Fire Management Assistance Grant Program

2016 Eastern Washington – Yale Fire, Spokane, WA
**FMAGP Purpose**

- Federal grant funding to **reimburse** costs associated with suppression and emergency protective measures for a declared fire
- FMAGP effective October 30, 2001
- For wildland fires – forests and grasslands, public or private lands
The potential impact of a fire or fire complex is of such a severity and magnitude that it would result in a presidential major disaster declaration for the Public Assistance Program, the Individual Assistance Program, or both.
This is a Team Effort!

- FMAG declarations are a collaborative team effort with FEMA, State (EMD, DNR, WSP), Local Jurisdictions, the USDA USFS Principal Fire Advisor, and the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC)

- Timing Critical - State or Indian tribal government must submit a request for fire management assistance declaration to the FEMA Regional Administrator while the fire is:
  - Burning uncontrolled, and
  - Threatens such destruction as would constitute a major disaster – lives, improved property, critical facilities/infrastructure, critical watersheds
Many times, FMAG program staff work hand-in-hand with SEOC Duty Officers on an FMAG declaration for ongoing fires with no SEOC activation

- DNR fires – No SEOC activation, many times A&WC isn’t notified. FMAG staff called directly by DNR Ops staff.
- State Mobe – When Mobe is approved and WSP staff are activated, FMAG program staff work hand-in-hand with WSP staff and Fire IC to evaluate FMAG threat level
- Sept 2012, Jul 2014, Summer 2015 SEOC activations - used to be considered highly unusual
FMAG & State Mobe

- FMAG declared fires and State Mobe approved fires are:
  - Separate processes
  - A State Mobe fire is not necessarily an FMAG fire
  - An FMAG declared fire is not necessarily a State Mobe fire
  - FMAG - each fire is evaluated based on FEMA threat criteria regardless of State Mobe approval
Washington FMAG Declaration Process

Fire Starts

WA DNR + WA EMD + WSP Partner to gain Situational Awareness and conduct a threat assessment

WA DNR + WA EMD + WSP collaborate to complete FEMA Form 078-0-1 Request for Fire Management Assistance Declaration (RFMA) and FEMA Region X Supplemental Data Form

If the RFMA is approved, WA EMD staff gain consensus from WA DNR and WSP on 100% containment & incident period end time and send for PFA and FEMA Region X approval.

WA DNR Ops or WA EMD Staff take the lead on providing a statewide SA analysis to the PFA and FEMA Region X Fire Duty Officers
Funding

- On a Cost Share basis:
  - 75% federal funding
  - Non-federal 25% share is the Applicant’s responsibility.
  - There is no state match.
  - Only available in the declared counties following the Declaration.
The activities performed must be:

- The legal responsibility of the applying entity,
- Within the incident period, or
- Required as the result of the declared fire, and
- Located within the designated area or related to firefighting activities (i.e., EOC or dispatch)
Eligible Costs

- **Within Incident Period**
  - Emergency Protective Measures
  - Firefighting Activities
- **Outside the Incident Period**
  - Pre-positioning costs
  - Temporary repairs due to firefighting activity damages
  - Mobilization and demobilization
  - Grant Administration
Ineligible Costs

- Costs not associated with the incident period
- Land rehabilitation
- Costs for pre-suppression activities and recovery
- Costs for *straight time* salaries & benefits
- Costs that are *reimbursable* by a federal agency under another statute
- Road widening
Incident Commander must have requested services

Written and unwritten agreements
  - Unwritten must be documented immediately after the incident

Providing entity costs are treated as contract costs

Cannot be intra-organization
Resources

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Wildland Fire Preparedness Seminar

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