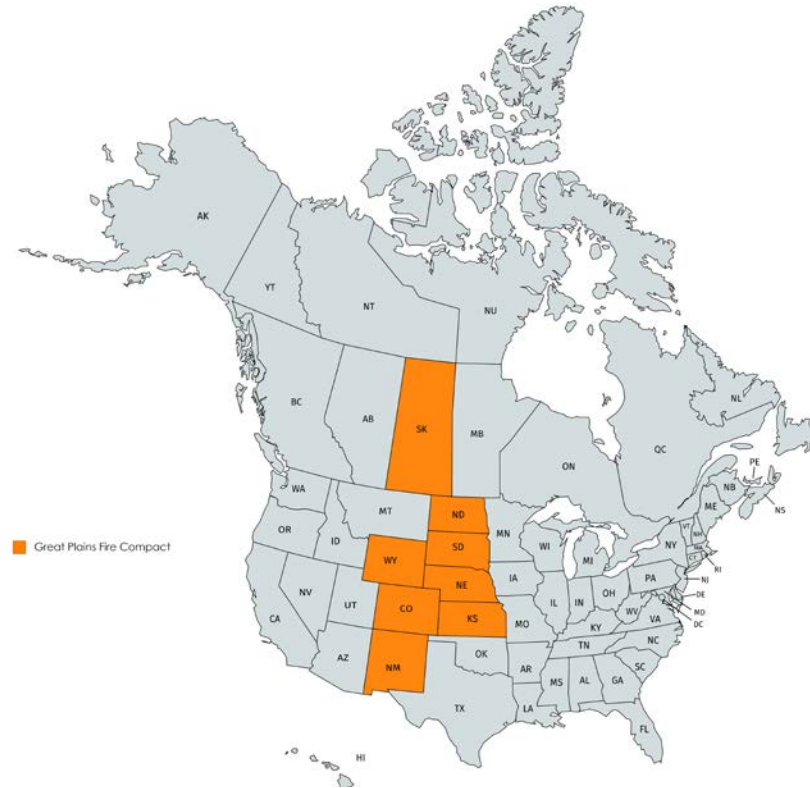

Impact ⁹ Kansas Membership in the Great Plains Interstate Fire Compact

What is it?

- One of the Eight Existing Forest **Fire** Compacts:
 - Great Plains
 - South Central
 - Big Rivers
 - Great Lakes
 - Northwest
 - Mid Atlantic
 - Southeastern
 - Northeastern



121 STAT. 730

PUBLIC LAW 110-79—AUG. 13, 2007

Public Law 110-79
110th Congress

An Act

Aug. 13, 2007
[S. 975]

Granting the consent and approval of Congress to an interstate forest fire protection compact.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONSENT OF CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The consent and approval of Congress is given to an interstate forest fire protection compact, as set out in subsection (b).

(b) COMPACT.—The compact reads substantially as follows:

“THE GREAT PLAINS WILDLAND FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

“THIS AGREEMENT is entered into by and between the State, Provincial and Territorial wildland fire protection agencies signatory hereto, hereinafter referred to as ‘Members’.

“FOR, AND IN CONSIDERATION OF the following terms and conditions, the Members agree:

“ARTICLE I

State listing.

“The purpose of this compact is to promote effective prevention and control of forest fires in the Great Plains region of the United States by the maintenance of adequate forest fire fighting services by the member states, and by providing for reciprocal aid in fighting forest fires among the compacting states of the region, including South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, and any adjoining state of a current member state.

“ARTICLE II

“This compact is operative immediately as to those states ratifying it if any two or more of the member states have ratified it.

“ARTICLE III

“In each state, the state forester or officer holding the equivalent position who is responsible for forest fire control may act as compact administrator for that state and may consult with like officials of the other member states and may implement cooperation between the states in forest fire prevention and control. The compact administrators of the member states may organize

What's the purpose?

- *'The purpose of this compact is to promote effective prevention and control of wildland fires in the Great Plains region of the United States.*
- *Accomplished by:*
 - *maintenance of adequate forest fire fighting services by the member states,*
 - *providing for reciprocal aid in fighting forest fires among the compacting states of the region*
- *Provides the State Forester assistance in meeting our statutory obligation to assist with wildland fire prevention and suppression by providing access to resources and assistance from 45 States and 9 Provinces that can be called on to SUPPLEMENT and provide assistance to Kansas Fire Departments in times of critical fire condition*

HOUSE BILL No. 2140

AN ACT concerning firefighting; relating to interstate compacts; great plains interstate fire compact.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. The governor of Kansas may execute a compact on behalf of the state with any one or more states who may, by their legislative bodies, authorize a compact, in form substantially as follows:

ARTICLE I

The purpose of this compact is to promote effective prevention and control of forest fires in the great plains region of the United States by the maintenance of adequate forest fire fighting services by the member states, and by providing for reciprocal aid in fighting forest fires among the compacting states of the region, including South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado and any adjoining state of a current member state.

ARTICLE II

This compact is operative immediately as to those states ratifying it if any two or more of the member states have ratified it.

ARTICLE III

In each state, the state forester or officer holding the equivalent position, who is responsible for forest fire control, may act as compact administrator for that state and may consult with like officials of the other member states and may implement cooperation between the states in forest fire prevention and control. The compact administrators of the member states may organize to coordinate the services of the member states and provide administrative integration in carrying out the purposes of this compact. Each member state may formulate and put into effect a forest fire plan for that state.

ARTICLE IV

If the state forest fire control agency of a member state requests aid from the state forest fire control agency of any other member state in combating, controlling, or preventing forest fires, the state forest fire control agency of that state may render all possible aid to the requesting agency, consonant with the maintenance of protection at home.

ARTICLE V

If the forces of any member state are rendering outside aid pursuant to the request of another member state under this compact, the employees of the state shall, under the direction of the officers of the state to which they are rendering aid, have the same powers (except the power of arrest), duties, rights, privileges, and immunities as comparable employees of the state to which they are rendering aid.

No member state or its officers or employees rendering outside aid pursuant to this compact is liable on account of any act or omission on the part of such forces while so engaged, or on account of the maintenance or use of any equipment or supplies in connection with rendering the outside aid.

All liability, except as otherwise provided in this compact, that may arise either under the laws of the requesting state or under the laws of the aiding state or under the laws of a third state on account of or in connection with a request for aid, shall be assumed and borne by the requesting state.

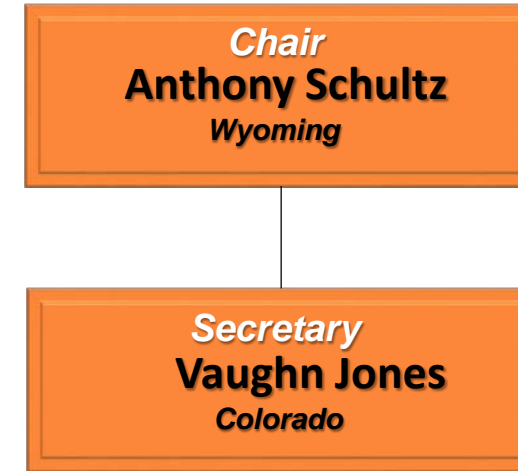
Any member state rendering outside aid pursuant to this compact shall, subject to appropriations, be reimbursed by the member state receiving the aid for any loss or damage to, or expense incurred in the operation of any equipment answering a request for aid, and for the cost of all materials, transportation, wages, salaries, and maintenance of employees and equipment incurred in connection with such request. However, nothing in this compact prevents any assisting member state from assuming such loss, damage, expense, or other cost or from loaning such equipment or from donating such services to the receiving member state without charge or cost.

Each member state shall assure that workers compensation benefits in conformity with the minimum legal requirements of the state are available to all employees and contract firefighters sent to a requesting state pursuant to this compact.

For the purposes of this compact the term, employee, includes any

Organization

- 3** Administrators designated by each member State Forester
- 2** Officers
- 2** Year Rotation
- 1** Annual Meeting



Resources Available

- *Operational Resources*
 - *Engines*
 - *Crews*
 - *Overhead*
 - *Supplies*
- *Aviation Resources*
 - *SEATs*
 - *Tankers*
 - *Reconnaissance*
 - *Helicopters*
 - *Aerial Supervision*
- *Prevention Resources*
 - *Shared media efforts*
 - *Personnel (Public Education Specialists, Investigators)*
- *Training Resources*
 - *Classroom*
 - *Mentoring*

Compact Resource Benefits

- *Committed*
 - *Compact resources would have no other job while they are in Kansas*
 - *Focus on wildfire issues*
 - *Typically a two week (14 day) commitment*
- *Experience*
 - *KFS staff gained knowledge and experience on 40 Type 1, 2, & 3 Incidents in 15 states in 2017 alone – similar experience levels would be brought in to Kansas with Compact Resource Orders.*
- *Trained*
 - *Typically will meet NWCG standards.*

Requesting Process

- *State Forester (or Designated Administrator) to State Forester (or Designated Administrator) request by, “the most expeditious means”*
 - *One state receives phone call from another member state, details, concerns, agreements are discussed and by the end of the call the request is completed.*
- *Sometimes our Interagency Dispatch partners will be involved.*
 - *i.e. KFS response to Idaho Type 6 engine strike team request in September*
- *Kansas Forest Service will consider the following when making Compact Resource requests:*
 - *Discussions with local, state, and federal partners of current and expected Critical Fire Conditions*
 - *Feedback from local, state, and federal partners concerning Critical Resource Shortages or needs.*
 - *Available support staff*
 - *Available funds*
 - *Compact resources can be cheaper than federal resources but there could be some cost.*

Questions?

Discussion?

Thank You!

**Jason Hartman
Kansas Forest Service**

