



# Option and Investment Alternative Development in FPA AL\_022\_WP

## Introduction

Fire Planning Unit (FPU) investments in preparedness and fuels management are the foundation of the Fire Program Analysis (FPA). The FPA system models the performance of these investments to inform the development of the national federal fire program budget out-year request. This paper provides an overview for developing fire management investments at the FPU level.

## Background

FPA models the performance of FPU-developed investment alternatives. An alternative is a combination of a preparedness option and a fuels treatment option. A preparedness option includes the prevention program and initial response organization the FPU chooses to fund for a given investment level. A fuels treatment option is the set of treatments the FPU chooses to perform for a given investment level. Options and alternatives must support the FPU's land and fire management plans.

## Terms

**Options** – Preparedness and fuels options make up an investment alternative. A preparedness option is an initial response organization in combination with a prevention program. A fuels option is a set of fuels treatments in combination with the fuels program resources. Preparedness and fuels options have leadership and support costs and positions, as well as the costs of the "production" personnel and equipment required to staff the option.

**Investment Alternatives** - A combination of preparedness and a fuels option. Alternatives are defined by the FPU partners to accomplish national budget analyses, or to evaluate other FPU fire management organizations to meet local needs.

**National Goal Programming** – An analysis used to determine the way to achieve the best outcome given a list of requirements and multiple, often conflicting, objective measures.

**Interagency Guidance for FPA** – Guidance provided by the national fire program leadership, which includes funding parameters, and is used by the FPUs to develop options.

## Considerations

Developing the investment options may be the most time consuming task in the FPA process for the FPUs. Options need to reflect *all* partners' resources and land and fire management plans. They are collaboratively developed with all FPU partners participating in the discussions. Collaboration is important at each level of partner interaction and it cannot be emphasized enough.



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It is also important that FPU Line Officers are engaged early and throughout the FPA analysis process. Line Officers play a key role in setting the expectations for the development of options, and they must understand the effects of the different options when combined into investment alternatives.

## Discussion - Developing Investment Alternatives from Options

Preparedness options and fuels treatment options are combined by the system into investment alternatives that are modeled in FPA. Interagency guidance for FPA will identify the number of options the FPU should develop, the levels of funding investment options should represent, and the combinations of options (investment alternatives) to submit to the national level to help inform the budget.

For example, if interagency guidance instructed FPUs to develop preparedness and fuels options corresponding to current funding, an increase in funding, and a decrease, and to submit all of the resulting alternatives for national consideration, the nine investment alternatives in the table below would be put into the model.

	Reduced Funding Fuels Option	Current Fuels Option	Increased Funding Fuels Option
Reduce Funding Preparedness Option	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3
Current Preparedness Option	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6
Increased Funding Preparedness Option	Alt 7	Alt 8	Alt 9

Figure 1: Example of Nine Investment Alternatives developed in FPA

## Future Direction

National Fire Program Managers will develop the interagency guidance for FPA annually. This guidance will include funding increments and program guidance specific to preparedness and fuels programs. Current guidance can be found on the FPA home page.