



Fire Program Analysis FY 2009 Interagency Guidance

Introduction

The following provides Fire Planning Units (FPUs) guidance for developing investment options and alternatives for the FY 2009 analysis for the FY 2011 budget development. By design, FPA analyzes both federal and non-federal resources, costs and effectiveness, and supports local and national level fire program analyses.

Decision Support

FPA is a decision support tool that analyzes initial response capability, impacts of large fires, and effectiveness of fuels treatments. The system includes tools to assist local and national managers in evaluating relative benefits derived from investments.

The analysis and related budget information will be increasingly relied on for evaluating budget priorities in coming years; this first year the system is considered a “learning platform”. As we move forward, feedback from Fire Planning Units (FPUs) is expected to identify system improvements. Those suggested improvements, combined with future enhanced data, will lead to improved accuracy in the modeled outputs. Because of this adaptive approach, the information generated in the FY 2009 analysis suggesting changes will be evaluated carefully before adjusting bureau/agency or unit programs or budgets.

Important Due Dates for 2009

FPUs are divided into three Waves and must submit a completed analysis, reviewed by the FPU’s line officers, by the assigned due date - April 1, 2009 for Waves 1 and 2 and May 1, 2009 for Wave 3.

Line Officer Role

It is important that Line Officers engage early and often in the analysis process. They have a key role in setting expectations for the development of investment options and must understand the effects of these options when combined into alternatives. More information about the line officer role can be found at.

http://www.fpa.nifc.gov/Information/Papers/Docs/Brief_Series_4_line_roles_final_Jan_2009.pdf

Strategic Guidance

- Collaborate with partners to collect fire resource and fuels treatment data, develop dispatch logic and investment options, and review the completed analysis.
 - Non-federal resources that are common responders to fires on federal lands should be included in the analysis. This includes both state and local resources.
 - Collaboratively develop investment options for preparedness and fuels that support land and fire management plans and the funding levels specified in this guidance.
 - Determine how to apply increases and decreases in funding levels between partners while maintaining the specified preparedness and hazardous fuels program levels.



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- Submit 12 investment alternatives (combinations of 3 preparedness and 4 hazardous fuel investment options) for the national analysis. Reference the section *Developing Investment Options and Alternatives* below.
- FPU's may develop an *optional* preparedness investment option based on "current" funding with a different initial response organization from the "current" organization. If this option is developed, there will be a total of 16 investment alternatives submitted.
- Submit a strategic long term fuels option. Reference the section *Developing Investment Options and Alternatives* below.

Technical Guidance

Specific technical direction for developing and submitting analysis can be found in the user guides and white papers on the FPA web site.

http://www.fpa.nifc.gov/Implementation/Index_fpuguidance.html

Developing Investment Options and Alternatives

Collaborating and developing investment options may be the most time consuming and challenging task in FPA. Collaboration is important at each level of the process and cannot be emphasized enough. Investment options need to reflect partners' and participants' land and fire management plans.

FPU's are to develop, analyze, and submit for national analysis preparedness and fuels investment options corresponding to base funding¹, a 20 percent increase in funding, a 20 percent decrease in funding, and an additional fuels investment option at a 60 percent increase in funding. An optional preparedness investment option using current funding with a different initial response organization may also be developed and submitted for national analysis at the FPU's discretion.

FPU's are to create a strategic long term fuels option that represents the desired landscape after 20 years of fuel treatments at the current level of funding. This will enable incorporation of the future benefits of treatments as performance metrics are calculated.

Table 1 portrays how investment options are combined to create investment alternatives for the national analysis.

¹ Provided to the FPU's by agency and bureau budget staff in a separate document.



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Table 1: Investment Options and Alternatives

Level	-20% Fuels Investment Option	Current Fuels Investment Option	+20% Fuels Investment Option	+60% Fuels Investment Option
-20% Preparedness Investment Option	Investment Alternative 1	Investment Alternative 2	Investment Alternative 3	Investment Alternative 4
Current Preparedness Investment Option	Investment Alternative 5	Investment Alternative 6	Investment Alternative 7	Investment Alternative 8
<i>Optional Current Preparedness Investment Option (with different initial response organization at same funding as above)</i>	<i>Investment Alternative 13 (optional submission)</i>	<i>Investment Alternative 14 (optional submission)</i>	<i>Investment Alternative 15 (optional submission)</i>	<i>Investment Alternative 16 (optional submission)</i>
+20% Preparedness Investment Option	Investment Alternative 9	Investment Alternative 10	Investment Alternative 11	Investment Alternative 12

Investment alternatives are created by combining fuels and preparedness investment options.

Tips and Considerations

- Data quality and adherence to guidance is important for national analysis consistency.
- Increases and decreases in fire production resources in response to changes in investment levels show more favorable outcomes than increases and decreases in fire leadership or program support. Consider appropriate span-of-control ratios between leadership and resources.
- Similarly, altering fire resource coverage from 7 days to 5 days, or the reverse, has not shown significant differences in effectiveness between investment levels, while increasing and decreasing the number of resources does.
- National Goal Programming compares the ratio of the change in performance to the change in cost for every alternative within an FPU and then across all FPUs nationwide.

Assistance

The FPA Help Desk is staffed to support FPU’s throughout the analysis process. Telephone and email contact information for the help desk can be found at: <http://fpa.nwcg.gov/>.



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Terminology

Interagency Guidance - Guidance which identifies specific funding parameters and strategic guidance to the FPU's to develop investments options and alternatives for the national analysis.

Current - Preparedness and hazardous fuels funding and organizations are based on the "current" program, which for the FY 2009 analysis, is the FY 2007 funding and resource staffing levels for preparedness and fuels.

Investment Options - A preparedness investment option is an initial response organization in combination with a prevention program. A fuels investment option is a set of fuels treatments in combination with fuels program management. Preparedness and fuels investment options have leadership positions and support costs, as well as the costs of the "production" personnel and equipment.

Investment Alternatives - A combination of a preparedness investment option and a fuels investment option. The national goal program uses the investment alternatives to analyze and display trade-offs between investment levels and program components. FPU's use investment alternatives to analyze different fire management strategies to meet local objectives and national strategic goals.

National Goal Programming Analysis - Displays trade-offs between investment levels and program components at the FPU and national levels. It will be used to assist managers in identifying effective interagency investment alternatives at various funding levels while considering multiple fire and fuels program objectives and trade-offs.