



Fire Program Analysis

March 2009

Line Officer Briefing Materials are Available On-line

In response to requests for assistance from the Fire Planning Units, a webinar, example reports, and background information, has been posted to the web for your use. Understanding that everyone has different styles the information compiled are examples that you can modify to reflect your local conditions. Visit: http://www.fpa.nifc.gov/Training/Line_Officer/

Current Topics:

- Line Officer Briefing Materials
- FWA Change Tool
- FPU's Update
- Technical Review Update
- FPA Web Updates
- The Large Fire Module
- What's Next?
- LANDFIRE Update

Fire Program Analysis

Fire Program Analysis (FPA) system is a common interagency decision support tool for wildland fire planning and budgeting.

This tool will enable wildland fire managers in the five federal land management agencies to plan jointly.

The FPA System:

- is designed to encourage tribal, state, and local agency participation.
- incorporates geospatial data which provide the means to map effects of wildland fire on lands across the country.
- generates outcomes from fire planning units

■ Fire Workload Area Quality Assurance (QA)/Quality Control (QC) Tool is coming!

Every Fire Planning Unit is made up of one or more Fire Workload Areas (FWAs). Those FWA boundaries must extend to the FPU boundary.

The FPA team is developing a tool to simplify the process to help the Fire Planner identify where FWAs don't match up with the external boundary of the FPU. Expected date of availability is April 15, 2009.

■ **April 1, 2009 is the Deadline for Wave 1 and 2 Fire Planning Units (FPUs)** to complete their analyses. Wave 3 FPUs should be working on their investment alternatives. Wave 3's analyses deadline is May 1, 2009.

Investment alternatives include Fuels and Preparedness Options. The Fuels options should include fuels treatment and organization. There should also be a strategic long term Fuels Option. The Preparedness Options should include initial response and prevention components.

■ **Technical Review Update:** A number of FPU planners have been rotating into the FPA office to help the Implementation Coordination Group conduct the technical review on completed validation runs. Their assistance has been invaluable! Thank you! (Julie Campbell, James Newman, Michael Boomer, and Richard Sterry)

Anne Birkholz is working with the Implementation Coordination Group as the National Park Service representative through FPA's deployment.

■ FPA Web Updates

Additional webinars have been posted to the FPA website at: <http://www.fpa.nifc.gov/Training/Webinars/index.html>. The webinars are recorded livemeetings for which content has not been edited. The files are large so they may take time to download. Topics include:

- Fire Workload Area and Fire Management Units

that provide information to the national budget planning process.

- will provide a way for land managers to compare trade-offs between wildland fire program components.
- is a tool to ensure wildland fire management actions help meet performance measures outlined in the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy.



For more information visit <http://fpa.nifc.gov> or call Venetia Gempler 208-947-3786

FPA System Reference

Links:FPA system helpdesk at fire_help@fs.fed.us or at: 1-800-253-5559.

FPA "[Quick Start](#)" instruction guide. The Quick Start instruction guide walks FPU through the initial FPA process with reference and instructional links.

Review the [FPA White Papers](#). These papers will describe how the model uses different resources, fuel treatments, or data.

FPA [User Guide](#) is available on the FPA web site. It walks the user through the system step by step.

- Data Input and Dispatch Logic
- Completing Validation Runs
- Calculating Diurnal Coefficients
- Building Preparedness Options
- Building Fuels Options - **New**
- Strategic Long Term Fuels - **New**
- Submit Final Budget to National - **New**
- Preparing for Line Officer Briefings - **New**

■ **A View of the Large Fire Module**

FPA uses fire behavior modeling to help Budget Planners gain insights into investment tradeoffs, at a national level. These investments include varying funding levels in different Fire Planning Units (FPUs) for preparedness and hazardous fuel activities.

Fire behavior modeling occurs within the FPA Initial Response Simulator (IRS) and Large Fire Module (LFM). IRS models the effectiveness of FPU fire resources, LFM does not.

The LFM does not model line-producing resources or other FPU personnel, but it does calculate the statistical outputs that are used to derive FPA performance measures. The LFM statistically calculates large fire occurrence, burn intensity, and expected suppression costs for each 270 m pixel (18 acres) in the FPU, based on the number of fires that exceed simulation limits in the IRS module. The Large Fire Module outcomes include:

- Burn probability & flame length
- Expected annual acres burned
- Expected suppression costs derived from Stratified Cost Index (Krista Gebert, 2007)

More detailed descriptions of the outcomes of the Large Fire Module can be found at:

<http://www.fpa.nifc.gov/Training/Webinars/index.html>

■ **What's Next: FPA's Short-term Time Line**

- April 1, 2009 - Wave 1 & 2 analyses due
- April 15, 2009 - FWA change tool available
- May 1, 2009 - FPU boundary changes due
- May 1, 2009 - Wave 3 analyses due

■ **LANDFIRE Fire Behavior Fuel Model (FBFM) Calibration Workshops Scheduled.**

For dates and locations visit:

http://www.landfire.gov/participate_fuel_calibration.php. The goal of these workshops is to evaluate the LANDFIRE FBFM layers that are created from the crosswalk developed in the FBFM assignment workshops; when gross errors in the fuel data are detected, the layers are modified or adjusted to reflect local conditions.