



The FPA Program: approx. 6:30 minutes

Lyle Carlile (Fire Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs)

-With all of these interagency committee findings and Congressional and Executive direction, the fire directors of the agencies formed a group to take on this project. The initial interagency FPA core team was assembled and began work in mid-2002.

Narrator

The Interagency FPA Charter, dated November 7, 2004 lays the ground work for the beginnings of project development. The core team was first tasked to explore opportunities to build on existing systems and develop relationships with key partners in academia, research, and technology development.

Howard Roose (FPA Core Team Member, Bureau of Land Management)

Once we had the core team in place to develop a system that could be used by all five federal agencies, local, tribal and state governments for modeling of initial response to both those fires that we are going to suppress and those fires we want to management for natural resource benefit standpoint. The challenge has been to ensure that we are coming back to the foundation which is federal fire policy and land management plan direction. We have to remind ourselves on a routine basis that this is strategic its not tactical in nature.

Narrator

FPA will produce some fundamental changes in the way federal agencies do fire business. Adjustments in the way line officers, fire managers, and resource specialists view resources and acres to be managed may result as they consider not only acres to be protected from wildfire, but also those acres which may benefit or be improved by wildfire. Where fire program analysis once focused mainly on initial attack, it is now being expanded to consider a full-spectrum analysis of fuels management, wildfire use, fire protection, fire prevention, and fire education.

Jeff Manley (FPA Core Team Member, National Park Service)

FPA is designed to seek out the most effective organization that we can, that we can find, effective in the sense of meeting those land management objectives and those variety of land management objectives with limited resources and limited funds. What we want to do with FPA is be focusing our attentions and efforts and if we have limited resources, making sure that we're focusing those on the most important fires, the most important fire events and the most important acres to be managing with fire as opposed to just a single response, either put it out or fire use. It is very important that all fire folks and managers at all levels are very involved in developing Fire Program Analysis at the local level and all the way up through the national level.

Narrator

Other cultural changes in the way we do business will come about from the interagency, landscape scale analysis of FPA. New partnerships and relationships will be a critical aspect of FPA as interagency collaborators meet at the table to make decisions about the local fire program organization.

Larry Hamilton (Former Director of Fire and Aviation, Bureau of Land Management)

-A lot of time what we're dealing with at the local level is what is referred to as a "territorial imperative". That people have resources that they've used, they've got capability, and sometimes it's pretty difficult to decide well, I'm going to share that, or make it available or I'm even going to let it go out to this particular geographic area. But if you sit down with all the players in the beginning and you agree to this ahead of time when the event occurs that should be a lot easier to do.

Phil Street (Fire Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

For FPA to be successful it's going to require people at the local level really coming together in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration and deciding how they can best work together for FPA now and into the future. FPA is something that's going to help us as a tool for land management planning, it is going to help in doing a better job in budgeting for our various programs, and its going to help us I think, move into the future as far as how we implement fire management in its broadest sense.

Lyle Carlile (Fire Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs)

-When Fire Program Analysis is fully implemented, all federal wildland fire agencies will use a common fire management budget and planning system that will address all major fire program components, respond to land management objectives, cross administrative boundaries, and is designed to consider our tribal, state, and other partners. We will have a system that recognizes program efficiencies and trade-offs by identifying total organization needs for fire and fuels program management. As fire management agencies we have a lot of work to do and FPA is one of the tools we will use to help us succeed.

Citations

- Developing an Interagency Landscape-scale Fire Planning Analysis and Budget Tool – (Hubbard Report)
- 1995/2001 Federal Fire Management Policy
- A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment, 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy
- 10-Year comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan