

# Alaska WFDSS Fire Behavior Analyses: Process for Requesting and Assigning Fire Behavior Specialists

Updated April 17, 2025

The following describes the process Alaska fire managers should use to request a WFDSS fire behavior analysis. Fire managers should follow these procedures in lieu of submitting a fire behavior request within the WFDSS NextGen system. **DO NOT** submit a fire behavior request for Alaska in WFDSS.

A list of Alaska WFDSS Fire Behavior Specialists and their contact information can be found in **Table 1**. The Fire Behavior Specialists will typically work remotely from their duty stations. However, if needed, some may travel to the incident or other location (e.g., AICC) to assist with multiple fires. **If possible, a qualified LTAN or FBAN should have oversight over all Alaska analyses being done at a given time.**

When fire activity increases and multiple Specialists are being utilized to fulfill analysis requests, **coordination between Specialists** should occur to ensure common fire modeling practices are being used. Issues with analysis inputs, quality of outputs or interpretation of outputs should be brought to the attention of the AICC Fire Behavior Analyst/analyst coordinator.

## **Options for Requesting an Analysis:**

1. Protecting or Jurisdictional Agency fire managers can directly contact a WFDSS Fire Behavior Specialist who is familiar with their area. The specialist will then contact the AICC Fire Behavior Analyst to inform them that the assignment has been accepted (907-483-0496) If the analyst coordinator is not available, the AICC Deputy Center Manager or designee will serve as the secondary analyst coordinator (907-356-5685).

**OR**

2. Protecting or Jurisdictional Agency fire managers can request a WFDSS fire behavior specialist through the AICC Fire Behavior Analyst (907-483-0496). If the AICC Fire Behavior Analyst is not available, the AICC Deputy Center Manager or designee will serve as the secondary analyst coordinator (907-356-5685). The analyst coordinator will go through the list of Alaska WFDSS fire behavior specialists in **Table 1** with **priority given to LTAN/FBAN trainees and fire behavior specialist mentees paired with qualified FBANs/LTANs.**

Once an assignment is accepted, the assigned resource(s) will contact the requestor for additional information about the fire. The form [Questions to Consider When Requesting Fire Modeling](#) provides detailed information that will assist with analysis. It is available on the AICC website in the [Agency Administrator's Guide](#) section (under the Agency Administrator Library > C. WFDSS > Alaska WFDSS).

**OR**

3. If none of the Alaska Specialists in **Table 1** are available, the analyst coordinator will refer the analysis request to the Wildland Fire Management Research, Development and Application group (WFM RD&A) at 208-387-5253.

**Table 1.** Alaska WFDSS Fire Behavior Specialists by Agency. LTAN/FBAN qualifications are also noted.

Agency	Name	Email	Cell Phone
BIA	Chris Friar	<a href="mailto:christopher.friar@bia.gov">christopher.friar@bia.gov</a>	907-205-6605
BIA	Tom St. Clair (LTAN/FBAN)	<a href="mailto:thomas.stclair@bia.gov">thomas.stclair@bia.gov</a>	907-978-0104
BLM AFS	Casey Boespflug*	<a href="mailto:cboespflug@blm.gov">cboespflug@blm.gov</a>	907-482-0055
BLM AFS	Nate Perrine (FBAN/LTAN(t))	<a href="mailto:nperrine@blm.gov">nperrine@blm.gov</a>	907-483-0496
BLM AFS	Graham Worley-Hood*	<a href="mailto:gworleyhood@blm.gov">gworleyhood@blm.gov</a>	907-356-5880
FWS	Lisa Saperstein	<a href="mailto:lisa_saperstein@fws.gov">lisa_saperstein@fws.gov</a>	907-202-2732
NPS	Chris Moore (LTAN/FBAN)	<a href="mailto:christopher_moore@nps.gov">christopher_moore@nps.gov</a>	907-482-0161
NPS	Jennifer Barnes	<a href="mailto:jennifer_barnes@nps.gov">jennifer_barnes@nps.gov</a>	907-244-9073
NPS	Brian Sorbel	<a href="mailto:brian_sorbel@nps.gov">brian_sorbel@nps.gov</a>	907-244-9054
NPS	Keith Mitchell*	<a href="mailto:keith_mitchell@nps.gov">keith_mitchell@nps.gov</a>	907-242-4555
NPS	Casey O'Connor (FBAN/LTAN(t))	<a href="mailto:casey_oconnor@nps.gov">casey_oconnor@nps.gov</a>	907-615-0187
USFS	Eric Morgan (FBAN)	<a href="mailto:eric.morgan@usda.gov">eric.morgan@usda.gov</a>	208-290-6020

\*Mentee WFDSS fire behavior specialist

### **Resource Orders**

If the assigned WFDSS fire behavior specialist needs to be on a resource order, the Protecting Agency for the unit requesting the analysis will submit the request in IROC through their local dispatch center. The 2025 Alaska Statewide Operating Plan provides the following guidance for virtual incident assignments:

*Employees performing virtual incident assignments (e.g., off-site Fire Behavior Analyst or other positions) will be ordered through the standard dispatch ordering system. A charge code will be provided on the resource order. Employees ordered to support multiple incidents or to work with a Decision Support Center (DSC) will be provided multiple incident charge codes or a fire support code by the ordering unit or incident supervisor. Conditions of a virtual work assignment will be documented on the resource order (e.g., supporting multiple incidents, hours of availability [as needed, weekends, etc.]).*