

Joint Fire Sciences Program Research Interest in AMR

The Joint Fire Sciences Program is interested in funding research on the changing strategies and tactics associated with AMR during the 2007 fire season. Below is the Request for Proposals on AMR issued this winter by the JFSP:

The 2007 fire season provides unique opportunities to better understand how evolving fire policy affected human and ecological communities. The 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Policy, updated in 2001, offers land and incident managers greater flexibility in managing wildland fire by supporting a wide range of incident responses that fit the unique circumstances of each fire, and consider the national level of fire activity and resource commitment. All strategies and tactics from intensive fire suppression aimed at early containment to extensive monitoring could be appropriate for any wildland fire incident depending on the situation. The intent of this policy is to provide for a flexible response to wildland fire to better meet the multiple objectives of protecting life, property and resources; reducing hazard fuels; and restoring ecosystems. In particular, one strategy used on several large fires in 2007 was based on point protection and monitoring rather than full containment or perimeter control.

All proposals submitted under this task statement must directly address at least one the following questions:

- What were the benefits obtained from incident response strategies and tactics that did not aim for full containment or perimeter control? Were there quantifiable fuel reduction, ecosystem restoration, or safety benefits?
- Did strategies and tactics that were not intended to result in full containment or perimeter control result in reduced suppression costs? How did they affect post-fire stabilization or rehabilitation costs?
- How did consideration of cost containment issues affect the strategies and tactics selected? How did the availability and use of decision support tools affect those choices?
- What were the smoke impacts of strategies and tactics that were not intended to result in full containment or perimeter control, and how did smoke considerations affect those choices?
- How did pre-fire fuel and commercial harvest treatments in both wildlands and the wildland/urban interface (WUI) affect incident management choices and costs? To what degree were communities prepared with defensible space or other structure protection measures?
- How did people react to decisions that did not aim for full perimeter control, and how did those reactions impact fire management decisions? How did these choices change public perceptions about federal fire policy?

- What are the factors that cause decisions regarding strategies and tactics that do not aim for full containment or perimeter control versus full perimeter control to differ from one incident to another? How does local or regional understanding or communication of policies, and local or regional social-economic-political environments shape these choices? How do these differences influence perceptions of risk and the willingness to take on short-term risks to meet long-term goals?
- Has the increased flexibility to implement incident response strategies and tactics that do not aim for full containment or perimeter control resulted in increased costs to state and local governments, and/or increased damage to nonfederal lands?

Proposals must be completed within 18 months of project award. Proposals should identify a mechanism to interact with land and fire managers to ensure the proposed work is well focused and will help answer important management questions.