

The Board of Trustees
of the
School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration

New Policy

Amends Policy No.

Repeals Policy No.

Policy Statement No. 2005-05

Subject: Wildland Fire Suppression

The Board of Trustees of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration met in open, public session on February 10, 2005, and by majority vote declares the following to be an official policy of the Board:

1. Consideration of fire suppression on trust lands must recognize the legal principles governing management of trust lands, especially requirements that any actions be undertaken solely for the benefit of the trust beneficiaries, and that such actions be prudent with respect to the costs and benefits thereof.
2. Appropriation of funds from the Land Grant Management Fund to defray federal and state firefighting costs would violate the State of Utah's fiduciary responsibilities to the trust beneficiaries.
3. In the case of wildland fire suppression, the Board believes that fire suppression benefits the general public more than the affected landowners and that the costs of fire suppression efforts on trust lands should therefore generally be borne by the general public through public funds.
4. The Board believes that the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands (DFFSL) is the appropriate agency to manage the state's participation in fire-suppression efforts statewide and that it would be duplicative and financially wasteful for the Trust Lands Administration to create a parallel firefighting capability for trust lands alone.
5. Recognizing that there will be situations where particular firefighting efforts might benefit trust lands or assets and would be undertaken by a prudent landowner, the Board instructs the Trust Lands Administration staff to consider the following:
 - (a) Identify on a statewide basis, through its block management planning program or other planning efforts, those trust assets where wildland fire suppression efforts are likely to be prudent from a fiduciary standpoint.

- (b) Similarly, as time permits, identify where wildland fire suppression is unlikely to be cost-effective or prudent from a trust standpoint.
- (c) Conduct formal discussion with DFFSL for the purposes of transmitting the Trust lands Administration's determinations concerning areas where fire suppression is or is not deemed appropriate, create interagency liaisons to ensure prompt communication in connection with all fire-suppression matters, and discuss mechanisms for fire-suppression efforts deemed necessary and prudent by Trust Lands Administration in its management of trust lands.