



Introduction: approx. 3:27 minutes

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

- All the agencies have a little different mission and so that's one thing you have to be able to honor and work with.

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

- We're trying to tie the fire management program and the budgets that come for the fire management program much more closely to the objectives that managers want to achieve on the ground.

Steve Botti (Fire Program Planning Leader, National Park Service)

- We're looking at broader areas of the landscape that cross agency boundaries it becomes important to have a common approach to analyzing that problem and how well we accomplish those land management objectives on a broader scale.

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

- The bottom line is that everybody is interested in improving the health of the land and restoring these fire prone ecosystems.

Narrator

– Each year the federal government spends billions of dollars on wildland fire management, despite increasing expenditures on wildland fire suppression over the last two decades. The average acreage burned nationally in wildfires has not decreased. Today's fire management programs are faced with the need to protect communities at risk from wildfire. To reduce the amount of hazardous fuels in the nation's wildlands and to restore healthy ecosystems while maintaining fiscal responsibility and cost accountability.

For the past two decades wildland fire management agencies have used various computer modeling systems to derive their wildland fire management preparedness budgets. The budgets the agencies use to prepare to fight fire. These modeling systems analyze data to identify appropriate budget levels for anticipated workloads, but the systems are based on fire programs of the past they do not fully address the situation in today's landscape.

So the question for today's fire management program is: Is there a single system by which wildland management agencies can be more effective and efficient at analyzing today's fire programs?

Lyle Carlile (Fire Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs)

– Hi, I'm Lyle Carlile, Fire Director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, I'm sure many of you are aware that a new fire program planning and budgeting system has been under development since 2001. This new tool is called "Fire Program Analysis" or FPA. The new system will re-engineer the fire budgeting and planning process so that all five federal wildland fire management agencies; the Department of the Interior's Bureaus of Indian Affairs; Bureau of Land Management; National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Agriculture's U.S. Forest Service in partnership with tribes and state agencies will use the same process, model's assumption and displays. Agency budget alternatives will be rolled up to a national data base to allow for analysis of the preparedness budget across and between federal agencies.