

LEADERS INTENT and GUIDANCE for COST SHARES IN THE STATE OF UTAH
between
Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
and the
USDA-Forest Service

This document supersedes the 2020 Leaders Intent and Guidance for Cost Shares in the State of Utah which expired on 12/31/2023 and is in effect on the date of last signature and will remain in effect until rescinded by written notice from either party to the other party

Cost Share Agreements: Goal and Principles

All fires, regardless of jurisdiction or cost share arrangement, will receive an appropriate risk-informed, effective response. Firefighter and public safety are always the top priority. All operational tactics should be undertaken with consideration of risk to firefighter safety, probability of operational success and effectiveness in achieving short- and long-term objectives, including the goals of the National Cohesive Strategy.

Unplanned, unwanted fires frequently impact multiple jurisdictions. We reaffirm the Master Agreement direction on page 15:

The intent should never be to allow a wildland fire to burn onto a jurisdiction that does not want it. All parties should be involved in developing the strategy and tactics to be used in preventing the fire from crossing the jurisdictional boundary, and all parties should be involved in developing mitigations that would be used if the fire crosses jurisdictional boundaries.

When fire does cross jurisdictional boundaries, the following goals and principles will guide the equitable sharing of costs for these events.

Basic Cost Share Goals

1. Achieve clarity of payment responsibility and basic equity. An equitable distribution of costs is desired and appropriate.
2. Clarify cost share methodology to reduce agency disagreements while allowing flexibility that focuses on agency administrator engagement and decision-making.
3. Agency administrators have the guidelines and knowledge to develop a cost share agreement that Incident Business personnel can implement. An implementable cost share is key to the success of our endeavors.
4. Agency administrators have the flexibility and support from agency leadership to develop implementable and equitable cost share agreements at the local level.

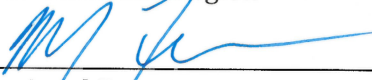
Basic Cost Share Principles

1. Where the cause of the fire is an escaped prescribed burn, or the result of other mitigation activity all suppression costs are the financial responsibility of the agency responsible for the prescribed fire or mitigation activity.
2. Where a fire impacts or threatens multiple jurisdictions, a cost share agreement shall be prepared using the following guidelines:
 - a. Complete a signed cost share agreement as soon as is practical, usually within the first few days of the event. However, defining a cost share agreement is not a priority during initial attack. Agency administrators should focus on fire response and management, then consider cost share as conditions allow.
 - b. Acres burned by jurisdictional agency will be the starting point for cost share discussions. This is an appropriate and allowable cost share when agreed to by the agency administrators, typically when values at risk and individual agency mission is fairly balanced.
 - c. Agency administrators have the discretion to obligate costs based on specific considerations, such as values in the wildland urban interface or other local conditions.
 - d. The State of Utah will assume financial responsibility for MOU resources that are providing structure protection.

- e. Aviation costs may be apportioned based on a case by case agreement. As a beginning point for discussion consider a 50/50 split of aviation costs, adjusted by agency administrators based on consideration of values to be protected and local factors on the day of the fire.
- f. Incident Business personnel must be able to implement the cost share agreement:
 - i. Agency specific costs, such as MOU resources or Forest Service-specific resources, should be included on the cost share agreement as an actual dollar amount or "an amount not to exceed," not as a supplement to the cost share agreement.
 - ii. Estimated costs derived from e-ISuite or other estimating programs can be used to generate an actual dollar amount to apply to the cost share.
 - iii. If a "percent of effort" methodology is selected for the cost share, an actual dollar amount must be assigned to each category of effort.
 - iv. Do not use dates or timeframes on a cost share to designate effort or costs; simply using dates or times (without real-time, full-cost-accounting during the incident) is nearly impossible to implement.
 - v. Apply the costs of the incident from the beginning to end of the incident.

USDA-FOREST SERVICE


Intermountain Region



Regional Forester
Date: 4/18/24

STATE OF UTAH

Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands


Jamie Barnes (Apr 23, 2024 21:43 MDT)

State Forester
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