



## Defining Fire Management Units (FMU)

### Topic:

Guidance for defining Fire Management Units (FMUs).

### Introduction / Purpose

Fire Program Analysis (FPA) uses the same definition of Fire Management Units (FMUs) included in the interagency fire management planning guidance:

*“The primary purpose of developing FMUs in fire management planning is to assist in organizing information in complex landscapes. The process of creating FMUs divides the landscape into smaller geographic areas to more easily describe physical/biological/social characteristics and frame associated planning guidance based on these characteristics.”* (Interagency Fire Management Plan Template, updated September 17, 2007).

Fire Planning Units (FPUs) may update FMU boundaries according to the FPA release schedule. FPA recommends that FPUs complete GIS layer updates to their FMU boundaries by June, 2008. The FPA system will track FMUs in each FPU using the FMU’s common name (e.g. “Kernville”). The Shapefile for each FMU must contain the unique FMU name when it is uploaded to the system.

In order to support modeling of specific FMU objectives defined in Land and Fire management plans, the FMU may be subdivided into Fire Workload Areas (FWAs). This allows FPA models to respond to specific management concerns within FMUs. FWAs are defined in the [Defining Fire Workload Areas \(FWA\)](#) whitepaper.

### Recommendations

FPUs should define FMUs based on land management objectives articulated in the land and/or fire management direction for lands managed by each partner in the FPU. If FMUs defined for use in FPA-PM met this definition, there is no need to change the FMU boundaries.

When FMU boundaries changes are required for other reasons, (such as a change in FPU boundaries or partners, or because FMU boundaries were too finely delineated for FPA-PM modeling), FPA suggests using the agency FMP defined FMU boundary for FPA. This ensures that Land Management and/or Fire Management Plan (LMP/FMP) objectives are consistently modeled in FPA.

### Review history:

Date	Initials	Change Summary
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Author: ED

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Working Path:

Final Approval: dks 1/16/2008



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January 16, 2008	DKS	Approved
January 9, 2008	KSH	Converted document to new white paper template. Edited for clarity and readability
October 5, 2007	ED	Initial Draft

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