



File Code: 6500/5100

Date: August 16, 2013

Route To:

Subject: 2013 Fire Transfer Activity; Deferring Other Financial Obligations

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Deputy Chiefs and WO Directors

It has been another long, tragic fire season and we have several more months of intense activity ahead of us. As predicted this year's fire season has led to costs that exceed appropriated fire suppression funds and once again we must now transfer funds from other accounts to make up the difference.

Two things must occur immediately:

- 1) We will begin withdrawing funds as described below; funds will be withdrawn from Washington office, region, station, and area (R/S/A) units.
- 2) We must immediately stop incurring financial obligations where needed to ensure funds are available to be withdrawn. Additional financial obligations will not be incurred until after funds are withdrawn.

Specifically, every deputy area, and R/S/A will be assigned a target amount based on projected available balances. Washington Office Strategic Planning, Budget and Accountability staff will work directly with your budget staff to identify and withdraw these funds. Assignments will be at the fund level. R/S/A's will decide the program mix that best suits the needs of your unit. Funds will be withdrawn on August 23, 2013. You will need to review and in some cases reverse funds already committed in the system to meet your responsibility.

To ensure that we have the necessary funds to withdraw, the following direction is effective immediately. Regional foresters, station directors, area director and deputy chiefs are responsible for implementing this direction.

- Defer award of any contract, grant and other procurement actions other than hazardous fuels projects and emergency needs.
- Continue to travel only to meetings and conferences that are mission critical or required for emergency situations.
- Prudently manage staffing, including hiring and overtime expenses.

I have enclosed the details of our Fire Transfer Plan. Following fund withdrawal, we will be working with you to gather impacts specific to your unit.

I recognize that this direction will have significant effects on the public whom we serve and on our many valuable partners, as well as agency operations, target accomplishments and



performance. We will strive to reduce these impacts, but cannot avoid them altogether. We have outstanding employees who work for this agency. Our firefighters and everyone that supports their efforts have given everything they have and they continue to do so. Folks throughout the agency have worked hard to deliver good work all year. The American people expect nothing less. Especially in these challenging times, we must remember the important role every one of our employees plays in the successful delivery of our agency mission.

I regret that we have to take this action and fully understand that it only increases costs and reduces efficiency. I remain committed to finding a solution that in the future will avoid this disruption to our public service and land stewardship responsibilities and impacts to local economies.

Thank you for your commitment and service. Remember that safety is a core value in how we carry out our work every day.

/s/ Thomas L. Tidwell
THOMAS L. TIDWELL
Chief