Strategic Plan
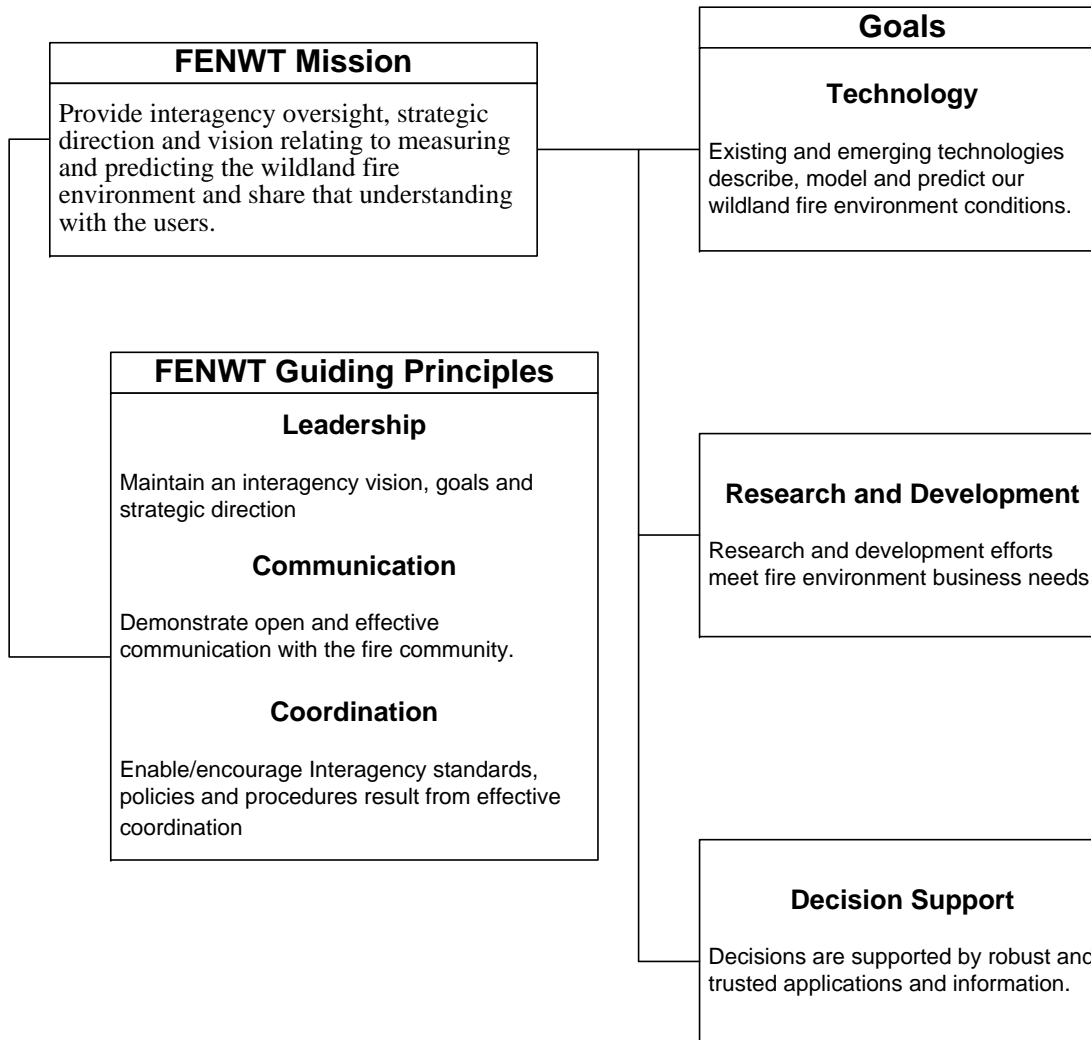
January 2006
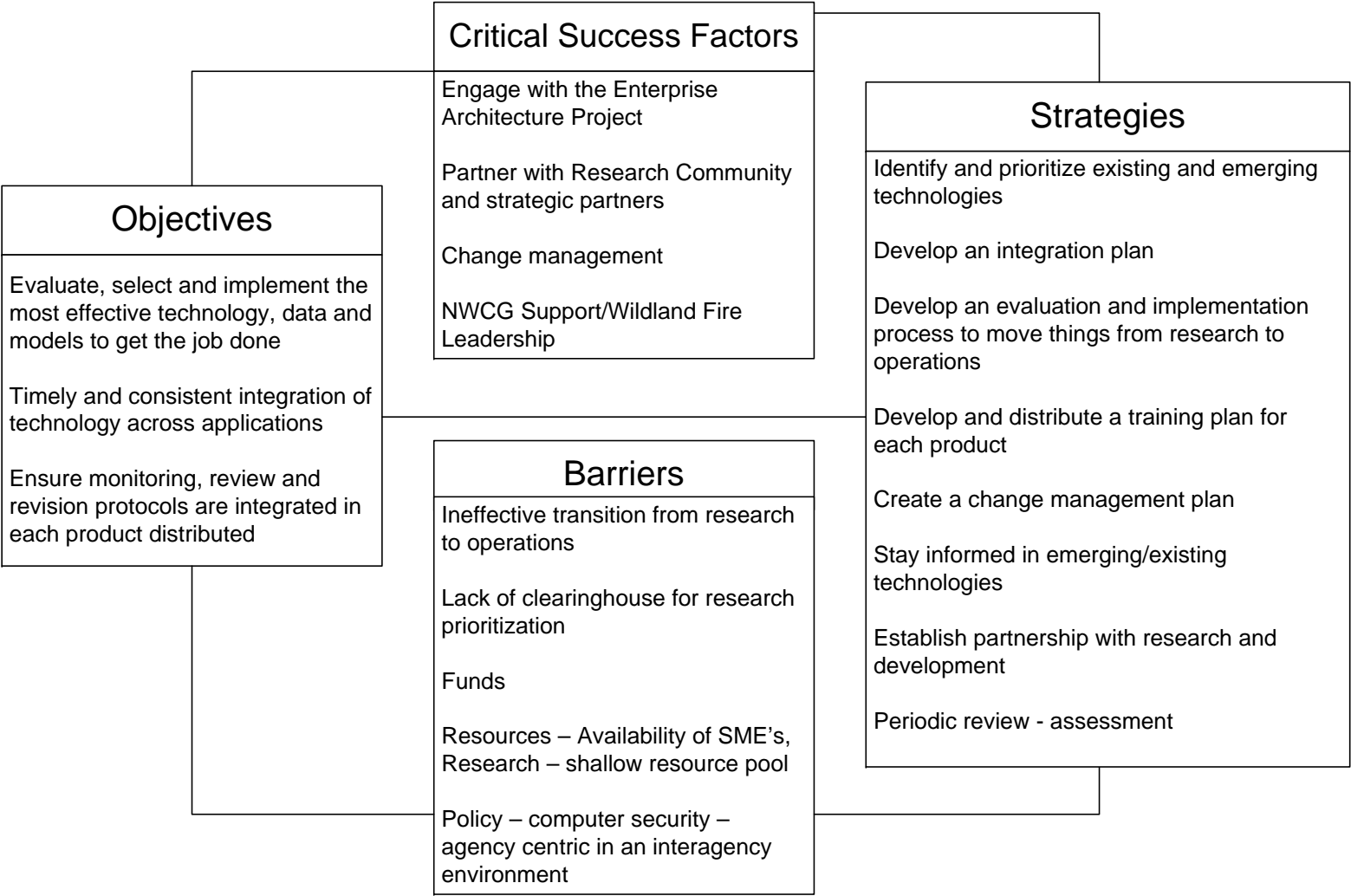
FENWT Vision

The Wildland Fire Community applies effective tools, information and products to successfully measure, predict and manage the wildland fire environment to protect, maintain and restore healthy ecosystems and protect the public's quality of life.

FENWT Mission

Provide interagency oversight, strategic direction and vision relating to measuring and predicting the wildland fire environment and share that understanding with the users.

Goals

Technology

Existing and emerging technologies describe, model and predict our wildland fire environment conditions.

FENWT Guiding Principles

Leadership

Maintain an interagency vision, goals and strategic direction

Communication

Demonstrate open and effective communication with the fire community.

Coordination

Enable/encourage Interagency standards, policies and procedures result from effective coordination

Research and Development

Research and development efforts meet fire environment business needs.

Decision Support

Decisions are supported by robust and trusted applications and information.

Goal 1 - Technology

November 15, 2005

Existing and emerging technologies describe, model and predict our wildland fire environment conditions.

Critical Success Factors

Engage with the Enterprise Architecture Project

Partner with Research Community and strategic partners

Change management

NWCG Support/Wildland Fire Leadership

Objectives

Evaluate, select and implement the most effective technology, data and models to get the job done

Timely and consistent integration of technology across applications

Ensure monitoring, review and revision protocols are integrated in each product distributed

Strategies

Identify and prioritize existing and emerging technologies

Develop an integration plan

Develop an evaluation and implementation process to move things from research to operations

Develop and distribute a training plan for each product

Create a change management plan

Stay informed in emerging/existing technologies

Establish partnership with research and development

Periodic review - assessment

Barriers

Ineffective transition from research to operations

Lack of clearinghouse for research prioritization

Funds

Resources – Availability of SME's, Research – shallow resource pool

Policy – computer security – agency centric in an interagency environment

Goal 1 - Technology

Existing and emerging technologies describe, model and predict our wildland fire environment conditions.

Strategies

1) **Identify and prioritize existing and emerging technologies**

5) **Develop an integration plan**

Develop and distribute a training plan for each product

Create a change management plan

Action Plans

1) A1: Organize technologies (hardware & software) by fuels, weather, and topography. Weather includes smoke emissions and dispersion.

Task(s):	Assignment(s):	Date(s):
1) Identify current & emerging fuel description systems/technologies 2) Identify current & emerging weather observation & modeling systems/ technologies 3) Identify current & emerging topographic (geospatial) data technologies	1) Dennis Dupuis, Dick Bahr, Larry Bradshaw 2) Dick Bahr, Larry Bradshaw, Leroy Cook 3) Paul Schlobohm	1) current – 06; emerging 07-09 2) current – 06; emerging 07-09 3) current – 06; emerging 07-09

1) A2: Define and create a Technology Assessment Matrix. Matrix rows are technologies defined in action 1. Matrix rows are assessment parameters such as scope (spatial & temporal), linkages to current/ emerging tools, impact of implementation of new technology, cost/benefit assessment, accuracy, linkage/ integrity to science-based/peer review R&D strategy.

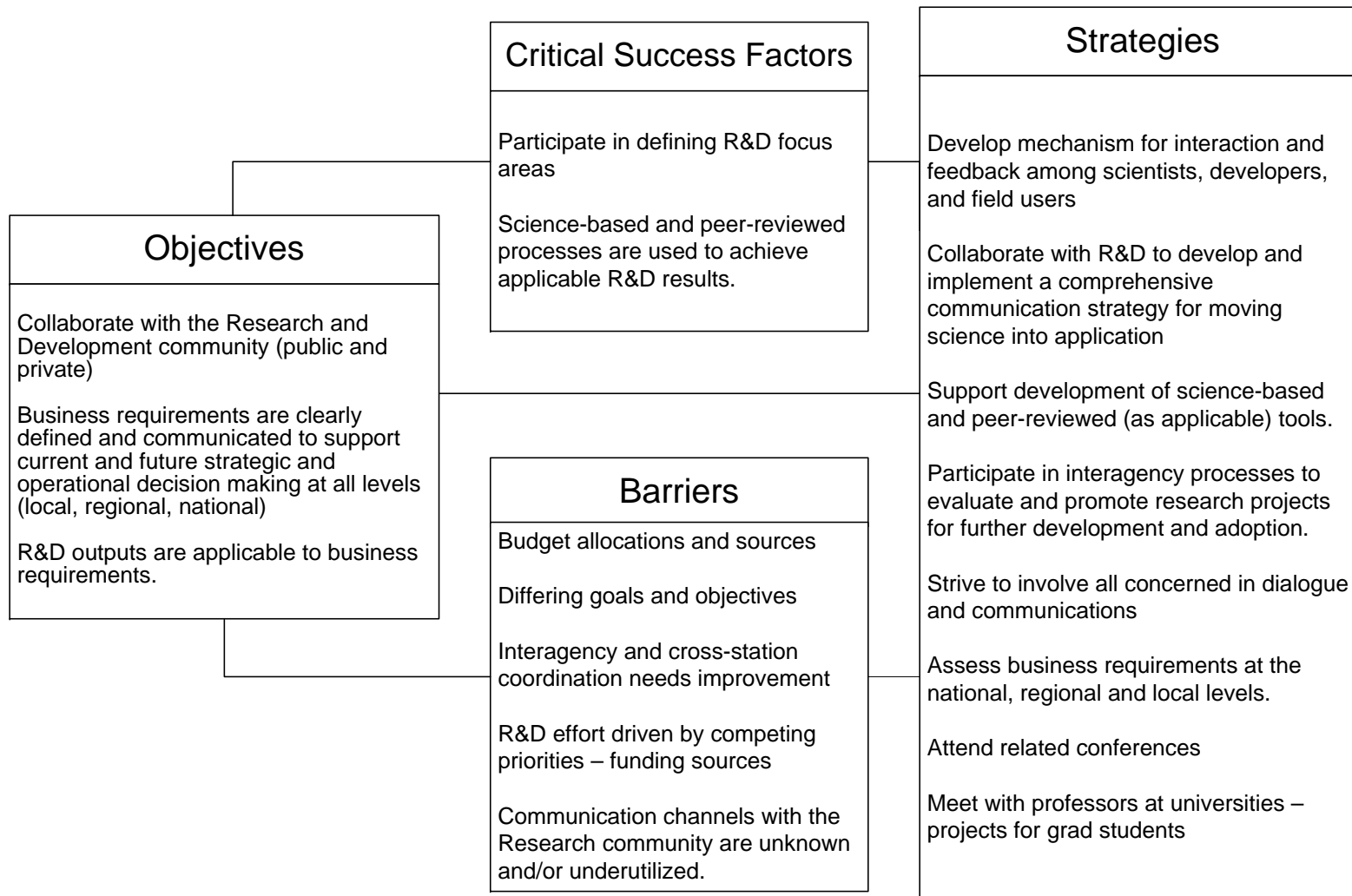| Task(s):	Assignment(s):	Date(s):
	Larry Bradshaw, Wayne Cook, Dick Bahr	Early 2006

5) A1: FY06: Literature search and investigation of current work on tech transfer and communicating methodologies.
     FY07: Determine specific Process

Task(s):	Assignment(s):	Date(s):
	FENWT	Current – 06; emerging 07-09

Goal 2 - Research and Development

Research and development efforts meet fire environment business needs.

Critical Success Factors

Participate in defining R&D focus areas

Science-based and peer-reviewed processes are used to achieve applicable R&D results.

Strategies

Develop mechanism for interaction and feedback among scientists, developers, and field users

Collaborate with R&D to develop and implement a comprehensive communication strategy for moving science into application

Support development of science-based and peer-reviewed (as applicable) tools.

Participate in interagency processes to evaluate and promote research projects for further development and adoption.

Strive to involve all concerned in dialogue and communications

Assess business requirements at the national, regional and local levels.

Attend related conferences

Meet with professors at universities – projects for grad students

Objectives

Collaborate with the Research and Development community (public and private)

Business requirements are clearly defined and communicated to support current and future strategic and operational decision making at all levels (local, regional, national)

R&D outputs are applicable to business requirements.

Barriers

Budget allocations and sources

Differing goals and objectives

Interagency and cross-station coordination needs improvement

R&D effort driven by competing priorities – funding sources

Communication channels with the Research community are unknown and/or underutilized.

Goal 2 - Research and Development

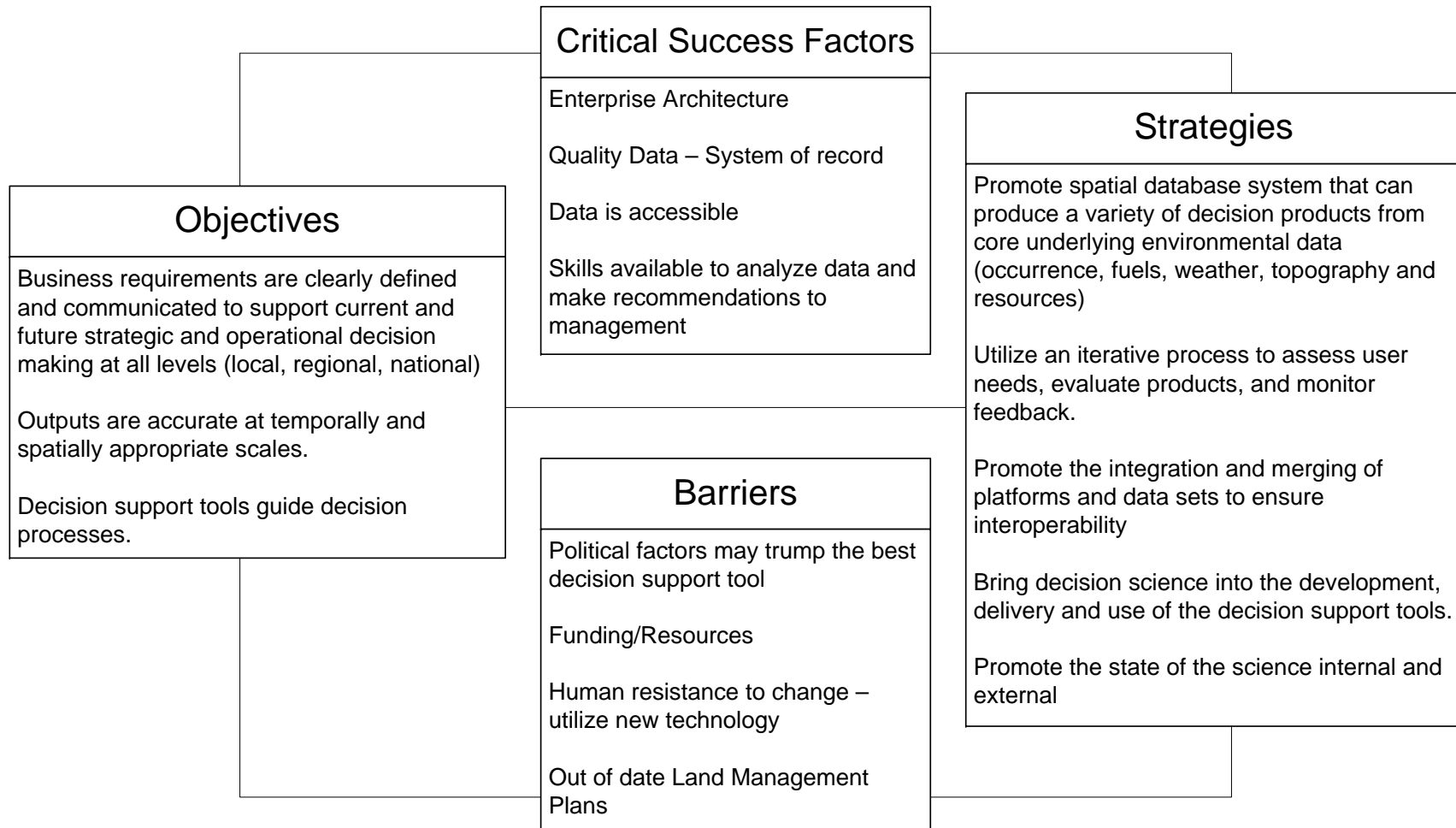Research and development efforts are in alignment with the needs of the interagency fire community

Strategies	Action Plans

Strategies
3) Establish partnership with research and development
6) Collaborate with R&D to develop and implement a comprehensive communication strategy for moving science into application
Develop mechanism for interaction and feedback among scientists, developers, and field users
Support development of science-based and peer-reviewed (as applicable) tools that are national in scope
Participate in interagency processes to evaluate and promote research projects for further development and adoption
Strive to involve all concerned in dialogue and communications

Action Plans

3) A1: Establish peer review relationship with Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP)

Task(s):	Assignment(s): FENWT and its committees	Date(s): Ongoing

3) A2: Identify keys names/groups in research to assist (e.g. UCAR, Forest Service Research Lead)

Task(s):	Assignment(s): FENWT	Date(s): At a minimum, every 3 years

3) A3: Invite research leaders to attend the next FENWT meeting to identify potential research sources

Task(s):	Assignment(s): Chair of FENWT	Date(s): At least, one meeting per year

Goal 2 - Research and Development

Research and development efforts are in alignment with the needs of the interagency fire community

Strategies
3) Establish partnership with research and development
6) Collaborate with R&D to develop and implement a comprehensive communication strategy for moving science into application
Develop mechanism for interaction and feedback among scientists, developers, and field users
Support development of science-based and peer-reviewed (as applicable) tools that are national in scope
Participate in interagency processes to evaluate and promote research projects for further development and adoption
Strive to involve all concerned in dialogue and communications

Action Plans

3) A4: Distribute FENWT user assessments to research communities for their input

Task(s):	Assignment(s): FENWT	Date(s): Minimum, every 3 years

6) A1: FY06: Literature search and investigation of current work on tech transfer and communicating methodologies
          FY07:   Determine specific Process

Task(s):	Assignment(s): Mike Hilbruner, Leroy Spayd	Date(s): Current – 06; emerging 07-09

Goal 3 - Decision Support

Decisions are supported by robust and trusted applications and information.

Critical Success Factors

Enterprise Architecture

Quality Data – System of record

Data is accessible

Skills available to analyze data and make recommendations to management

Objectives

Business requirements are clearly defined and communicated to support current and future strategic and operational decision making at all levels (local, regional, national)

Outputs are accurate at temporally and spatially appropriate scales.

Decision support tools guide decision processes.

Strategies

Promote spatial database system that can produce a variety of decision products from core underlying environmental data (occurrence, fuels, weather, topography and resources)

Utilize an iterative process to assess user needs, evaluate products, and monitor feedback.

Promote the integration and merging of platforms and data sets to ensure interoperability

Bring decision science into the development, delivery and use of the decision support tools.

Promote the state of the science internal and external

Barriers

Political factors may trump the best decision support tool

Funding/Resources

Human resistance to change – utilize new technology

Out of date Land Management Plans

Goal 3 - Decision Support	January 6, 2006
Decisions are supported by robust and trusted applications and information	

Strategies	Action Plans

Strategies
2) Utilize an iterative process to assess user needs, evaluate products, and monitor feedback.
4) Promote spatial database system that can produce a variety of decision products from core underlying environmental data (fuels, weather, topography)
7) Support development of science-based and peer-reviewed (as applicable) tools
Promote the integration and merging of platforms and data sets to ensure interoperability
Promote the state of the science internal and external.

Action Plans

2) A1: Develop and provide input to user needs assessments to best articulate fire environment business requirements.

Task(s):	Assignment(s):	Date(s):
1) Have a presence on the Joint Action Group for the Wildland Fire Weather Needs Assessment (OFCM) 2) Coordinate with NPSG, NWS, BSRW user surveys	1) FENWT – JAG representative(s) 2) FENWT Chair and members (coordinate with Leroy, Tom, Pete)	1) Winter 06 – Spring 07 2) Fall 06 – Spring 07

2) A2: Use results in the framework of the Technology Assessment Matrix to evaluated products and assess how current implementations meet users need

Task(s):	Assignment(s): FENWT	Date(s): Ongoing

2) A3: Recommend to NWCG the desired Fire Weather system architecture

Task(s):	Assignment(s): FENWT	Date(s): 2008

Decisions are supported by robust and trusted applications and information

Strategies

2) Utilize an iterative process to assess user needs, evaluate products, and monitor feedback.

4) Promote spatial database system that can produce a variety of decision products from core underlying environmental data (fuels, weather, topography)

7) Support development of science-based and peer-reviewed (as applicable) tools.

Promote the integration and merging of platforms and data sets to ensure interoperability

Promote the state of the science internal and external.

Action Plans

2) A4: Repeat steps 2 and 3 at 5 year intervals with additional input from user feedback and new technology monitoring processes

Task(s):	Assignment(s): FENWT	Date(s): Ongoing

4) A1:

Task(s): 1) Request the Program Management Office (PMO) to discuss EA at the next FENWT meeting 2) Participation with Enterprise Architecture (EA) Group to promote FENWT agenda 3) Coordinate with the National Weather Service (NWS) on EA opportunities 4) Develop professional promotional materials for presentations and market the concept of the database system to leadership and research groups	Assignment(s): 1) FENWT Chair 2) FENWT 3) FENWT Chair through the NWS FENWT Member 4) FENWT Task Group	Date(s): 1) Winter/Spring 06 2) As needed through 09 3) Ongoing 4) 2008-09

7) A1: Assess and guide R&D efforts to meet standards of the Data Quality Act

Task(s)	Assignment(s)	Date(s)

Decisions are supported by robust and trusted applications and information

Strategies

2) Utilize an iterative process to assess user needs, evaluate products, and monitor feedback.

4) Promote spatial database system that can produce a variety of decision products from core underlying environmental data (fuels, weather, topography)

7) Support development of science-based and peer-reviewed (as applicable) tools.

Promote the integration and merging of platforms and data sets to ensure interoperability

Promote the state of the science internal and external.

Action Plans

7) A2: Ensure projects comply with Enterprise Architecture principles

Task(s):	Assignment(s):	Date(s):

7) A3: Develop accountability requirements for FENWT funded/endorsed projects (i.e. project management)

Task(s):	Assignment(s):	Date(s):