



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific
Northwest
Region

P.O. Box 3623
Portland, OR 97208-3623
333 S.W. First Street
Portland, OR 97204

File Code: 5170

Date: September 21, 2004

Route To:

Subject: United States (US)/British Columbia (BC) Border Arrangement for Reciprocal Fire Protection

To: Regional Forester, Forest Service Northern Region; Regional Director, National Park Service, Pacific West and Intermountain Regions; State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon/Washington and Idaho State Offices; State Forester, Washington, Idaho and Montana

Enclosed is the final, signed copy of the Northwest Border Arrangement between the Province of British Columbia, Ministry of Forests, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest and Intermountain Regions, and the DOI Bureau of Land Management, Oregon/Washington and Idaho State Offices. The Arrangement provides for cooperative fire protection for the border zone along the BC/US border.

The Arrangement was completed after extensive negotiations and review. It became effective August 31, 2004, and will remain in effect for five years. Please distribute copies of the Arrangement to your agency as appropriate.

I appreciate the efforts of your staff in developing and reviewing this Arrangement. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Kennedy at 503-808-2323.

/s/ Jim Golden (for)
LINDA GOODMAN
Regional Forester

Enclosure

1 – Signature Copy NW Border Arrangement

cc:

Tom Frey, NIFC
Neal Hitchcock, NIFC
Alice Forbes, FS NIFC



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August 31, 2004

**NORTHWEST BORDER ARRANGEMENT
FOR
FIRE PROTECTION**

BETWEEN

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, MINISTRY OF FORESTS

AND

**USDA FOREST SERVICE, PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND NORTHERN REGIONS
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, PACIFIC WEST AND INTERMOUNTAIN REGIONS**

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, OREGON/WASHINGTON AND IDAHO,
STATE OFFICES**

I. PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of this Arrangement is to provide a framework under which fire management resources may be exchanged to allow for cooperative fire suppression along the United States/British Columbia border between the British Columbia Ministry of Forests, hereinafter "British Columbia (BC)"; and the following United States Federal agencies, hereinafter when referred to jointly called the "United States (US)":

Forest Service, Pacific Northwest and Northern Regions (USFS);

National Park Service, Pacific West and Northern Regions (NPS);

Bureau of Land Management, Oregon/Washington and Idaho, State Offices (BLM).

British Columbia and the United States Agencies signatory to this Arrangement will hereinafter be referred to as the "Parties to this Arrangement".

The agency whose land is where the fire is located, or who is assigned legal fire suppression responsibilities, will be known as the jurisdictional agency. The agency that provides suppression or management support will be known as the supporting agency.

II. AUTHORITY

- A. The Canada/United States Reciprocal Forest Fire Fighting Arrangement, which was concluded by an exchange of Diplomatic Notes on May 7, 1982 and further defined in Public Law 100-428, as amended by Public Law 101-11.
- B. Emergency border crossings within the intent of this Arrangement have been cleared by each Country by letter (or Arrangement) (references: Canada Department of Natural Revenue Customs and Excise 4/8/59; Canada Department of Manpower and Immigration 6/8/72; U.S. Treasury Department 2/9/72, 2/21/75, 10/26/81).

III. MUTUAL INTERESTS AND BENEFITS

- A. Sharing of resources, expertise and intelligence are needed by the Parties to this Arrangement in order to effectively manage fires along the United States/British Columbia border. Therefore it is the intent of the Parties to this Arrangement, regardless of the point of origin, to cooperate on determining the most appropriate approach to be taken on any wildfire that threatens each other's lands along the international boundary, and that a fire will not be abandoned simply because it has crossed the international boundary.

IV. OPERATING PROCEDURES

- A. A common border zone is understood to exist for approximately 5 miles /8 kilometres on each side of the international boundary, which will be used as the basis for observing and planning fire management operations by the Parties to this Arrangement. This area may be adjusted based on geographic conditions, or where any fire outside of this zone is predicted to encroach on the international boundary or adjacent agency land.
- B. Under this Arrangement, operational guidelines for safe and effective mutual response of fire fighting resources to manage British Columbia/United States border fires will be developed and updated annually by the authorized representatives listed in Appendix A or their designees. These operational guidelines are intended to identify strategic conditions for implementing initial attack, extended attack and large fire suppression procedures and command structures to be used depending on the particular circumstances associated with each fire. Operational Guidelines that are local in nature may be developed and updated annually by local affected agencies on either side of the border.
- C. Any Party discovering a fire within the border zone shall as soon as practical notify the jurisdictional agency. Upon being notified of a fire burning in their jurisdiction or threatening to cross into it, the jurisdictional agency will identify a duly authorized officer to take charge of the fire. If the jurisdictional agency cannot take immediate action, the party discovering the fire may take steps to suppress the fire.
- D. During initial attack or the first burning period (not to exceed 12 hours), each agency will be responsible for their own personnel, equipment, and supply costs when operating in the border zone. Personnel, equipment and supply cost recovery may occur when the jurisdictional agency requests specific resources and assistance from the supporting agency during initial attack, requests the supporting agency to stay beyond the first burning period, or when the jurisdictional agency requests the supporting agency to respond to a fire beyond the border zone.

All aircraft costs, (when billed by the supporting agency) will be reimbursed by the jurisdictional agency.
- E. On fires that escape initial attack and cross the international boundary, the Parties to this Arrangement are responsible for their own costs on their own jurisdiction. Cost apportionment may be agreed to when fires straddle the international border to facilitate administrative procedures.
- F. Except as otherwise limited in Operational Guidelines, nothing herein shall prohibit any party, on its own initiative, from going upon lands known to be protected by another Party to this Arrangement to engage in suppression of wildfires, when such fires are a threat to that Party's protection responsibility. In such instances, the party taking action will promptly notify the jurisdictional agency.
- G. To the extent possible the supporting agency taking action on a fire will consider special land management and fire management considerations of the jurisdictional agency, as described in the Operational Guidelines.

- H. The Parties to this Arrangement agree to cooperate, when mutually deemed appropriate, on developing strategic plans for fires that threaten the border. Such planning will involve affected local agencies on either side of the border to address special land management considerations.
- I. The jurisdictional agency agrees to accept the supporting agencies standards for training, fitness, personal protective equipment, and workers compensation. If the jurisdictional agency must meet additional safety equipment/ supplies standards, than the supporting agency, it is the responsibility of the jurisdictional agency to supply the required equipment /supplies.
- J. The supporting agency certifies that the personnel assigned meet the requirements of the position ordered.
- K. Within the border zone, or on fires of mutual concern, the Parties to this Arrangement may order direct from local US or BC agency offices listed in the Operational Guidelines. Procedures are detailed in the Operational Guidelines.
- L. Procedures for requesting resources for fires beyond the border zone, extended attack, large fire support, or prescribed fire activities, are outlined in the Canada/United States Reciprocal Forest Fire Fighting Arrangement, and associated Annual Operational Guidelines (in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide).
- M. Use of aircraft will be in accordance with the Airspace Border Crossing Protocol in the Operational Guidelines.
- N. Border crossings will be in accordance with the Procedures for Crossing International Borders in the Operational Guidelines.
- O. The Parties to this Arrangement will establish a coordinating committee who will meet annually and review this Arrangement and update the Operational Guidelines as necessary, update the Emergency Contacts listed in the Operational Guidelines, and work toward joint training exercises or other areas of mutual interest.

V. REIMBURSEMENT

- A. Reimbursement will occur as described in Clauses IV. D and E.
- B. The jurisdictional agency will reimburse the supporting agency in accordance with the procedures listed in the Arrangement in the form of Exchange of Notes, and the Canada/United States Reciprocal Forest Firefighting Arrangement (in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.)
- C. Invoices will be sent to the applicable jurisdictional agency billing addresses listed in Appendix A.

- D. When questions on the settlement of costs incurred occur, arrangements as to whom and how payment will be made will be determined by representatives of the agencies involved.

VI. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. The Parties to this Arrangement waive all claims against each other for compensation from any loss, damage, or death occurring in consequence of the performance of this Arrangement.
- B. Authorized representatives in the implementation of this Arrangement are listed in Appendix A
- C. This Arrangement supercedes the following fire protection arrangements:

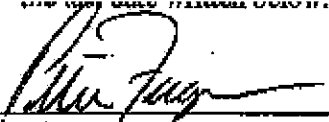
Reciprocal Fire Protection Arrangement between Her Majesty the Queen in right of the Province of British Columbia, and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service as represented by the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service signed and dated April 16, 1992.

Interim agreement for Reciprocal Fire Protection on Border Fires between the Province of British Columbia, Ministry of Forests and the USDA Forest Service, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests, as modified June 29, 2004.

- D. Nothing in this Arrangement shall be construed to affect any existing cooperative agreement or arrangement between the Parties to this Arrangement.
- E. This Arrangement will take effect on the date of last signature and will remain in effect for five years from that date. Any Party to this Arrangement can terminate their participation in it by giving six months written notice to the other Parties. A review of this Arrangement will be conducted every five years for appropriateness and modified or renewed for a period of not more than five years from the date the last party signs the modification or renewal.
- F. Modifications within the scope of this arrangement will be made by mutual consent of the parties, y the issuance of a written modification, signed and dated by all parties prior to any changes being performed.
- G. By signature below, all signatories to this Arrangement that the individuals listed in this document are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this Arrangement.

August 31, 2004

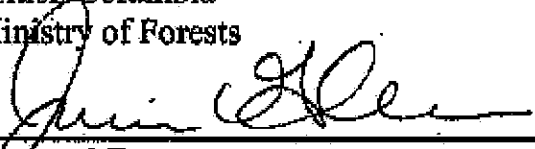
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Arrangement as of the last date written below.



Director
British Columbia

July 9, 2004
Date:

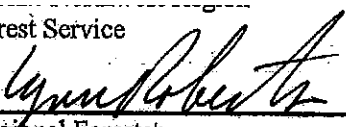
Ministry of Forests

British Columbia
Ministry of Forests


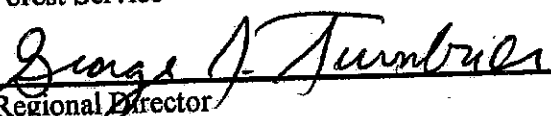
Regional Forester
Pacific Northwest Region
Forest Service

July 8, 2004
Date:

Forest Service

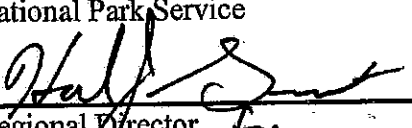
Forest Service


Regional Forester
Northern Region
Forest Service
Date: 21 July 2004
CBS 7/18/04
RM 17-20

Forest Service


Regional Director
Pacific West Region
Date: 7/20/04

Pacific West Region
National Park Service

Regional Director
Intermountain Region
National Park Service


Regional Director
Date: 8/31/04


August 31, 2004


State Director
Oregon and Washington State Office
Bureau of Land Management

July 9, 2004

Date:

BY SIGNING OR PRINTING NAME


State Director
Idaho State Office

July 15, 2004

Date:

Idaho State Office
Bureau of Land Management

Attachments:

Appendix A- Authorized Representatives and Billing Addresses

Appendix B- Operational Guidelines

APPENDIX A

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES AND BILLING ADDRESSES

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES

British Columbia:

Peter Fuglem
British Columbia Ministry of Forests
PO Box 9502 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9C1
Phone: 250-387-5538
Fax: 250-387-5685
Cell: 250-213-8772
Email: peter.fuglem@gems7.gov.bc.ca

Washington:

Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest:

John Phipps, Forest Supervisor
21905 64th Avenue West
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043
Phone: 425-775-9702
Fax: 425-744-3225

Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests

James Boynton, Forest Supervisor
215 Melody Lane
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Phone: 509-664-9200
Fax: 509-664-9280

Colville National Forest

Rick Brazell, Forest Supervisor
765 South Main
Colville, WA 99114
Phone: 509-684-3711
Fax: 509-684-7280

North Cascades National Park

Bill Paleck, Superintendent
2105 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284
Phone: 360-856-5700
Fax: 360-856-1934

Spokane District BLM

Joseph Buesing, District Manager

August 31, 2004

1103 N. Fancher Road
Spokane, WA 99212
Phone: 509-536-1200
Fax: 509-536-1275

Idaho:

Idaho Panhandle National Forest
Ranotta McNair, Forest Supervisor
3815 Schreiber Way
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
208-765-7223

Montana:

Flathead National Forest
Cathy Barbouletous-Forest Supervisor
1935 3rd Ave. East
Kalispell, MT. 59901
Phone 406-758-5251
Fax 406-758-5363

Glacier National Park
Mick Holm- Superintendent
PO Box 128
West Glacier, MT 59936
Phone 406-888-7901
Fax 406-888-7808

Kootenai National Forest
Bob Castaneda Forest Supervisor
1101 HWY 2 East
Libby, MT. 59923
Phone 406-283-7763
Fax 406-283-7710

BILLING ADDRESSES

British Columbia

British Columbia Ministry of Forests
Attention: Superintendent of Fire Preparedness
PO Box 9502 Stn. Prov. Government
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9C1

August 31, 2004

Washington

Colville National Forest
Attention: Budget and Finance
765 South Main
Colville, WA 99114
Phone: 509-684-3711
Fax: 509-684-7280

Note: The Colville National Forest is the "billing forest" for all Forest Service offices in Washington, for the purposes of this arrangement, regardless of the location of the fire.

Bureau of Land Management
Attention: Procurement
PO Box 2965
Portland, Oregon 97208
Phone: 503-808-6217
Fax 503-808-6312

North Cascades National Park
Attention: Budget
2105 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284
Phone: 360-856-5700
Fax: 360-856-1934

Idaho

Idaho Panhandle National Forest
Attention: Budget and Financer
3815 Schreiber Way
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
208-765-7223

Bureau of Land Management
Attention Procurement
1387 South Vinnell Way
Boise, Idaho 83709-3850

Montana

Flathead National Forest
Kalispell, MT. 59901
Attention Budget & Finance
Phone 406-758-5251
Fax 406-758-5363

August 31, 2004

Glacier National Park
PO Box 128
West Glacier, MT 59936
Attention Budget
Phone 406-888-7901
Fax 406-888-7808

Kootenai National Forest
1101 HWY 2 East
Libby, MT. 59923
Attention Budget & Finance
Phone 406-283-7763
Fax 406-283-7710