

## WFSA Element Descriptions

### Current Situation

This portion of the analysis provides basic information describing the fire situation at the time the analysis was conducted. It is important to clearly describe the situation that occurred at the time the decision was made.

Elements to be addressed are:

- **Fire name and number**
- **Date of analysis**

This is the date on which the current analysis was made. Enter the month, day, and year.
- **Time**

Enter the time of day the analysis was completed. Enter the 24-hour clock time.
- **Location**

Use local terminology for point of origin. Include a legal description and latitude and longitude.
- **Fire weather and behavior**
  - **Current** - Briefly discuss the fire weather in terms of temperature, wind, and daily patterns. Describe the fire in non-technical terms, such as creeping, spotting crowning, etc. Discuss the flame lengths, rates of spread, size, etc.
  - **Predicted** - Describe the predicted weather patterns, and fire behavior predictions based on weather, fuels, topography, and the potential size.
- **Resource availability**

Briefly discuss the availability of suppression resources to control the fire and fire activity at the local and geographic level.
- **Management objectives and constraints**

The management objectives and constraints should be summarized to assist in the decision process.
- **Social or external considerations**

Discuss any issues that would contribute to making good suppression decisions.
- **Evaluation Criteria**

Document the criteria used to evaluate suppression alternatives: Safety (firefighter/public); land and resource management objectives; environmental considerations; social, political, economic considerations; resources availability; local, geographic, and national fire activities; and reinforcement capabilities.
- **Alternatives**

Produce WFSA alternatives that display a full range of appropriate management response options. All alternatives must be developed with strong emphasis on cost accountability based on the values to be protected, with due consideration given to a minimum cost alternative.

- **Strategy**  
Briefly state the alternative strategies for management of the incident. Use geographic names, locations, etc. Roughly designate each strategy on a map.
- **Management Forces Required**  
Make general estimates with enough detail to help in estimation of costs, determine if resources are available, etc.
- **Estimate Date of Control**  
Estimates for each alternative should be made based on predicted weather and behavior factors, barriers, fuels etc., and the effects of suppression efforts.
- **Estimated Size at Containment**  
Estimates for acreage burned under each alternative should be recorded and displayed on a map.
- **Estimated Cost**  
Estimate total cost of suppression alternative. Include suppression costs and rehabilitation needs. The WFSA will include the least suppression cost option. This option will serve as a way to describe the values to protect and the context surrounding a suppression decision. If the least-cost alternative is not chosen the WFSA will include a written rationale for not choosing it. Agency administrators are responsible for financial oversight. This responsibility cannot be delegated.
- **Estimated Probability of Success**  
Based on estimates from 0-100 for each alternative.
- **Analysis of Effects**  
Apply the above evaluation criteria to the alternatives. The results of the analysis will be the basis for selecting the appropriate alternative. The analysis of effects is based on the best estimates on the unit, resource, and fire management. The situation will determine the level of detail required. You may display the effects in dollars, or as positive or negatives, as demonstrated on the example forms. The important thing is to document your decision. Ensure that estimates of potential fire consequences are consistent with resource objectives, values, fire effects, and policy.
- **Record of Decision**  
Agency administrators select an alternative that best implements the objectives and constraints for the management of the area. Agency administrators select the level of management required to successfully implement the selected alternative (Type 1, Type 2, or Type 3 Incident Management Team). Briefly provide rationale for decisions. The WFSA shall become a permanent part of the final fire record. Agency Administrators are responsible for financial oversight. This responsibility cannot be delegated. See the Table following this section for approval thresholds.

- Monitoring/Evaluation/Update**  
 The WFSA must be reviewed prior to each operational period to determine if the alternative is still valid. The responsible Agency Administrator must sign the WFSA to document the review.

DOI-Signature authorities for WFSA are as follows:

	<b>BIA</b>	<b>BLM</b>	<b>FWS</b>	<b>NPS</b>	<b>FS</b>
Local Approval Level	\$2,000,000 Agency Supervisor	\$2,000,000 Field/District Manager	\$2,000,000 Refuge Manager	\$2,000,000 Park Superintendent	\$2,000,000 District Ranger \$2,000,000-10,000,000 Forest Supervisor
Regional/State Certification Level	\$2,000,000 - \$5,000,000 Regional Director	\$2,000,000 - \$5,000,000 State Director	\$2,000,000 - \$5,000,000 Regional Director	\$2,000,000 - \$5,000,000 Regional Director	\$10,000,000- \$50,000,000 Regional Forester
National Certification Level	>\$5,000,000 Director	>\$5,000,000 Director	>\$5,000,000 Director	>\$5,000,000 Director	>\$50,000,000 Chief