



United States Department of the Interior

United States Forest Service



Subject: Fire Planning Analysis Management Review Report

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To: Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Director, Bureau of Land Management
Director, Fish and Wildlife Service
Director, National Park Service
Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director

In 2001, the federal and non-federal co-authors of *Developing an Interagency, Landscape-scale Fire Planning Analysis and Budget Tool* recommended that the federal agencies and their partners:

“Develop and implement a coordinated and common system for calculating readiness which includes provisions for working with the shared fire fighting resources of the State and other cooperators and considers values of various resources on both Federal and other lands.”

Subsequently, development of the Fire Program Analysis (FPA) process began. Work on the FPA modeling system, which supports that process, was also initiated. The first set of results for that modeling system is now available. The FPA team, which has worked diligently with field personnel to improve the modeling system, has accomplished much. So have the members of the 138 Fire Planning Unit (FPU) teams who prepared the initial results for the Preparedness Phase 1 model.

The Departments of the Interior and Agriculture have taken several steps to assess how well the FPA process and model have performed in meeting the needs of the wildland fire management agencies. These steps include: completing a management level review, conducting an After Action Review (AAR) and chartering an Executive Oversight group. The Management Review Team (MRT) was tasked with a high level management review and included a scientific review of the model as one component. This report is enclosed. The AAR assembled representatives from all nine FPA Geographic Areas to discuss last year's FPA process and provide recommendations on how to improve the process. The Executive Oversight group was established to help evaluate the current FPA modeling system and recommend adjustments to the timeline and project's planning. Similar findings came out of these three efforts. Look for more information about all of these efforts at <http://www.fpa.nifc.gov/>.

The current assessment of the modeling system is timely, and permits a rigorous evaluation of improvements or adjustments to guide further development and implementation. All of these efforts have identified the successes achieved and challenges faced. The FPA process has brought our interagency field level personnel together at the local level to discuss priorities, capabilities, values at risk and other key land management issues. While this was a huge

success, work is still required to expand the collaborative planning effort with our non-federal partners.

The FPA team and the Executive Oversight group are now evaluating alternative approaches to complete development of FPA. They will provide recommendations to the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) later this fall. The federal wildland fire management agencies remain committed to the vision of a comprehensive and coordinated approach to fire and fuels planning and budgeting as identified in *Developing an Interagency, Landscape-scale Fire Planning Analysis and Budget Tool*. The FPA process will be used, and further developed, to provide a tool that contains a cost-effective analysis of the full scope of fire management activities.

We would again like to recognize the FPA team for its commitment and dedication to this effort and the incredible work and commitment by the interagency members of the 138 FPU's in meeting the demanding deadlines and stepping up to this new challenge. Implementing the complete FPA vision will greatly improve the credibility of the planning and budget process for the wildland fire management agencies. In the long run, this will benefit all elements of our wildland fire programs. As we move forward with the development strategy for FPA, we will continue to keep you informed on implementation progress.



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Enclosure

cc: Director, Office of Wildland Fire Coordination
Director, US Forest Service Fire and Aviation Management