

APPENDIX B – PRESCRIPTIVE CRITERIA

Prescriptive criteria were developed in a cooperative effort between Moffat County and the other agencies responsible for fire management. This appendix was adapted from, and is consistent with, **Appendix E** from the Phase II Plan (Land Stewardship Associates 2002). The Phase II plan adopted most of this section from the Phase I report (Ecosystem Enhancement 2001).

The following prescriptive criteria will be used to guide strategic decision-making when the Moffat County Sheriff begins management of a fire. Managing the fire for firefighter and public safety is always a priority. This prescription is, in essence, a checklist to ensure that all factors in addition to firefighter safety and cost have been evaluated.

PRESCRIPTIVE CRITERIA

A. Environmental

1. Will this fire threaten to cross polygon boundaries and or onto public lands? If yes, continue, but fire management efforts must be coordinated.
2. Do environmental parameters indicate that this fire will burn as planned? (If yes, continue). Parameters should include: maximum temperature, minimum relative humidity, wind speed, live and dead fuel moistures, and predicted fire weather.
3. Is the wildland fire meeting the landowners' objectives identified in this Plan? (If yes, continue).

B. Social/Political

1. Is there a smoke permit in place and are smoke management forecasts favorable? (If yes, continue).
2. Is there one fire (on private lands) or less being managed with benefit to resources and consistent with landowner's objectives? (If yes, continue).
3. Are there sufficient forces available and or can they be ordered through local adjacent agencies? (If yes, continue).
4. Are there any other agency administrator issues that preclude wildland fire use? (If no, continue).
5. Have the landowners involved with the wildland fire incident been contacted and had an opportunity to provide input to the management of the incident? (If yes, continue).

C. Economic

1. Can the wildland fire be managed at a lower cost than another suppression strategy? (If yes, continue).

The risk assessment indicates that the level of risk in managing this fire is acceptable to the Moffat County Sheriff.

Moffat County Sheriff _____ Date _____

If, at the end of this checklist, all the questions indicate that the Moffat County Sheriff should continue with the selected strategy, the decision will be documented and approved by the sheriff. A daily re-certification, or re-certification at some other time interval consistent with standards established by the federal agencies depending upon fire activity and fuel type, will take place to ensure that all considerations and objectives remain valid. In addition, the sheriff will establish and maintain close communications with state, federal, and local agencies regarding the status of managed wildland fires. Other notifications will include concerned smoke sensitive organizations (for example, hospitals, schools, retirement centers) if impacts to these organizations are anticipated.

FIRE POLYGON FIRE PLANNING RESPONSE

To assist managers in implementing this Plan, the following section provides an overview to the response strategy for each of the management categories.

Human-caused wildland fire: All wildland fires that are determined to be human-caused will be immediately suppressed under the Appropriate Management Response guidelines utilized by the federal agencies.

A and B category polygon planning areas: Upon receiving a fire report in an A or B category polygon area on private or state lands, dispatch will respond the closest wildland fire resources to the site. All wildland fires in these areas will be immediately suppressed under the Appropriate Management Response.

C and D category polygon planning areas: Upon receiving a fire report in these two planning area polygons on private or state lands, dispatch will respond the necessary resources to the incident. Upon arrival at the wildland fire, basic information regarding the fire will be relayed to dispatch, such as location, size, potential for spread, current behavior, continuity of fuels, etc., to allow the Moffat County Sheriff to answer the questions on the Go/No-Go checklist. If the fire is to be managed under wildland fire use to benefit the landowner's objectives, the landowner(s) will be contacted and included in a discussion to provide input into the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan.

PRESCRIPTIVE PARAMETERS

This section lists the prescriptive parameters that will be used to determine if wildland fire use is appropriate within a particular polygon planning area. Development of these parameters is an evolving process. Federal agencies are developing a new matrix to assist wildland fire decision-making. This new matrix will be incorporated into this plan when it is completed. The following prescriptive criteria apply:

C polygon planning area

ERC 85 or less or 90% ERC (at closest applicable RAWS)

SC 40 or less or 90% SC (at closest applicable RAWS)

Haines Index 6

Live Fuel Moisture greater than 75%

D polygon planning area

ERC 90 or less (at closest applicable RAWS)

SC 60 or less or 95% SC (at closest applicable RAWS)

Haines Index 6

Live Fuel Moisture 50% or greater