



# WILDLAND FIRE INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY



## *Wildland Fire Information and Technology (WFIT) Quarterly Update—October 2014*

### Background

The Wildland Fire Information and Technology (WFIT) framework allows the wildland fire bureaus to manage the Information Technology (IT) investment portfolio for wildland fire as a whole. WFIT provides cohesive, repeatable processes to meet interdepartmental, interagency fire business needs and IT requirements.

- **WFIT Portfolio Management Process.** The WFIT portfolio management process is represented by a strong governance structure and a series of IT and project management processes.
- **Project Approval and Funding Process.** Under this governance and management structure, the underlying funding sources for new projects, ongoing investments, and supporting staffs and infrastructures does not change. Each agency continues to provide appropriate funding.
- **WFIT Investment Management Overview.** The [WFIT Investment Management Overview](#) introduces the concepts and management structures associated with the WFIT program, designed to accomplish two main goals:
  1. Effective leadership and management of the WFIT program in support of wildland fire business requirements and priorities; and
  2. Improve the quality and efficiency of wildland fire information and technology services and capabilities.

### WFIT Governance

Success of the WFIT investment management process requires coordination and integration with the fire agencies, and the Department-level investment management and budget management processes. It maintains the integrity of the reporting relationships within the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and the Department of the Interior (DOI) wildland fire management programs and personnel.

### WFIT Update

An executive level [WFIT Investment Management Overview](#) has been signed outlining governance relationships within the WFIT framework as well as roles and responsibilities for the groups. Currently, the PB and FMB are in the midst of developing a more in-depth SOP outlining the WFIT procedures for IT review and/or approval in support of wildland fire business needs. This document, as well as EB approved project documentation is available in the WFIT library located at [forestandrangelands.gov](http://forestandrangelands.gov).

Staff from the DOI Office of Wildland Fire are updating position description in support of hiring a program manager and staff to support WFIT. Hiring for these positions will begin in FY2015.

### New Projects

(Projects proposed or newly approved through the WFIT process)

**Access Authentication (AA):** This project is intended to provide a single computer sign on process that works on any USDA or DOI computer.

**Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD):** This project is to identify the dispatch business requirements and develop or procure a single, national CAD solution.

**Fire Weather:** This is a proposed project to gather the current fire weather business requirements and develop or procure a new, more efficient solution for wildland fire.





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**Fire Reporting:** This is a project intended to evaluate the ability of all federal wildland fire partners to utilize a single fire reporting system.

**Fire Information:** This is a proposed project to develop or procure a new solution to providing fire information to the public.

**Incident Support:** This project will develop interagency standards for how to provide IT support at an incident.

Wildland fire Management Information (WFMI): This is a collection of applications (weather, lightning, fire reporting, etc) that provide real time information to the wildland fire community. PB and FMB efforts are underway to determine business needs and corresponding data needs so that a determination can be made on how best to address tasks now covered by WFMI.

## EB Approved Projects

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(Projects previously approved through either the WFIT process or the prior USDA/DOI processes and are underway)

**Integrated Fuels Treatment Decision Support System (IFTDSS):** IFTDSS is an existing project that helps determine appropriated fuels treatments.

**Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS):** ROSS is an existing project, used by the dispatch community to status resources and orders them for use on incidents.

**Incident Qualification and Certification System (IQCS):** IQCS is an existing project that qualified and certifies individuals.

**Integrated Reporting of Wildland-Fire Information (IRWIN):** IRWIN is tasked with providing data exchange capabilities between existing applications used to manage data related to wildland fire incidents.

## Summary

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To achieve future long-term success of a program typically requires deliberate, methodical planning at the front end. This can sometimes take time and result in short-term delays in operations and/or enhancements of the program. However, the absence of deliberate, methodical planning at the front end can sometimes lead to greater difficulties when a new program or process is implemented too hastily. Your patience while the WFIT process is to develop and implemented is appreciated. The goal of achieving a cohesive interdepartmental, interagency method to manage the complex WFIT investment portfolio will ultimately be reached, and the wildland fire program will be stronger and more efficient as a result. The estimated value of the interagency investment portfolio for FY 2014 was approximately \$244.5 million.

## Contacts

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For additional information: [WFIT Website](#)

