



# Incorporating Long Term Assessment Information into WFDSS

## Overview

Long Term Risk Assessments, often developed by Long Term Fire Analysts (LTANs), are important in developing strategies and contribute to decisions made on long duration fire incidents. WFDSS is the program for documenting strategies and decisions made on fire incidents. This document discusses topics that relate to incorporating long term risk assessment information into WFDSS decisions:

- [Collecting Long Term Assessment Inputs for a Decision](#)
- [Adding Long Term Risk Assessment Inputs to a Decision](#)
  - [Accessing the Decision](#)
  - [Editing a Decision using the Decision Editor](#)
- [Decision Examples](#)
- [Long Term Assessment Analyses and Decision Support](#)

Historically, Long Term Risk Assessments have been developed as stand-alone documents or incorporated into a Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP), Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) or Long-Term Implementation Plan (LTIP). These systems are no longer available, they were replaced by WFDSS. Long Term Risk Assessment information is incorporated into the WFDSS decision, and is used to support the Decision and Courses of Action.

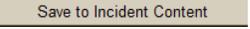
Generally, Long Term Risk Assessment consist of graphics and text that convey to Fire Managers and Line Officers what current fire conditions are and what might be expected in terms of fire severity, potential duration, and the spatial extent of the fire. There are no set rules; the assessment should paint a clear picture of current and expected fire conditions to aid the decision maker. For example climatology, long range weather outlooks, and fuels assessments might best support the Assessment section of a WFDSS decision, whereas fire behavior and season end assessments may best support the Rationale section of a WFDSS decision. Each Incident has unique concerns and WFDSS can be adapted to a variety of situations.

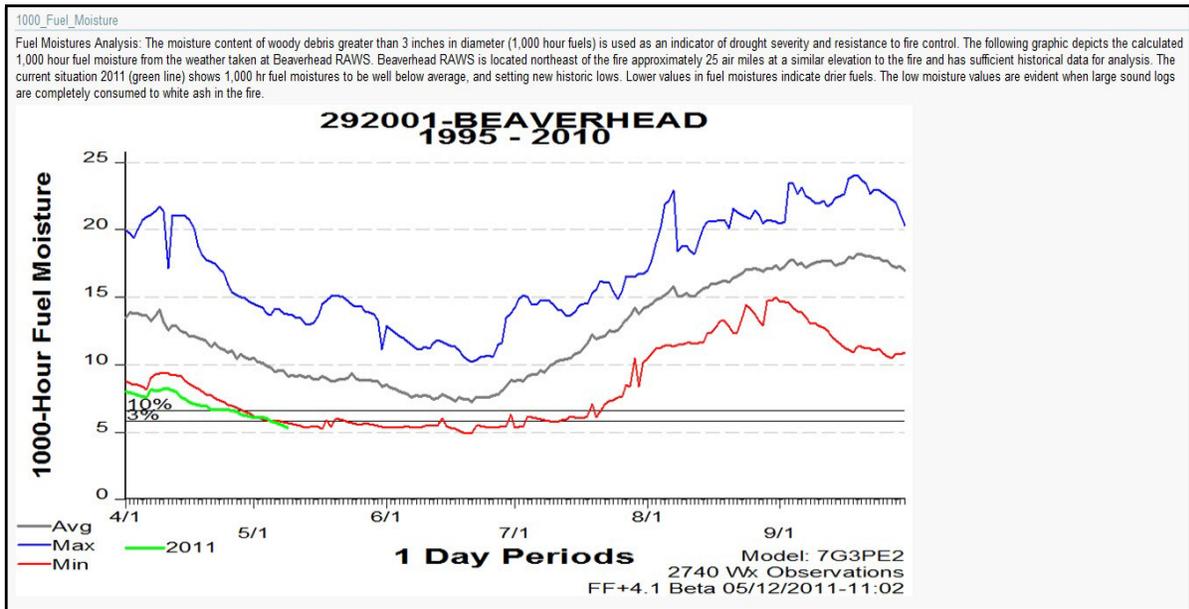
## Collecting Long Term Assessment Inputs for a Decision

Long Term Assessment images can be captured from many sources including but not limited to: various websites, fire programs such as Fire Family Plus, FLAMMAP, Farsite etc or outputs generated in WFDSS. This supporting information can then be included in a WFDSS decision.

- Fire Family Plus has a feature that allows you to save a graph to various image file formats in various sizes. These images should be saved as a .JPG, .GIF or .PNG image format for uploading into WFDSS. The images can be uploaded to WFDSS using the Image Upload feature from the left hand Menu List. These WFDSS Online help topics provide additional information:
  - [Uploading Images](#)
  - [Adding Text to a Decision](#)
  - [Adding an Image to a Decision](#)
- Fire Behavior Analyses completed in WFDSS can also be added to the decision the following WFDSS Online

Help topics provide additional information:

- [Including Analysis Results in a Decision](#)
- [Adding Text to a Decision](#)
- Images from fire behavior programs or internet can be captured using add-on programs such as Snagit®, Printkey®, or by using the Print Screen feature on your keyboard. The images can then be uploaded to WFDSS using the Image Upload feature from the left hand menu. These WFDSS Online Help topics provide additional information:
  - [Uploading Images](#)
  - [Adding Text to a Decision](#)
- Within WFDSS some graphics such as the fire danger graphs can be uploaded directly into Incident Content by using the  button on the screen. When an image is captured using this method it can be found in the Incident Content tree, Assessment Folder, subfolder Fire Danger. Additional online help can be found in the WFDSS Online Help: [Saving Fire Danger Rating Graphs to Incident Content](#).
- The Camera () tool, available from the Situation tab, captures map images from the map view within WFDSS. To use the camera tool, first display the map image you want to capture, then click the Camera Tool. You can add a title and provide a detailed description of the image. This information is included with an image, when added to the Decision Content from Incident Content. Image processing will take a few minutes. Once captured, the image is saved in the Images folder, Incident Content tree; from there it can be added to a Decision. The [Capturing Map Images](#) topic in the WFDSS Online Help provides additional information.
- When using the Image Upload feature or Camera button, text can be added as seen in the 1000 Hour Fuel Moisture example below. These images and text are then moved from the Incident Content to the Decision Content when editing the Decision Content. The [Adding an Image to a Decision](#) topic in the WFDSS Online Help provides additional information.
  - Type text or copy and paste text in the Image Description box that explains what the image means, what its implications are, or how to interpret the image.
  - The text appears above the image when it is viewed in the WFDSS Decision Editor as seen in the examples.
  - The image label displays with underscores where spaces were included in the text typed into the image label box (1000\_Hour\_Fuel\_Moisture).



- Images can be added from Incident Content to the Decision Content, text can also be added by typing, copying or pasting within the Decision Editor. Formatting and labeling can also be added to clarify images. These WFDSS Online Help topics provide additional information:
  - [Uploading Images](#)
  - [Adding Text to a Decision](#)

Adding long term risk assessment text into a WFDSS decision can be completed by:

- Typing directly into the Decision Editor, or
- Copy and Paste text from another document.

These WFDSS Online Help topics provide further information:

- [Adding Text to a decision](#)
- [Copying/Pasting Text into a Decision](#)

## Adding Long Term Risk Assessment Information to a Decision

When adding Long Term Risk Assessment information to a WFDSS decision, the analyst must have access to WFDSS and Incident Editor Privileges for the specific incident. The analyst can then add content directly to the Decision by editing the “Pending Decision” or parts of the Decision from the Decision tab.

If an analyst does not have WFDSS access or does not have access to a particular incident, the analyst will need to work with an incident Owner or Editor to insert necessary information. Typically, this requires the analyst to provide separate text and individual images to the Owner or Editor. The Owner or Editor can then upload the images and copy, paste or type the text to WFDSS and insert the information into the Decision.

## Accessing the Decision

Access to a WFDSS decision is through the Decision Tab. Only those with Owner, Editor, or Viewer privileges will have to access un-published Decisions to update unpublished decisions navigate to the Pending Decision,

mark the radio button next to the Pending Decision, and click Edit. The images below show the Decision Tab, and a schematic of how to edit within the Decision Editor.

## Decision Tab

Wildland Fire Decision Support System National Preparedness Level: 3 Incident: test / 2011- Marlena Hovorka

My Home Incidents Analyses Intelligence Data Management Administration

Information Situation Objectives Course of Action Validation Decisions Periodic Assessment Reports

Incident List Decision "Pending Decision" created.

Decisions List

Set Decision List Preferences

Create Copy View Info View Decision Pending KMZ Begin Review/Approval Process

| Decision  | Section          | Status    | Editor           | Created (CDT)    | Last Modified (CDT) | Relative Risk | Org Needs |
|---|------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Pending Decision |                  | Available | Hovorka, Marlena | 07/11/2011 13:39 | 07/11/2011 13:39    |               |           |
| <input type="radio"/> Pending Decision            | Assessment       | Available | Hovorka, Marlena | 07/11/2011 13:39 | 07/11/2011 13:39    |               |           |
| <input type="radio"/> Pending Decision            | Objectives       | Available | Hovorka, Marlena | 07/11/2011 13:39 | 07/11/2011 13:39    |               |           |
| <input type="radio"/> Pending Decision            | Course of Action | Available | Hovorka, Marlena | 07/11/2011 13:39 | 07/11/2011 13:39    |               |           |
| <input type="radio"/> Pending Decision            | Validation       | Available | Hovorka, Marlena | 07/11/2011 13:39 | 07/11/2011 13:39    |               |           |
| <input type="radio"/> Pending Decision            | Rationale        | Available | Hovorka, Marlena | 07/11/2011 13:39 | 07/11/2011 13:39    |               |           |

Page 1 of 1 Rows per Page: 20 Edit Check In Download Delete

Create Copy View Info View Decision Pending KMZ Begin Review/Approval Process

## Schematic to show how to edit Decision Document using the Decision Editor

My Home Incidents Analyses Intelligence Data Management Administration Help Feedback

Information Situation Objectives Course of Action Validation Decisions Periodic Assessment Reports

Menu Decision

Decision Document Content

Incident Content

1-Select Images to insert

2-Select Decision Content location

3-Place cursor in this window to type content for the decision document.

4- Insert WFDSS content

5-Click SAVE

Decision Editor

To preview image, click +

Incident Content (Missouri Ridge NAFRI : Images : Photo : Hovorka : Fuel>Loading\_2)

### The Decision Editor Quick Overview-

1. Select Incident Content to insert content;
2. Navigate to the desired section in Decision Content;
3. Place your cursor in Decision Editor window;
4. Click Insert WFDSS content;
5. Click SAVE

The [Adding Incident Content to a Decision](#) topic in the WFDSS Online Help provides additional information.

## Decision Examples

Incorporating long term risk assessment information into a WFDSS decision is unique to each incident, below are some examples of how that information could be included and displayed.

- Horseshoe: Southwest 6/17/2010 decision
- Jarhead: Southern 5/6/2011 decision
- Miller: Southwest 5/12/2011 decision
- Honey Prairie: Southern 6/23/2011 decision
- Wallow: Southwest 6/19/2011 decision
- Monument: Southwest 6/21/2011 decision
- Saddle Complex :Eastern Great Basin 9/5/2011 decision
- Salt: Eastern Great Basin 9/16/2011 decision

When reviewing these examples consider the content of the assessment and how the information could be included to best support the decisions content.

## Long Term Assessment Analyses and Decision Support

The table below lists information that could be used to support a WFDSS Decision. Some items may not be relevant to all fires. This list is not all inclusive and other information may be relevant. Each fire is unique and has its own set of concerns that should be addressed whether it is in the Assessment, Validation, or Rationale sections.

| <b>Type of Analysis</b> | <b>What might be included in the Assessment, Validation, or Rationale sections of a Decision</b>   |
|-------------------------|--|
| Fuels Analysis          | Evaluation of fuel types, arrangement, and flammability, 1,000 hour Fuel Moisture, Live Fuel Moisture, Herbaceous Fuel Moisture, Woody Fuel Moisture, National Fuel Moisture Database (NFMD) Graphs, Vegetation Greenness – NDVI Images, (Alaska, Minnesota & Northern States) CFFDRS Charts |
| Drought Analysis        | Drought discussion and prognosis<br>Drought Monitoring, Drought Outlook and Drought Forecast Maps<br>Ketch-Byram Drought Index (KDBI) or Drought Code Graphs   |
| Fire Danger             | Narrative of current fire danger,<br>ERC Graphs, Burning Index, Spread Component or others<br>(Alaska, Minnesota & Northern States) CFFDRS Charts  |
| Weather Outlooks        | Weather Narrative,<br>Daily outlooks, Long Range - 6-10, 8-14, 30, 90 day Temperature and Precipitation Outlook  |
| Season End              | Term Graph, Other fire slowing or ending analysis  |
| Wind Analysis           | Wind Rose, Event Locator Report for winds of concern   |
| Fire Behavior Analysis  | Fire Behavior Summary (Current & Expected)<br>Fire Progression Maps,<br>Basic Fire Behavior Analysis (BFB),<br>Short Term Fire Behavior Analysis (STFB),<br>Near Term Fire Behavior Analysis (NTFB),<br>Fire Spread Probability – FSPro,<br>FlamMap Analysis, FARSITE Analysis               |
| Historic                | Fire History Review, Historic fire size and intensity  |
| Values                  | Narrative regarding values and fire behavior<br>Values Inventory & Values at Risk  |

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Type of Analysis</b> | <b>What might be included in the Assessment, Validation, or Rationale sections of a Decision</b> |
| Smoke & Air             | Point Forecast, Smoke Trajectories, Wind Pattern Analysis  |