

Suggested Training and Prerequisites for the Fire Behavior Specialist Role in WFDSS

Problem Statement:

As the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) is implemented the Fire Behavior Specialist role is being granted to people with varying fire behavior modeling abilities. This varying background and skill level poses issues if people are accepting model runs to be used for decision making that are not adequate / reflective of the situation or if the analyst is working in an area where their actual skills may be unknown.

Background:

The Fire Behavior Specialist role is typically granted through the Geographic Area Editors in the WFDSS. How these roles are managed and which prerequisites are used varies among the Geographic Areas. Some GA's have prescribed guidance while others are reviewing each individual's skills on a case by case basis.

Proposal:

Establish national guidance with required experience and training pre-requisites for the Fire Behavior Specialist within the WFDSS Production System. The Geographic Area Editors have defined duties and developed standards they feel should be adopted.

Fire Behavior Specialist¹ - Previous fire behavior modeling experience is required

Duties

- Selects and runs appropriate fire behavior analyses (Basic, Short Term, Near Term and FSPro) to support wildland fire decision makers.
- Accept (or reject) and document the inputs and outputs of the fire behavior analyses.
- Grant privileges to other analysts as needed.
- Distribute results and provide interpretation of fire behavior analyses to agency administrators, fire managers, Incident Management Teams, and Geographic Area Coordination Center.

Pre-requisites for the Production Side of WFDSS²

Users requesting this role in the production side of WFDSS should have the following courses and experience:

- Previous fire behavior modeling experience, including evaluating and modifying landscape files, historic climate, and forecasted weather as this role utilizes geospatial fire behavior models AND
- S-490 Advanced Fire Behavior Calculations AND
- S-492 Long Term Fire Risk Assessment and S-493 FARSITE, OR S-495 Geospatial Fire Analysis, Interpretation and Application OR qualified FBAN or LTAN with WFDSS Fire Behavior training/experience.

Users requesting this role should provide documentation of their completion of the minimum requirements to their agency point of contact (WFDSS Geographic Area Editor).

¹ A specialized WFDSS privilege which must be approved by a WFDSS Geographic Area Editor. Note that any role higher than Viewer can complete an automated short-term fire behavior analysis. Training is available on the WFDSS website.

²These prerequisites do not apply to the training side of WFDSS.