

Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS)

Thought Flow Outline

The following outline and questions are intended to give WFDSS users, who are documenting an incident decision, a thought flow of how to think through a WFDSS decision document. It is by no means the only thought flow users can utilize. Users can maneuver from tab to tab in any order. The only steps that must be taken in order at this time are to first **CREATE** a decision document on the **DECISION** tab; then proceed to the **VALIDATION** tab to validate the Course of Action. This is being reviewed, and may change later in the summer of 2010. The bold and CAPITALIZED text depicts the tabs within WFDSS. The bold and regular case text depicts the portions of the Decision Document.

1. **MY HOME** – Managing your WFDSS account



a. User roles –

- i. Do you need to create an incident and author a decision? If so, you need to be an Author and an owner of the incident.
- ii. Do you only need to create an incident and use situation assessment tools? If so, you need to be a Dispatcher and you will not own an incident.

b. Creating/editing groups in your address book

- i. Use a group of owners for the incident to allow numerous users to create and maintain the decision documents.

2. **INTELLIGENCE** - Creating an incident in WFDSS



- i. As a Dispatcher, you do not own an incident. You can maintain incident information.
- ii. As an Author, you can own an incident and can create/maintain the decision document.

3. **INCIDENT** – Navigate to your incident



a. Use the filters to find your incident.

- b. Click “CLEAR” before using filters to clear dates and previous filters; unless you are further refining your current list.
 - c. Create a permanent filter for your home unit.
4. **SITUATION** - Situation Assessment



- a. View Values layers in WFDSS. Do you need more layers?
 - b. Run Basic and Short Term Fire Behavior with minimal inputs.
 - c. Review Fire Danger ERC Graph for the area.
 - d. View the Strategic Objectives at Origin of incident.
 - e. View the current fire weather forecast for the area.
 - f. Review landscape and feature data.
5. **RELATIVE RISK** (on the left hand menu) Documents your risk analysis



- a. Hazards
 - i. Departure from Historic Conditions
 - ii. Fire Behavior
 - iii. Potential Fire Size
 - iv. Notes
- b. Values
 - i. Natural/Cultural Resource and Infrastructure Values
 - ii. Location of Fire to Values
 - iii. Social/Political Concerns
 - iv. Notes
- c. Probability
 - i. Current Time of Season
 - ii. Barriers to Fire Spread
 - iii. Seasonal Severity
 - iv. Notes
- d. Potential Fire Duration – Short, Medium or Long
- e. Relative Risk Advice
 - i. Recommendations for “what to do next” in the WFDSS application
 - ii. Rationale for why you should complete the recommendation
 - iii. Inconsistencies in Relative Risk inputs identified

6. **VALIDATION** - Rejecting pre-planned response (initiates the decision-making process)



- a. Deactivate or modify “Follow the Pre-planned response” in Courses of Action.
- b. Document in the comment field why you will be creating a decision document.
 - i. Documentation can be in paragraph form or a simple statement. It is user preference and incident dependent.
 - ii. Detailed validation specifics can be added during the decision documentation editing.
- c. Click “No”
- d. Consider transferring ownership (if necessary).
- e. Consider running fire behavior models.

7. **DECISION** – Create a Decision Document –



- a. Click “Create” to create a pending decision document.
- b. You can begin editing the decision document at anytime while you are completing tasks on the **OBJECTIVES** and **COURSES of ACTION** tab.
- c. If an approved decision is current and the incident is perceived to be long term, users can create a new decision and begin working on it ahead of time.

8. **OBJECTIVES** - Developing objectives



- a. Draw the planning area in the **SITUATION** tab
- b. Review Values Inventory
- c. Determine the affected FMUs
- d. Examine Strategic Objectives and Management Requirements specific to the affected FMUs.
- e. Develop incident Objectives and Requirements that tier from the Strategic Objectives/Management Requirements

9. **COURSES of ACTION** - Developing Strategic Direction



- a. Create Strategic Direction that satisfies the Strategic Objectives/Management Requirements and the Incident Objectives/Incident Requirements.
- b. Develop Management Action Points (MAPs) if necessary.

- c. Develop costs and record method used.
- d. Next - Validating your decision and Courses of Action (again)

10. **VALIDATION** – Validate the current Courses of Action (COA) you just developed

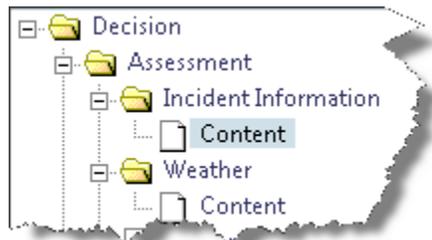


- a. Document in the comment field why you will be creating a decision document.
 - i. Documentation can be in paragraph form or a simple statement. It is user preference and incident dependent.
 - ii. Detailed validation specifics can be added during the decision documentation editing.
- b. Are there adequate resources to achieve your COA?
- c. Has the cost been developed to achieve the COA?
- d. Does the current fire behavior and weather assessment support the COA?
- e. Have you completed the Relative Risk Assessment and assessed the value inventory?
- f. Have you checked your Relative Risk Advice considerations?

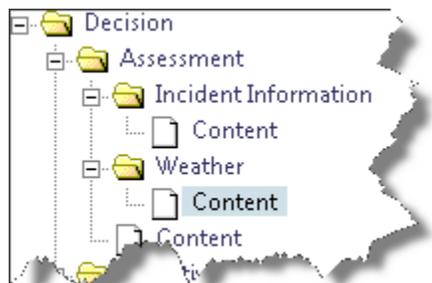
11. **DECISIONS** - Using the content of the decision editor to document your decision



- a. Review your pre-loaded content in the decision editor
 - i. **Assessment – Incident Information** – Does it need anything added?

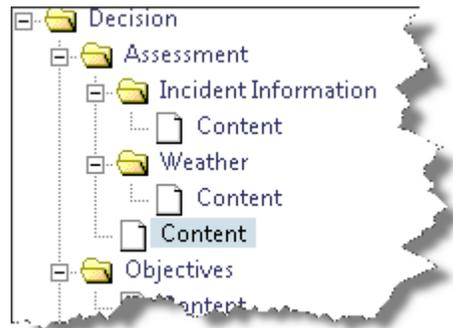


ii. **Assessment – Weather** –



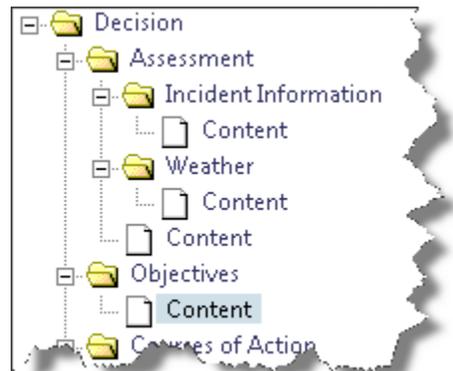
- You have today's forecast.
- Do you need long term forecast information, drought information, predictive services information?

- iii. **Assessment** – Extra content used to develop incident assessment and situation awareness



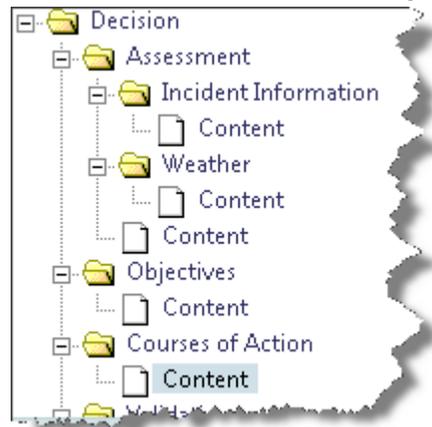
- You are provided with a values inventory based on the Planning Analysis Area that you drew.
- Does it represent the values you are concerned about?
- Do you need to add more values information?
- Do you need to add any long term assessment information from your local experts or fire behavior personnel?

- iv. **Objectives** – Strategic Objectives from our Fire Management Plans and Land Plans tiered down to incident specific objectives



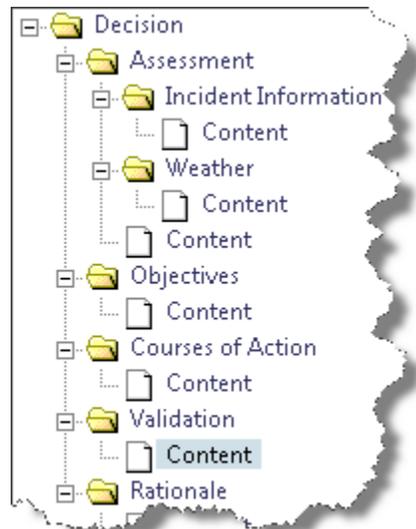
- Review your FMU list, Incident Objectives, Incident Requirements, Strategic Objectives and Management Requirements. Ensure that they included/excluded appropriately. If you need to work with them more, return to the Objectives Tab.
- Did you document all of your objectives?
- Are they achievable? If not, add content on this page to document your issues/concerns/mediation.
- Are your Incident specific inputs tiered from your over arching Strategic Objectives?

v. **Courses of Action (COA)** – Strategic Direction to achieve objectives



- Review your content under Course of Action and Management Action Point (MAPs) List Report. Ensure that they included/excluded appropriately. If you need to work with them more, return to the COA Tab.
- Does your Strategic Direction in the COA achieve your objectives?
- Do you need to add content to this page to clarify MAPs or Strategic Direction?
- Do you need to insert map images or pictures?

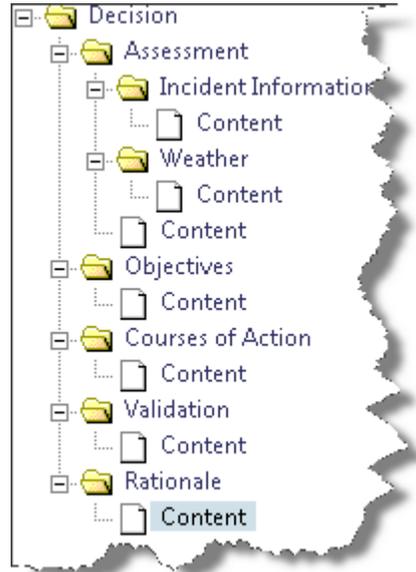
vi. **Validation** – Validate that the Courses of Action is achievable and will meet the objectives



- Documentation can be in paragraph form or a simple statement. It is user preference and incident dependent.
- Detailed validation specifics can be added now, during the decision documentation editing.
- Is your Validation history complete?
- Will your Course of Action achieve your objectives?

- Do you need to add content regarding resource availability, fire behavior analysis, values, cost?
- Do you need to include supporting information from your local experts regarding your Relative Risk inputs?
- Do you need to insert map images or pictures to support your validation?

vii. **Rationale** – Document why you made the decision



- What caused you to make this decision?
- What caused you to choose the strategic direction?
- What are the causes and influences to the incident?
- What are the social and political concerns/pressures?
- What does the relative risk tell you?
- Are there smoke concerns?
- What Fire Behavior models informed your decision?
- Did you document your qualitative and quantitative decision support elsewhere in the document? If so where?

b. Add content to the Incident files

- Create images of fire behavior analysis results and saving them
- Upload and attach supporting documents, forecasts or photos

c. Attach content to the Decision document

- Do you need Long Term Fire Behavior Assessment information?
- Do you need extra values information?
- Do you need any supporting map images of local information?
- Do you need supporting photos?
- Do you need supporting information from local experts?

12. **DECISIONS** - Approval process



- a. Assign incident privileges to individuals within the group
 - i. If multiple Approvers, **ALL APPROVERS NEED TO “APPROVE” BEFORE DECISION CAN BE PUBLISHED**
 - ii. Approver chooses the length between Periodic Assessments
- b. Submit for approval
 - i. Review
 - Reviewers can be set up to review the Decision Document
 - **Approver can approve Decision Document without a review or if a reviewer has not completed a review**
 - ii. Approve
 - Approver reviews content of the Decision Document
 - Approver chooses the length between Periodic Assessments
- c. Publish – Approve and Publish the Decision Document

13. **PERIODIC ASSESSMENT** – Agency Administrator completes as scheduled



- a. Schedule – 1-14 days
- b. Importance of Completing on time
 - i. If the Periodic Assessment is not completed on time, the decision is not valid and out of compliance.

14. **INFORMATION** - Close out



- a. Record final acres
- b. Record controlled/out date
- c. Final Fire Perimeter

Ongoing WFDSS maintenance: updating acres, uploading current perimeters, etc.