

Chapter 08 Fire Management Planning

A. Policy

1. The *Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy* and the *10-Year Comprehensive Strategy* require that *all areas of burnable vegetation must have a Fire Management Plan (FMP)*.
2. FMPs must identify and integrate all wildland fire management and related activities within the context of approved land management plans.
3. Wildland fire management goals and components must be coordinated across administrative boundaries on a landscape basis.
4. Bureau or agency fire management decisions must be consistent or compatible across administrative lines.
5. All agencies must comply with current fire management planning policy by September 30, 2004.
6. For further agency specific direction enhancing this template, see your agency-specific guidance.

B. Interagency Fire Management Plan Template

1. An Interagency Fire Management Plan Template (IFPT) was issued and approved by the respective Agency Directors on July 11, 2002. Specific Template elements include:
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Relationship to Land Management Planning/Fire Policy
 - c. Wildland Fire Management Strategies
 - d. General Management Considerations
 - e. Wildland Fire Management Goals
 - f. Wildland Fire Management Options
 - g. Description of Wildland Fire Management Strategies By Fire Management Unit (FMU)
 - h. Wildland Fire Management Program Components
 - i. Wildland Fire Suppression
 - j. Wildland Fire Use
 - k. Prescribed Fire
 - l. Non-Fire Fuel Applications
 - m. Emergency Rehabilitation and Restoration
 - n. Organization and Budget
 - o. Monitoring and Evaluation

- p. Glossary
- q. Appendix

C. Fire Program Analysis (FPA)

Fire Program Analysis is a performance-based, landscape scale interagency fire program planning and budgeting system. The system is comprised of two sets of integrated modules: 1) a preparedness module focused on the planning and budgeting of the initial response to unplanned ignitions and program management; this module also includes use of wildland fire; 2) a set of modules including extended response, large fires, fuels management, prevention program and emergency stabilization and rehabilitation.

1. The key attributes of FPA are that it:
 - a. Is driven by land management objectives.
 - b. Will use the cost effectiveness of meeting fire management objectives as the decision criteria.
 - c. Will display the most cost-effective organization for any budget allocation.
 - d. Displays tradeoffs between meeting objectives and performance measures for any given budget.
 - e. Provides a common interagency approach to budgeting and planning.
 - f. Facilitates reporting requirements.
 - g. Allows for non-federal partners to participate in order to promote an integrated approach to managing wildland fire.

2. FPA Polygons

FPA will utilize two polygons Fire Planning Units (FPUs) and Fire Management Units (FMUs).

- a. **Fire Planning Units (FPUs)**

The FPU is defined in order to describe a geographic analysis area. It is not predefined by agency administrative boundaries and may be described spatially. It can include a single or multiple Land Use Plan (LUP) area(s). It can cross jurisdictional boundaries (including adjacent agency office lands, and/or other partner lands), and consists of one or more FMUs.
- b. **Fire Management Units (FMUs)**

An FMU is a land management area defined by objectives, management constraints, topographic features, access, values to be protected, fuel types, and major fire regime groups that set it apart from the management characteristics of an adjacent area. The FMUs may have dominant management objectives and pre-selected strategies assigned to accomplish these objectives. The development of FMUs should avoid redundancy. Each FMU

should be unique as evidenced by management strategies, objectives, and attributes.

3. Performance-based Interagency Fire Program Analysis

Fire Program Analysis is a performance-based interagency fire program planning and budgeting system. The system is comprised of two sets of integrated modules: 1) a preparedness module focused on the planning and budgeting of the initial response to unplanned ignitions and program management, and 2) a set of modules including extended response, large fires, fuels management and the prevention program.

a. Preparedness Module (Phase I)

The preparedness module is used to optimize the planning for initial response firefighting resources. The initial response system uses advanced optimization techniques to maximize performance at any viable budget level. This aids the fire planner by guiding the selection of firefighting and management resources and by showing which options can provide the greatest planned performance. This aids the budgeting process by showing how increases in appropriation increase planned performance. The preparedness module integrates initial attack of unwanted fires with initial management of beneficial fires by taking advantage of shared costs in the two programs. Additional efficiencies are enhanced through the landscape scale of the analysis and more effective use of interagency fire resources (federal, state, and local).

b. Phase II

Phase Two of the FPA analysis will apply performance based planning to several modules, such as the extended response, fuels management and prevention programs. The essence of this analysis is to provide managers with a programmatic approach toward establishing cost effective programs in each module. By providing performance-based planning in ways that are consistent with Phase I, the Phase II modules can be integrated into an overall system in ways that build on preparedness in Phase I. Overall system integration of all modules will guide managers in attaining the best mix of activities and fire management resources that will enable cost reductions over time.