

OPPORTUNITIES
for
Meeting Fuels Reduction Objectives
While Meeting Air Quality Goals

Patti Hiramani

Rich Fisher

Fire & Air Workshop

USDA Forest Service

Tucson, AZ

27 January 2003

Air Quality Issues are Now
Central to the Fuels Reduction
Program

Associate Deputy Chief

before the House Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health 1998

Said we will...

- Improve Efforts with Regulators
- Mitigate smoke impacts
- Consider fuels treatments other than fire
- Participate in preparing SIPs and TIPs

10 Year Comprehensive Strategy

- Include public health and environmental quality in fire decision-making
- Develop smoke management plans in sync with fire planning
- Invoke core values
 - Collaboration
 - Priority Setting
 - Accountability

Healthy Forests

Calls attention to air pollution problems from wildfires as one reason for action - now

Good News

- Fire and Air specialists and researchers can be effective partners

... together and with States and local governments

Recent Opportunities

- 6 smoke modeling centers
- Real-time web-based particulate monitoring
- Remote sensing
- Ventilation Scheme
- Leadership in RPOs

Exploiting Opportunities

- Build engaged modeling consortia
- Anticipate monitoring requirements
- Construct & use effective SMPs
- Others ?? It's up to you this week.

Recent Agency Priorities

- We will comply with –
 - Healthy Forests Initiative
 - National Fire Plan
 - 10-year Comprehensive Strategy

Recent Agency Priorities cont'd

- Emphasize:
 - Reducing risks to fire fighters --- breathe less smoke
 - Reducing risks to communities ---
 - No NAAQS violation
 - Fewer nuisance complaints
 - Keep watershed functional
 - Restore healthy ecosystems
 - Improve planning
 - Compliance by contractors

A Challenge for this Week

Finding ways to get the air quality job done
within our limited resource base

- **Air Resource Management Objectives including**

- **Visibility,**
- **Nuisance smoke and the**
- **Ambient air quality standards**

should become a standard part of fire project planning

How can we better grow the
smoke management tools we
have and integrate them into an
active planning and execution
process