

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE STATE OF IDAHO, BUREAU OF HOMELAND SECURITY
AND
THE STATE OF IDAHO, DEPARTMENT OF LANDS**

**REGARDING INTEGRATION AND INTERCHANGEABILITY OF THE IDAHO STATE HAZARD MITIGATION
PLAN WILDFIRE CHAPTER AND THE COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN.**

1. **PARTIES.** The parties to this Agreement are the State of Idaho, Bureau of Homeland Security ("IBHS") and the State of Idaho, Department of Lands ("IDL").
2. **AUTHORITY.** This agreement is authorized under the provisions of Idaho Statute: TITLE 46, CHAPTER 10.
3. **PURPOSE.** The purpose of this Agreement is to set forth terms by which the IBHS and the IDL will coordinate review processes and will enable Counties within the State of Idaho to integrate All Hazard Mitigation Plan ("AHMP") wildfire chapters with the Community Wildfire Protection Plan ("CWPP") to avoid duplication of effort as they deem appropriate.
4. **ASSUMPTIONS.**
 - A. **Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security in collaboration with Idaho counties:**

Each county maintains a FEMA-approved local all-hazard mitigation plan which must be revised every five years. Approved AHMPs are required for FEMA hazard mitigation funding. IBHS reviews all county AHMPs prior to submitting them to FEMA for its review and approval. The AHMP, including the Wildfire chapter, is a means of mitigating the wildfire hazard in Idaho counties in order to protect lives and property. This is a requirement under the Stafford Act as implemented by the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA"). The Wildfire chapter specifically describes the wildfire hazard, assesses the wildfire risk and provides for mitigation actions. The Wildfire component is essential because the wildfire risk is among the top three hazards that threaten Idaho citizens in any given year. This chapter determines to what degree the wildfire hazard can be found in our environment, analyzes community risk and vulnerability and provides strategic direction to mitigate the wildfire hazard.
 - B. **Idaho Department of Lands:**

Monitors and approves the respective CWPPs created by each of the 44 Idaho counties. The CWPP is a requirement under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, enacted in 2003, and solely addresses wildfire hazards. The CWPP provides guidance towards specific wildfire issues such as response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness and structure protection. The CWPP provides a mechanism with which to address forest and fire management and impacts to surrounding watersheds. The CWPP can also prescribe who develops and implements the plan, what elements to consider in assessing community risks and priorities and how to develop a prevention or protection plan to mitigate those risks. The CWPP must be collaborative, must prioritize fuel reduction treatments and must describe methods with which will reduce structural ignitability. CWPPs are required in order for the county to be eligible of IDL grant funding.

C. AHMP Wildfire Chapter and CWPP Interchangeability:

IBHS and IDL agree that a majority of the requirements of the AHMP Wildfire chapter and CWPP are interchangeable and are equal in scope and purpose. All Idaho counties have identified wildfire risk as a risk and have included wildfire as a component in their respective AHMPs. Likewise, the county CWPPs describe the wildfire hazard and prescribe mitigation actions. In order to reduce duplication of effort by all agencies concerned, IBHS and IDL agree that both wildfire planning components essentially serve the same purpose and compliance with one plan is compliance with the other plan however delineated.

Therefore, Idaho counties may:

1. Develop and maintain a wildfire chapter in their AHMP and continue to develop and maintain a separate CWPP.
2. Include their CWPP as an addendum to their AHMP.
3. Integrate the CWPP components directly into their AHMP wildfire chapter.

IBHS, in cooperation with IDL, has formulated an additional element to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Revision Tool to capture the few requirements that are specific only to CWPPs. This review mechanism will ensure that each county which chooses to integrate the two plans will avoid duplication of effort and will only need to update one plan. Instead of naming this component the CWPP, it may be considered the Wildfire chapter of the AHMP with any applicable appendix at the discretion of the county. Such a designation will not interfere with a county's eligibility for IDL grant funding.

D. Cooperative Planning Review Procedures:

IBHS will review and approve county AHMPs for submission to FEMA for its own approval. If a county elects to integrate the CWPP components in the AHMP, IDL will review the wildfire chapter of the AHMP, whenever it is submitted for revision or as needed, and will determine if all of the prescribed elements of an effective CWPP are met. IDL will indicate as such on the review tool and will sign off on its portion of the AHMP revision. IBHS will include this review and approval in its overall review of the AHMP.

5. APPROVING OFFICIAL.

IDAHO BUREAU OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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- 6. OTHER PROVISIONS.** Nothing in this Agreement is intended to conflict with current laws or regulations of the State of Idaho. If a term of this agreement is inconsistent with such authority, then that term

shall be invalid and the remaining terms and conditions of this agreement shall remain in full force and effect. Both IBHS and IDL retain the authorities previously granted to them respectively.

7. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** The terms of this agreement will become effective upon signing by the parties.
8. **MODIFICATION.** This agreement may be modified upon the mutual written consent of the parties.
9. **TERMINATION.** The terms of this agreement in its original form, or if modified with the consent of both parties, will remain in effect until either party, upon 30 days written notice to the other, terminates this agreement.

APPROVED BY:



Tom Schultz
Director
Idaho Department of Lands

1/6/15
Date



Brig. General Brad Richy
Director
Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security

24 Dec 2014
Date