



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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Washington, D.C. 20240

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Y14 (9560)

January 4, 2008

Memorandum

To: Regional Directors
Attn: Superintendents

From: Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection /s/ **Karen Taylor-Goodrich**

Subject: Fire Program Analysis Update

Attached is a November 15, 2007, memorandum issued by the Department of the Interior that provides an update on the Fire Program Analysis (FPA) project. FPA has the intent to identify cost-effective wildland fire programs, to support fire planning, and to inform budget development at the national level.

We are approaching a critical deadline, June 30, 2008, when the functioning FPA system is to be delivered. Project and system orientation and training will begin in FY 2008. The training is intended to enable park fire managers to use the FPA system during the fall of 2008 to develop and to submit Fire Planning Unit analyses that, in combination with national goal programming, will be used to inform the FY 2011 wildland fire program budget.

The FPA project has addressed the many lessons learned in the initial FPA analysis, including an evaluation of the workload that the FPA project imposed on park personnel. While the FPA process will require park participation and involvement, the FPA project anticipates the field level workload to run the analysis and submit a set of investment alternatives will be reduced from the FPA-PM version released in 2005.

It is important to note that the National Park Service (NPS) fire management budget planning and allocation system, FIREPRO, has become a legacy system and is no longer being used to generate NPS fire budgets and staffing strategies. Therefore, superintendents of NPS units having Fire Management Plans should ensure that appropriate members of the park staff are actively engaged in the FPA analysis, which will replace some of FIREPRO's functions. In the case of small parks that historically have not received funding from FIREPRO, the FPA project is a mechanism that will allow stronger partnerships with neighboring fire agencies and assist in more clearly defining interagency wildland fire funding and responsibilities.

It is also important to ensure that fire occurrence records for each park are current and valid in the Wildland Fire Management Information System. As was the case with FIREPRO, correct fire occurrence data is critical to an accurate analysis of fire workload in FPA. Complete and accurate fire records from 1995 to the present are required; incomplete records will underestimate the fire workload, as well as budget needs. In addition, each park should review and update their 5-year fuels treatment plan, as appropriate. The projects must be approved within park planning documents to ensure the FPA analysis reflects those projects that have undergone environmental screening and are ready to implement.

The Wildland Fire Leadership Council has been closely involved with the FPA project, along with an Executive Oversight Group and a Management Advisory Team. I want to assure you that the NPS and our partners remain strongly committed to implementation of the FPA project. The project's web site, <http://fpa.nifc.gov>, provides resources with which regional and park personnel may stay informed of project implementation and future expectations.

If you have questions, please contact your Regional Fire Management Officer. As noted on the list of members of the Management Advisory Team in the attachment, Superintendent Kathy Davis is the NPS representative, and in particular will serve to gather input from line officers on the FPA process. Additional information on Kathy's role and how to contact her will be issued shortly.

Attachment

cc: Associate Regional Directors, Operations