



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Washington, D.C. 20240

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

Y14 (9560)

September 8, 2009

Memorandum

To: Regional Directors
Attn: Regional Fire Management Officers

From: **for Acting Director /s/ Ernest Quintana**

Subject: Fire FY2010 Fire Program Analysis Implementation

FY2010 FPA Analysis due March 15, 2010

As we transition into the second year of Fire Program Analysis (FPA) implementation, it is timely for field units to begin their preliminary work. The completed FY2010 analysis will be due March 15, 2010, and will be used to support the development of the FY2012 budget request. This date is necessary to allow adequate time for the analysis results to be summarized and for leadership and program managers to interact.

In FY2009, with your support, we implemented the FPA system as a learning tool. That effort identified system adjustments and data improvements that were needed prior to the FY2010 analysis. Adjustments are ongoing with the support of project and field personnel and scientists. Attached for your reference is a summary of planned changes and improvements as of July, 2009.

The FPA Interagency Executive Oversight Group (EOG) has been reviewing the initial analysis' process and system outputs from the 139 Fire Planning Units. Their conclusions are summarized in seven key findings:

- Fundamentals are sound, while recognizing some data and model issues need to be corrected or improved, but the system and underlying science show good potential.
- The EOG remain committed to utilizing and enhancing the system which provides a common interagency process for analyzing programs and budgets.
- There is a commitment to making improvements, including enhanced reports, data quality and consistency, and model performance via science reviews and field interaction.
- FPA is the foundation for a stronger interagency science-based program for national scale strategic analysis with linkages to other planning processes and data.
- The FY2009 analysis will be used to develop a strategic working model of an interagency budget process at the national level, but not to allocate programs or funds.
- The FY2010 analysis will be used to support the FY2012 budget process based on improved model performance and data and a broader understanding of the system.
- We will develop and communicate a clear path forward that emphasizes learning, incorporates key lessons learned, considers field workload, and manages change.

Use of the FPA system to support the development of the FY2012 wildland fire management program, and its associated budget, is a priority for the National Park Service, other Department of the Interior (DOI) fire program agencies, and the U.S. Forest Service. To ensure our success, it is crucial that line officers be engaged, providing leadership and support to ensure quality interagency Fire Planning Unit analyses. One of the strengths of the FPA system is interagency planning and analysis at the field unit level. This is also one of the challenges as collaboration takes commitment and time. Other DOI agencies and the Forest Service are releasing similar memos to their field units.

In the coming weeks, the FPA project will provide FY2010 analysis parameters to the Fire Planning Unit representatives. These will include a specific set of preparedness and hazardous fuels options based on incremental budget changes which will be paired into alternatives. We are closely following the FY2009 analysis and limiting the number of options in order to manage the workload on the field, and provide a two-year succession of results to begin to establish patterns and trends in the analysis results.

We anticipate some challenges, however, and each year, we should anticipate increasingly more reliable information from the analysis and its use in our decision-making processes. Your continued feedback will be important to help us improve the system and its future application. Questions should be directed to Jeff Scott, Fire Program Planning Manager, (208) 387-5210.

Attachment

cc: Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection
Chief, Fire and Aviation Management Division
Kirk Rowdabaugh, DOI Co-Chair, FPA Executive Oversight Group
John Phipps, FS Co-Chair, FPA Executive Oversight Group