



## **Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) Project**

### ***What is WFDSS?***

The WFDSS project focuses on the goal of developing a scalable decision support tool that helps the line officer make good decisions for all unplanned ignitions that escape initial attack or will be managed as wildland fire use events. The WFDSS project scope includes re-engineering the existing Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) and Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) processes and supporting applications.

### ***Why is WFDSS Needed?***

The current WFSA process has essentially remained unchanged for nearly three decades. Given the issues and growing complexity of wildland fire management the need was identified to provide an improved process. A recent report accurately noted that the WFSA process often “evolved beyond active thinking and analysis to simply a passive computer process-driven outcome.” In addition, large fire costs are increasing as a result of many factors.

Advances in fire behavior modeling, geospatial analysis, remote sensing (e.g. LANDFIRE), weather and climate forecasting, and other modeling tools can be leveraged.. Also, the internet has made shared information and decision support possible. In recognition of these advances, the National Fire and Aviation Executive Board (NFAEB) chartered WFDSS in June of 2005.

### ***How Will the WFDSS Project be Conducted?***

The WFDSS project will take place in two phases. The first phase will occur between August 2005 and April 2006, and focuses on identifying alternatives to re-engineer the current WFSA process and application. Specifically, this first phase will involve:

- Conducting interviews with key interagency stakeholders to assess issues and opportunities for business process and application (WFSA and WFIP) improvement;
- Describing potential development alternatives at varying levels of scope, cost, and schedule; and
- Presenting the results to NFAEB for a go/no-go decision to proceed to Phase 2.

The second phase will begin in early 2006 and will implement the selected alternative from Phase 1. Delivery is anticipated for 2008.

### ***Sponsorship/Ownership***

The USDA Forest Service is the sponsor/owner of this project. However, the project will address an interagency approach to wildland fire management.