatic direction provided in Chapter II and provides specific guidance on how wildland fire will be managed. This section summarizes resource and fire management conditions and presents management direction in the form of priorities, objectives, and strategies.

#### III.A. General Management Considerations

Wildland fire does not respect jurisdictional boundaries. No single federal, state, local, tribal, or volunteer agency alone can handle all wildland fire that may occur in its jurisdiction. Agencies must work together to exchange support, protection responsibilities, information, and training, providing an efficient method for protecting lives, property, and natural resources. The UCR FPU works collaboratively and coordinates with local partners in fire and resource management across agency boundaries. The following incorporates the core principles of the 10 Year Comprehensive Strategy.

##### III.A.1 Collaboration and Coordination to Implement Wildland Fire Management Direction

**Organization Chart** - An organization chart for the interagency fire management staff unit is included in Appendix C. Planned and/or unfunded positions are denoted in addition to existing staffing.

Local cooperators primarily in an interface setting for initial and extended attack incidents supplement the existing interagency staff and associated preparedness resources. Local resources are used for these purposes as well as to suppress escaped fires. National aviation and smokejumper resources are used subject to their availability as appropriate.

Supplemental resources are ordered to provide increased firefighting capability during periods of high fire danger as well as during periods where ongoing and anticipated levels of initial attack would result in a draw down of local resources. Administratively determined (AD) hiring authority is used on a discretionary basis to supplement agency resources with those staffed by local cooperators outside the parameters of county cooperative fire agreements for initial attack.

**Shared Personnel** -The UCR FPU shares personnel as follows:

Program Leadership - The BLM portion of the UCR FPU is managed by a Unit FMO. A Zone FMO and Assistant FMO manage each Zone. The fire management expertise for the COLM is provided by an FMO who covers several NPS units.

Interagency Dispatch - The interagency dispatch center is located at the Grand Junction Air Center at Walker Field, Grand Junction, Colorado. The planned BLM staffing component of the interagency dispatch center includes the Center Manager, the Assistant Center Manager for Aviation, the Supervisory Initial Attack Dispatcher, the Supervisory Aircraft Dispatcher, Air Tanker Base Manager, two aircraft seasonal positions, an administrative assistant, and three seasonal dispatcher positions. The NPS COLM has no personnel stationed at the Grand Junction Air Center.

**Shared Facilities** - The UCR shares fire equipment and supply caches on a geographical basis and regional need as follows:

- West Zone Cache
- Central Zone Cache
- East Zone Cache

**Cooperative Management Efforts - Exchange of Protection** - When wildland fires burn on, or threaten, lands of more than one agency, joint management is carried out by the representative agencies to suppress the wildland fire. Unless otherwise provided for, an agency is expected to take prompt initial action, with or without request, on wildland fires. Where one agency takes initial action in the protective unit of the other, the initially acting agency shall continue to fight the fire until relieved by an officer of the designated management agency.

The UCR FPU has developed cooperative arrangements to cover administrative and jurisdictional responsibilities that will provide for cooperative management of personnel, equipment (including aircraft), supplies, services, and funds among the agencies.

### **III.A.2 Resource Advisors**

The use of resource advisors (RA) is essential to adequately implement the FMP. Suppression crews may not be familiar with such things as; land uses, land management plans, resource concerns, local restrictions or access routes. The use of resource advisors allows management decisions to be made with full use of available information and local resource expertise. Not all wildland fire situations would require the on-site presence of a resource advisor. However, when management of an unplanned ignition may adversely or beneficially affect resources, the use of a resource advisor is warranted and necessary. Consult NFES # 1831 - Resource Advisor's Guide for Wildland Fire (1996). *GSFO - Fire Management Plan 10*

### **III.A.3 Financial Accountability**

The BLM and COLM have established uniform and cost-effective measures, standards, reporting processes, and budget information in implementation plans that will fold into the Government Performance and Results Act process. The Wildfire Situation Analysis process will always include cost efficiency as a concern in all alternatives developed.

## **III.B. GSFO Resource Area-wide Fire Management Goals**

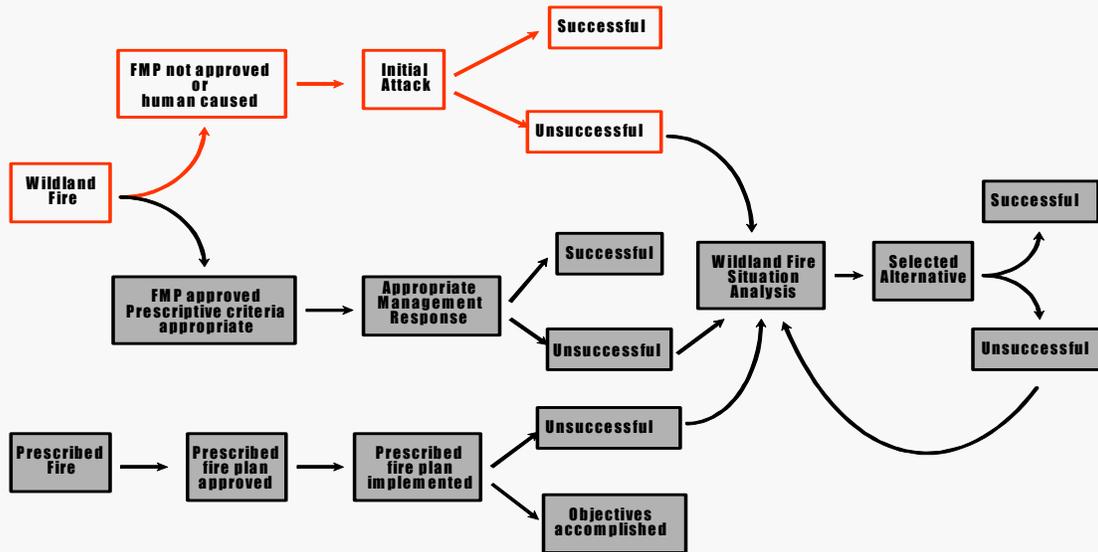
The GSFO fire program goals reflects the core principles and direction of the Comprehensive Strategy and the Cohesive Strategy where supported by the GSFO RMP. The intent of this FMP is to convey fire program direction from the NFP and the RMP to wildland fire management, fuels treatments and community assistance/protection actions. The GSFO will work safely and effectively with partners to: manage wildland fire; use prescribed fire; and use mechanical, chemical, hand, and animal vegetation treatments to:

- **Protect human life and property.**
- Reduce hazardous fuel loading and the risks of wildfire escaping public lands to an acceptable level.
- Protect facilities on public lands (recreation sites, communication sites, etc).
- Restore physical function and biological health of the land and achieve Colorado Land Health Standards at the watershed scale.
- Prevent the listing of sensitive, candidate, and proposed species and conserve species currently listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.
- Ensure long-term survival of special status species.
- Protect existing and improve degraded riparian vegetation for long-term health.
- Limit the spread of noxious and invasive plants, insect infestations and disease.
- Protect archaeological and historic sites.
- Minimize emissions using available, practicable methods that are technologically feasible and economically reasonable in order to minimize the impact or reduce the

potential for such impact on both the attainment and maintenance of national ambient air quality standards and achievement of federal and state visibility goals.

### III.C. Wildland Fire Management Options

Figure III.C - Suppression Pathway Flowchart



As illustrated in Figure III.C, if an approved FMP (meeting NEPA compliance) is not present for a particular unit, or if a fire is human-caused, then by definition the only available option is suppression of the wildland fire and appropriate action will be taken immediately. Common sense will be used in suppression actions considering values to be protected, least cost, resource damage caused by the suppression action, and the first priority at all times, firefighter and public safety. If the initial action is unsuccessful, a WFSA will be prepared to determine the next set of management responses.

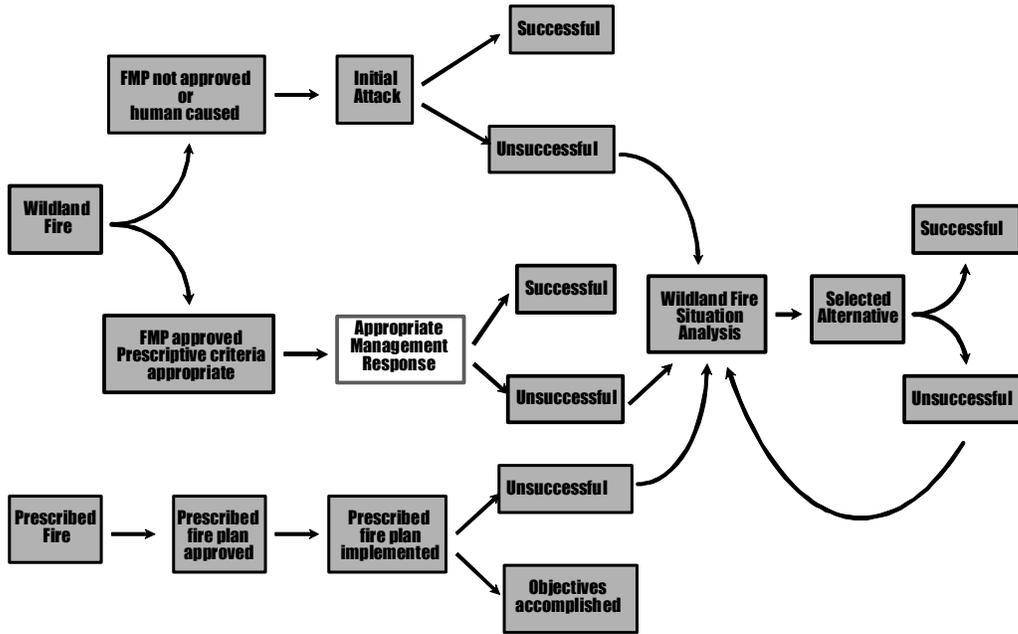
As a result of completion and approval of this fire management plan, this pathway will not be required for lightning fires occurring. While all human-caused fires will be suppressed, lightning-caused fires will receive an appropriate management response commensurate with the resource and protection objectives for the management unit in question.

#### III.C.1 Appropriate Management Response

The appropriate management response (Figure III.C.1) is defined as the specific actions taken in response to a wildland fire to implement protection and/or fire use objectives. It allows managers to utilize a full range of responses and as conditions change, the particular response can change to accomplish the same objectives.

The appropriate management response is not a replacement term for prescribed natural fire, or the suppression strategies of; control, contain, confine, limited, or modified, but is a concept that offers managers a full spectrum of responses. It is based on objectives, environmental and fuel

III.C.1 - Appropriate Management Response Pathway Flowchart



conditions, constraints, safety, and ability to accomplish objectives. It includes wildland fire suppression at all levels, including aggressive initial attack. Use of this concept dispels the interpretation that there is only one way to respond to each set of circumstances.

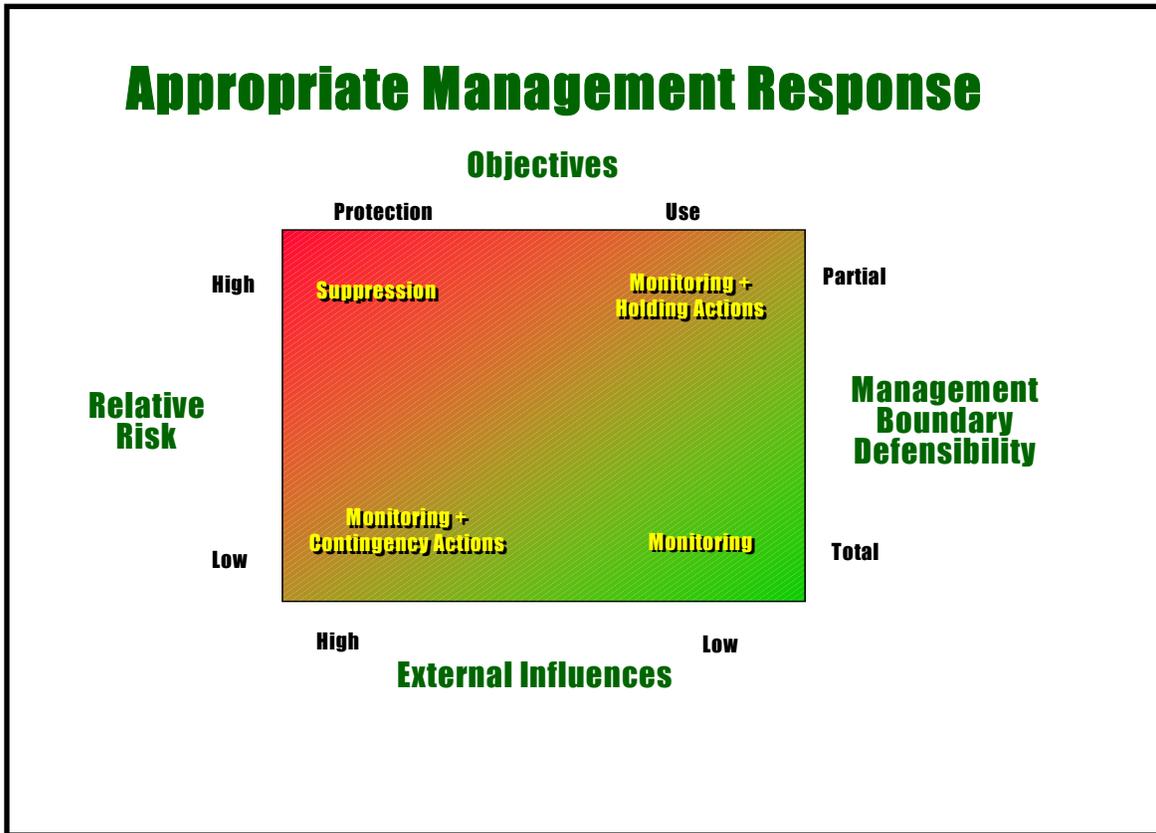
The purpose of giving management the ability to select the appropriate management response on every wildland fire is to provide the greatest flexibility possible and to promote opportunities to achieve greater balance in the program. To clarify the full range of options available under the appropriate management response, the following figure (Figure III.C.2) utilizes four variables to illustrate development of an appropriate management response. Ranges of appropriate management responses based on objectives, relative risk, complexity, and defensibility of management boundaries.

The chart can be used to estimate appropriate methods to implement desired/necessary strategies. To obtain this estimate, draw lines that connect the top and bottom variables and the left and right variables. Where the two lines intersect is a potential management response for the defined conditions. It is important to note that even when suppression action is deemed appropriate, the aggressiveness of the action taken will vary depending on the values to be protected, cost containment objectives, potential for resource damage caused by the suppression action, and the first priority at all times, firefighter and public safety.

Under the Appropriate Management Response concept, management responses are programmed to accept resource management needs and constraints, reflect a commitment to safety, are cost-effective, and accomplish desired resource objectives while maintaining the versatility to vary in intensity as conditions change. Section III.D.1 and Appendix B define what specific management responses are considered “appropriate” within each fire management unit. These may contain all or only a portion of the full range of options available depending on resource and protection objectives for each particular unit. The Field Office Manager may choose to extinguish

any wildland fire, or manage any fire occurring in an area designated for fire use if it meets specific decision criteria found in Section III.D.1 and Appendix B.

Figure III.C.2 - Range of Appropriate Management Responses



### III.C.2 Fire Management Categories

Public lands will be managed under one of four fire management categories for the purposes of wildland fire and prescribed vegetation management. The descriptions of Categories A - D are based on BLM Instruction Memorandum No. 2002-034 (11/15/2001) and Clarification of Fire Management Categories and RMP-Level Decisions; and H-1601-1 - Land Use Planning Handbook (Appendix C; Part I. Subpart J. Page 9).

<b>"A"</b>	<b><i>Areas where fire is not desired at all.</i></b>
<b>FMUs</b>	

General description: This category includes areas where mitigation and suppression is required to prevent direct threats to life or property. It also includes areas where fire never played a large role historically in the development and maintenance of the ecosystem or because of human development fire can no longer be tolerated without significant loss or where fire return intervals were very long.

Fire Mitigation Considerations: Emphasis should be focused on those actions that will reduce unwanted ignitions and threats to life, property, natural and cultural resources.

Fire suppression considerations: Emphasis should be placed on prevention, detection, and rapid suppression response and techniques. Virtually all wildland fires would be actively suppressed and no fire is prescribed unless the management ignited fire (burnout) is for the sole purpose of reducing an immediate threat to firefighter or public health and safety.

Fuel treatment considerations: Non-fire fuel treatments should be employed. Unit costs for prescribed fire would be too prohibitive to implement efficiently. Pile burning of mechanically removed vegetation is acceptable.

**“B”  
FMUs**      ***Areas where unplanned wildland fire is not desired because of current conditions***

General Description: Fire plays a natural role in the function of the ecosystem, however these are areas where an unplanned ignition could have negative effects unless/until some form of mitigation takes place. Sagebrush ecosystems, for example, can fall into this category because of encroachment of cheatgrass or a prolonged lack of fire which leads to large monotypic stands of sagebrush that won’t burn as they historically would have.

Fire Mitigation Considerations: Emphasize prevention/mitigation programs that reduce unplanned ignitions and threats to life, property, natural and cultural resources.

Fire suppression/use considerations: Fire suppression is usually aggressive.

Fuel treatment considerations: Fuel hazard reduction as a major means of mitigation potential risks and associated loss are a priority. Fire and non-fire fuels treatments are utilized to reduce the hazardous effects of unplanned wildland fire. Restorative treatments may consist of multiple non-fire treatments before the use of fire will be considered. Unit costs for prescribed fire are high and require stringent mitigation and contingencies. Concurrently, achieve fire protection and resource benefits, when possible.

**“C”  
FMUs**      ***Areas where wildland fire is desired, but there are significant constraints that must be considered for its use.***

General Description: Areas where significant ecological, social or political constraints must be considered. These constraints could include air quality, threatened and endangered species considerations (effect of fire on survival of species), or wildlife habitat considerations.

Fire Mitigation Considerations: Programs should reduce unwanted fire ignitions and resource threats.

Fire suppression/use considerations: Ecological/resource constraints may be applied. These constraints along with human health and safety, etc., are utilized in determining the appropriate suppression tactic on a case by case basis by the incident commander and sub-unit agency administrator. Areas in this category would generally receive lower suppression priority in multiple wildfire situations than would areas in “A” or “B” FMZs.

Fuel treatment considerations: Fire and non-fire fuels treatments may be utilized to ensure constraints are met or to reduce any hazardous effects of unplanned wildfire. Significant prescribed fire activity would be expected to help attain desirable resource/ecological conditions. Prescribed fire for hazard/fuel reduction are of a lower priority than in “B” zones. Prescribed fire

unit costs are low to moderate and are generally non-complex. Concurrently, achieve fire protection and resource benefits, when possible.

**“D” FMUs**      **Areas where wildland fire is desired, and there are few or no constraints for its use.**

General Description: Areas where unplanned and planned wildfire fire may be used to achieve desired objectives such as to improve vegetation, wildlife habitat or watershed conditions.

Fire Mitigation Considerations: Implement programs that reduce unwanted human-caused ignitions, as needed.

Fire suppression/use considerations: These areas offer the greatest opportunity to take advantage of the full range of options available for managing wildfire under the appropriate management response. Natural occurring fires under prescribed conditions are permitted to run their course where approved Fire Management Action Plans or Prescribed Fire Plans exist. Health and safety constraints will apply. Resource use considerations similar to those described for Category C may be identified if needed to achieve resource objectives. Areas in this category would be the lowest suppression priority in a multiple fire situation.

Fuel treatment considerations: There is generally less need for hazard fuel treatment in this category. Prescribed fire for fuel hazard reduction is not a priority except where there is an immediate threat to public health and safety. If treatment is necessary however, both fire and non-fire treatments may be utilized. Prescribed fire to obtain desired resource/ecological condition is appropriate.



Figure III.C.2 – Fire Management and Vegetation Treatment Summary by Category

		Wildland Fire Management			Vegetation Treatments	
		Suppression Priority	Suppression Strategy	Wildland Fire Use Strategy *	Prescribed Fire	Mechanical/Chemical/Hand/Other
<b>A FMU</b>	Fire not desired at all.	Generally High	Aggressive suppression	No	No, except pile burning of mechanically removed vegetation	Yes
<b>B FMU</b>	Unplanned wildland fire not desired.	Generally High	Aggressive suppression	No	Yes, fuel hazard reduction to mitigate risks a priority	Yes
<b>C FMU</b>	Wildland fire desired - must consider significant constraints.	Generally Moderate	Appropriate suppression responses	No	Yes, fuel hazard reduction lower priority than “B” zones; used to attain desirable resource conditions	Yes
<b>D FMU</b>	Wildland fire desired - few or no constraints.	Generally Low	Appropriate suppression responses	Yes, natural occurring fires under prescribed conditions	Yes, used to attain desirable resource conditions; fuel hazard reduction is generally not a priority	Yes

### III.C.3 FMU Prioritization

In the event of multiple wildland fire ignitions or limited resources/funding, priorities *within* fire management categories were also considered. The rationales for establishing priorities are derived from national, state, and local guidance. The relative ranking was established using a rating system of LOW, MODERATE and HIGH (Table III.C.3 and Appendix F) for:

- Wildland Fire Suppression,
- Wildland Fire Use (WFU),
- Fuels Treatment,
- Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR), and
- Community Assistance/Protection.

Table III.C.3 - Summary of Prioritization by FMU

Fire Management Unit	Acres	Wildland Fire Suppression	WFU	Emphasis on Fuels Treatment?	Emphasis on ESR	Community Assistance / Protection
A-140-01 Mount Logan Foothills	3,762	Low	No	Low	Low	Low
A-140-02 New Castle Watershed	6,629	High	No	High	High	Moderate
A-140-03 Glenwood Springs Debris Flow	5,933	High	No	High	High	High
A-140-04 Rifle Municipal Watershed	768	High	No	Moderate	High	Moderate
A-140-05 Dry Lake Penstemon Study Area	377	Low	No	Low	Low	Low
A-140-06 East Eagle	1,641	High	No	High	High	High
A-140-07 Blue Hill ACEC	3,722	Moderate	No	Moderate	Low	Low
B-140-01 East Rifle Creek	17,147	Low	No	Moderate	High	Moderate
B-140-02 1-70 Corridor West of Glenwood Springs	93,116	High	No	High	High	High
B-140-03 Roaring Fork Valley	46,171	High	No	High	High	High
B-140-04 Thompson Creek / Eagle Mountain	6,560	Moderate	No	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
B-140-05 Eagle Valley	81,074	High	No	High	High	High
B-140-06 Bocco Mountain / Siloam Springs	7,216	Low	No	Low	Low	Moderate
B-140-07 King Mountain/Black Mountain	39,466	Low	No	High	Low	Moderate
C-140-01 West Of Glenwood Springs	86,567	Moderate	No	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
C-140-02 Roan Cliffs	11,252	Moderate	No	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
C-140-03 Upper Colorado	99,978	Moderate	No	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
C-140-04 Deep Creek	4,531	Low	No	Low	High	Low
D-140-01 Roan Plateau	27,878	Low	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Low
D-140-02 Bull Gulch / Castle Peak / Hack Lake	22,794	Low	High	Low	High	Low

### III.C.3.1 Wildland Fire Suppression Prioritization

With consideration for NFP and RMP direction, each FMU was assessed for several key factors including the threat to human life and public safety, property/improvements on or nearby public lands, municipal watersheds, historic/cultural resources, and natural values. For the UCR FPU, areas designated as HIGH priority for suppression are at a greater risk for loss of life and property

from wildland fire (Table III.C.3). Areas designated as MODERATE and LOW generally have less concentrated WUI areas but have potential to impact resource values sensitive to unplanned wildland fire. **Note: Regardless of the category (A-D) or priority ranking, wildland fires threatening human life and property will always receive the HIGHEST priority for fire suppression. Once people are assigned to an incident, these human resources become the highest value to be protected.**

### **III.C.3.2 Wildland Fire Use (WFU) Prioritization**

On public lands managed by the GSFO, there are 2 FMUs where wildland fire may be used to accomplish specific, pre-stated resource management objectives (see Table III.C.3). These FMUs are:

- 1.) D-140-01 Roan Plateau
- 2.) D-140-02 Bull Gulch/Castle Peak/Hack Lake

FMU D-140-02 Bull Gulch/Castle Peak/Hack Lake was rated as higher because of the presence of Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). The GSFO is required to maintain the wilderness character of each WSA until a final decision is made by Congress as to whether it becomes part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, or is released from WSA status and made available for other uses. The general standard for this management is that the suitability of these lands for preservation as wilderness must not be impaired.

### **III.C.3.3 Fuels Treatment Prioritization**

As with suppression, each FMU was assessed for several key factors including the threat to human life and public safety, property/improvements on or nearby public lands, municipal watersheds, historic/cultural resources, and natural values. These factors all contribute to the ranking process for fuels treatments. FMUs designated as HIGH priority for fuels treatments have the greatest concerns for public safety, protecting property/investments protecting municipal water supplies and protecting historic/cultural resources, and natural values (see Table III.C.3). Sections IV.C. - Prescribed Fire, IV.D. - Non-Fire Fuel Treatments and Appendix B of this plan discusses fuels treatments in more depth.

### **III.C.3.4 Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) Prioritization**

As with fuels treatment prioritization, each FMU was assessed for several key factors including the threat to human life and public safety, property/improvements on or nearby public lands, municipal watersheds, historic/cultural resources, and natural values. FMUs designated as HIGH priority for ESR have the greatest concerns for public safety, protecting property/investments, protecting municipal water supplies and protecting natural values (see Table III.C.3).

Section IV.E. - Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation of this plan discusses ESR in more depth.

### **III.C.3.5 Community Assistance/Protection Prioritization**

As with ESR prioritization, each FMU was assessed for several key factors including the threat to human life and public safety, property/improvements on or nearby public lands, municipal watersheds and findings from WUI hazard assessments. FMUs designated as HIGH priority for community assistance and protection have the greatest concerns for public safety, protecting property/investments and protecting municipal water supplies (see Table III.C.3).

### **III.D. Description of Wildland Fire Management Strategies by Fire Management Unit**

#### **III.D.1 Fire Management Unit Descriptions, Objectives, and Strategies**

All Federal agencies within the UCR FPU have identified specific Fire Management Units (FMUs). Public lands administered by the GSFO were delineated into 20 FMUs. For each FMU, fire managers, fuels specialists and resource specialists performed an assessment of: the risk of wildfire, potential damage to resource values, similar vegetation type and condition, management constraints, WUI issues, objectives and strategies.

FMU maps can be found in Appendix A. The narratives by FMU including; 1) a FMU description, 2) fire management objectives and 3) fire management strategies can be found in Appendix B. Wildland Fire Suppression Protocols (restrictions and recommendations) common to all FMUs are outlined below in section III.D.2. *The protocols apply solely to BLM managed land within the FMUs.*

#### **III.D.2 Wildland Fire Suppression Protocols (Restrictions & Recommendations)**

##### **III.D.2.1 Restrictions Specific to Heavy Equipment**

Mechanized equipment, such as dozers or excavators, is infrequently used in the FPU to assist in fire suppression actions. In instances where the use of mechanized equipment is contemplated the following will apply:

- All use of heavy equipment (dozers, graders, etc) requires authorization from the agency administrator or designated acting. *Exception: When the fire is outside a Wilderness Study Area (WSA), and lives or homes are nearby and in imminent danger of being loss, the FMO may authorize the use of heavy equipment.*
- The Zone FMO will involve the appropriate resource staff. On site reconnaissance and review will be conducted prior to engaging in line construction activities unless there is an imminent threat to firefighter or public safety or an imminent threat to private land and improvements (structures). All identified cultural resources will be protected to the extent possible unless firefighter and public safety is compromised.
- In general, dozers will be prohibited from operating on slopes greater than 40%.

##### **III.D.2.2 Restrictions Specific to Motorized Vehicle Use**

**Travel Restricted Areas** - Motorized travel restrictions do not apply to federal, state and local law enforcement officers or fire-fighting forces in the performance of official duties. However, motorized vehicle use in designated closed areas and on non-motorized routes is discouraged. If vehicle use is necessary, RAs will be consulted to develop vehicle use strategies that minimize vehicle impacts and address resource concerns.

**Within Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)** - (see maps in Appendix A) The use of motorized vehicles, fire engines and mechanical ground disturbing equipment within these areas requires approval of the Field Manager (FM) or designated acting FM. *Exception: When lives or homes are nearby and in imminent danger of being lost, the Fire Management Officer (FMO) may authorize vehicle use within WSAs and ACECs.*

### III.D.2.3 Restrictions Specific to the Aerial Application of Retardant or Foam

Avoid aerial application of retardant or foam within 300 feet of any body of water including lakes, rivers, streams and ponds whether or not they contain aquatic life. Exceptions (as per Instruction Memorandum No. OF&A 2000-011):

- When alternative line construction tactics are not available due to terrain constraints, life and property concerns or lack of ground personnel, it is acceptable to anchor the foam or retardant application to the waterway. When anchoring a retardant or foam line to a waterway, use the most accurate method of delivery in order to minimize placement of retardant or foam in the waterway (e.g., a helicopter rather than an air tanker).
- When life or property is threatened and the use of retardant or foam can be reasonably expected to alleviate the threat.
- When potential damage to natural resources outweighs possible loss of aquatic life, the FM or acting FM may approve retardant or foam use within 300 feet of waterways.

If retardant is applied within 300 ft of a water body:

- Ditches should be dug as soon as possible to minimize entry of fire retardant into waterways. Mitigation may also include the use of straw bales, tree slash, or other materials to trap fire retardant and limit entry into aquatic systems.
- As soon as practicable after an aerial application of retardant within 300 ft of a waterway, the FM or acting FM must initiate a post application assessment of aquatic systems to determine effects to T&E species or their habitat. If there were no adverse effects to aquatic T&E species or their habitats, there is no requirement to consult with the USF&WS. If the FM or designated acting determines that there were adverse effects on T&E species or their habitats then the GSFO must consult with the USF&WS, as required by 50 CFR 402.05 (Emergencies). Procedures for emergency consultation are described in Part 11.

### III.D.2.4 Restrictions Specific to WSAs and ACECs

Wildland fires will require immediate and continued close coordination with the resource advisor (RA). The RA also notifies the appropriate GSFO staff person of fires and actions taken in WSAs and ACECs.

**Restrictions Specific to WSAs** - (see maps in Appendix A) To protect wilderness characteristics (roadlessness and naturalness) wildland fire management follows H-8550-1 – Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review and Grand Junction District WSA Fire Suppression Tactics Policy (05-10-95). Specifically:

- The use of motorized vehicles, fire engines and mechanical ground disturbing equipment within WSAs requires approval of the Field Manager (FM) or designated acting FM.  
*Exception: When lives or homes are nearby and in imminent danger of being lost, the Fire Management Officer (FMO) may authorize vehicle use within WSAs and ACECs.*
- The use of airtankers, chain saws / pumps, and the delivery of personnel / equipment / water by helicopter require the approval of the FMO or designated acting.
- Reduce the negative effects of wildland fire management by applying minimizing measures (see Appendix E for Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST)).
- Placement of large fire camps should be outside WSAs.
- Perform rehabilitation of fire suppression impacts as defined by the resource advisor to restore visual and/or wilderness characteristics.
- The use of natural firebreaks and existing roads to contain a wildland fire is encouraged.

**Restrictions Specific to ACECs** - Same as for WSAs (see maps in Appendix A).

### III.D.2.5 Other Wildland Fire Suppression Recommendations

- Private landowner or sheriff permission should be obtained to cross private property and use access roads.
- Erosion control and rehabilitation recommended on all surface disturbances (see section IV.E).
- During wildland fire suppression consider visual qualities in Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class I and II areas where the classification goal is to preserve the landscape character and landscape modifications are not evident.
- Protect known heritage resources (cabins, homesteads, mine structures, prehistoric sites, pole structures, etc.). As possible and when necessary: inventory fire line construction in sensitive areas; avoid placing control lines, base camps and support facilities within site boundaries; inventory ground disturbing rehabilitation activities and use non-ground disturbing techniques within known or newly identified site boundaries.
- Protect special status species. As possible and when necessary: inventory fire line construction in sensitive areas; avoid placing control lines, base camps and support facilities within important habitats; inventory ground disturbing rehabilitation activities and use non-ground disturbing techniques within known or occupied areas.
- Notify the resource advisor/archaeologist of any cultural resources encountered.
- When practical and possible; equipment used for wildland fire suppression activities should be washed before arriving on-site and staging/parking areas should avoid weed patches to reduce the spread of noxious weeds.
- Monitor for hazardous materials that may also be introduced as a result of the fire fighting activities. Rehabilitation plans should consider any contaminated waters and soils.

### III.D.3 Threatened & Endangered / Special Status Species Wildland Fire Suppression Guidelines

Suppression activities can be detrimental to fish, wildlife and plants. This section provides information about threatened and endangered (T&E) and special status species at risk from wildland fire suppression activities. The resource advisor (RA) should provide the guidelines (Figure III.D.3) and any additional measures identified by the FO biologist or USF&WS to wildland fire managers.

Of paramount importance are the safety of the firefighters and the protection of life and property. If a suppression action is determined to be necessary to: (1) control a wildland fire, (2) save lives and/or property, or (3) ensure that fire crews can do their jobs safely and efficiently, and then it is appropriate to act even if it results in the take of an endangered species. DO NOT stand in the way of the response efforts (8.2.(A) - Final ESA Section 7 Consultation Handbook, March 1998). No wildland fire suppression guideline (Figure III.D.5), for the protection of endangered species or their habitat, will be considered if the FMO or Incident Commander feels they place firefighters or life or property in danger.

Figure III.D.3 - T&E / Special Status Species Wildland Fire Suppression Guidelines

Species	FMUs	Wildland Fire Suppression Guidelines for Federally Threatened, Endangered and Candidate Species
<b>Federally Threatened, Endangered and Candidate Species</b>		
<b>Big River Fishes (inc. Flannelmouth</b>	B-140-02 C-140-01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid aerial application of retardant or foam within 300 feet of any body of water including lakes, rivers, streams and ponds whether or not they contain aquatic life. (See exceptions under southwest willow flycatcher).</li> <li>• Within the Colorado River drainage and associated tributaries located in</li> </ul>

Figure III.D.3 - T&E / Special Status Species Wildland Fire Suppression Guidelines

Species	FMUs	Wildland Fire Suppression Guidelines for Federally Threatened, Endangered and Candidate Species
<b>sucker and Roundtail chub)</b>		<p>FMZ B-140-02 and C-140-01, minimize the erosion of sediments into the Colorado River by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- minimizing vegetation losses,</li> <li>- coordinating fire line placement with RA or hydrologists,</li> <li>- constructing fire lines in a manner that limits the potential for erosion,</li> <li>- rehabilitating constructed hand/dozer lines/impacted areas in critical watershed areas and placing water bars where erosion potential is high (see FMP Part 12).</li> </ul> <p>* Depletion log: The GSFO Biologist will report 1-acre foot of water to be added yearly to the water depletion log to account for water depletions associated with fire abatement within the planning area. If, in the event of a large wildland fire or severe fire season more water is used, the log will be adjusted accordingly and all depletions accounted for.</p>
<b>Bald Eagle</b>	<p>A-140-01 A-140-02 A-140-03 A-140-06 A-140-07 B-140-01 B-140-02 B-140-03 B-140-05 B-140-06 B-140-07 C-140-01 C-140-03 D-140-02</p>	<p>In order to minimize effects, both direct and indirect, to potential nesting bald eagles, the following minimization measures are required along main waterways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid unnecessary tree cutting within ¼ mile of known roost trees.</li> <li>• Avoid aerial application of retardant or foam within 300 feet of any body of water including lakes, rivers, streams and ponds whether or not they contain aquatic life (as per OF&amp;A - IM No. 2000-011, see Part 9).</li> </ul> <p>To reduce indirect effects to bald eagles from potential modification of winter roost sites, the following minimization measures are required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid aerial application of retardant or foam within 300 feet of any body of water including lakes, rivers, streams and ponds whether or not they contain aquatic life (as per OF&amp;A - IM No. 2000-011, see FMP Part 9).</li> </ul>
<b>Canada lynx</b>	<p>A-140-02 A-140-03 B-140-01 B-140-02 B-140-03 B-140-04 B-140-05 B-140-06 B-140-07 C-140-01 C-140-03 C-140-04 D-140-02</p>	<p>Wildland fire suppression within mapped potential Canada lynx habitats will be performed in a manner consistent with conservation measures outlined in the <i>Canada Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy</i> (2000) Chapter 7 – Pages 7-6, 7-7 and 7-8. Considerations include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attempts will be made to keep linear openings (fire line, access routes and escape routes) out of mapped potential habitat and away from key components such as denning areas.</li> <li>• When managing wildland fire, minimize the creation of linear openings (fire line, access routes and escape routes) that could result in permanent travel ways for competitors and humans.</li> <li>• Obliterate and reclaim linear openings (fire line, access routes and escape routes) associated with wildland fire suppression constructed within lynx habitat in order to deter future human and competitive species use.</li> <li>• Avoid constructing permanent firebreaks on ridges or saddles in lynx habitat.</li> </ul>
<b>Uinta Basin hookless cactus</b>	A-140-01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimize surface disturbance by using retardant, water, engines/wet lines, etc in known habitat for this species.</li> <li>• Where firefighter safety is not compromised, construct fire line outside the perimeter of known cactus populations.</li> <li>• Avoid off-route use of motorized vehicles and mechanical equipment within known cactus populations.</li> </ul>
<b>Boreal toad</b>	D-140-02	<p>Not known to exist - potential habitat on Castle Peak</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid aerial application of retardant or foam within 300 feet of any body of water including lakes, rivers, streams and ponds whether or not they contain aquatic life (as per OF&amp;A - IM No. 2000-011, see FMP Part 9).</li> </ul>
<b>Western</b>	B-140-02	This species historically occurred in portions of western Colorado; No

Figure III.D.3 - T&E / Special Status Species Wildland Fire Suppression Guidelines

Species	FMUs	Wildland Fire Suppression Guidelines for Federally Threatened, Endangered and Candidate Species
<b>yellow-billed cuckoo</b>		<p>individuals have been recorded or confirmed to nest within the planning area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid aerial application of retardant or foam within 300 feet of any body of water including lakes, rivers, streams and ponds whether or not they contain aquatic life (as per OF&amp;A - IM No. 2000-011, see FMP Part 9).</li> </ul>
<b>Greater sage grouse</b>	A-140-07 B-140-05 B-140-06 B-140-07 C-140-03 (potential in B-140-05)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggressively suppress wildland fires in sagebrush vegetation within mapped sage grouse habitats to minimize expansive losses of sagebrush.</li> <li>• Identify and avoid known lek sites when managing wildland fire and using heavy equipment.</li> <li>• In sage grouse winter habitats, protect unburned patches of sagebrush within the fire perimeter.</li> <li>• Post-fire; Evaluate burned area to determine whether reseeding is necessary to achieve habitat management objectives as recommended in the <i>Guidelines to manage sage grouse populations and their habitats (Connelly, Schroeder, Sands and Braun 2000)</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Parachute penstemon</b>	B-140-02 C-140-02 D-140-01	<p>Located on Mt Logan in T7S, R97W, Sections 25, 35, &amp; 36; along Anvil Points Mine Rd. in T6S, R95W, Section 12; and along Anvil Points rim.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimize surface disturbance by using retardant, water, engines/wet lines, etc in occupied habitat.</li> <li>• Avoid off-route use of motorized vehicles and mechanical equipment in occupied habitat.</li> </ul>
<b>DeBeque phacelia</b>	B-140-02 C-140-02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimize surface disturbance by using retardant, water, engines/wet lines, etc. in occupied habitat.</li> <li>• Avoid off-route use of motorized vehicles and mechanical equipment in occupied habitat.</li> </ul>
<b>BLM Sensitive Species</b>		
<b>Colorado River cutthroat trout</b>	A-140-03 B-140-04 B-140-05 D-140-01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attempts will be made to minimize losses of vegetation within 100 yards of occupied drainages to minimize the potential for erosion of sediments into occupied waters.</li> <li>• Provide for drainage with water bars on constructed hand/dozer lines and impacted areas in critical watershed areas (see Part 12 for guidelines).</li> <li>• Avoid aerial application of retardant or foam within 300 feet of any body of water including lakes, rivers, streams and ponds whether or not they contain aquatic life. (as per OF&amp;A - IM No. 2000-011, see FMP Part 9).</li> </ul>
<b>Northern goshawk</b>	B-140-07 C-140-02 D-140-02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire line construction will attempt to avoid the destruction of known nest trees in the concentrated nesting areas on Castle Peak (FMZ D-140-02), and King Mountain (FMZ B-140-07). Line may be constructed around known nest trees to protect them. All fire line will be obliterated and reclaimed to minimize human use.</li> <li>• Linear openings (fire line, access routes and escape routes) associated with fire suppression will be obliterated and reclaimed in order to deter future human use.</li> </ul>
<b>Northern leopard frog</b>	All FMZs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid aerial application of retardant or foam within 300 feet of any body of water including lakes, rivers, streams and ponds whether or not they contain aquatic life (as per OF&amp;A - IM No. 2000-011, see FMP Part 9).</li> </ul>
<b>Great Basin spade-foot toad</b>	B-140-02 (west of Silt)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-fire; Evaluate wildland fires within the lower elevation pinyon-juniper woodlands and sagebrush habitats, within FMZ B-140-02, to assess the need for cheatgrass control and/or re-seeding.</li> </ul>
<b>Arapien stickleaf</b>	B-140-02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimize surface disturbance by using retardant, water, engines/wet lines, etc in known habitat for this species.</li> <li>• Avoid off-road use of motorized vehicles and mechanical equipment in occupied habitat.</li> </ul>

Figure III.D.3 - T&E / Special Status Species Wildland Fire Suppression Guidelines

Species	FMUs	Wildland Fire Suppression Guidelines for Federally Threatened, Endangered and Candidate Species
Debeque milkvetch	B-140-02 C-140-02 D-140-01	• Post-fire evaluations within the lower elevation pinyon-juniper woodlands and salt desert shrub habitats should review the need for cheatgrass control and/or re-seeding. Re-seeding should emphasize locally-adapted native species or short-lived introduced species that will not out compete the DeBeque milkvetch.

**III.D.3.1 Emergency Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Fire can and often does destroy endangered species and alters critical habitat. However, fire itself is considered a disaster or an act of God in the sense of 50 CFR 402.05. Consultation is conducted only for the actions (suppression response to the wildland fire emergency) under control of the BLM, not the effects of the fire itself. These consultations are in a special category, *Emergency Consultations*, and are handled in a very expeditious manner. The RA will be responsible for initiating emergency consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS). The RA should notify and involve the FO biologist and/or ecologist, as soon as possible.

Typically, the RA contacts the USF&WS by telephone if a wildland fire is determined to involve an endangered species or if response actions may affect the species or habitat. This contact should be made as soon as practicable. The RA should advise the USF&WS contact of: the nature of the emergency, location, fire size, species/critical habitats in the area and the anticipated effects. An emergency consultation number will be provided. Subsequent calls to the USF&WS can add information. An estimate of "incidental take" of the endangered species can be discussed, if specific information is known. After the wildland fire is controlled, the



RA will work with the FO biologist or ecologist to provide an oral or written report to the USF&WS. The USF&WS provides an after the fact opinion that documents the effects of the emergency response on the listed species or critical habitat.