



United States Department of the Interior

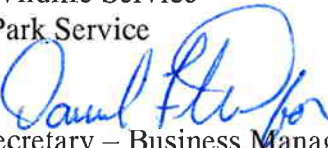
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
Washington, DC 20240



MEMORANDUM

APR 03 2007

To: Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management and Budget
Assistant Secretary – Land and Minerals Management
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Director, Bureau of Land Management
Director, Fish and Wildlife Service
Director, National Park Service

From: Nina Rose Hatfield 
Deputy Assistant Secretary – Business Management and Wildland Fire

Subject: Fire Program Analysis Update

I want to take this opportunity to update you on the status of Fire Program Analysis (FPA); foremost, I want to assure you that the Department of the Interior and our partners remain strongly committed to the interagency planning concept and development of the FPA process.

As you know some challenges have been encountered in the development and implementation of the FPA process. In consideration of these and the importance of the project, we have made several changes to help ensure its success, including realigning oversight to the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC). Under WFLC, project governance, oversight, and expectations have been refined and focused.

- Governance was restructured to include a Senior Executive Service Project Manager and two Business Leads representing the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service, with oversight provided by an Executive Oversight Group (EOG) reporting to WFLC. I co-chair this group with my colleague from the Forest Service, Kent Connaughton. Other Interior representatives include:
 - Donna Scholz – Executive Project Manager
 - Mark Beighley – Director, Office of Wildland Fire Coordination
 - Jack Waide – Co-chair, Interagency Science Team
 - Go to: www.fpa.nifc.gov for a complete listing of representatives
- An interagency management advisory team representing agency administrators at various organizational levels will be assembled to help ensure a strong linkage between the FPA project and the field. The Business Leads will facilitate the organization of the team over the next several months.

- A twelve member Interagency Science Team was assembled to provide scientific support to the Boise-based interagency FPA team; the teams developed five alternatives, last December WFLC endorsed development of Alternative Three.
 - Alternative Three incorporates initial response simulation and large fire probability surrogate models with a decision support system; the design ensures the ability to include a large fire probability simulation model at a future date.
 - Alternative Three's design will incorporate concepts and corporate data to minimize to the extent possible, workload impacts on the Fire Planning Units.

- Outcomes of the system will inform the budget process by providing information specific to five effectiveness, efficiency, and performance elements:
 - Reducing the probability of occurrence of costly fires.
 - Reducing the probability of occurrence of costly fires within the Wildland Urban Interface.
 - Increasing the proportion of land meeting or trending toward the attainment of fire and fuels management objectives.
 - Protecting highly valued resource areas from unwanted fire.
 - Maintaining a high initial attack success rate.

- Delivery expectations were established.
 - June 2007 – A prototype to confirm proof of concept.
 - June 2008 - Deployment of the system for field use.

We currently have seven interagency Fire Planning Unit prototypes actively engaged with the FPA and Science teams to deliver the prototype in June 2007. In April, Fire Planning Units will receive an inquiry relative to the accuracy of their boundaries (e.g. Fire Planning Unit, Fire Management Unit, etc.) and the availability and quality of that geospatial data to help prepare for the FY 2008 delivery. Information in their response will be an important step for us to move forward. The project's web site <http://fpa.nifc.gov> is an excellent tool by which to stay abreast of FPA's progress and future expectations.

If you have any questions, contact Barb Loving, Senior Budget Officer (202-606-3108).

cc: Fire Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
 Fire Director, Bureau of Land Management
 Fire Director, Fish and Wildlife Service
 Fire Director, National Park Service