Predictive Service's Vision for the future is:

Wildland fire management emphasizes safety, cost containment, efficiency, and ecosystem health through the proactive use of Predictive Services decision support products.

Predictive Services' Mission

The Predictive Services Program supports the wildland fire community and others with information and decision support products.

Predictive Services' Goals

Goal 1: Operations and Support

Products and services are reliable, adaptable, timely, and remain relevant to support varied user needs.

Guiding Principles

Safety - We promote the protection of the health and safety of employees and the lives, property, and natural resources of all people in the United States.

Cooperation - We define our business practices by listening to our cooperators. We address our needs and the needs of others through collaboration.

Adaptive Leadership - We value initiative and flexibility in leadership throughout all levels of our organization. We target our efforts toward the work that matters most.

Innovation - We respond to changing needs locally and nationally. We share information with each other and with our cooperators. We seek out, introduce, and evaluate new practices; both our successes and failures contribute to our professional expertise.

Empowerment - We support empowering individuals to achieve program goals.

Integrity - We promote informed and credible decisions. We champion and strive to improve quality data, appropriate analysis, and well supported decision making.

Efficiency - We strive to use science-based and appropriate methods to accomplish our goals. We support validation of our products and the use of standard practices to streamline operations.

Pride in Service - We take pride in our mission, our program, and the unique skills of each individual.

Goal 2: Research and Development

Integration of proven technology and applied science is the foundation of Predictive Services operational products.

Goal 3: Outreach and Training

Customers are aware of and successfully use Predictive Services products and services.

GOAL 1 – Operations and Support

Products and services are reliable, adaptable, timely, and remain relevant to support varied user needs.

Critical Success Factors

1. Broad unit participation
2. Products must be accessible to everyone
3. Have the skills needed within predictive services to fulfill the mission

Strategies

1. Establish and maintain a verification system for the 7-day and monthly/seasonal forecasts and forecast elements.
2. Develop a continuity of operations plan for all operational national PS products and services
3. Develop a process to incorporate user needs and requirements into PS products and services
4. Develop performance standards for operational national PS products
5. Establish and implement a tracking system to monitor performance standards of operational national PS products
6. Participate in FWSC and FRSC efforts to improve data quality
7. Establish an SOP for addressing inconsistent agency policies and standards
8. Develop and implement a plan to enhance skills within predictive services to accomplish the PS mission.

Objectives

1. Have a process in place to verify all PS forecast products
2. Have an operational implementation process in place
3. Have a change management process in place
4. Have methods and standards for monitoring and tracking product performance (i.e. timelines, product format)
5. Have a continuity of operations plan in place
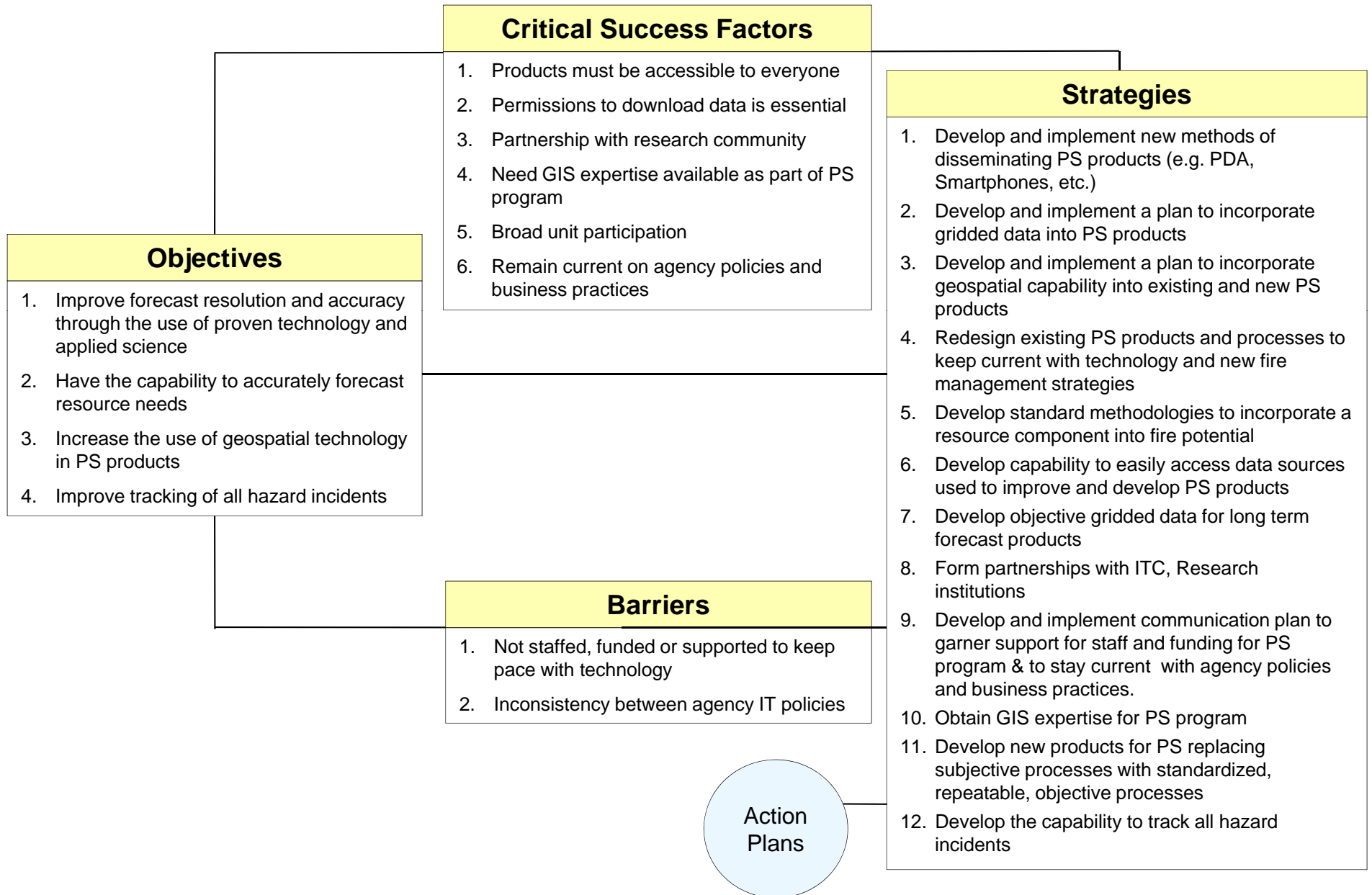6. Improve data quality of input and output data

Barriers

1. Predictive Services is not the data steward for some of the data used in products and services
2. Individual agency policies and standards

Action Plans

GOAL 2 – Research and Development

State-of-the-art technology and applied science meet the needs of the wildland fire community

Critical Success Factors

1. Products must be accessible to everyone
2. Permissions to download data is essential
3. Partnership with research community
4. Need GIS expertise available as part of PS program
5. Broad unit participation
6. Remain current on agency policies and business practices

Strategies

1. Develop and implement new methods of disseminating PS products (e.g. PDA, Smartphones, etc.)
2. Develop and implement a plan to incorporate gridded data into PS products
3. Develop and implement a plan to incorporate geospatial capability into existing and new PS products
4. Redesign existing PS products and processes to keep current with technology and new fire management strategies
5. Develop standard methodologies to incorporate a resource component into fire potential
6. Develop capability to easily access data sources used to improve and develop PS products
7. Develop objective gridded data for long term forecast products
8. Form partnerships with ITC, Research institutions
9. Develop and implement communication plan to garner support for staff and funding for PS program & to stay current with agency policies and business practices.
10. Obtain GIS expertise for PS program
11. Develop new products for PS replacing subjective processes with standardized, repeatable, objective processes
12. Develop the capability to track all hazard incidents

Objectives

1. Improve forecast resolution and accuracy through the use of proven technology and applied science
2. Have the capability to accurately forecast resource needs
3. Increase the use of geospatial technology in PS products
4. Improve tracking of all hazard incidents

Barriers

1. Not staffed, funded or supported to keep pace with technology
2. Inconsistency between agency IT policies

Action Plans

GOAL 3 – Outreach and Training

Customers are aware of and successfully use Predictive Services products and services

Critical Success Factors

1. Broad unit participation
2. Have access to expertise related to technology and social networking
3. Information must be accessible
4. Commitment to action
5. Proper balance between teaching and operational needs

Objectives

1. Have trained and knowledgeable fire managers and customers
2. Have current PS publications in place each year
3. Have a mentoring and outreach program in place for recruitment and retention
4. Increase the use of technology and social networks to disseminate information about PS products
5. Improve internal and external partnerships to determine marketing and training needs
6. Have a process in place to monitor and develop skills within PS to accomplish the PS mission

Strategies

1. Develop and implement a training plan for PS products and services
2. Develop and implement a communication plan for PS (website, newsletters, podcasts, etc.)
3. Develop and implement a mentoring program for PS
4. Develop and implement a PS workforce management plan to address recruitment and retention
5. Establish partnerships with internal and external groups to determine marketing and training needs
6. Develop and implement a PS publication review schedule and process
7. Develop and implement surveys to ensure the use and understanding of PS products

Barriers

1. Competition, conflict of interest and perceived threat

Action Plans