Fire Modeling Meeting Notes
July 18, 2011

Attendees:

Tom St. Clair – BLM/AFS	Brian Sorbel – NPS	Willie Branson – BLM/AFS
Jan Passek – FWS	Lisa Saperstein – FWS	Robert Schmoll – DOF
Judy Reese – DOF	Kristi Bulock – FWS	Marsha Henderson – DOF
Jennifer Barnes – NPS	Kato Howard – BLM/AFS	Chris Moore – BLM/AFS
Larry Weddle – NPS	Rick Stratton – USFS Region 6	Marlene Eno-Hendren – BLM/AFS
James Higgins – BLM/AFS	Peter Butteri – FWS	Eric Miller – BLM/AFS

Purpose of the meeting:
Establish whether interest exists among the agencies to use the current fire modeling tools. If there is interagency interest, how do we develop a fire modeling community that provides accurate products.

Feedback from the Jurisdictional Agency representatives (NPS and FWS) was a strong interest on the part of the managers for these types of probability tools. However, several issues exist:
1. There is a high level of distrust in the accuracy of the products.
2. These products are not timely enough. The analysis takes several days to run, calibrate, and deliver, this may be too late to be of any assistance in making a strategic decision on a particular fire.
3. When fires are occurring, it is difficult for the FMO's (both Jurisdictional and Protecting) to take time away from fire activities to run fire models.
4. There are few experienced users and new users have little input on how to start.
5. It is unclear how you request an analysis and also unclear how you get "ordered" to conduct an analysis.

Recommendations of the group:
1. Pair analysts with operations personnel familiar with the fire, fuels, weather, and the product results.
2. Identify who is interested in doing analyses, who can serve as mentors, and who in operations is willing to work with analysts. Develop a way to communicate who needs analysis completed and who is available to complete it.
3. Develop workshops and/or webinars to share information and learn techniques for better analyses.
4. Investigate the usefulness of FSPro in long-term planning (i.e. evaluation of fire management options).
5. S-491 is a prerequisite for S-495. With shrinking training budgets it may be beneficial to attempt to host a S-491 class in Alaska this year.

The following group has indicated interest in fire modeling and information will be shared through this group.

James Higgins	Judy Reese
Tom St. Clair	Kristi Bulock
Peter Butteri	Rick Stratton
Chris Moore	Marsha Henderson
Brian Sorbel	Jan Passek
Jennifer Barnes	Lisa Saperstein
Kato Howard	Eric Miller