

## **Operational Clarification for Consistent Implementation**

Several operational differences existed among the federal wildland fire management agencies. Discussions have led to consensus among the wildland fire management agencies participating in the revision with regard to the following policies: (Note: State and tribal operated programs may choose to implement some policy differently than the five Federal agencies with wildland fire management programs). This consensus will change fire management policy implementation for some federal wildland fire management agencies. Specifically:

1. Two distinct types of wildland fire have been defined based on whether the event is planned or unplanned. A planned wildland fire event is known as prescribed fire while an unplanned event is known as wildfire.
2. Multiple management objectives may be applied to a wildland fire. Wildland fires may be managed for benefit and protection objectives concurrently. If two wildland fires converge, they will be managed as a single wildland fire.
3. The Appropriate Management Response (AMR) is any specific action suitable to meet Fire Management Unit (FMU) objectives. Typically, the AMR ranges across a spectrum of tactical options (from monitoring to intensive management actions). The AMR is developed by using FMU strategies and objectives identified in the Fire Management Plan in concert with the physical, social and legal constraints applicable at the time.
4. The Land/Resource Management Plan, or the Fire Management Plan, will identify the ecological, social, cost and legal criteria when considering AMR.
5. The response to human caused wildland fires will be initial attack without consideration of resource benefits. If a human caused wildland fire escapes initial attack it will be reviewed within the AMR context through the Wildland Fire Decision Support process.
6. The Wildland Fire Decision Support process is used to determine and document the AMR strategy from the full range of responses available for tactical operations.
7. When a prescribed fire is no longer achieving the intended resource management objectives and contingency or mitigation actions have failed, the fire will be reviewed within the AMR context through the Wildland Fire Decision Support process.