

Incident Objectives / Incident Requirements

Fire Example

The WFM RD&A utilized Incident Objectives and Incident Requirements found in WFDSS to develop this fire example for use in training and refresher scenarios. Assistance and input was obtained from regional fire staffs as it was developed. The [Revised Content](#) section has bulleted information illustrating how the original information was rewritten and combined while the [Original Information](#) table shows the information found in WFDSS with thoughts to consider. These edits or thoughts are noted with smaller gray italic font which would not be included in the decision documentation.

The WFM RD&A's perspective is represented here as just one way to write these sections of the WFDSS Decision, and it must be realized that it is not black and white in terms of how to complete this task, nor is it possible to provide examples for every scenario that may occur in the field. There are a variety of ways to write this information which will differ from decision to decision. The WFM RD&A took liberty in some areas to expand the content for the purpose of learning, which may not reflect the unit's original intent. This was done only to provide example for field use, not to criticize the authors.

The information below demonstrates how the Incident Objectives and Incident Requirements for a fire *could* be reorganized and rewritten to ensure a team managing the fire clearly understands the Leader's Intent, the unit LRMP direction, and the incident priorities.

Revised Content:

Incident Objectives

- Firefighter and public safety are priority over all other incident objectives and incident requirements. *Note: This Incident Objective (IO) has been written to demonstrate how a decision might reflect or put emphasis on this as a top priority. It can be argued that this IO could be an Incident Requirement and likely would be addressed with the Leader's Intent document. Many Decisions may put this as a requirement or strictly address it through the Course of Action which should be developed to address actions to support firefighter and public safety as the priority.*
- Stop fire spread to the south and east toward XXX area to decrease the potential for long-duration fire and commitment of limited resources given the early season start. *Note: XXX is WUI and Private Lands identified.*
- Limit fire spread to the north and west into the XXX Wilderness where firefighting opportunities decrease due to steep slopes and heavy fuels to reduce the duration of active burning and keep the fire from exiting the wilderness; threatening private lands and WUI at a later time in the fire season.
- Protect Forest Service values near the fire area; XXX Trail, XXX Cabin, and XXX Camp by limiting fire intensities that would harm these highly valued recreation assets.
- Protect Coho salmon critical habitat in XXX Creek downstream from Section XXX and in XXX River from high severity fire that will kill overstory trees and could result in higher stream temperatures in the future. *Note: The assumption was made that this was important enough for the unit to make it an Incident Objective as well as addressing it as an Incident Requirement. It is unknown whether this would be due to stream temperatures, erosion, or firefighter tactics but this example demonstrates 'why' to ensure clear understanding.*

Incident Requirements

- Ensure all firefighting actions limit impacts and consider loss to T&E species and habitat as identified through management action points (MAP), maps, and resource advisors.
- Use minimum impact suppression tactics in wilderness and Roadless Areas.
- Avoid noxious weed locations when choosing routes for dozer or hand lines as identified on XXX Forest Map.
- Implement XXX aquatic invasive species guidelines to avoid spread of invasive aquatic organisms and disease.
 - Use bucket cleaning process to ensure spread of aquatic organisms and disease does not take place due to firefighting activities. *Note: If areas are known, put on a MAP or define the areas within the Incident Requirement*
 - Limit use of wilderness lakes for dip sites and follow resource advisor dip plan. *Note: If areas are known, put on a MAP or define the areas within the Incident Requirement.*

- Avoid ground disturbing suppression activities that could lead to erosion and sediment deposition Coho salmon critical habitat in XX Creek, downstream from Section XX and in XX River. *Note: If areas are known, put on a MAP.*
- Implement forest standards to prevent the spread of Port Orford Cedar Disease and Sudden Oak Death.
 - Utilize treated water for fire suppression using Clorox bleach at a ratio of 1:1000 to prevent spread.
- Protect waterways by avoiding ground disturbance in streams, rivers, creeks, ponds, and marshy areas; limit surface water contamination by aerially delivered suppression chemicals; keep chemical mixing tanks at least 150 feet from streams and wetlands; limit impacts due to drafting water; avoid mechanized equipment in areas of flowing/standing water; limit removal of canopy cover (trees, bushes, etc.). *Note: If areas are known, put on a MAP or define the areas within the Incident Requirement.*

Course of Action

- Provide for public safety through evacuation and closure of the XXX Road and other recreational trails based on current and predicted fire activity.
- Implement perimeter control actions to the east and south of fire perimeter, avoiding high density snag areas.
- Use natural barriers, roads and other features to optimize the trade-offs between firefighter exposure and high likelihood of success in achieving protection of WUI and private lands.
- Use high burn severity areas of the 2000 XXX Fire as well as ridgeline trails and other areas of light fuels in conjunction with ground crew handline supported by aviation to limit fire spread.
- Protect the public by limiting access in areas XXX as necessary based on fire activity.
- Coordinate with XXDF, XXX County, XXX County, and other local agencies and landowners to maintain community relations and provide timely and accurate information to the public and cooperators. *Note: Although this would typically be included in the Leader's Intent, the WFM RD&A wanted to demonstrate that there are some political fires where this coordination may be as important as managing the fire itself. Based on the current situation, this is one possible way of relaying the importance.*

Leader's Intent *Note: A Leader's Intent document is not currently utilized by all agencies. The WFM RD&A recommends use of a document, attached to the Delegation of Authority, that would emphasize Line Officer expectations or address items that are not directly associated with managing the incident. This Leader's Intent document can be revised and updated as the situation changes (i.e. another agency land involvement).*

- Human, firefighter, and public safety are the highest priority and will be considered when determining all strategies and tactics. Sound risk management practices will be used at all times.
- Manage firefighting cost to keep them commensurate with values at risk.
- Maintain community relations and provide timely and accurate information to the public cooperators and stakeholders.
- Coordinate with XXDF, XX County, XXX County, and other local agencies and landowners.
- Provide for firefighter and government property security.

Original Information:

Table 1 represents the original information from the Decision(s). The WFM RD&A utilized this to create the examples listed above, including comments and notes to consider for clarifying leader's intent.

#	Original Type	Original Incident Objective (IO) / Incident Requirement (IR)	Recommended	Notes
1	IO	Fight fire in a manner that maximizes effectiveness of effort, manages risk, and has the highest regard for firefighter and public safety.	IR or Leader's Intent	Rewrite as an objective and combine with #10. New Objective: Firefighter and public safety is the priority over all other Incident Objectives and Incident Requirements.
2	IO	Contain fires within the planning area (see attached map). It is not the intent to use all of the planning area if it is not necessary.	Rewrite more specifically as IO	Rewrite to make more specific to address where. The COA in the decision talks about stopping fire spread to the S and E yet this statement leaves it broad to the planning area which is much larger. Clarify intent.
3	IO	Take advantage of natural barriers and weather conditions to contain fire at the smallest possible size, consistent with safety considerations.	COA	
4	IO	Protect where possible: Cultural resources and Forest Service recreational site improvements: XX Trail, XX Cabin, and XX Camp as commensurate with the values at risk and firefighter safety.	IO (keep)	Remove 'where possible' and identify any other specifics such as coordination with a Resource Advisor. Also provide an MAP if fire behavior or tactical information is available.
5	IO	Provide for public safety through evacuation and closure of the XX Road and other recreational trails as dictated by fire activity.	COA	Course of Action (MAP) – Evacuate trails.... Identify all areas to be closed.
6	IO	Avoid where possible noxious weed locations when choosing routes for dozer or hand lines.	COA	Remove 'where possible' and specify if known.
7	IO	Minimize the spread of invasive aquatic organisms and diseases when acquiring water from multiple sources. Implement XXX aquatic invasive species guidelines.	IR	Requirement: Follow XXX Aquatic Invasive Species Plan (put pertinent information with it). If need more explanation put in MAP.
8	IO	Protect Wilderness values by utilizing minimum impact suppression tactics commensurate with values at risk.	IR	
9	IO	Streams, rivers, creeks, ponds, marshy areas, etc.: minimize ground disturbance; minimize surface water contamination by aerially delivered suppression chemicals; keep chemical mixing tanks at least 150 feet from streams & wetlands; minimize impacts due to drafting water; avoid mechanized equipment in areas of flowing/standing water; minimize removal of canopy cover (trees, bushes, etc.).	IR	Write a requirement that combines this with 11, 12, 13, and 14 to address T&E and explain the requirements.
10	IO	Provide for public and firefighter safety by following standard firefighter orders and watch-out situations.	Leader's Intent	Remove or reference them as guidance for fighting the fire in the leader's intent. Combined in #1
11	IO	Minimize size of fire and loss of resources: T & E habitat.	IR	Combine this with 9, 12, 13, 14
12	IO	Minimize impacts to sensitive plant, fish, and wildlife species habitat.	IR	Could combine with 11
13	IO	Minimize impact to coho salmon critical habitat in XXX Creek downstream from Section XX and in XXX River.	IR	Write as an IO as well if important to the unit. Address what the concern is, high stream temperatures, erosion, firefighting tactics.
14	IO	Minimize ground disturbance from ground based suppression actions within areas of sensitive plants.	IR	Addressed in the requirement already when discussing minimum impact suppression tactics.

#	Original Type	Original Incident Objective (IO) / Incident Requirement (IR)	Recommended	Notes
15	IO	Where practical utilize treated water for fire suppression using Clorox bleach at a ratio of 1:1000 to prevent the spread Port Orford Cedar Disease and Sudden Oak Death.	IR	Need to provide emphasis around the importance of this disease and the mitigation.
16	IO	Maintain community relations and provide timely and accurate information to the public cooperators and stakeholders.	Leader's Intent	This as well as #22 may also be added in the COA if there will be a lot of coordination or political issues.
17	IO	Manage firefighting cost to keep them commensurate with values at risk.	Leader's Intent	
18	IO	Keep fire within the boundaries of the XX National Forest.	IO if rewritten	Rewrite to clarify what is meant. Is it to protect timber lands outside the forest or WUI or ? It also conflicts with keeping the fire within the Planning Area and keep the fire small. More specific information should be provided.
19	IO	Use fire management strategies that will protect and preserve Roadless Area characteristics.	COA or IR	Provide more information about where and why.
20	IO	Minimize use of wilderness lakes for dip sites and follow resource advisor dip plan where possible.	COA	Provide specific information related to this and areas. Identify on maps.
21	IR	Human, firefighter, and public safety are the highest priority and will be considered when determining all strategies and tactics. Sound risk management practices will be used at all times.	Leader's Intent	Or combine as a Incident Requirement or Incident Objective with #1
22	IR	Coordinate XXDF, XX County, XXX County, and other local agencies and landowners.	COA or Leader's Intent	If coordination is important to the local area consider putting both COA and Leader's intent.
23	IR	Provide for firefighter and government property security.	Leader's Intent	

Table 1 – Original information found in 2015 decisions.