



**Utah Wildfire Resource Memorandum of Understanding  
Between  
Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands  
And**

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This Utah Wildfire Resource Memorandum of Understanding (“UWRMOU”) is made by and between \_\_\_\_\_, an eligible entity as described in Utah Code § 65A-8-203 (1) (a), hereinafter referred to as the “Department” or “District” as appropriate, and the State of Utah, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, hereinafter referred to as “Division”. This UWRMOU is an addendum to the Cooperative Agreement between the Division and the Department or District. The “Department” or “District” and the “Division” shall hereafter be referred to jointly as “Parties”.

**PURPOSE OF UWRMOU:**

This UWRMOU provides a mechanism for procurement, use, and compensation for services provided to the State of Utah and its cooperators by the Department or District outside of its jurisdictional area of responsibility or service area pursuant to cooperative agreements, operating plans, closest forces agreements, and suppression resource needs in support of fire management activities.

This UWRMOU may also be used for the purposes of procuring personnel and equipment for the purposes of other fire management activities, under the direction of the Division, such as fuels mitigation and prescribed fire projects both inside and outside of the Department or District’s jurisdictional area. Any project work with costs exceeding \$5,000 must be done under the conditions of a separate agreement.

Due to safety concerns, insurance liability, and the intent of the program, this MOU does NOT support or allow for the use of Supplemental Firefighters and/or Supplemental Fire Department Resources as defined in this agreement.

**DEFINITIONS:**

- Cooperative Agreement                      An agreement between the Division and an Eligible Entity wherein the Eligible Entity agrees to meet a Participation Commitment and provide Initial Attack for wildland fire, and the Division agrees to pay for wildland fire suppression costs following a Delegation of Fire Management Authority as found in Utah Code § 65A-8-203.1 (2017), as well as all aviation asset costs charged to the incident.
  
- Closest Forces                                      The use of the closest available appropriate qualified firefighting resources, regardless of agency, for initial attack.
  
- Eligible Entity                                      As defined in Utah Code § 65A-8-203 (2017), a county, municipality, special service district, local district, or service area with wildland fire

suppression responsibility as described in Utah Code § 11-7-1 and wildland fire suppression cost responsibility and taxing authority for a specific geographic jurisdiction; or, with approval by the FFSL director, a political subdivision established by a county, municipality, special service district, local district, or service area that is responsible for providing wildland fire suppression services and paying for the cost of wildland fire suppression.

Mutual Aid	Reciprocal emergency response agreement between jurisdictional neighbors in which assistance is rendered. This is done at no cost to the receiving agency.
Cooperator(s)	Cooperator under this agreement means agencies, entities or other stakeholders, other than the parties to this agreement, that agree to work or operate in a cooperative manner under written agreement with the Division toward common objectives such as fire suppression.
Department or District	Refers to the fire Department or fire District that is party to this UWRMOU.
NWCG	The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) is made up of the USDA Forest Service; four Department of the Interior agencies: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS); and State Forestry agencies through the National Association of State Foresters. The purpose of NWCG is to coordinate programs of the participating wildfire management agencies so as to avoid wasteful duplication and to provide a means of constructively working together. Its goal is to provide a more effective execution of each agency's fire management program. The group provides a formalized system to agree upon standards of training, equipment, qualifications, and other operational functions.
FEPP	Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program; Federal property originally purchased for use by a Federal agency, but no longer needed by that entity, is acquired by the USDA Forest Service for loan to one of the 50 States or Territories for use in the State's rural or wildland fire protection program. As a result, the equipment stays in service to the United States, protecting lives and property across the nation. The Federal Government retains the title. The property must be returned to Federal Government when no longer used within the fire program.
Independent Action	Action taken on lands under the protection responsibilities of another agency/ entity without the notification and approval, of that agency or entity.
Fire Management	All activities required to manipulate wildland fire in order to protect values at risk, enhance public safety and meet land management objectives. Activities may include but are not limited to: fire suppression prescribed fire, prevention and education, hazardous fuel mitigation, planning, and preparation
FBS	Fire Business System is a web based billing system that the Division has developed to streamline the invoicing process for services rendered under this UWRMOU.

Supplemental Fire Fighters Or Supplemental Fire Department Resources	Overhead and equipment that is not considered a permanent part of the Department or District and is not required to attend scheduled training, meetings, or respond to local emergencies etc. of the Department or District.
MOU Advisory Council	The MOU Advisory Council convened by the Utah State Forester to advise and support the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands' Wildfire Management Program's oversight and implementation of the UWRMOU

**RECITALS:**

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Utah and its cooperators to have wildland fires detected and suppressed quickly before they become large and more difficult to control; and,

WHEREAS, the Department or District may have the capability to respond and suppress fires under the jurisdiction of the Division and/or its cooperators in a more timely and effective basis than any other assets or resources in the state; and,

WHEREAS, the Department or District may have the capabilities and resources to assist the Division with fire hazard mitigation projects that mutually benefit both parties; and,

WHEREAS, the Department or District represents that it is a duly constituted fire department, fire district, or non-profit association or political subdivision of the State of Utah authorized to provide fire protection within the boundaries of the **map attached** hereto and by reference made a part hereof (Appendix A); and,

WHEREAS, the Department or District, may also have a limited number of units of firefighting equipment, that can be made available to the Division for fire management work.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties to this agreement do hereby agree as follows:

**The Division Agrees:**

1. To provide personnel and wildland firefighting resources inside the jurisdictional boundary of the Department or District when deemed available by the Division, and when the Department or District has exhausted its own resources or capabilities and has requested assistance from the Division and / or its cooperators. Payment for the Division's and cooperator resources will be based upon the suppression resources furnished at the actual cost of those resources to the Division as described in Utah Code § 65A-8-203.2, unless otherwise provided in a Cooperative Agreement with the Division as provided in Utah Code § 65A-8-203.
2. To make available organizational training, technical assistance, and other expertise as available to the Department or District.
3. To make available such firefighting equipment as can be obtained and is suitable for the use of the Department or District in fire management work through programs such as FEPP by custodial agreement and the terms set forth in the Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement with the Counties throughout Utah.
4. To produce, update, and distribute a handbook or manual that references rates, procedures and other references associated with this UWRMOU.
5. To provide necessary forms as needed by the Department or District in executing its

responsibilities under this agreement to the Division.

6. That the Department or District may refuse to furnish fire, EMT's, ambulance, or other personnel and equipment, when requested by the Division if, by doing so, it would reduce the Department or District resources to a level where it can no longer maintain an adequate level of fire protection or public safety on lands within its jurisdictional boundary or service area.
7. To allow the Department or District to purchase wildland firefighting equipment and supplies through the Division's procurement system.
8. To inspect the Department or District's equipment annually or prior to use pursuant to NWCG guidelines and standards. Random testing of pumping and drafting capabilities and inspection of the radio programming may also occur during this inspection. This inventory inspection does not replace the safety inspection required for vehicle license and registration by the State of Utah.

**The Department Or District Agrees:**

1. To provide the Division Area Office with a written report on all known wildland fires for which the Department or District wishes to be reimbursed. The report information is required for payment. **Note:** if a state or federal representative is on-scene, that person may relieve the Department or District of this requirement.
2. The Department or District may be requested to engage in fire management outside of the Department or District's jurisdictional boundaries or service area, such as another District, county, or state, provided that, in doing so, the Department or District's resources would not be reduced to a level where the Department or District can no longer maintain an adequate level of fire protection on lands within its own jurisdictional boundary or service area.
3. To maintain and make available for use at the request of the Division, a work force and equipment subject to the provisions of this agreement, the Division's Fire Department Manual and Rate Book and the Fire Department Fire Rate Agreement contained within the Fire Business System application and attached hereto as Appendix B.
4. To accept direction and supervision by the Division or duly authorized representatives or NWCG or equivalent qualified cooperators while engaged in suppression or fuels management activities at the Division's request. Also, to comply with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS) for protocol on the incident.
5. To maintain the following documentation on board all vehicles listed on the Fire Department Fire Rate Agreement:
  - A current equipment inventory list
  - Letter of Cooperator verification
  - A copy of the Fire Department Rate Agreement
  - A copy of this UWRMOU
  - Division's Fire Department Manual and Rate Book (current year)
  - Vehicle registration, DOT safety inspection (or equivalent) and proof of vehicle insurance
6. Each firefighter engaging in direct fire suppression, structural protection or prescribed fire must have a current "red card" in his or her possession while working under this UWRMOU. Details are found in the Division's Fire Department Manual and Rate Book.
7. To use the FBS for all invoicing for reimbursement for services rendered under this UWRMOU.

A profile must be set up in FBS before any billing can be submitted. Contact your local area office for any further assistance in setting up your profile.

8. To submit claims for reimbursement to the Division's area office within thirty (30) days after the release of its workforce and/or equipment, or as soon as possible, in the manner and form prescribed by the Division. **No claims for reimbursement will be accepted after the end of the calendar year.**
9. To maintain wildland fire training qualifications and equipment standards as set forth by the Division. Personnel requested for structure protection on wildland urban interface or similar fires will be qualified to the level required for their structural firefighting position **and** basic wildland firefighter (i.e. "red card") certifications.
10. To provide self-insurance or the following insurance with a carrier authorized to conduct business within the State of Utah with the following minimum coverage:
  - a. Workers' Compensation - Statutory for State of Utah
  - b. Employers' Liability;
    - i. \$100,000 each accident;
    - ii. \$100,000 each employee disease; and
    - iii. \$500,000 each policy limit disease
  - c. Commercial general liability limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and general aggregate limit. The policy shall contain a severability of interest provision, which shall include coverage for:
    - i. Bodily injury;
    - ii. Property damage;
    - iii. Premises liability; and
    - iv. Personal injury.
  - d. Automobile insurance coverage of \$1,000,000 combined single limit for each occurrence for all owned, hired or non-owned vehicles, applicable to claims arising from bodily injury or death to any person or damage to property arising out of the ownership, maintenance or use of any vehicle.
  - e. Annual Certificate of Insurance or Proof of Self-Insurance shall be provided to the Division as evidence that policies providing the required coverage and limits are in full force and effect.

**IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED:**

1. The Parties to this UWRMOU shall each be responsible for their own losses arising out of the performance of this Agreement and each Party hereby waives any claim against any other Party for any loss, damage, personal injury, or death in the Party, or its employees or agents, occurring as a consequence of the performance of this Agreement; provided, this provision shall not relieve any Party from responsibility for claims of third parties for losses for which the Party is otherwise legally liable. Third party claims will be processed by the protecting agency.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Division, the State of Utah and the Department of Natural Resources and the Department or District mutually agree to defend, indemnify and hold each other and their agents and employees harmless from and against all claims, damages, losses and expenses relating to, arising out of, resulting from, or alleged to have resulted out of any fire management activity conducted pursuant to this agreement, except that each party shall bear liability for its own intentional and negligent acts or omissions and the intentional and negligent acts or omissions of its employees or agents.

2. That claims arising from weight and balance, structural modifications and gross vehicle weight of any vehicle subject to this UWRMOU are the sole responsibility of the Department or District to whom the vehicle belongs or possesses by agreement. The Division and its cooperators shall be held harmless by the Department or District whose vehicles are involved for any liabilities, damage, injury or claims that arise from the use and involvement of said equipment in the fighting of fires or other official use as provided for in this UWRMOU. Any vehicles, including FEPP that the Department or District deems not suitable for the purpose of fire suppression shall be taken out of service immediately and removed from the Fire Department Fire Rate Agreement.
3. The Division will pay and reimburse the Department or District for fire suppression services including equipment and personnel listed on the Fire Department Rate Agreement. Rates are established by the Division and in coordination with the MOU advisory council may be adjusted annually. Payment for fire suppression shall be made only for such activities on land outside the Department or District's established jurisdictional boundaries or mandated service area, when requested by the agency having jurisdiction. Upon mutual agreement between the jurisdiction and the Division, the Department or District may receive reimbursement for services for extended attack within their own service area if qualified under the terms of this agreement. Payment for prescribed fire and fuels work may be made for services both inside and outside of the Department or District's area of jurisdiction or service area.
4. The Department or District will also be reimbursed for fires on state or federal wildlands within its geographical boundaries or service area, when the Division requests services. Although, suppression action may occur under closest forces or mutual aid in order to protect the Department or District's jurisdiction or neighboring jurisdictions during initial attack, reimbursement under this UWRMOU should not be assumed.
5. Resources will be tracked by the local Interagency Fire Center by use of systems such as ROSS (IROC) or WildCad (InFORM). Resources covered under this agreement shall comply with ICS/NIMS demobilization procedures and not "self-demobilize" from the assigned incident. The Division's area duty officer must approve dispatches outside of the local Interagency Fire Center dispatch zone.
6. Radio communications equipment standards under this agreement shall be narrow band (12.5 mhz) compliant. Resources being utilized within a "local area" only must have the capability of communicating by radio with the local Interagency Fire Center via the appropriate radio repeaters as well as communicate with field units on pre-programmed tactical and air to ground frequencies. Resources made available for dispatch outside of the local area shall have the ability to program all radios in the field.
7. Staffing of ordered equipment shall follow the standard staffing identified in the Fire Department Rate Agreement. However, if standard staffing cannot be achieved, a deduction will occur on the invoice **or** the equipment may be released for failure to comply with the terms of the Fire Department Rate Agreement. Staffing that exceeds the standard staffing identified in the Fire Department Rate Agreement or extra personnel must be approved at the time of the dispatch request. Staff that does not meet the NWCG minimum staffing requirements will not be reimbursed.
8. Support and Command vehicles shall only be eligible for compensation if ordered and approved by the Division on a case-by-case basis. Support and Command vehicles must appear on the Department or District's Fire Rate Agreement.
9. Payment to the Department or District will be made for services rendered. The Division will not be responsible for distribution of funds to individuals or entities other than the party to this agreement.

The Parties hold harmless or indemnification agreement is subject to the terms and conditions of

the Governmental Immunity Act of Utah, UCA 63G-7-101 et.seq. The parties expressly claim the privileges and immunities contained in of the Governmental Immunity Act of Utah, including but not limited to the limitations of liability contained therein.

10. That the Department or District will be hired and reimbursed as set forth in the Fire Department Rate Agreement.
11. Equipment under the Fire Department Rate Agreement will not receive reimbursement for loss, damage or destruction of equipment due to ordinary wear and tear or loss. Damage which occurs as the result of driver / operator negligence or poor maintenance will be the responsibility of the Department / District.
12. Replacement of expendable supplies such as, but not limited to foam concentrate, MRE's, backfiring fusees, etc. may be replaced by the incident by use of a general message form or use of the Fire Incident Replacement form and approved by the line supervisor or a Division representative.
13. Fire department personnel under agreement with the State, are eligible for 2 days of paid Rest and Recovery (R&R) after an assignment of fourteen or more consecutive days outside their area of jurisdictional responsibility. Cost of R&R will be charged to the ordering incident.
14. This agreement may be modified only by a written amendment signed by the parties. However, if mutually agreed, the parties may enter into specific supplemental written agreements, subject to appropriate approvals, to accomplish the goals of this agreement and to carry out its terms and conditions.
15. The Division does not sponsor Supplemental Fire Department Resources. There will be no reimbursement for supplemental resources.
16. Either party may terminate this agreement by written notice given to the other party, thirty (30) days in advance of the effective date of such termination.
17. The parties' performances under this agreement shall be without discrimination as to race, color, creed, sex, or national origin.
18. All notices required by this agreement shall be in writing delivered to the person and address specified below or to such other persons or addresses as either party may designate to the other party by written notice.
19. Signature of this agreement by a Department or District constitutes acceptance of rates as described in the annual publication of the *Fire Department Manual and Rates*.

**SIGNATURES**

Department or District:	Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
Address:	Address:
Phone #:	Phone #:
Authorized Agent:	Authorized Agent:
Authorized Signature:	Authorized Signature:
Date:	Date:
This MOU was approved as to form without modifications by Fredric J. Donaldson, Assistant Attorney General, on November 1, 2019.	

Participating Entity Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**List of Appendices:**

- A. Department or District Jurisdictional Boundary Map (provided by District or Department)
- B. Fire Department Rate Agreement