2011 Alaska Interagency Protocols for Fire Behavior Requests in WFDSS
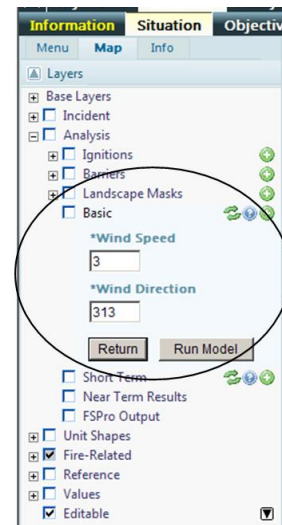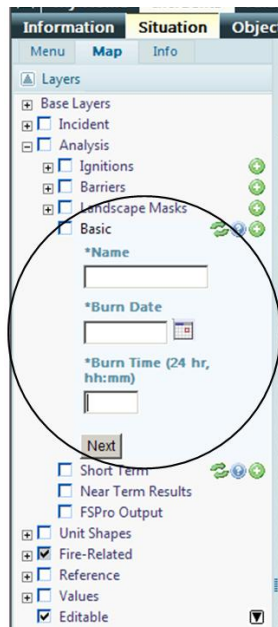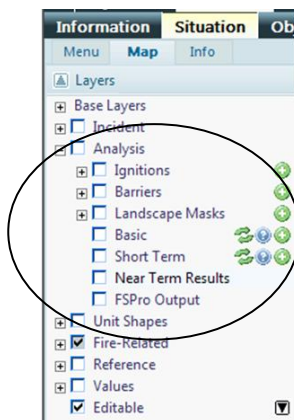## (DRAFT ver. 2)

These protocols were developed in order to have a statewide standard for requesting fire behavior analyses on wildland fires in Alaska and a process for prioritization of the requests. It is not intended to give direction on how to develop inputs or to run the models. Qualifications for the Fire Behavior Specialist Role are agency specific. Expect to see national guidelines for Fire Behavior Specialist Role in 2012.

Fire Behavior Models and WFDSS Roles:
Basic Fire Behavior (BTB) and **Short -Term Fire Behavior** (STFB) are basic automated models that can be run by Dispatchers, the Incident Author, Owner or anyone granted incident privileges. **Basic Fire Behavior** is a simple way to get a "snapshot in time" of potential fire behavior, such as flame lengths and rates of spread.

Short -Term Fire Behavior is a quick way to get an idea of potential fire spread over the next 1 to 3 days. When an Author, Owner or Dispatcher initiates a **Basic or Short Term** run – the inputs fields are limited making it relatively simple to get an output. No fire behavior modeling skills are needed.
Initiation of Basic or Short Term fire behavior is found in the Situation tab, under the analysis layer. Select the green plus next to the Basic or Short Term.
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Basic Fire Behavior input screens:

Short Term Fire Behavior Inputs screens:

An analyst-assisted **Short Term** run may also be requested. More input options are given to the analyst to allow for a more refined output. The fire behavior request is located in the light blue menu bar.

Near Term Fire Behavior (NTFB) is best used for 4 to 6 day fire behavior modeling. It is based on FARSITE and displays modeled fire growth over the specified time period. A qualified Fire Behavior Specialist is needed to complete this run. Incident Author, Owner or anyone granted incident privileges can make this request. Request screen locations are in the light blue menu bar under Fire Behavior Request.

Long Term Fire Behavior (also known as FSRPO) is best used for greater than 6 day fire behavior probability modeling. Only the owner(s) of the document can request a Long Term fire behavior run and only a qualified Fire Behavior Specialist can run the model. Be sure to include a rationale for the request.

Requesting a Fire Behavior Specialist

A local Fire Behavior Specialist may be requested from within the requestor's agency. This may be done through email and/or telephone. This agency Fire Behavior Specialist will notify the State Strategic Planner that they will be filling the request. At times there may be higher priority fires and this Fire Behavior Specialist may be asked to support other fires which delays this request. If an agency Fire Behavior Specialist is not available, place the analysis request directly with the State Strategic Planner through email and/or telephone.

The State Strategic Planner will be the focal point in Alaska to assist agencies in finding a Fire Behavior Specialist for analysis requests and to provide statewide prioritization of requests. An in-state analyst will be contacted first followed by support from the National Decision Support Center in Boise.

Prioritization of Requests

The State Strategic Planner will coordinate requests with the Jurisdictional Agencies and the three Operation Chiefs from the Protecting Agencies. Approval of the prioritized list will be done by the AICC Center Manager. When the MAC Group is activated, they will approve the prioritized list. The prioritization may include but not be limited to the following considerations:

- Emergent fires
- Fires in proximity to identified values
- Fires without obvious natural barriers
- Fires with long-term potential
- Politically or publically sensitive fires
- Fires with potential for high costs