



# Record of Decision

**Date:** May 30, 2014

**Subject:** Two Phase Approach for National Interagency Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) Next-Generation to replace current antiquated version 2.1X platform

## Introduction/Background:

ROSS has been in use since 2003. A complete technical refresh/development effort, ROSS 3.0, began in 2008 and was ceased in May 2013 by order of the USDA OCIO following the contractor reporting a 228% cost/schedule overrun.

ROSS is an integral part of the Nation's emergency response framework, relied upon for Incident Support within Federal Land Management Agencies, State agencies (e.g., CALFIRE), and local agencies.

## Proposal

ROSS is an aging application on the brink of technical obsolescence. To mitigate the risk of technical obsolescence, the United States Forest Service (USFS) Fire and Aviation Management Information Technology (FAM-IT) proposed a technical refresh/development effort to the Fire Management Board for ROSS consisting of two phases. Phase I will include interviewing stakeholders, identifying opportunities to refine business processes, and providing a technical assessment of the entire application. Phase II will use the results from these activities to complete a technical refresh/development effort.

**Decision:**

Kim Thorsen  
WFIT EB Co-Chair

Jim Hubbard  
WFIT EB Co-Chair

Decision:       Approved       Not Approved       Conditional Approval

Additional Comments/Actions/Conditions:

April 30, 2014

**Life Cycle Status:**

The existing ROSS 2.1X is in steady state and will be retired upon implementation of the technically refreshed ROSS. Its data will be made available for historical reporting.

The project shall be managed by USFS FAM IT, which will report its capital planning through the Department of Agriculture and in turn to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**Business Need Summary:**

Details of the project shall be further refined during Phase I, Requirements. However, there are identified business needs that must be addressed as part of the Next Generation ROSS project. ROSS is an aging application on the brink of technical obsolescence. For example:

- Users must download a client to use the application – ROSS needs to be a Web-based application.
- We need an automated tool for independent management of data for stewards
- We need imports from contracting systems
- ROSS performance and scalability issues need to be addressed

**Consistency with Business and Technical Architectures:**

During Phase II, and as part of the system design, the project shall follow business and technical architecture guidance provided by NESS, and the WFIT FMB and PB.

**Feasibility Analysis:**

This is an interagency capability which is not available off the shelf. The concept has been proven with the Legacy ROSS 2.1X system which is used nationwide.

**Funding:**

The Forest Service shall fund the initial \$430,000.00 for the requirements phase.

Phase II (Technical Refresh/Development) will require additional funding based upon Phase I results, and will come in front of the EB following review and recommendation development of the PB and FMB.

**Project Management:**

Initiation and Requirements will be conducted during Phase I; Design, development, testing and implementation activities will take place during Phase II.

**Operations & Maintenance Plan:**

This will be determined and prepared under Phase II. Sponsor: Forest Service, AD-Fire and Aviation.

**Program Board Recommendation:**

The Program Board reviewed and recommends the approach.

**Fire Management Board Recommendation:**

The Fire Management Board agreed with the approach and scheduled the proposed project to meet with the Executive Board.

**References:**

None at this time.

**Contact Information:**

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