

SOPL Background Paper From this Spring

The Fire Use Manager positions (FUM1 and FUM2) have been reviewed by the NWCG Fire Use Working Team and Training Working Team in light of changes in implementation strategy for the Federal Wildland Fire policy. The Fire Use Working Team submitted a proposal to IOSWT recommending:

- Merge the two FUMA positions into a single position
- Position would work for Planning Section or IC on Type 1 and 2 wildfires and could function as an IC on Type 3,4, and 5 wildfires
- Position could also be utilized by host unit to lead the development of Response Level 3 WFDSS
- New position would be titled Strategic Operational Planner (SOPL)
- SOPL would be responsible for developing or managing (on long term wildfires) the Response Level 3 Course of Action (WFDSS)

The FUMA skills remain relevant for wildfires managed for resource benefit as well as any long term wildfire. FUMAs provide expertise and experience in developing courses of action and mitigation measures to assess trade-offs between risks, costs, and benefits. These personnel are skilled in the use and interpretation of many of the new decision support tools which are available through WFDSS.

Because the WFIP process will be replaced by WFDSS, policy no longer requires FUMAs to be assigned to any wildfire. Previously a FUMA was required when completing a WFIP Stage 3.

Please consider the following alternatives for the FUMA/SOPL position:

1. No requirement for assignment to wildfires.
2. Require assignment of FUMA/SOPL for development and management of the Course of Action for any wildfire that progresses to a Response Level 3
3. Require assignment of FUMA/SOPL for development and management of the Course of Action for any wildfire with a resource benefit objective/strategy that progresses to a Response Level 3

Alternative 1 would likely result in abolishment of the position due to lack of use.

USFS Qualified FUMA 1 and 2 by Region Apr-09-2009

| | R01 | R02 | R03 | R04 | R05 | R06 | R08 | R09 | R10 |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| FUM1 | 17 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| FUM2 | 20 | 8 | 12 | 25 | 7 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 37 | 12 | 17 | 33 | 13 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 0 |

Total=127 personnel (all redundancies removed)