



FMB Memorandum No. 18-001

Date: 21 March 2018

TO: Fire Management Board Members

FROM: Grant Beebe, Chair, Fire Management Board

Grant Beebe

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SUBJECT: Predictive Services Program Phase II Review: Operating Principles

The Predictive Services Phase II Review (PSP2) Task Group is working on behalf of the Fire Management Board (FMB). Their task is to identify alternative courses of action, prioritize, evaluate, and recommend solutions to the significant issues identified in the Phase I assessment in order to sustain and improve the Predictive Services program to continue to provide needed products and services to all users. The PSP2 Task Group began by developing operating principles that served to frame Predictive Services as a program and provide a consistent vision for achieving the task objective.

The FMB is sharing the PSP2 Task Group operating principles as part of a continuing communication plan intended to facilitate transparency and to promote awareness as the task progresses:

1. The 2000 National Fire Plan, as original intent for the Predictive Services Program, is valid and will continue to be serviceable in the future. As intent, it provides focus and foundation for any PSP2 deliverable:
 - a. Predictive Services staff provide decision support to geographic and national level leadership.
 - b. Predictive Services must “blend the functions” of intelligence, fire management analysis, and meteorological components working as “one cohesive group.” Fire, weather and resource capability are mutually influencing and interactive factors on the ground; Predictive Services must be equally interactive and mutually supporting in order to fully inform decision support.
2. Predictive Services functions as an operational intelligence unit integral to the National Coordination System:
 - a. Products and services broadly support national and geographic area interagency preparedness decisions with principal program focus being geographic area and national mobilization of interagency wildland fire resources.
 - b. As an integral component of the National Coordination System, open and continuous dialogue with leadership when developing and delivering Predictive Services products and services is necessary and vital to program viability and integrity.
3. Consistent dialogue with the Interagency Wildland Community will serve to inform the larger preparedness program needs:

- a. Dialogue will generate awareness and mutual understanding of decision points and the elements of decision framing at all management levels;
- b. Obtained local knowledge will help to align products and services and subsequently serve to better inform Geographic Area and National decision-making.

The PSP2 Task Group utilized the operating principles to develop a detailed mission statement. This in turn will provide a consistent formula for preparing a range of management alternatives for the Predictive Services Program:

The Predictive Services Mission

Integrate climate, weather, fuels, situation and incident resource status information to enhance the ability of managers to make sound decisions for both short and long range strategic planning. Working as cohesive units situated at each of the Geographic Area and National Interagency Coordination Centers, Predictive Services will blend the functions of intelligence, fire management analysis and meteorology for delivering decision support products and services in support of Geographic Area and National decision-making:

- The principal mission of Predictive Services is to provide products and services to Geographic Area and National Multi-Agency Coordinating Groups supporting decision-making relative to timely and effective mobilization and placement of incident management resources.
- Predictive Services will coordinate with stakeholders and especially local unit managers to collect, assess and distribute information on observed and forecasted conditions that may influence local fire preparedness decisions and facilitate specific warnings about critical fire behavior, fuel condition or resource availability and effectiveness throughout the nation.
- Predictive Services Units will conduct climatological assessments and “real-time” evaluations that free local fire managers from time-consuming predictive assessment and allow them to focus on incident management and firefighter and public safety.
- As subject matter experts, Predictive Services staff will consult and collaborate with stakeholders and local units in developing, refining and evolving Fire Danger Operating Plans, building alignment among local, geographic area and national decision support systems so that cohesive preparedness planning is both possible and evident.”

The FMB reviewed and accepted the operating principles and mission statement as the basis for the PSP2 Task Group’s continuing work. The next steps of the process include development of management alternatives for addressing Predictive Services staffing, organization, budget, oversight and governance. Further out, specific program elements will be addressed including agency sponsorship, research and development and opportunities for collaboration and growth. At this time, the PSP2 Task Group expects to have a draft final report completed by the end of June 2018. Questions or more information can be directed to Larry Sutton, FMB liaison to the PSP2 Task Group, lsutton@fs.fed.us or 208-387-5605; or Dan O’Brien, PSP2 Task Group Lead, dlobrien@blm.gov or 503-701-2552.