

For: ID, NV, and ND State and County Offices,
State Foresters, and Service Foresters

Implementing Supplemental SIP Funding for Fire Damage

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A

Background

In 2001, Title IV funds under the “FY 2001 Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, Pub. L. 106-291,” were designated by the U.S. Forest Service for SIP because of fire damage that occurred in the States of Idaho, Nevada, and North Dakota.

B

Purpose

This notice provides:

- instructions on implementing SIP appropriation, to be known as “SIP-Fire funds”
- State and County Offices with administration methods for SIP-Fire funds.

Note: This notice supplements policy in 1-SIP and shall be used only for the implementation of SIP-Fire funds in Idaho, Nevada, and North Dakota. Unless specifically provided for in this notice, SIP-Fire funds shall be administered according to 1-SIP.

C

Contact

If there are questions about this notice:

- County Offices shall contact the applicable State Office
- FSA State Offices shall contact Ilka Gray, CEPD, at 202-690-0794
- FS or State Forestry Offices shall contact regional FS offices
- regional FS offices shall contact Glenn Roloff, FS, at 406-329-3521.

<p>Disposal Date</p> <p>January 1, 2003</p>	<p>Distribution</p> <p>Above State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices and State Forestry</p>
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2 Eligibility Requirements for SIP-Fire Funds

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Eligible Land

For land to be considered eligible to receive SIP-Fire funds, it must be located in a county in one of the following States:

- Idaho
- Nevada
- North Dakota.

Additionally, for land to be considered eligible to receive SIP-Fire funds, it must have either of the following:

- sustained damage from fire in calendar year 2000 or 2001
- have a fuels reduction practice established on forest lands considered to be high hazard.

Note: Land with ownership of up to 1,000 acres are eligible. State Foresters with approval of the Regional Forester may grant waivers of up to 5,000 acres for applications under SIP-Fire funds.

B

Eligible Landowners

All landowner eligibility requirements in 1-SIP, paragraphs 97 through 99, shall be met before contract approval.

Note: Eligible landowners are limited to \$10,000 for each FY payment limitation for all (regular and SIP-Fire) SIP payments.

C

Eligible SIP Practices

All practices receiving cost-shares under the SIP-Fire funds must be used to repair damages on forest land which were incurred as a result of fire or lands designated for fuels reduction practices.

All SIP practices listed in 1-SIP are eligible under SIP-Fire.

Continued on the next page

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2 Eligibility Requirements for SIP-Fire Funds (Continued)

D

Signup Dates

State Foresters, in consultation with the State FSA Office, shall immediately establish a signup period for SIP-Fire.

E

Practice Completion

All SIP-Fire applications must have final performance reported no later than **September 30, 2003**.

Reminder: Failure to complete SIP-Fire practices by September 30, 2003, will result in cancellation of the application(s).

All funds remaining after that time will be forwarded to the Forest Service's Washington Office.

F

Starting a Practice Before Approval

Because of the nature of the damage inflicted from the fire, landowners have requested to be approved to begin practice implementation. Landowners shall be notified that starting a practice before receiving an approval letter from the County FSA Office is at the landowner's own risk.

Landowners shall be advised that an approved conservation practice may be started after AD-245 application is submitted to the Service Forester or local County FSA Office. Landowners should be informed that they may be ineligible to receive payments if the contract is not approved, practice does not meet specifications, or if requested practice is not included in the approved stewardship plan or plan revision.

G

Handling Appeals

Appeals shall be handled by the State Forester according to established procedure.

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3 CRES Software Modifications for Implementing SIP-Fire Funds

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New SIP Fund Code

SIP-Fire funds must be accounted for separately from regular SIP appropriated funds through a separate ledger. Therefore, a new Fund Code, 21, SIP-Fire, will be established to provide a separate ledger.

Note: Regular SIP appropriated Fund Code is 00.

The ID, NV, and ND State FSA Offices have received SIP-357's with their SIP-Fire allocations. However, to track the funds properly and accurately, State Offices have been instructed to hold allocations in reserve at the State Office until the new fund code is received.

B

Software Availability

The CRES software will be modified and included in a future release to provide Fund Code 21.

Note: County Offices must be sure that SIP-Fire Fund Code 21 is entered on AD-245 when recording application. See 1-CONSV, subparagraph 105 F.

The National FSA Office will immediately notify State and County Offices when the fund code software is released.

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4 Contracts

A Approving Contracts

Applications for SIP-Fire funds may be approved as contracts by the Service Forester when the following conditions are met:

- SIP-Fire allocation has been received in the County Office
- this notice has been received by the County Office and the Service Forester
- landowner has been made aware that starting a practice before approval is at the landowner's own risk.
- updated CRES software containing SIP-Fire Fund Code 21 has been received.

Note: County Offices shall mail an approval, deferral, or disapproval letter to the landowner, as applicable, according to 1-SIP, Exhibit 8, as soon as possible after Service Forester determination.

5 Payments

A Contract Payments

Payments earned under SIP-Fire contracts are subject to the same provision as SIP Fund Code 00 funding, including setoff and assignments, Prompt Payment Provisions, and maximum payment limitations provisions.

County Offices will use the same payment code for SIP-Fire as they use for regular SIP payments.

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6 Action

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State Office Action

State Offices shall:

- immediately provide a copy of this notice to their County Offices and FS State Offices or applicable State Forestry Offices
 - not take action to move funds from ledgers until software containing the SIP-Fire fund code is received in the State Office
 - when allocation is received, immediately allocate to applicable County Offices.
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B

County Office Action

County Offices shall:

- immediately inform Service Forester when funding is received in the County Office
 - update SIP Fund Code 21 eligibility status to “Y” on the County Eligibility Table according to 1-CONSV, paragraph 19
 - **not** take action to remove funds on ledgers until notified to do so by the State Office.
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C

State Forester Action

State Foresters shall establish a signup period in consultation with the State FSA Office.

D

Service Forester Action

Service Foresters shall begin preparation for signup.
