



Talking Points - Volume II

The FPA system is an interagency fire planning and budget application system that provides managers with trade-off analysis tools at two levels:

- Fire Planning Unit level
 - Based on simulation of the Fire Planning Unit defined investment alternatives which include wildland fire management's Preparedness and fuel programs.
- National level
 - Provides national fire budget leads a tool to complete trade-off analyses of investment alternatives from 138 fire Planning Units
 - Uses outputs from the trade-off analyses to inform the national fire budget.

How Phase 2 differs from Phase 1

- The Phase 2 FPA system is
 - based on modeling
 - based on simulated fire behavior
 - driven by investment alternatives
- Investment alternatives developed by Fire Planning Units incorporate objectives from local land management and fire management plans and interagency guidance from agency national offices.
- Guidance and direction are issued using an interagency approach from national offices, not individual agencies.
- Geographic Area representatives engaged with the FPA project. Regular conference calls provide two-way communication between the GA representative (and their GA constituents) and the FPA team.
- New project governance structure as advised in management review recommendations. (See description below)
- User-interface developed with field-users feedback to ensure easy-to-use screens.
- Field workload reduced by applying default values, rolling over data from Phase 1, and using corporate databases when possible.
- The Phase 2 system design uses both the 40 Scott and Burgan and 13 Anderson fuel models

Involving line officers in FPA.

Line officer involvement ensures budget development and delivery are consistent with land and fire management plan objectives. Regional and state line officers provide programmatic guidance and ensure collaboration at higher levels. Local line officers review technical analysis results and ensure investment alternatives meet local land management plan goals. Line officers will need to:

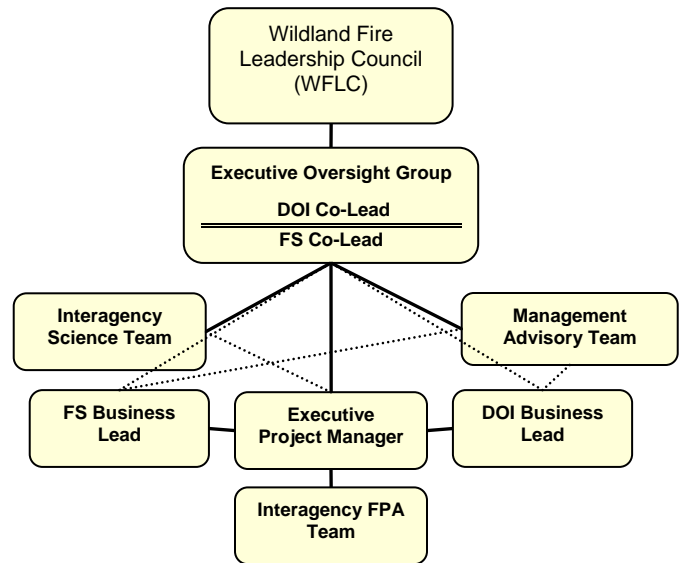
- Understand national guidance for developing investment alternatives.
- Review FPU investment alternative submissions.
- Facilitate any recommended changes to submitted investment alternatives.
- Resolve concerns between FPU partners

Line officer support is critical because the FPA system will replace existing planning models for wildland fire programs - NFMAS, FirePro and FireBase - causing fundamental changes in the wildland fire planning and budgeting process.

Revised Project Governance.

The recommendations from the 2006 FPA Project Management Review included a revised governance structure to provide increased leadership participation, management oversight, direction, and support.

- The Wildland Fire Leadership Council to provide project guidance and oversight.
- The Executive Oversight Group to provide consistent interagency direction and policy.
- An Interagency Science Team to provide science support and guidance.
- A Management Advisory Team, made of up interagency line officers, to offer business process guidance and implementation advice.
- An Executive Project Manager to provide project leadership and day-to-day project supervision. Has decision authority for project management and system development.
- Business Leads to serve as liaisons between the project, the field and Washington DC staff. To ensure consistent information reaches line officers.



The Congressional mandate for FPA.

Congress directed the agencies to develop a focused budgeting system that: is common across all federal agencies, identifies efficiencies, ties to resource values, and provides a mechanism for sharing resources with federal and non-federal partners.

The system will comply with direction from the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior, Congress, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to identify cost-effective collaborative fire programs at the local level and to improve the formulation of wildland fire budget requests.

House Report 107–234 (FY 2002 Appropriations Act) Oct 11, 2001:

“The managers remain concerned about the variation in methods by which the Departments calculate wildfire fighting readiness and how the Departments plan their distribution of firefighting resources to attain efficiency. The managers direct the two Departments to develop and implement a coordinated and common system for calculating readiness which includes provisions for working with the shared fire fighting resources of the States and other cooperators and considers values of various resources on both Federal and other lands.”

House Report 107–564 (FY 2003 Appropriations Act) July 11, 2002

“The Committee is aware that the Forest Service and the four Interior bureaus participating in Wildland Fire Management activities use different systems and procedures for determining their readiness for control of wildfires. We have been informed that the Departments have been engaged in efforts to design and develop tools for fire program managers that would be used by the Forest Service and all of the Interior bureaus. The Committee is encouraged that the Departments have been working together to develop common systems to plan their activities; however, we are concerned that a complex system may require significant funding and take many years to develop. The Committee therefore directs the Departments to design and develop a focused automated system for preparedness resource planning to replace the systems currently in use by the fire management agencies.”

Training

Nationwide orientation to the user interface began; hands-on training will begin after the modules are thoroughly tested and refined to meet expected performance. Training will be delivered using a variety of methods including system embedded help, internet-based self-paced training, classroom training, and workshops. Training will provide

1. Guidance to form alternatives for FPA analyses.
2. Skills and knowledge to run the FPA system.
3. Knowledge to interpret FPA analyses results.
4. Information to understand how the FPA budget analysis process fits in with the larger budget and planning process.

Project Timeline

June 30, 2008	FPA System Release 2.0 - Essential functions for Fire Planning Units
July 1 – August 29, 2008	“Early-adopter” and prototype Fire Planning Units test FPA system
Mid- to late-September, 2008	Release 2.01 - Additional functions for Fire Planning Units
Sept. - December 15, 2008	All Fire Planning Units complete FPA analysis and submit investment alternatives to national offices
December - February 2009	Technical and Programmatic Review period
February - May 2009	National level analysis (Goal Programming) for FY2011 budget planning and development

How will we know FPA Project is successful?

- The FPA system enables FPU's to model investment alternatives' impact on fire behavior using simulation as predictors of cost, effectiveness, and efficiencies beginning in July 2008.
- All FPU's develop and submit the required number of investment alternatives for the FY 2011 national trade-off analysis by mid-February 2009.
- Decision makers at all levels in the five federal partner agencies are able to use the modeled FPA performance measures and their associated cost values to begin to:
 - ✓ Analyze each of the FPU's investment alternatives and
 - ✓ Identify how well each of the FPU investments addresses national goals in developing the FY 2011 budget request.
- State and other non-federal partners participating in the analysis understand how their data are used by the models, and the potential value the “area of interest” analysis functionality will provide to their organizations.
- The national trade-off analysis products generated by FPA provide data useful in preparing the preparedness and hazardous fuels component of the FY 2011 federal fire budget request.
- The national trade-off analysis products that are generated by FPA provide data that are useful in guiding the formulation of the FY 2011 President's budget and allocation of fire program funds within the Departments for the FY 2010 budget year.

For More Information:

Visit the FPA project Web site for more information: www.fpa.nifc.gov

The Desk Guide and the past newsletters are good places to start. Register for the ListServ™ to be notified of project updates.