



**Topic:**

FPA, working with the Missoula Fire Lab and LANDFIRE, tested 30 western FPU's affected by the LANDFIRE Rapid Refresh and found that adjusting fuel models 102 to 101 and 122 to 121, created results (burn probabilities and initial response fires that exceed simulation limits) that are more historically representative.

**Background:**

The LANDFIRE fire behavior fuel layer showed an abundance of 122 (GS2) and 102 (GR2) of the Scott Burgen (the "40s") standard Fire Behavior Fuel Models (FBFM). Generally, when using the LANDFIRE fuel layers in the west, the FPA fire Initial Response Simulator and Large Fire Module simulate fires as if they had higher rates of spread and flame lengths than observed historically.

**Short-term work around:**

To ensure that the fire behavior as modeled in FPA matches more closely with observed historic fire behavior, FPA is using these adjustments (102 to 101 and 122 to 121) for all the FPU's affected by the LANDFIRE Rapid Refresh. For this year, applying these changes across the entire FPU is the most efficient for the FPU's, and provides fire behavior modeling results in FPA at a strategic planning level<sup>1</sup>

- The FBFM adjustments to fuel models 122 and 102 will be applied to the entire FPU's for all FPU's in the Northwest, California, Great Basin, Northern Rockies, and Southwest Geographic Areas.
- For remaining FPU's in the Rocky Mountains, Southern, and Eastern Geographic Areas, a case by case examination will determine if FBFM adjustment would be applied.

The FBFM adjustments may impact large fire fuel prescriptions your FPU submitted. FPA is providing suggested modifications to those FPU's whose prescriptions are affected.

**Looking to the Future:**

FPA recognizes that to FPU planners, the adjustment to the LANDFIRE FBFMs may not match visual perception of fuels on the ground within your FPU, or it may affect how you design your fuel treatment options in FPA.

For this first year, the FBFM adjustment process will be closely monitored and documented with the intent of developing a solution or process that meets individual FPU needs.

**What's Next?**

- FPA is planning to host additional LiveMeetings™ that further explain the FBFM fuel adjustments and the Large Fire Module.
- The Missoula Fire Lab and LANDFIRE are working on documentation of the recommendation to adjust the LANDFIRE Rapid Refresh FBFMs for FPA.

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