

**FPA Executive Oversight Group (EOG)  
Meeting Summary  
March 20, 2008**

On March 20, 2008 a meeting convened of the Executive Oversight Group (EOG) for the Fire Program Analysis (FPA) in Washington DC and Boise via video call. Present were the EOG members, FPA Project Leadership and representative staff. The meeting was chaired by Nina Hatfield, Department of the Interior.

The topics of the discussion that do not appear in the decisions or actions outlined below were:

- Preliminary discussions related to the FPA results and incorporating that data into the business process of the partner federal agencies.

The following is a high level summary of the decisions and actions from the meeting.

**Decision Summary**

**ISSUE:** Feasibility of calculating Performance Measure #4 “Protecting highly valued resources (HVR) areas from unwanted fires,” in the June 2008 release.

**DISCUSSION:** A consistent interagency interpretation of what constitutes "highly valued resources" does not currently exist. It is important to all federal partner agencies that the FPA System be able to evaluate the “trade-off” between investment alternatives as they relate to protecting highly valued resources. One methodology FPA might consider is the one proposed by Dr. Tom Quigley for defining HVRs. Dr. Tom Quigley’s methodology is included in the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) “Risk Monitoring” initiative. This initiative will not be completed until after the June 2008 FPA project delivery and requires additional funds to develop. This proposal includes functionality beyond what is necessary for evaluating FPA investment alternatives. Members of the EOG believe there are short term approaches that consider HVR’s outside the FPA national goal programming. In the long-term, it is desirable to incorporate consideration of HVR’s into the FPA national goal programming.

**DECISION:** Rick Prausa, Forest Service, and Fred Wetzal, FWS, will convene a subcommittee of two EOG members, two FPA Interagency Science Team members, the FPA Executive Project Manger and subject matter experts on the FPA team. This subcommittee will:

- **Develop a proposal for the June 2008 FPA delivery that provides a short term general and consistent interagency definition of "highly valued resources" that can be used to consider FPA Performance Measure # 4, “Protecting highly valued resources areas from unwanted fires” in decision processes.**
- **Recommend a methodology to determine a long term consistent interagency definition of highly valued resources” and a process to calculate the FPU Performance Measure #4, “Protecting highly valued resources areas from unwanted fires” (the Quigley et. al. proposal will be further examined for this proposal).**

**The subcommittee will bring the proposals back to the EOG at the April, 25, 2008 conference call.**

**ISSUE:** Feasibility of expanding FPA's scope to include acres treated for reasons other than reduction of wildland fire risk.

**DISCUSSION:** The current FPA Project performance measures do not include the benefit of fuel treatments for other than reduction of wildland fire risk. Some of the partner federal agencies have requested the inclusion of treatments for reasons other than reduction of wildland fire risk in the FPA analysis. This is currently outside the scope of the FPA Project. The Interagency Science Team should be tasked to explore this issue. Their advice would maintain the science based foundation to the FPA analysis system.

**DECISION:** The FPA Interagency Science Team (IST) will be tasked for their next meeting (tentatively scheduled for the week of May 12, 2008) to identify:

- What is the feasibility of including analysis (positive or negative) of treatments for other than the reduction of wildland fire risks in enhancements to the FPA modeling system after the June 2008 release?
- What are the modeling implications of including or excluding habitat and ecosystem treatments that are funded by sources other than those from the Hazardous Fuel Reduction program?
- What additional science disciplines and science skills need to be represented on the IST to support this task?
- What is the cost estimate to add this analysis to the functionality of the FPA system?
- What changes would be necessary to the FPA project scope to accommodate acres treated for other than wildland fire risk?
- How might wildland fires be included in these enhancements?
- What timeline would be associated with the approach?

The IST will report back to the FPA EOG at the June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 meeting.

**ISSUE:** Timely and accurate communications are important to engage all levels of line officers and managers to set priorities and ensure field participation and understanding of the project and commitment to meeting the due dates for the analysis. The FPA Outreach Plan needs to include briefings for fire and non-fire program managers and leadership.

**DISCUSSION:** The EOG wants Washington DC level public affairs staff to engage with FPA communications staff to enhance the FPA Outreach & Communication Strategy. FPA has developed a series of briefings for mid-level managers; these have been used by members of the Management Advisory Team, Fire Directors and other mid-level managers. Involvement by Washington Office PA staff can expand on the work done to date and ensure briefings reach broader audiences.

**DECISION:** The FPA Project will develop, with assistance from Washington Office U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service public affairs staff, a high level Outreach Plan and present it at the next EOG Meeting. As a minimum the plan will include:

- High level road map for outreach, including dates for products to be delivered
- Identification of target audience
- Standard in-reach plan

**ACTION:** FPA Business Leads will send EOG members the two "management briefs" for use in upcoming meetings. Additional "management briefs" will be sent to the EOG members as they are developed.

### Action Summary

**ACTION:** Nina will follow up on previous contacts with National Association of State Foresters (NASF) representative to ensure their representation on the EOG.

**ISSUE:** Continue national leadership collaboration with non-federal partners.

**DISCUSSION:** Interagency collaboration provides continuing value and encourages the FPU's to foster and work with federal agencies to expand state, tribal, and local partnerships.

**ACTION:** EOG members will send edits to the draft agency memo to Barbara Loving and Bill Breedlove by March 28, 2008 for incorporation in a final memo. The goal is to get agency signatures on the letters by April 22, 2008 for distribution through normal agencies' processes.

**ISSUE:** EOG members want agency memos to directly communicate with line officers the importance of the FPA project and the timeline for the analysis.

**DISCUSSION:** FPA Business Leads drafted a memo for use by the agencies in communicating agency expectations to line officers and fire program managers.

**ACTION: Preparing for the April 25, 2008 EOG Meeting:** Rick Prausa and Jim Douglas, will work with Mark Beighley, Barb Loving, Bill Breedlove and representatives of the Fire Executive Council to draft the framework for:

- The development of interagency guidance for FPA which will be used by the FPU's to develop investment alternatives.
- How FPA results will be used in out-year budget development and in support of agency business processes.

**ISSUE:** FPA has been developed as an interagency budget and planning tool to inform the development of out-year fire program budgets for the five federal partner agencies.

**DISCUSSION:** The FPA project timeline requires interagency guidance to FPU's for the 2009 analysis much earlier, June 2008, than the traditional budget development process. The FPA team has been working with agency budget representatives on a regular basis to identify data they need to formulate their agency's budget. Higher level guidance is also needed from national fire program managers to guide the development of the FPU's investment alternatives; the core of the analysis process at the goal programming step. This issue is complex and needs to be staffed in advance of the EOG meeting.

**ACTION:** FPA Executive Manager will edit the Success Criteria paper with the comments offered by the EOG and present the final draft at the April 25, 2008 EOG.

**ISSUE:** As the EOG has stated in previous meetings, the first year of FPA implementation will be "a learning year." It is important to the overall success of the FPA Project that field managers and Washington DC Leadership alike understand what FPA is and what will be delivered the first year.

**DISCUSSION:** There are wide ranging expectations of what FPA will and will not do. It is important, especially in the first year of the new FPA system, that managers and the field alike have clear understanding of what FPA is, what it will deliver, and how it will be used. Agencies' executive's expectations of field participation should also be clearly stated.

**February EOG Actions for May EOG Meeting:**

**ACTION:** FPA will provide to the EOG information necessary for them to make out-year, beyond 2009, decisions for system enhancements and associated adjustment to the O&M budget.

**ISSUE:** The existing O&M does not discuss future enhancements and funding of enhancements.

**DISCUSSION:** Following EOG discussions and recommendations regarding future enhancements to the current scope of FPA, the FPA management team will develop an O & M Plan that will describe future enhancements, priority of those enhancements, and a cost estimate.

**Next EOG Meetings:**

**April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 1:00-3:00 EDT, Yates Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

**May 25<sup>th</sup> 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m. EDT, Yates Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

**June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 1:00p.m.-3p.m. EDT, Main Interior Building**

**Next Meeting Discussion Topics**

1. Possible enhancements to FPA for inclusion of acres treated for reasons other than reduction of wildland fire risks. (report from subcommittee)
2. Development of *interagency* guidance for FPA which will be used by the FPU's to develop investment alternatives.
3. Outreach plan-development and implementation. (report from subcommittee)
4. How FPA results will be used in out-year budget development and in support of agency business processes. (report from subcommittee)

**March 20<sup>th</sup> Attendees:**

**EOG Members**

Nina Hatfield, DOI, Co-Chair

Rick Prausa, USFS

Carlos Rodriquez-Franco, USFS

Jim Douglas, BLM (representing Henri Bisson)

Karen Taylor-Goodrich, NPS (representing Dan Wenk)

Rowan Gould, USFWS (representing Ken Stansell)

Bill Downes, BIA (representing Vicki Forrest)

**FPA-Project**

Donna Scholz, Executive Project Mgr

Jaymee Fojtik, DOI Business Lead

Dan Keller, Project Manager

Bonnie Wood, USFS Business Lead

**EOG and FPA Project Subject Matter Experts**

Mark Beighley, OWFC, DOI

Jack Waide, USGS, DOI

Bill Breedlove, USFS

Fred Wetzels, USFWS

Grant Beebe, FPA

Barb Loving, OWFC, DOI

Danny Lee, USFS

Mike Wallace, NPS, Fire Director

Venetia Gempler, FPA

Andy Kirsch, FPA