February 26, 2008

To: Jim Cason
Chair, Wildland Fire Leadership Council

From: LANDFIRE Executive Oversight Committee

Subject: LANDFIRE Operations and Maintenance

The Landscape Fire and Resource Management Planning Tools Project, also referred to as the LANDFIRE project, has developed the plans to provide for the operation and maintenance as the project transitions to a program. The Executive Charter for the LANDFIRE project in section 4 – Project Deliverables and Quality Objectives states the specific deliverable of an "Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Handoff Plan". This handoff plan includes a Business Case and a Technical Plan.

The Business Case and Technical Plan (collectively the LANDFIRE "O&M Plan") provide for the involvement and participation of land and resource management programs along with those organizations and/or programs that will benefit or are influenced by landscape vegetation and fire data condition.

The LANDFIRE Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) recommends that the LANDFIRE data system be approved for operations and maintenance. An operations and maintenance program is necessary to maintain LF data timeliness and quality in support of Department and Agency mission needs that provide for maturing fire and multifaceted natural resource management programs across the country. Program connections and contributions are encouraged to strengthen Departmental and Agency management.

The EOC further proposes that the implementation of the O& M plan for the LANDFIRE Program fall within the benefiting agencies' management discretion with respect to such matters as the organizational placement and how it will be organized and staffed, along with the continued governance, oversight, and management of the program.

I, along with Mark Beighley in the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination, Rick Prausa in Forest Service Fire and Aviation Management, and Dave Cleaves in Forest Service Research and Development are working to implement this O&M Plan within the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior and to develop common governance with closely related efforts such as the Fire Program Analysis tool.

Jim Douglas, Vice Chair
LANDFIRE Executive Oversight Committee

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Date