Bureau of Land Management FTEM Policy and Frequently Asked Questions

Bureau of Land Management Policy for FTEM resides in the Fuels Management and Community Assistance Manual (MS-9214) and the Fuels Management and Community Assistance Handbook (H-9214-1).

Policy Excepts from MS-9214

Section 1.4 Responsibilities, Subsection B-3. State Level Program Leads are responsible for: Ensuring fuels treatment effectiveness reports are submitted, coordinated, and reviewed.

Section 1.4 Responsibilities, Subsection C-2. Local Level District/Field Office Fire Management Officers are responsible for: c. Ensuring fuels treatment effectiveness reports are accomplished.

Section 1.6 Policy, Subsection F-6 Reporting. All BLM managers, fire and fuels personnel must: 6. Report on the effectiveness of treatments in the Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring (FTEM) online tool within 90 days of a fire intersecting a fuels treatment.

Policy Excepts from H-9214-1

Chapter 6, section A.2.:"FTEM is a DOI and USFS online spatial tool used to document fuels management treatment effectiveness. The purpose of FTEM is to have a single, interagency, national source to document the interaction of wildfires and fuels treatments. The system provides users a way to enter information about fire weather, fuels, and supporting documentation (e.g., photos, maps) from inside and outside treated areas in order to demonstrate fuels treatment effectiveness. The data will be available for use at various levels of the DOI bureaus and the Forest Service. The data will also be used to answer congressional and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) questions about the effectiveness of the Fuels Program and demonstrate whether fuels treatments changed fire behavior. The system establishes baseline data to use when making future Fuels Program decisions and to document lessons learned from wildfire events in order to adjust future fuels treatment prescriptions. All offices must complete a fuels treatment effectiveness assessment and input appropriate information into FTEM for all wildfires, which start in, burn into, or burn through any portion of a fuel treatment area that has been completed and reported in the Hazardous Fuels Module of the NFPORS. Offices should ensure that fuels treatment effectiveness data is reported in the FTEM system within 90 days of a wildfire intersecting a fuels treatment. It is important that treatment data entered into FTEM are

consistent with the NFPORS, and that wildfire information is consistent with the Interagency Fire Occurrence Reporting Modules (InFORM). FTEM is accessed through the Interagency Fuels Treatment Decision Support System (IFTDSS). "

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Question: When there are multiple treatments defined by the same polygon, and implemented at different points in time, how do I complete FTEM monitoring in this situation?

   Answer: For instances where there are multiple overlapping treatments, select the treatment which contributed the most to fire behavior modification and monitor this treatment. The remaining treatments having multiple overlapping polygons should be removed from the FTEM system so that the monitoring status for the project will show as "completed" in the application. If the area of overlap had more than one treatment type, users should record additional treatment information (treatment type and year) in the "Comments" section.

2. Question: When fuels treatments were used to complement fire operations, but were not intersected by the wildfire, how should I complete monitoring and what are other options to showcase the fuels treatment?

   Answer: Situations where treatments are used to support fire operations, even though an intersection did not occur, are called wildfire/treatment "interactions". In order to demonstrate this positive outcome of fuels treatments, there are several options available to the user. One solution is to utilize the "Add Treatment" functionality for the wildfire of interest as described here. Using this method, the user can conduct a buffer (i.e., conduct a "search" for treatments) adjacent to the wildfire. Buffer limits using this method are a maximum of 1,500 meters for polygon fires, and 10,000 meters for point fires. If these distances are not adequate for FTEM to recognize a certain treatment, users can utilize the "Add Interaction" functionality using the map interface as described here.

   By adding a treatment or interaction using these methods, users will be able to document that the treatment had a positive effect on fire operations even though a true intersection did not occur. Furthermore, a Fuels Treatment Success Story can always be developed to showcase the benefits of a fuels project on fire operations.

3. Question: Does an FTEM user's guide still exist? Where can I find help for issues or problems I encounter when completing FTEM monitoring?

   Answer: The FTEM user's guide was discontinued in 2019. Custom assistance can be attained by submitting a ticket to the IFTDSS Support Center here. Help for specific topics within FTEM can be accessed at the following areas:

- ➤ [FTEM Introduction and General Information](#)
- ➤ [Generating FTEM reports](#)
- ➤ [FTEM Account Set Up](#)
- ➤ [FTEM Data Sources For Wildfire and Treatments](#)
- ➤ [FTEM Frequently Asked Questions](#)

4. Question: The current questions required in FTEM could be revised to provide additional, more granular information on wildfire/treatment intersections. When will the questions be revised?

    Answer: The FTEM steering committee and Office of Wildland Fire are currently examining ways to gather additional informative details in FTEM. The BLM's Fuels Management Committee will be solicited when updated FTEM monitoring questions are being developed.