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Chapter 08

Fire Management Planning

Policy

Every area with burnable vegetation must have an approved Fire Management Plan (FMP). Fire Management Plans are strategic plans that define a program to manage wildland and prescribed fires based on the area's approved Resource Management Plan. Fire management plans must provide for firefighter and public safety; include fire management strategies, tactics, and alternatives; address values to be protected and public health issues; be consistent with resource management objectives, activities of the area, and environmental laws and regulations.

Fire Management Plans must identify and integrate all wildland fire management and related activities within the context of approved Resource Management Plans.

Wildland fire management goals and components must be coordinated across administrative boundaries on a landscape basis.

Bureau or agency fire management decisions must be consistent or compatible across administrative lines.

Interagency Fire Management Plan Template

An Interagency Fire Management Plan Template (IFPT) was issued and approved by the respective Agency Directors on July 11, 2002. Specific Template elements include:

- Introduction
- Relationship to Land Management Planning/Fire Policy
- Wildland Fire Management Strategies
 - A. General Management Considerations
 - B. Wildland Fire Management Goals
 - C. Wildland Fire Management Options
 - D. Description of Wildland Fire Management Strategies by Fire Management Unit (FMU)
- Wildland Fire Management Program Components
 - A. Wildland Fire Suppression
 - B. Wildland Fire Use
 - C. Prescribed Fire
 - D. Non-Fire Fuel Applications
 - E. Emergency Rehabilitation and Restoration
- Organization and Budget
- Monitoring and Evaluation

Glossary

Appendix

1 **Operational Importance of Fire Management Units**

2 Fire management units and strategies within fire management plans are the
3 cornerstones for planning the management of the wildland fire program. This
4 section must tie directly to the decisions made in the land and resource
5 management planning process by management area, aggregated into FMUs.
6 This section identifies objectives, standards, guidelines and/or future desired
7 conditions within the FMU and the wildland fire management strategies that will
8 be used to accomplish them.

9
10 **Organization and Budget Formulation: Fire Program Analysis (FPA)**
11 **(<http://fpa.nifc.gov>)**

12 Fire Program Analysis is a performance-based, landscape scale interagency fire
13 program planning and budgeting system. The system is comprised of two sets
14 of integrated modules:

- 15 • A preparedness module focused on the planning and budgeting of the
16 initial response to unplanned ignitions and program management; this
17 module also includes use of wildland fire.
- 18 • A set of modules including extended response, large fires, fuels
19 management, prevention program and emergency stabilization and
20 rehabilitation.

21
22 The key attributes of FPA are that it:

- 23 • Is driven by land management objectives.
- 24 • Will use the cost effectiveness of meeting fire management objectives as
25 the decision criteria.
- 26 • Will display the most cost-effective organization for any budget allocation.
- 27 • Displays tradeoffs between meeting objectives and performance measures
28 for any given budget.
- 29 • Provides a common interagency approach to budgeting and planning.
- 30 • Facilitates reporting requirements.
- 31 • Allows for non-federal partners to participate in order to promote an
32 integrated approach to managing wildland fire.