



Fire Program Analysis Briefing Paper #1

Revised November 2008

Topic: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Overview

Purpose: Fire Program Analysis Project status and purpose

First in a series of FPA briefings

Background:

The Fire Program Analysis (FPA) system is a common interagency application for wildland fire planning and budgeting. This tool enables the five federal fire management agencies (the USDA Forest Service and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service) to plan jointly. FPA is also designed to encourage nonfederal wildland fire partners' participation.

The 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, a revision of the 1995 Federal Fire Management Policy, requires standardized training, data, data collection and a standard interagency planning and budgeting process. Additionally, in 2001, Congress directed the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior to develop a coordinated and common system to determine readiness and improve the allocation of fire resources to improve effectiveness and efficiency. FPA is that system.

Key Points:

Fire Planning Units develop investment alternatives using FPA for the preparedness and fuel treatment components of the fire program (preparedness component consists for initial response organizations and prevention programs). Once completed, the Fire Planning Units submit their alternatives to the national level for interagency review and analysis. Results from the national-level analysis provide input to fire program planning and budget development, thus FPA 'informs the budget.'

The FPA Team delivered a proof-of-concept prototype on June 30, 2007 and the Wildland Fire Leadership Council approved application development in July 2007.

USDA Forest Service and the DOI Memorandums dated November 6, 2007 updated the field on the status of FPA; reiterated that the delivery date for an operational system was June 30, 2008; and encouraged line officer involvement.

FPA Project oversight includes an Executive Oversight Group to provide executive level leadership; a Management Advisory Team to contribute business process guidance and a link between the FPA project and the field; and, an Interagency Science Team to provide science support and guidance.

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Project Timeline

April - June 2008	Held geographic area FPA orientation and data preparation workshops
June 30, 2008	FPA system released to 27 Fire Planning Units (FPUs)
July – September 2008	Testing period by the 27 volunteer Fire Planning Units
October 1, 2008	Wave 1 – The FPA system made available for the 27 testing FPUs plus 28 new FPUs to develop alternatives and run analyses
November 1, 2008	Wave 2 – 53 FPUs gain access to the FPA system for their analysis period
December 1, 2008	Wave 3 – The last 31 FPUs gain access to the FPA system.
March 1, 2009	Wave 1 FPUs submit their selected investment alternatives to national offices for the FY2011 budget
April 1, 2009	Wave 2 FPUs submit investment alternatives
May 1, 2009	Wave 3 FPUs submit investment alternatives
May 2009	Conduct national-level analysis for FY2011 Budget Planning and Development

Conclusion:

The FPA system displays trade-offs between two fire program components relative to performance measures. When released in September 2008, it will support interagency analysis of investment alternatives specific to the preparedness and fuel treatment program components.

The second in the series of briefs will address the FPA system components and their functions.