

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

Updated June 25, 2024

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 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 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 analyst coordinator at AICC to inform them that the assignment has been accepted (907-356-5673). If the analyst coordinator is not available, the AICC Deputy Center Manager or designee will serve as the secondary analyst coordinator (907-356-5680).

OR

2. Protecting or Jurisdictional Agency fire managers can request a WFDSS fire behavior specialist through the analyst coordinator at AICC (907-356-5673). If the analyst coordinator is not available, the AICC Deputy Center Manager or designee will serve as the secondary coordinator (907-356-5680). 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	christopher.friar@bia.gov	907-205-6605
BIA	Tom St. Clair (LTAN/FBAN)	thomas.stclair@bia.gov	907-978-0104
BLM AFS	Casey Boespflug*	cboespflug@blm.gov	907-482-0055
BLM AFS	Chris Demers*	cdemers@blm.gov	907-370-3068
FWS	Lisa Saperstein	lisa_saperstein@fws.gov	907-202-2732
FWS	Dale Woitas*	dale_woitas@fws.gov	605-440-1250
NPS	Jennifer Barnes	jennifer_barnes@nps.gov	907-244-9073
NPS	Chris Moore (LTAN/FBAN)	christopher_moore@nps.gov	907-482-0161
NPS	Brian Sorbel	brian_sorbel@nps.gov	907-244-9054
NPS	Keith Mitchell*	keith_mitchell@nps.gov	907-242-4555
NPS	Casey O'Connor (FBAN/LTANT)	casey_oconnor@nps.gov	907-615-0187
USFS	Eric Morgan (FBAN)	eric.morgan@usda.gov	208-290-6020

*Mentee WFDSS fire behavior specialist

Resource Orders

If the assigned analyst 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 2024 Alaska Statewide Annual 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.]).