

Wildland Fire Management RD&A
Decision Support
Standard Operating Procedures and FAQs
Version 2014 - 3.0

**Section 3: Information for LOCAL UNITS (FMOs/Program Managers) –
How to request Fire Behavior/WFDSS Decision Assistance**

How do I request assistance with Fire Behavior analysis in WFDSS?

Fire Behavior analysis support can be obtained several different ways depending on the requesting unit's needs. In general local units should follow these steps to request assistance:

Fire Behavior analysis support is provided through the geographic area or the WFM RD&A when no local expertise is available. To request support for analyses:

- Contact your Geographic Area Editor. The GA editor will work with you to determine support needs and availability of local resources. If no analysts are available in the GA, the GA editor will contact the WFM RD&A On-Call Coordinator.
- If the GA editor is unavailable, call the WFM RD&A On-Call Coordinator at **208-473-8107**.
- Alternatively a request can be initiated within WFDSS using the "Request Fire Behavior Support" button found on the left menu. If no support is received within a reasonable timeframe, then the requester should follow the first two steps above.

How do I request assistance with WFDSS Decisions?

Assistance with WFDSS Decisions can be obtained several different ways depending on the requesting unit's needs. In general local units should follow these steps to request assistance:

1. Utilize the HELP menu in the WFDSS program
2. If the question cannot be answered using the online WFDSS HELP then a call should be placed to the WFDSS Help Desk at **1-866-224-7677 or 1-360-326-6002**
3. If the question is beyond the scope of the WFDSS HELP Desk then a local unit can contact their GA Editor
4. If the local unit cannot get help through the WFDSS Help Desk and is unable to communicate with their GA Editor then a call should be placed to the WFM RD&A On-Call Coordinator at **1-208-473-8107**

What types of questions can be answered with the Fire Behavior Analysis tools?

Example Questions about Risk Assessment:

- What is the probability that our fire will burn point X (reach a particular value) in a given time period?
- Where can we expect fire to "want" to move under specific weather conditions?

Example Questions about Fire Growth:

- When will the fire reach point (X) under specific weather conditions?

- When will the fire reach point (X) under forecasted weather conditions?

Example Questions about Fire Behavior:

- What Fire behavior can we expect under (X) weather across (X) area?
- What Fire behavior can we expect under (X) weather at (X) location?

What kind of information should I have available when requesting fire behavior analysis support?

- Know what questions you want to have answered about your fire (see previous question for examples) and understand that there are limitations and assumptions associated with the models
 - The WFDSS Help provides some brief information about the fire behavior models, what the output/results mean (interpretation), and assumptions and limitations of the models. In the WFDSS Help, search for topics called, “FAQs for Automated Basic Fire Behavior (BSB), Short Term Fire Behavior (STFB), Near Term Fire Behavior (NTFB)” and “FSPRO Overview” or see the WFDSS Home Page for “Fire Behavior” documents.
- Have a point of contact available that is knowledgeable about the local fuels, weather stations and observed fire behavior that can provide feedback to the analyst on the fire behavior model runs
- Provide a timeframe for completing the analysis

If I am receiving support from the WFM RD&A remotely/virtually, how will I know how much time is being charged to my fire?

The decision support personnel will provide an OF-288, CTR or an Incident Summary Report that will include information about the fire behavior analyses conducted as well as timekeeping information.