



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Lewis and Clark
National Forest
Rocky Mountain
Ranger District

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File Code: 1230/5140

Date: July 29, 2013

Route To:

Subject: Delegation of Authority – Red Shale Fire Incident

To: Kyle Inabnit, ICT3

Delegation

I delegate to you the authority for management of the Red Shale Wildland Fire Incident on the Rocky Mountain Ranger District (RMRD), Lewis and Clark National Forest (LCF). This delegation of authority will commence at 2000, Monday, July 29. The fire has remained under jurisdiction of the USDA Forest Service and currently well established in the North Sun River Pass Fire Management Area of the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The main concern is for extending beyond the wilderness boundary, east.

A valid decision in WFDSS is currently published. I expect that we will manage this fire incident into the Fall season. Trail closures are currently in place and your recommendations for changes should be coordinated with the assigned Resource Advisor (READ) and recommendations made directly to the District Ranger. There are currently no restricted flight zones over the fire area.

Event/Incident Summaries

Please refer to the WFDSS documentation for summary of the Red Shale Fire Incident.

Concerns

Concerns remain primarily related to the continued long duration of the fire incident and potential to move east into the non-wilderness and maintaining public safety through continued implementation of the existing trail closures. Continue to keep both forest employees, our partners and the public apprised of fire activity and associated management actions. In addition, structure protection will require your continued diligence at the Gates Park, Rock, Wrong and Cabin Creek Administrative sites, Bear Top Lookout and two historic properties at Two Shacks and Bear Top if fire activity indicates the need; along with coordination of our partner agencies in relation to private structures permitted on NFS lands and private lands east of the forest boundary.

Responsibility

You have full authority and responsibility for managing activities associated with the Red Shale Fire incident, within the framework of law, policy, and direction provided in the WFDSS. Your primary responsibility is to plan, organize, direct and coordinate your assigned and ordered resources for efficient and effective management of the Red Shale Fire; and maintenance of a documentation record for management actions taken. You are accountable to the District Ranger

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of the Lewis & Clark (RMRD). In addition, I am designating both Kraig Lang and Ian Bardwell as Resource Advisors (READs) to assist in providing guidance throughout the remaining duration of the fire incident.

Financial limitations will be consistent with the best approach to achieve fire management objectives of the Red Shale Fire Incident, in due consideration of values at risk. Specific direction for the Red Shale Fire Incident includes the following management and environmental concerns as listed:

- 1. Safety of fire personnel, aviation resources and the public is the highest priority in planning and implementing appropriate fire management response strategy and tactics. Follow the 10 Standard Fire Orders, mitigate the 18 Watch Out Situations and maintain LCES at all times. Assess situation awareness and exposure to risks before engaging in field operations.**
- 2. Any accidents and/or injuries need to be reported and discussed with District Ranger or representative in a reasonable timeframe.**
- 3. You are assigned responsibility to ensure all personnel assigned to the incident comply with the Food Storage Special Order, LC_10_D1_01, in effect for the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE). Critical grizzly bear habitat and use areas exist throughout the fire area on the RMRD. Management actions and incident support facilities must consider the presence of bears and the need to minimize contacts with humans. Failure for an individual or crew to comply with the Special Order could result in dismissal from the fire incident and potentially further disciplinary action, including issuance of citations to the individual(s).**
- 4. All fire management actions should be compatible with wilderness values and objectives. Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) should be utilized where appropriate and always in regards to fire personnel and aviation resource safety. Critical natural resource habitat should be given appropriate consideration in planning and implementation of strategy and tactics. Use the direction provided by the 2011 Fire Retardant EIS avoidance areas to ensure any retardant applied does not impact avoidance areas.**
- 5. Primitive tools are preferred for all operations in wilderness where their use does not compromise safety of fire management resources, the public or administrative sites. For management actions needed on the incident you are authorized to conduct necessary helicopter landings for personnel and equipment transport, water drops with buckets, as well as additional logistical support for the incident. Other, additional requests need to be made to the District Ranger.**
- 6. Depending on availability, it is my expectation that you consider the use of traditional stock pack-string support for equipment hauling and transport in the wilderness when safety and time constraints allow. District personnel could be available to support the use of traditional stock for transport.**
- 7. You are authorized to utilize fire line explosives (FLE), fire retardant and water pumps for re-directing, reducing the intensity, and/or slowing the spread of fire and**

for the protection of structures/historic sites. The use of chainsaws will require the direct authorization of the District Ranger or his acting.

8. You will document the operational periods when helicopter landings and sling-loads occur in the wilderness; as well as water pumps, fire line explosives (FLE) and fire retardant. Provide GPS locations of all helicopter landings and sling loads occurring outside of administrative sites in both the wilderness and non-wilderness for the Forest's tracking purposes and/or future treatment of noxious weeds.
9. All assigned fire personnel have the authority to take management action with mechanized equipment and/or transportation related to life threatening and/or imminent personal safety situations related to the fire. Continue to ensure tracking protocol is followed.
10. Precautions must be taken to prevent the introduction and subsequent spread of noxious weeds. This includes the pre-treatment and post-treatment of vehicles and helicopters utilized to support the incident to reduce the continued spread of noxious weeds to and from the fire area (FSM R1 Supplement 2081.2 , Effective 5/14/01).
11. Precautions must be taken to prevent the introduction and subsequent spread of aquatic invasive species or pathogens. This includes pre-treatment and post-treatment of buckets, snorkels, and other apparatus utilized for water delivery operations upon arrival and during the incident and/or return to the incident from other assignments.
12. Your assigned personnel need to become familiar with the Emergency Plan (E-Plan) developed for the Rocky Mountain Ranger District and lands adjacent to the National Forest for use of the plan to coordinate any potential pre-evacuation and evacuation procedures with county authorities, as well as coordination of fire management activities with other agency partners, which have jurisdiction for structure protection.
13. You are responsible for any new fire starts within the immediate vicinity of the Red Shale Fire Incident and coordination with the RMRD for any additional resources and due consideration of additional actions that require approval by the responsible line officer. The existing Preparedness Level 3, both regionally and nationally, should continue to allow the local line officer to serve as the responsible official for any new starts.
14. The RMRD will initial attack new fire starts that are not associated with the Red Shale Fire Incident. Your organization and resources may be requested to assist initial attack efforts. Requests will be coordinated through the Interagency Dispatch Center in Great Falls, Montana.
15. Continue to keep public and government representatives informed of fire behavior and management actions. Public information meetings, fact sheets, press releases and news media relations for the fire incident will be coordinated between you, the team's fire information officer and the District Ranger. The District has established

an in-depth protocol to keep the people informed and squelch the spread of misinformation. We expect your team to continue the high level of public, and media engagement in fire information we have established.

- 16. I authorize you to take every opportunity to provide trainee assignments throughout all levels of positions to your incident command team, including the opportunity for existing, qualified wildland fire personnel, to promote exposure and experience with wildland fire incidents in wilderness areas.**
- 17. You are expected to effectively manage the fire incident tactics commensurate with the over-all strategy and objectives developed in the published decision of the WFDSS. I expect you to consult with the District Ranger or representative regarding the periodic assessment for revalidation of the published decision in WFDSS.**
- 18. Continue efforts to document fire behavior from existing fire activity in relation to prior wildland fire incidents and/or prescribed fire in the area.**
- 19. You are delegated responsibility for the timely update, completion and submittal of the ICS-209, to the Great Falls Interagency Dispatch Center.**

I am honored and privileged to have your assistance in addressing the Red Shale Fire Incident. Please share with me how I or District Staff may contribute to your safe and successful assignment. This delegation of authority is effective at 2000, Monday, July 29, 2013.

MICHAEL A. MUÑOZ
District Ranger

KYLE INABNIT
ICT3

cc: Bill Avey, Brad McBratney, Marty
Mitzkus