

Wallowa Whitman National Forest Preparedness and Staffing Plan 2024



This plan will serve to guide fire managers in making appropriate decisions regarding fire preparedness and resource staffing on the Wallowa Whitman National Forest. It is intended to serve as a guide as fire management is a dynamic process, and at times, adjustments will be needed to account for unique local, regional, and national conditions.

Duty Officers

The Wallowa Whitman National Forest will designate a Duty Officer for the Forest as a whole and each District/Zone will designate a Duty Officer for the local unit for all periods in which fire management decisions can be expected to be made, generally June 1 through October 31. The duty officer should be readily available by phone or radio and be able to respond to their office timely if needed. It is not required that the duty officer be at work and is to be expected that individuals will be acting as duty officer while not officially at a work location such as office or compound.

- Outside of fire season, dispatch should have a call down list of duty officers at a minimum, and at least one individual on the call down list should be available (when conditions warrant).
- During fire season, the duty officer will be identified daily on the dispatch center website.

The Forest Duty Officer is responsible for oversight of the entire fire program. This includes setting priorities at the Forest level, providing support to Zone Duty Officers, coordination with BMIDC, support to Rangers, the Forest Supervisors, and their staffs. They will also provide coordination with the Regional Office, cooperators, and adjacent units.

Zone/District Duty Officers are responsible for managing fire suppression resources and activities on their assigned units. This includes coordination with their Rangers and the Forest Duty Officer, providing for management of fire suppression while ensuring multiple-day preparedness staffing, support to assigned Incident Commanders, setting priorities within their zone, logistical support of on-going incidents and interactions with zone specialists.

FOREST/DISTRICT DUTY OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS - Reference "*Forest Service Fire & Aviation Guide – Chapter 4.14 Forest Service Fire and Aviation (FAM) Duty Officer (DO) Standard*". The Forest is a High Complexity unit.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION STANDARDS FOR DUTY OFFICERS

Complexity	Forest DO	District/Zone DO
High	DIVS -and-(ICT3 or RXB2) -OR- ASGS -and- ICT3 (Currency not required)	DIVS -and- (ICT3 or RXB2) -OR- ASGS -and- ICT3 (Currency required)

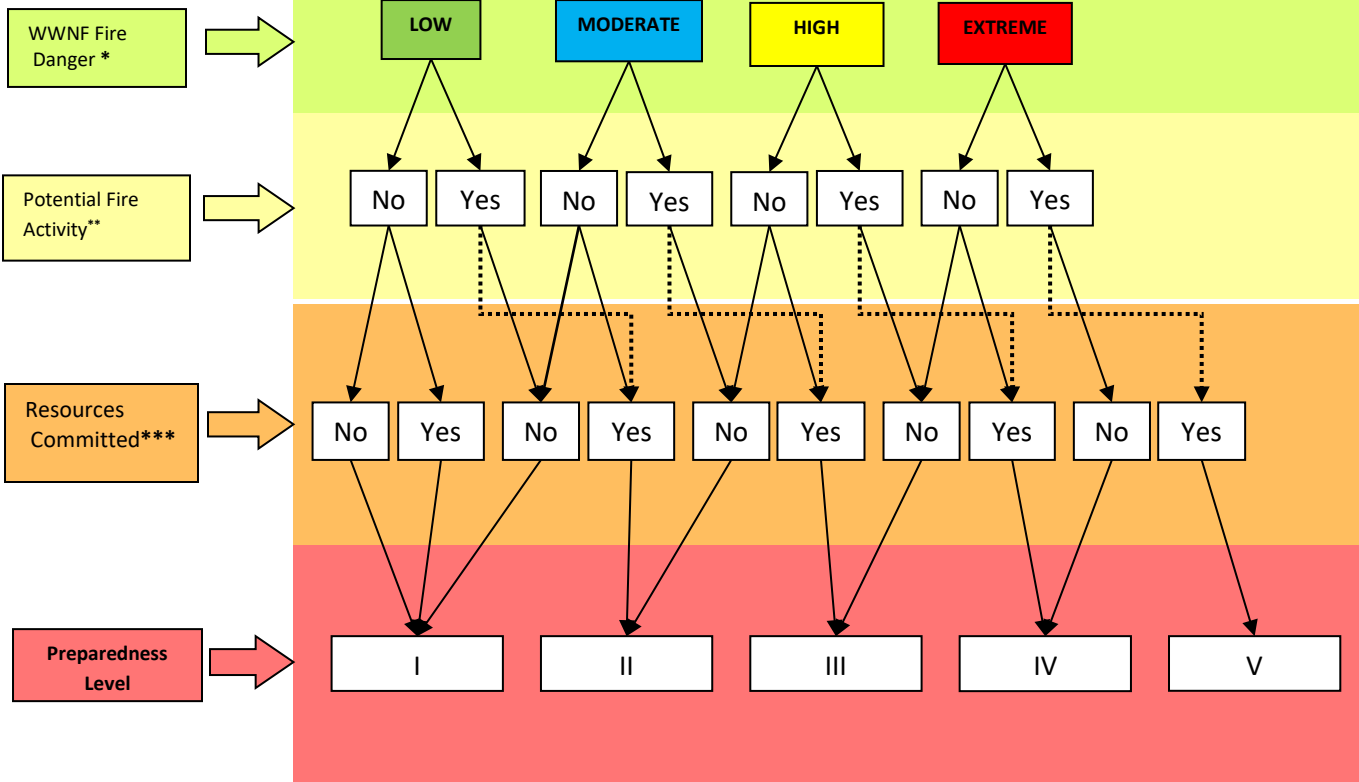
Forest Preparedness Levels

The purpose of established Preparedness Levels is to identify actions to be taken to ensure an appropriate level of preparedness/readiness for the existing and potential fire situation across the Forest.

The Forest Preparedness Level is partly determined by a flow chart filtered by 3 input variables. Those input variables are fire danger (based upon average ERC levels), potential fire activity, and resource availability (commitment). Prescribed fire activity and associated resource needs should also be considered when determining a preparedness level.

Forest Fire Danger level will be determined by the FMO group during their weekly coordination call based on ERC levels calculated by BMIDC. The decision arrived at through consensus of the FMO Group will be used in the below charts' input for the WWNF Fire Danger. Individual Fire Danger Rating Area levels may vary from the forest level decision; however, the forest level decision will be used in chart below unless otherwise determined by the FMO group during its weekly coordination call. The Forest Fire Danger Level determine by the FMO Group will be used in the following as the initial input for the flow chart.

Input Variable



*Individual FDRA’s have some variance in the split between levels. Forest Fire Danger Level will be set during the weekly coordination call of the FMO Group.

** Potential Fire Activity = The potential for multiple starts or large fires from predicted lightning or significant human starts occurring.

*** Modules supporting initial attack within the Blue Mountain area (BMIDC area) are considered in minimum staffing calculations if they are available to return to the district by the next burn period/day. If a module is committed and not available to return to the district by the next burn period/day, it is considered on assignment and does not count in minimum staffing calculations. Off Forest Resources will not count in daily staffing calculations.

This flow chart, in addition to other considerations and discussion, will be used determine the Forest Preparedness Level. The Forest Duty will ensure that the preparedness level will be calculated weekly by the and the determination will remain unchanged for the week unless conditions warrant revisiting this determination earlier. Forest Preparedness Levels may influence resource allocation on portions of the Forest not experiencing significant activity. This will ensure sufficient resources are available for the fire management wherever they may be needed on the Forest. Forest Preparedness Levels should also be responsive to the Northwest Preparedness Levels, which are based on current activity, severity, and resource availability.

Preparedness Level Descriptions and Actions

Descriptions

Preparedness Level 1 – The Forest is experiencing low fire danger and there is minimal wildland fire activity. There is little or no commitment of Forest resources at the local level.

Preparedness Level 2 – The Forest is experiencing moderate fire danger and wildland fire activity is moderate. There is minimal commitment of Forest resources at the local level.

Preparedness Level 3 – The Forest is experiencing high fire danger and there is moderate to high fire activity. Additional resources are potentially being ordered and mobilized to the Forest.

Preparedness Level 4 – The Forest is experiencing high or extreme fire danger and large/multiple fire activity is possible. Significant Forest resources are committed, and additional resources are being ordered. Incident management teams may be on the Forest.

Preparedness Level 5 – The Forest is experiencing extreme fire danger and large/multiple fire activity is possible or occurring. Most Forest resources are committed, and additional resources are being ordered. Incident management teams may be on the Forest.

Minimum Staffing

This plan considers the following as “Modules”. Recommended staffing level is listed:

- Hand crew staffed with 5 (minimum of 3) containing a qualified Agency IC.
- Hand crew staffed with 10 containing 2 qualified Agency ICs - is considered 2 modules.
- Hand crew Staffed with 20 containing qualified Agency ICs may be split into multiple modules (up to 4 total) given each Module contains a minimum of 5 personnel containing an Agency IC.
- Engine staffed with 3 (minimum of 2) containing a qualified IC.
- Contract Engine or Crew when an Agency IC is tied to the resource. Crews may be multiple modules if capable of splitting and each has an Agency IC assigned.
- Line Constructing Equipment with IA capabilities/qualifications (IC and/or HEQB)

Resources more than the required minimum staffing (for current and reasonably expected conditions) can be made available by the Forest to support fires regionally or nationally.

Modules supporting initial attack within the Blue Mountain area (BMIDC area) count toward minimum staffing if they are available to return to the district by the next burn period/day. If a module is committed and not available to return to the district by the next burn period/day, it is considered on assignment and does not count toward minimum staffing.

Resource staffing will be communicated daily by each District, by entering resource status at the appropriate dispatch center website.

National and regional shared resources are not included in calculating minimum staffing.

Minimum Staffing Guide-Wallowa Whitman National Forest										
Preparedness Level	Whitman		LaGrande		Wallowa		Forest Wide		Totals	
	Module	DO	Module	DO	Module	DO	ICT3*	Forest DO	modules	DO
Total Available	10	4	5	3	7	4	NA	3	21	14
5	7	1- required, 1-on call	4	1- required, 1-on call	5	1- required, 1-on call	3	1- required, 1-on call	16	4- Required, 3-on call
4	5	1- required, 1-on call	3	1- required, 1-on call	4	1- required, 1-on call	2	1- required, 1-on call	12	4 required, 3-on call
3	3	1- required, 1-on call	2	1- required	3	1- required, 1-on call	1	1-on call	8	3- required, 2-on call
2	2*	1-on call	1*	1-on call	2*	1-on call	0	1-on call	5*	4-on call
1	1*	1-on call	1*	1-on call	1*	1-on call	0	1-on call	3*	4-on call

On call= duty officer available via phone and able to respond to office if needed. On call Duty Officer may be shared between two districts.

Required= duty officer working regular hours and available via phone and able to respond to the office if needed.

*=Modules may not be staffing daily but should be available for response within 2 hours of activation.

*= ICT3's available that are not designated Duty Officers for the Districts/Forest

Staffing calculations for minimum levels will be the forest total. Individual districts should meet their recommended level but may coordinate with other districts to cover needs when short on staffing levels. It is anticipated that occasionally staffing levels may fall short of minimum levels. These drops should occur infrequently and be of short duration (one-two days) until additional resources are attained.

Extended Attack Capability

Each District should manage fire leadership capability consistent with conditions and be prepared to staff fires under current and expected fire danger conditions.

The Northeast Oregon Type 3 IMT may be used to supplement extended attack capabilities.

Severity Funded Resources

The Forest should consider increasing staffing with severity funded resources when:

- When the Forest Preparedness Level is at 3 or higher
- Any one of the Input Variables used in determining the Forest Preparedness Level is well above what would normally be expected.

Additional resources are phased in as fire danger increases. Typically, use of severity funding includes:

- extend hours and/or days of initial attack resources and lookouts.
- extend hours and/or days of duty officers and fire management oversight,
- increase initial attack resources by contractors or out of area resources, such as engines, incident commanders, hand crews (if needed for initial attack),
- increase initial attack aircraft such as Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT), additional rappel platform, detection plan, air attack, or helicopter.
- Increase fire management overhead such as ICT3, line overhead, and single resource bosses.

Severity funding availability and guidance for use are provided annually by the regional office.

Wallowa Whitman National Forest Resources

RESOURCE CATEGORY		LOCATION	MODULE/ DESIGNATOR
INITIAL ATTACK CREW	Whitman	Baker	10 person/C 1-1 10 person/C 1-3
		Halfway	10 person/C 1-2
	La Grande	La Grande	10 person/C 6-5
	Wallowa Mtns.	Enterprise	10 person/C 5-1 (WFUM) 10 person/C 5-2
ENGINE CREW	Whitman	Baker	E-611 E-613 E-614
		Halfway	E-612
	La Grande	La Grande	E-661 E-662 E-663
	Wallowa Mtns.	Enterprise	E-651 E-652 E-653
LOOKOUTS	Whitman	Table Rock Summit Mt. Ireland	

	La Grande	Pt. Prominence Johnson Rock	
	Wallowa Mtns.	Hat Point Harl Butte Heaven's Gate	
EQUIPMENT	Forest	Baker (varies)	Skid Steer w/operator