

**FPA Executive Oversight Group (EOG)
Meeting Summary
February 28, 2008**

On February 28, 2008 a meeting convened of the Executive Oversight Group (EOG) for the Fire Program Analysis (FPA) in Washington DC. Present were the EOG members, FPA Project Leadership and representative staff, and LANDIFRE DOI Business Lead. The meeting was co-chaired by Nina Hatfield, Department of the Interior and Kent Connaughton, US Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

The principal topics of the discussion that do not appear in the decisions or actions outlined below were:

- FPA system will be implemented in an adaptive manner.
- The first year of implementation will be “learn by doing” with continued feedback to the project from stakeholders to identify improvements to the system.
- It is expected there will not be significant shifts in funding or resources as a result of the first year’s analysis.
- FPU’s will have everything they need to run FPA on June 30, 2008. Further development will occur to deliver tools for the national analysis no later than October 1, 2008.

The following is a high level summary of the decisions and actions from the meeting.

Decision Summary

DECISION: LANDFIRE will be used for FPA analysis.

ISSUE: FPA requires a complete nationally consistent set of fuels model data for the ability to run the analysis and compare model results across 136 FPU’s

DISCUSSION: For national consistency in FPA, LANDFIRE will be the data source for fuels model data. For the first year of implementation, LANDFIRE will be the data source where the data exist. Where there is no LANDFIRE coverage, other sources consistent with LANDFIRE will be used they are:

- Southern Wildland Fire Risk Assessment
- Fuel models created by FPA using NLCD, LANDFIRE Rapid Assessment, PNVG, etc.

DECISION: FPA will use the University of Wisconsin SILVIS Lab’s “2000 Wildland-Urban Interface in the U.S.” data with a 2km (1.2 miles) buffer for the WUI data in June 30, 2008 FPA system release.

ISSUE: FPA requires a complete nationally consistent set of WUI data for the ability to run the analysis and compare model results across 136 FPU’s.

DISCUSSION: The University of Wisconsin SILVIS data provides nationally consistent and standardized WUI data layer and definition. To account for recent WUI expansion, FPA will apply a nationally consistent buffer, 1.2 miles, around the SILVIS defined WUI.

DECISION: EOG will meet monthly with FPA Project Management

ISSUE: Timely and accurate communications are important to keeping the Project within scope within budget and on time; the success of the Project.

DISCUSSION: The EOG has scheduled monthly meetings or telecons with FPA Project management. The objective of frequent meetings is to ensure ongoing dialogue between the EOG members and the Project. This will expedite issue resolution and decisions making. This will also facilitate the flow of communication regarding FPA throughout the partner organizations.

Action Summary

ACTION: Kent and Nina will follow up on their initial contact with National Association of State Foresters (NASF) representative to ensure their representation on the EOG.

ISSUE: Continue national leadership collaboration with non-federal partners.

DISCUSSION: Interagency collaboration provides continuing value and encourages the FPU's to foster and work with federal agencies to expand state, tribal, and local partnerships.

ACTION: FPA will provide the EOG a current project cost summary.

ISSUE: EOG wants an updated cost summary.

DISCUSSION: The FPA EOG wants an update of investments to date, in relation to remaining development, requested enhancements, and O&M costs.

ACTION: EOG will discuss at its March meeting the feasibility of expanding FPA's scope to include acres treated for reasons other than reduction of wildland fire risk.

ISSUE: Using the IST recommendation to measure Performance Measure #3: "Increasing the proportion of land meeting or trending toward the attainment of fire and fuels management objectives" does not enable FPA to include acres treated for reasons other than wildland fire risk.

DISCUSSION: FPA's Interagency Science Team (IST) recommended approach is for the FPU's to establish a fire intensity threshold above which the fire and fuels objectives are not met. The FPA performance measures do not include modeling benefits for other than "...trending toward the attainment of fire and fuels management objectives." Including fuels treatments for other than the attainment of fire and fuels management objectives is beyond the scope of FPA at this time.

ACTION: EOG will discuss at its March meeting the feasibility of FPA calculating Performance Measure #4 "Protecting highly valued resources areas from unwanted fires," in the June 2008 release.

ISSUE: Calculating Performance Measure #4 requires a nationally consistent definition of highly valued resources (HVR) which currently does not exist. A science based methodology to determine effects of fire to the HVR also needs to be developed and accepted. Neither definition nor methodology data exists. There are no data to calculate performance.

DISCUSSION: The WFLC risk monitoring project is completing a proposal for the WFLC that is expected to provide this definition and methodology. FPA has been engaged in discussions with members of the FPA Science Team and others to determine how to calculate this performance measure. The EOG will evaluate the outcome of this risk monitoring project for

applicability to FPA. If applicable it could be incorporated in FPA through future enhancements to the FPA system to evaluate performance measure #4.

ACTION: FPA Business Leads will draft EOG meeting summary and talking points and distribute to EOG.

ISSUE: Timely and accurate communication of EOG discussions and decisions.

DISCUSSION: The EOG requested a summary of the meeting decisions and action items with supporting talking points for timely transmittal of their decisions.

ACTION: Develop FPA Outreach Plan with assistance from Washington Office public affairs staff. Draft framework of the outreach plan will be available for review by the EOG as soon as possible.

ISSUE: Outreach Plan-Need to be vigilant that all FPA Project and EOG communications about FPA to the field are consistent.

DISCUSSION: The EOG requested the FPA management team develop a comprehensive outreach plan for internal and external communication. The EOG and FPA management acknowledge the urgency in implementing the internal aspects of this plan.

ACTION: FPA will provide to the EOG information necessary for them to make out-year, beyond 2009, decisions for system enhancements and associated adjustment to the O&M budget.

ISSUE: The existing O&M does not discuss future enhancements and funding of enhancements.

DISCUSSION: Following EOG discussions and recommendations regarding future enhancements to the current scope of FPA, the FPA management team will develop an O & M Plan that will describe future enhancements, priority of those enhancements, and a cost estimate.

Next Meeting Discussion Topics

1. FPA success criteria
2. Possible enhancements to FPA for inclusion of acres treated for reasons other than reduction of wildland fire risks.
3. Definition and identification process of highly valued resources as they are to be evaluated in Performance Measure #4.

Future EOG discussion topics include:

1. Development of interagency guidance for FPA which will be used by the FPU's to develop investment alternatives.
2. Outreach plan-development and implementation.
3. How FPA results will be used in out-year budget development and in support of agency business processes.