



File Code: 5190-3

Date: March 30, 2005

Route To:

Subject: Fire Program Analysis Due Dates

To: Regional Foresters

REPLY DUE JULY 15, 2005

The Forest Service has been working with the Department of the Interior for the past 2 years to create the Initial Response module (Phase 1) of the interagency Fire Program Analysis system (FPA). This system will comply with direction from the Departments, Congress, and OMB to identify cost-effective collaborative programs at the local level and improve the formulation of wildland fire budget requests. The initial module has been tested by four prototype fire planning units. That testing has identified needed changes. The FPA staff and contractors are committed to incorporating those changes so that the system can be used to support the 2007 Wildland Fire Preparedness budget request.

The following tasks need to be completed to support the implementation of FPA:

1. By July 15, 2005: Thirty-nine Fire Planning Units (FPUs) will complete a model run using the latest model version available. Model run certification and approval will not be required. By analyzing 60 percent of the national wildland fire workload, this model run will provide the Departments a proof of concept that shows how FPA will be used as a budgeting tool. A list of the thirty-nine FPUs is attached.
2. By October 1, 2005: All FPUs will finalize their boundaries and interagency partnerships so that unit line officers can develop charters for governing boards and approve FPA outputs in time to meet the February 15, 2006, due date.
3. By November 15, 2005: Approximately two-thirds of the FPUs will run FPA using the latest model version available. Model run certification and approval will not be required. A list of these FPUs will be developed by the Geographic Area Coordination Groups and the FPA Implementation Coordination Group and will be approved by the agency Fire Directors. It is imperative that FPU representatives attend training offered this spring in order to complete the analysis. The analysis outputs will be used to support development of the final Wildland Fire Preparedness justification in the President's FY 2007 budget request.
4. By February 15, 2006: All FPUs will complete a model run using the latest version available. In order to meet this requirement, it is important that FPU representatives attend training this spring. Only a limited amount of training will be offered in the fall. The February run will be the first analysis including all FPUs and will be used to formulate the FY 2008 budget. The model run must be certified and approved (reference the enclosed Transition Strategy for definitions). Since it may take up to 2 months to



complete the certification and approval process, FPU's are urged to begin this process as early as possible.

5. By September 30, 2006: FPU's, state, regional, and national offices will develop transition plans to guide the implementation of FPA. It will require several years to fully develop all modules of the FPA system. Until all of the FPA modules are operational, the complete fire program cannot be analyzed. Transition plans will need to be developed to address the phase in of FPA modules and resultant program changes. The FPA Transition Strategy outlining the process to complete development of FPA and develop transition plans is attached. FPU transition plans will be developed by local governing boards to ensure that all staffing and organizational changes incorporate the concerns of local, interagency partners.

Development of the remaining FPA modules (Phase 2), including analysis of programs for prevention, extended response, large fire support, fuels management, and rehabilitation, has begun and will be completed by the end of fiscal year 2008. The final system will integrate all Phase 1 and 2 modules into one system.

If you have any questions please contact Sue Weber (208-947-3770) or Bill Breedlove (202-205-0996).

/s/ Dale N. Bosworth
DALE N. BOSWORTH
Chief

cc: Tom Harbour, Mark Beighley, Bill Breedlove, Susan A Weber

Enclosures:
Priority 39 Fire Planning Unit
Transition Strategy