



**United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
NATIONAL INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER
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September 28, 2009

Memorandum

To: All Regional Directors, All Regions
Attention: Forestry/Fire Management

From: Acting Director, Branch of Wildland Fire Management 

Subject: Interim Support Tool for Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS)

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Interagency Fire Center (BIA-NIFC) has developed a tool specifically for BIA/Tribal fire management programs. The name of the tool is DataPony. DataPony enables the user to copy initial fire occurrence data from WFDSS into FireCode and Wildland Fire Management Information (WFMI) fire applications. This copying results in the elimination of manual data entry redundancy into the FireCode and WFMI systems. Although the DataPony tool is an extremely handy tool for Indian country, its development is strictly as a short-term fix until a similar permanent interagency application is developed.

Based upon results experienced during beta testing, the use of DataPony is highly encouraged (but not required). Beta testers of DataPony have cited substantial time savings performing data entry and a reduction in data entry errors by using this tool. This positive feedback gives us confidence that DataPony is ready for release to Bureau/tribal personnel.

A major advantage in implementing DataPony is its simplicity to learn and use. During the next few months, BIA-NIFC will provide online webinars each Thursday to demonstrate the ease of using DataPony. Distribution of the tool will subsequently occur to webinar attendees. Please contact Scott Bradshaw at Scott_Bradshaw@nifc.gov (208.387.5373) or Steve Larrabee at Steve_Larrabee@nifc.gov (208.387.5586) to obtain webinar information.