



June 8, 2015

Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group

To: Agency Administrators and Fire Managers

From: Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group—David Summer, Chair

Subject: Managing Wildfire in Support of the Department of Interior Secretary's Order 3336

The mission of the Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group (PNWCG) is to promote interagency coordination for wildland fire and fuels management in order to enhance firefighter safety and to protect life, property and natural resources. PNWCG believes that, as a part of this mission, it's important to communicate how incident management and initial response will be conducted in the NW to ensure that it follows the intent of Secretary's Order 3336. The guiding principles below communicate PNWCG leader's intent relative to the Secretary's Order and represent the shared values of the eleven member agencies and entities:

Preserving high quality Sage Grouse habitat is a critical fire priority. **The Northwest's first and highest priority is and always will be the safety of firefighters, the public and communities.**

Processes exist in the NW for determining values at risk, prioritizing incidents, and allocating firefighting resources. Management of Sage Grouse habitat is a critical element of those processes. In every case, it's the intent of PNWCG, and the agencies it represents, to direct every incident towards clearly defined and attainable objectives.

Our process honors the ability for each individual agency to respond to their respective priorities. Providing the flexibility to move and position resources increases the effectiveness of firefighting efforts. Ultimately, it is our commitment to work collaboratively, sharing critical information and resources, which enables all partners to meet common objectives.

We value transparency. Our intent is to actively engage the input and values of our partners. Individual responsibilities are redeemed by addressing issues collectively. Embracing simplicity and transparency contributes to successful action.

We are taking deliberate action to plan and implement effective incident responses. Rapidly deploying firefighting resources, concentrating them at the decisive time and place, increases the likelihood of safe and successful suppression actions.

The issues are complex. How we plan for, prioritize and respond to incidents isn't. Our processes are well-defined, embraced by PNWCG members, and have been affirmed by agency executives. By continuing to maintain a high level of awareness and a critical focus, we will be able to anticipate issues and manage them effectively—and proactively. This not only ensures compliance with the Secretary's Order, it helps us to become better fire managers, resource managers and community partners. That is and will remain our goal.