

Department of Interior and Agriculture’s Action Plan to Address the GAO report “Geospatial Information: Technologies Hold Promise for Wildland Fire Management, but Challenges Remain”

GAO Recommendation 1: Endorsement by the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior for the development of an interagency geospatial strategy for effectively using geospatial information technologies in all phases of wildland fire management. The Secretaries will ensure senior-level oversight by directing the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) to oversee the National Wildfire Coordinating Group’s efforts:

GAO Recommends		Concurrence With GAO	Strategies and Action Steps	Time Frame	Official Responsible for Action
1a.	Address challenges to effectively use geospatial technologies, including issues associated with data, systems, infrastructure, staffing, and the use of new products.	Concur	Address GAO recommendations and the Departments’ Action Plan at the winter 2004 Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) meeting.	Winter 2004	WFLC Chair
			Charter an interagency geospatial wildland fire technical advisory group (IGWFTAG). This organization will assess geospatial technologies in all phases of wildland fire management.	June 2004	NWCG Chair
			Charter a National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) project for the creation of an interagency wildland fire geospatial strategic plan to incorporate all phases of wildland fire management.	June 2004	NWCG Chair

GAO Recommends		Concurrence With GAO	Strategies and Action Steps	Time Frame	Official Responsible for Action
			Provide oversight to ensure that research and development programs used in the wildland fire program, including the Joint Fire Science Program, are in alignment with the interagency wildland fire geospatial strategic plan.	Ongoing	IGWFTAG Chair
			Establish and/or designate a National Wildland Fire Geospatial Coordinator for each fire agency and the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The coordinators are members of the IGWFTAG and will coordinate their agencies' programs regarding geospatial technologies in alignment with the goals of the interagency wildland fire geospatial strategic plan.	June 2004	Agency Directors

GAO Recommends		Concurrence With GAO	Strategies and Action Steps	Time Frame	Official Responsible for Action
1b.	Establish deliverables and milestones for completing key initiatives.	Concur	Develop an interagency wildland fire geospatial strategic plan. The interagency wildland fire geospatial strategic plan will include goals that address the key initiatives. This plan will be a component of the NWCG interagency Information Resource Management (IRM) strategic plan. The interagency wildland fire geospatial strategic plan will align with the interagency wildland fire enterprise architecture.	January 2005	NWCG Chair
			Charter projects to meet objectives of the interagency wildland fire geospatial strategic plan.	Ongoing	NWCG Chair
			Provide funding for key projects identified in the interagency wildland fire geospatial strategic plan.	Ongoing	Agency Directors
1c.	The geospatial interagency strategy will be incorporated in interagency efforts to improve IT management, including the interagency IRM strategy and the interagency enterprise architecture effort.	Concur	Ensure that the interagency wildland fire geospatial strategic plan, the interagency wildland fire IRM strategic plan, and the interagency wildland fire enterprise architecture are incorporated into agency IRM including enterprise architecture.	Ongoing	Department / Agency Chief Information Officers (CIOs)

GAO Recommendation 2: Endorsement by the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior for the development of an interagency IRM strategy and enterprise architecture for wildland fire management. The Secretaries will ensure senior-level oversight by directing the Wildland Fire Leadership Council to oversee the National Wildfire Coordinating Group’s efforts:

GAO Recommends		Concurrence with GAO	Strategies and Action Steps	Time Frame	Official Responsible for Action
2a.	Establish detailed plans and schedules for implementing the interagency IRM strategy for wildland fire management.	Concur	Develop an interagency IRM strategic plan for wildland fire management that will incorporate geospatial technologies. The interagency wildland fire IRM strategic plan will align with the interagency wildland fire enterprise architecture.	September 2004	NWCG Chair
			Charter projects to address goals identified in the interagency IRM strategic plan. Project milestones and deliverables will be developed.	March 2005	NWCG Chair
			Provide funding for key projects identified in the interagency IRM strategic plan.	June 2005	Agency Directors

GAO Recommends		Concurrence with GAO	Strategies and Action Steps	Time Frame	Official Responsible for Action
2b.	Establish a detailed plan for developing the interagency enterprise architecture for wildland fire management, and ensure that it includes clear interim steps and implementation milestones.	Concur	Charter an interagency wildland fire enterprise architecture steering group (IWFEASG) that consists of enterprise architecture (EA) representatives from the wildland fire agencies, Departments, and NWCG's IRM Program Management Office (IRM-PMO). This steering group will provide oversight and guidance of the interagency wildland fire enterprise architecture (IWFEA) management process.	March 2004	NWCG Chair
			Complete and review National Wildland Fire Enterprise Architecture Strategic Plan (Draft September 2003).	June 2004	IWFEASG Chair
			Develop an interagency wildland fire enterprise architecture management project plan. The plan will include the tasks necessary to develop, design, and implement the interagency wildland fire enterprise architecture incorporating the goals and objectives of the interagency IRM and geospatial strategic plans with milestones to be completed on time. The IWFEA will be business-focused, with components that identify how geospatial technologies are used to support the business of wildland fire.	June 2004	IWFEASG Chair

GAO Recommends		Concurrence with GAO	Strategies and Action Steps	Time Frame	Official Responsible for Action
			Identify the roles, responsibilities, and relationships between the IWFEA and the various wildland fire and IRM organizations including the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC), National Fire Plan (NFP), NWCG, Agency Fire Programs, and the Departmental and Agency CIOs.	June 2004	IWFEASG Chair
			Provide funding for key projects identified in the IWFEA.	Oct 2004	Agency Directors
2c	Ensure that the interagency geospatial strategic plan and the interagency IRM strategy are integrated with the enterprise architecture for wildland fire management.	Concur	Incorporate the interagency geospatial strategic plan into the interagency IRM strategic plan. This integration of the strategic goals and objectives will be reviewed by IWFEASG to ensure alignment with the IWFEA.	January 2005	IWFEASG Chair
2d.	Establish a link between the architecture and the investment control processes at the land management agencies.	Concur	Ensure that interagency wildland fire IRM projects are reviewed by IWFEASG in conjunction with the Departments' and agencies' capital planning and investment control (CPIC) process.	March 2004	IWFEASG Chair and Department/Agency CIOs

GAO Recommends		Concurrence with GAO	Strategies and Action Steps	Time Frame	Official Responsible for Action
2e.	Ensure that the architecture incorporates E-Government Act requirements and national standards for geospatial data.	Concur	Ensure that the IWFEA incorporates E-Government Act requirements and Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) standards for geospatial data.	Ongoing	Agency CIO's