

National Predictive Service Subcommittee (NPSS) Meeting

Meeting Notes

Location: Robert Duncan Plaza, Portland, Oregon

Meeting Dates: October 05-07, 2010

Members Present:

- Robyn Heffernan – BLM/NICC – Fire Weather Program Representative – NPSS Chair
- Dan O'Brien – USFS/NWCC – for NICC Fire Analyst – NPSS Vice Chair
- Charlie Leonard – FS/NICC – Intelligence Program Representative
- Daniel Chan – Georgia Forestry Commission, NASF Representative
- Tom Rolinski – BLM/OSCC – Research and Development Representative
- Brenda Belongie – USFS/ONCC – Outreach and Training Representative
- Gina Dingman – USFS/EBCC – Operations and Support Representative
- Kenan Jaycox – BLM/SWCC – GACC Center Managers Representative
- John Barborinas – BIA – Field Level Fire Managers Representative
- Morgan Pence for Lisa Elenz – USFS – WFDSS Liaison
- Jennifer Zeltwanger –NWS, National Weather Service Representative (via Conference Call)

Members Absent:

- Kim Christensen – FS/NICC Manager – NICC Representative
- Neal Hitchcock – FS/NIFC – NMAC Representative
- Rex McKnight – BLM/NV State Office, Geographic Operations Group Liaison

Guests:

- Gina McGuire – Meteorologist, WGBCC – Deputy Operations and Support Unit
- John Saltenberger – Fire Weather Program Manager, NWCC
- Isaiah Hirschfield – Assistant Predictive Services, NWCC
- Rick Ochoa – Fire Weather Program Manager, NICC (via Conference Call)
- Mike Bozzo –Incoming NASF Representative (via Conference Call)
- Marva Willey – Intelligence Officer/Predictive Services, ONCC – Research and Development Unit (via Conference Call)

Notetaker: Lani Williams – Richfield Interagency Fire Center

Meeting Agenda Topics:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of Meeting Notes from April 2010 Virtual Meeting
3. Update from FENC and NWCG

4. NPSS 2010 Budget Review and 2011 NWCG Budget Approvals
5. Updates from NPSS Units (Including 2010 NPSS and NWCG Funded Projects)
 - Research and Development
 - Gridded Seasonal Outlook
 - GIS Web Portal
 - Online 7-Day
 - Gridded 7-Day
 - Corporate Database
 - SIT209 Redesign
 - Operations and Support
 - Multimedia Presentations
 - ROSS DDS Reports
 - Outreach and Training
 - Predictive Services Video
 - Fuels and Fire Behavior Conference
6. Strategic Planning Process Update
7. 7-Day Product High Risk Days
8. NPSS Potential Taskings – **Decision**
 - National Preparedness Level Planning Template
 - Multi-Media Assessment
 - Predictive Services Handbook
9. Bin Items
10. Upcoming Fall Predictive Services Annual Meeting Update
11. Roving Predictive Services Award – **Decision**
12. National Weather Service Fire Weather Update
13. NPSS Membership Rotation and Follow-up on NPSS Liaisons Discussion
14. Review of Outstanding Action Items
15. Predictive Services Survey Results
16. Predictive Services GIS Needs/Future GIS Capability and Process
17. Predictive Services Participation
18. Update from Fire Reporting Subcommittee
19. Bin Items
20. Planning Next Meeting/Conference Calls Logistics and Agenda Topics
21. Fire Weather Subcommittee Update
22. WFDSS Update
23. Update on ROMAN Migration to WIMS
24. 2011 NPSS Budget Planning - **Decision**
 - Statistical Software Approval/Purchase
 - SIT209 Redesign
 - Other

Exhibits:

- A. Action Items, Decisions and Meeting Topics
- B. NPSG Project Funding
- C. Predictive Services GIS Web Portal Enhancements
- D. National Preparedness Level Planning Template (Need)

- E. NWS Fire Weather Update (Need)
- F. NPSS Membership and Liaisons
- G. Predictive Services Survey Results
- H. Fire Weather Subcommittee Update
- I. WFDSS Update

Tuesday – October 5, 2010

Agenda Item: Welcome and Introductions and Meeting Logistics – Robyn Heffernan and Dan O'Brien

Dan covered building logistics. Robyn reviewed the agenda and briefed the members on the current organization that was the result of the team building and strategic plan exercise last spring. The group is currently organized into three units:

- Research and Development
- Operations and Support
- Outreach and Training

Agenda Item – Approval of Meeting Notes from April 2010 Virtual Meeting

The Meeting Notes were approved and will be posted to the NPSS website.

Agenda Item – Update from Fire Environment Committee (FENC) and National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) – Kelly Martin and Paul Schlobohm (via Conference Call)

NWCG Executive Board Overview – Paul Schlobohm

- Budget:

Almost all of the requests from NPSS that were forwarded are in the list of items that are expected to be funded. However the budget has not been finalized and current funding expectations may fall short. Each committee/subcommittee is being asked to reevaluate their requests and should receive an email shortly through FENC with further instructions. Final funding decisions will probably not be available until after the first of the year.

The timeline for the 2012 budget will be the same as last year; guidance should be disseminated prior to the meeting in January:

 - New IT Investments – early March
 - Training Requests – April
 - Continuing IT Requests - May
 - Funding Requests - June
- Strategic Planning:

More guidance will be coming regarding what the committees and subcommittees should be working on in alignment with the strategic plan.

FENC Update – Kelly Martin

FENC is looking at the NWCG Strategic Plan and how it affects them and then NPSS. The key is the Action Plans and how the projects support the Strategic Plan. They are

also looking to address the critical needs of Operation and Maintenance. These will be key agenda items at their meeting next January in Boise (January 18-21). They will not be meeting this fall due to the budget and travel restrictions.

Agenda Item: 2010 Budget Review and 2011 NWCG Budget Approvals – Robyn Heffernan (Exhibit B)

Review of Projects that are believed to be funded at some level to determine the minimum funding that would be needed:

- GIS Web Portal – \$15,000 requested; for operations and minor enhancements
- Sit/209 Redesign – \$100,000 requested; \$50,000 minimum
- Reformatting North American Regional Reanalysis (NARR) Data – \$10,000 requested; this would provide for requested data fields from the Desert Research Institute (DRI) to be reformatted and stored on the corporate database.
- Fire Severity Study – is not likely to be funded
- Fire Environment One-Stop-Shop Web Portal – is not likely to be funded
- On-line Web-based 7-Day Product – \$50,000 minimum for Phase 3 to be online for the 2011 fire season. Identified as the Top Priority for Operations and Support.
- National Fuel Moisture Database – \$15,000 requested; for operations and maintenance with minor enhancements.
- ROMAN Core Support – This was an unseen request due to technical delays that skews the NPSS Budget Request; since an additional \$60,000 is needed. Potential for the Forest Service to take over the interim funding for ROMAN

Discussion: It is disconcerting the number of projects that need annual maintenance and there is an added financial responsibility associated with the maintenance of these projects.

- ➔ **Action Item 265:** Dialog with WFDSS to insure access to the NARR data; have Rob Seli contact Shelby Law.
Responsible: Morgan Pence
Due Date: 11/19/2010
- ➔ **Action Item 266:** Request to Laura Hill for the Forest Service to possibly become responsible for the interim funding of ROMAN.
Responsible: Robyn Heffernan
Due Date: 10/15/2010

Potential opportunities for funding reductions:

- Have *ROMAN* removed from Predictive Services requests
- Delay the implementation of the *On-line Web-based 7-Day Product* since it is not currently operational. However, it was identified as the top priority for the Operations and Support Unit.
- Reduce the Request for the *Sit/209 Redesign*; with the understanding that the project will need total funding of \$340,000-360,000.
- The funding for the *National Fuel Moisture Database* could potentially be reduced by limiting enhancements.

Agenda Item: Updates from NPSS Units (including NPSS and NWCG Funded Projects)*Research and Development – Tom Rolinski*

- The first thing the unit did was develop a charter and then they were tasked with developing an inventory of projects they were working on. They identified 19 projects, not all of which require funding:
 - SIT/209 Redesign
 - Monthly Dryness Index Verification – Chuck Maxwell
 - Pattern Prediction – Rich Naden
 - GIS Web Portal – Robyn Heffernan
 - Resource Capability – Isaiah Hirschfield
 - Fire Activity Forecast – Terry Marsha
 - Product Verification – Terry Marsha
 - Season Ending Event Probabilities – Terry Marsha
 - Fire Duration – Terry Marsha (may not require funding)
 - 7-Day Online – Ed Delgado
 - National Fuel Moisture Database (NFMD) Database – Ed Delgado
 - Google Analytics – Brian Henry
 - Lightning Experimental Product – Ed Delgado with the National Weather Service
 - Corporate Database – Shelby Law
 - Gridded 7-Day – Tim Mathewson
 - Gridded Wildland Fire Seasonal Project – Tom Rolinski
 - NextGen 7-Day – Tim Mathewson
 - Reports and Data from COGNOS – John Saltenberger
 - Number of Ignitions Forecast – Tom Rolinski with Haiganoush-Preisler
- Monthly Dryness Index Verification – Chuck Maxwell
 A dryness index based on climatology has been developed for each of the geographic areas for each month. This is for use for the monthly and seasonal outlook to verify and establish the monthly index. No funding is required. It has been completed for ten of the geographic areas, with Southern Area still needing to be completed. The geographic areas will need to update the values and make any necessary revisions if Predictive Service Areas (PSAs) change
- Resource Capability – Isaiah Hirschfield
 This is similar to the previous effort by Jay Ellington that evaluates resource available in a short duration time frame and assigns a range of values.
- ROSS/COGNOS Reports – John Saltenberger
 This would involve a sophisticated use of ROSS/COGNOS Reports that would examine resource usage on “project” fires. Evaluation would be based on history and anticipation of resource needs; currently only four years of data is available
- Corporate Database – Shelby Law
 The request for establishing a corporate database moves on. The Business Case was completed in August; the findings indicated that the Remote Sensing and Applications Center (RSAC) would be the best option to host the database. They are soliciting feedback on what data sources are being used. They are also evaluating whether to store data or provide access through portals.
- Lightning Experimental Product – Ed Delgado

Weather generating lightning forecast being developed for both the western and eastern United States, ingests dryness level data. There has not been much progress on the project due to limited lightning activity. It is still supported by the NWS. (Requesting \$50,000 for Phase 3)

- Online 7-Day – Ed Delgado
The project is nearly complete has been in use at Eastern Great Basin with no major issues and should be fully operational for the next fire season. Ed is also working on the continuity of operations (COP) requirements. Future funding will be used to develop a better interface and establish the COP.
- NFMD – Ed Delgado
Ten geographic areas now have included their data and the program has expanded beyond the original intent and has entered into the maintenance phase. Additional funding would allow for optimization in hoe the graphs are drawn as well as improvements in displaying the maps. Additional security requirements are also needed. Other items to consider include: migration to the RSAC Predictive Services server, a domain name and the potential need to acquire a new programmer. (Requesting \$15,000-20,000)
- Fuel Status – Ed Delgado
This database is currently utilized by five geographic areas, developed and funded by Eastern Great Basin. It provides the NWS with a fuel assessment, provided by local fuel managers for determining issuance of Fire Weather Watches or Red Flag Warnings.
- SIT/209 Redesign– Charlie Leonard
A Needs Analysis was funded and completed last year. IBM has been contracted to provide FAMWEB support including SIT/209. The next step would include establishing a platform and data warehouse. The intent is to integrate the program with other systems to eliminate redundancy. (Requesting \$100,000, minimum of \$50,000; a total of \$340,000-360,000 is required for the project)
- Gridded 7-Day and Next Gen 7-Day – Tim Mathewson (via Conference Call)
 - Gridded 7-Day – should have solid numbers by April meeting in Boulder.
 - Next Gen 7-Day – working with Matt Jolly, established a grid of 400 points, each with 20 to 30 years of NARR data, currently evaluating breakpoints with of dryness levels. A presentation planned for the Annual Predictive Services Meeting in Pasadena.
- Gridded Wildland Fire Seasonal Outlook – Tom Rolinski
Tony Westerling at UC Merced has been contracted (\$75,000) to develop a program to forecast the number of fires and by size class to assist with the monthly and seasonal outlooks. A programmer has recently been hired and they plan to have something available to evaluate for the next fire season.
- Number of Ignitions Forecast – Tom Rolinski with Haiganoush-Preisler
This is a seven day forecast of large fires by PSA using the PSA definition; incorporating the particular NFDRS values used for the 7-Day Product. This will be a statistical analysis using fire climatology to predict fire activity on a given day. This should be in place for next fire season; no funding is requested for this project. A presentation planned for the Annual Predictive Services Meeting in Pasadena.
- GIS Web Portal – Robyn Heffernan (Exhibit C) (Annual Request \$15,000)
 - Other Enhancements:

- Map of Preparedness Levels (PL) – *in test phase, color coded*
- New Interface for 7-Day Product Viewer – *more dynamic*
- New Enhancements
 - Speed of the Data Viewer
 - . Wind point layer causing major impacts on viewer performance
 - . RSAC is soon to release an optimized wind data layer
 - Products
 - . Lightning/Dryness Level Product
 - . Lightning History
 - . Gridded percent snow cover map and time since snow melt map

Operations and Support – Gina Dingman

This unit has developed their charter and assembled a list of products. Some of which may overlap with other units. They have identified seven projects, in priority order:

- 7-Day Product – ensuring consistency and completion in a timely manner (no funding request)
- Fuel Status – Utilized by five geographic areas (no funding request)
- WFMI/WIMS – Station Location, actually belongs to the Fire Weather Subcommittee.
- ROMAN to WIMS – migration has been delayed
- ROSS/DDS Reports – two disparate systems exist to access data from ROSS; current year data is accessed through COGNOS, while historical/archived data is accessed through the Data Delivery System (DDS). The queries are not interchangeable and there is the potential for different numbers for the same questions.
- Multimedia Presentations – Camtasia
Currently several geographic areas are using Camtasia with additional Areas expected to provide online presentations next year. The BLM has approved the use of Camtasia (the software costs approximately \$300 with additional equipment costs).

Discussion:

- *The multimedia presentations have been noticed by NMAC, who has issued a tasking to explore/develop standards for the multimedia briefings.*
- *While the production of the multimedia briefing is an additional workload, it may reduce the total number of briefings necessary throughout the day.*

Outreach and Training Brenda Belongie

- This unit began as the Marketing Team to develop a promotional video and has expanded.
- Predictive Services Video
Interviews are currently being conducted
- Fuels and Fire Behavior Conference
This conference will be next week in Spokane. Predictive Services will have a presence there, including promotional material.

Agenda Item: NPSS Potential Taskings – Robyn Heffernan

Work can come to the NPSS in two different ways, either from within the subcommittee or from elsewhere as in the form of a tasking or request, and the work may be assigned to NPSS'

sublevels. Priorities need to be set as well. Currently there are three taskings that may need to be assigned to a unit for completion.

- National Preparedness Level Planning Template
- 7-Day High Risk Days
- Multimedia Assessment (from NMAC)
- Predictive Services Handbook

National Preparedness Level Planning Template – Dan O’Brien (Exhibit D)

This template was developed for use in the Northwest Geographic Area, based on historical observations, using a spreadsheet in Quattro Pro, an upgrade is needed. A 2005 Joint Fire Science Program study evaluated the feasibility of creating a National Preparedness Level Template and recommended that it proceed.

Discussion:

- *Is Predictive Services the appropriate place for this project, little influence on the Preparedness Level?*
- *Is the Center Managers Group the more appropriate entity to address this?*

- ➔ **Action Item 267:** Develop a Briefing Paper for NMAC to identify the National Preparedness Level Template Proposal and assist in identifying appropriate entities.
Responsible: Dan O’Brien and Kenan Jaycox
Due Date: November 30, 2010

7-Day High Risk Days

Issues have risen with consistency and methodology in assigning high risk days associated with the 7-Day Product. It would be a good idea to revisit the topic – use it as a training session at the Annual Predictive Services Meeting.

- ➔ **Action Item 268:** Develop a Training Session for the Annual Predictive Services Meeting on assigning High Risk Days in the 7-Day Product.
Responsible: Chuck Maxwell, Gina Dingman and Robyn Heffernan
Due Date: November 15, 2010

Multimedia Assessment – NMAC Tasking

- Items for Investigation:
- What are the minimal requirements?
- What are the obligations to be 508 compliance?
- Posting time?
- How long should the broadcast be?
- What information should be covered?
- Naming consistency – podcast, web briefing/
- Consistent location on the website.
- Additional format – RSS/YouTube?

Decision: The NMAC request for the multimedia assessment falls under the Operations and Support Unit, with the Outreach and Training Unit providing a supporting role.

- ➔ **Action Item 269:** Assess the workload of producing a daily (in-season) multimedia briefing at each GACC and the capability to automate 508 compliance.
Responsible: Operations and Support Unit, Gina Dingman
Due Date: January 3, 2011

Predictive Services Handbook

The updating of the Predictive Services Handbook was somehow lost last year in the restructuring shuffle and the updated handbook was never posted.

Decision: The Predictive Services Handbook is the responsibility of the Outreach and Training Unit. The Handbook should be reviewed in the fall and be finalized for posting in March.

Wednesday, October 6, 2010

Agenda Item: Upcoming Fall Predicted Services Annual Meeting Update – Tom Rolinski

Tom Reviewed the Draft Agenda. Monday is set aside as a travel day with an optional ice breaker scheduled for later that day. The agenda has time scheduled for the Functional Area Breakouts as well as Meteorologist and Intelligence Coordinator Breakouts. Two training sessions (Review of High Risk Philosophy, Multimedia Briefings) are scheduled for Thursday. An optional JPL Tour is available on Friday if there is enough interest; it requires a minimum of 10 attendees, and will last one and a half to two hours.

- When: November 15-19, 2010
- Where: Pasadena, California (Burbank is the closest jetport)

Agenda Item: Roving Predictive Services Award – Robyn Heffernan with Rick Ochoa (via Conference Call)

Two nominations were received:

- Alaska Coordination Center
- Eastern Great Basin Coordination Center

Decision: The first Roving Predictive Services Award is to be presented to the Eastern Great Basin Coordination Center.

Agenda Item: National Weather Service (NWS) Fire Weather Update – Jennifer Zeltwanger (via Conference Call) (Exhibit E)

- National Fire Weather Page (www.weather.gov/fire)
 - Refining the point and click capability
 - Maps will be reformatted using “open layers” instead of Google Maps (not proprietary)
 - Currently experience a freeze on new development, until web farm issues are resolved and additional people are hired
 - Jennifer will continue to take comments on the webpage development

- **Spot Weather Webpage**
A team has been formed to update the Spot Weather Webpage; they met in July and hope to have the new format available by next spring. Plans include the self identification of the NWS Fire Weather Office when the latitude x longitude is entered. Work is ongoing and Jennifer is soliciting requests.
- **Bulleted Red Flag Test**
A bulleted version of the Red Flag Warning was tested this fire season; Jennifer is not sure of the future of the format, it may undergo an additional year of testing. The NWS will be discussing the bulleted format at their Fire Weather Program Managers meeting in November and is soliciting comments – send them to Jennifer.
- **Central Region Grassland Team**
A team has been developed to look at different products and decide which any is more appropriate regarding rangeland fire danger in relation to farmer field burning. They are still in the information gathering stage.

Agenda Item: NPSS Membership Rotation and Follow-up on NPSS Liaisons Discussion – Robyn Heffernan (Exhibit F)

The reorganization into functional areas changed the membership of NPSS bringing in the leaders of the three units. Because these individuals did not join until May their tenure is limited and there is the potential for momentum to be stalled as when the new leaders assume their positions in January 2011. To avoid this it was suggested that for this one time, the chairs tenure should be extended. However, to avoid a lag the deputy leader should be actively engaged and the outgoing leaders would likely be available to assist in the transition.

Decision: Continue with the transition as originally planned and conduct the election via email.

- ➔ **Action Item 270:** Conduct the election, via email of the new leaders for the Functional Areas
Responsible: Dan O'Brien
Due Date: Nov 10-17, 2010

Liaisons:

- Paul Schlobohm – NWCG Branch Director
 - Lisa Elenz – WFDSS, recent addition
 - Kim Christenson – NMAC/NICC Representative
 - Neal Hitchcock – NMAC/NICC Representative Alternate
 - Research – There is still interest in identifying a liaison from research
- ➔ **Action Item 271:** Approach Haiganoush-Preisler to see if she is interested in being the Research Liaison; or if she can recommend someone.
Responsible: Tom Rolinski
Due Date: November 15, 2010

Agenda Item: Review of Outstanding Action Items – Robyn Heffernan (Exhibit A)

The Action Items Tracking Table was updated.

- Action Item 213 – Complete on our end. Need more information regarding the automation of RAWS, WIMS and the Nelson Model. New Action Item 272.
- Action Item 222 – Status unknown
- Action Item 225 – Will be presented to the Center Managers March 2011
- Action Item 240 – Outreach and Training will be responsible for the Predictive Services Handbook.
- Action Item 253 – Completed, moving on with new Action Item 267.
- Action Item 261 – Completed, new Action Item 271; will be discussed at the Annual Predictive Services Meeting.

- ➔ **Action Item 272:** Schedule a Conference Call to obtain more information regarding the automation of RAWS, WIMS and the Nelson Model
Responsible: Russ Gripp
Due Date: Jan 15, 2011

Agenda Item: Predictive Services Survey Results – Marva Willey (via Conference Call) (Exhibit G)

The survey was an effort to determine the skills and capabilities of individuals that could be shared within Predictive Services staffs. The subjects were taken from the Predictive Services Handbook lists of skills, abilities and courses that were listed as required, recommended or suggested. Marva reviewed the results, which showed some discrepancies.

- ➔ **Action Item 273:** Review the survey results and evaluate the possibility of conducting a new survey with clear instructions.
Responsible: Marva Willey and Brenda Belongie
Due Date: November 15, 2010

Agenda Item: GIS Needs/Future GIS Capability and Process – Robyn Heffernan and Charlie Leonard

Currently there is not a strategic approach for geospatial data; there is potentially a duplication of efforts and lack of consistency in regards to geospatial data resulting from the lack of an advocate for Predictive Services.

- ➔ **Action Item 274:** Interface with the Geospatial Task Group (GTG) to request a Liaison.
Responsible: Robyn Heffernan
Due Date: December 15, 2010
- ➔ **Action Item 275:** Develop a list of geospatial needs.
Responsible: Dan O'Brien, Charlie Leonard and Barbara Haney
Due Date: January 1, 2011

Agenda Item: Predictive Services Participation – Robyn Heffernan, Rick Ochoa (via Conference Call) and Unit Leaders

Lack of participation continues to be a concern. National and local programs are integrated and any disconnect reflects on the program as a whole. NPSS and Center Managers need to be in unison to address the situation.

- ➔ **Action Item 276:** When presenting the Predictive Services Strategic Plan to the Center Managers, solicit support for the Predictive Services Program and initiate a discussion on how to more effectively manage the program.
Responsible: Kenan Jaycox and Robyn Heffernan
Due Date: March 2011

Agenda Item: Strategic Planning Progress Update – Robyn Heffernan

The Strategic Plan was discussed at the Restructuring Meeting and realigned along the Functional Areas. The Vision, Mission Statement and Guiding Principles remain the same; the goals and goal statements have been updated:

- Goal 1 – Operations and Support: Products and services are reliable, adaptable, timely and remain relevant to support varied user needs.
- Goal 2 – Research and Development: Integration of proven technology and applied science is the foundation of Predictive Services operational products.
- Goal 3 – Outreach and raining: Customers are aware of and successfully use Predictive Services products and services.

The strategies have been prioritized by the Units.
 The next step is to develop the Action Plans.

- ➔ **Action Item 277:** Update the Strategic Plan with current Strategies and print them on a plotter for review.
Responsible: Charlie Leonard and Robyn Heffernan
Due Date: November 15, 2010

Agenda Item: 2011 NPSS Budget Planning – Robyn Heffernan (Exhibit B)

NPSS Budget Items

- Seasonal Assessment Workshop
 - Eastern Seasonal Assessment Workshop – No Funding Request for 2011
 - When: Week of January 10, 2011
 - Where: Workshop will be virtual
 - Western Seasonal Assessment Workshop - \$4,000

Annual Predictive Services Meeting - \$3,600

Additional funding may be necessary for the 2012 meeting dependent upon the host agency

Purchase of statistical software for the Geographic Area Coordination Centers - \$8,000

Travel/Per Diem - \$1,500

Performance Awards - \$5,000

Camtasia Software and Equipment - \$2,000

Additional budget requests will be evaluated at the meeting in February

Agenda Item: Planning Next Meeting/Conference Calls Logistics and Agenda Topics – Robyn Heffernan

Future Meetings:

- Next Meeting
 - When: February 8-10, 2011
 - Where: Boise, Idaho
- Spring Meeting
 - When: April 5,6,7, 2010
 - Where: Virtual Meeting

Conference Call:

- Will be conducted on an as needed basis

Thursday, October 07, 2010

Agenda Item: Fire Weather Subcommittee (FWSC) Update – Bryan Henry (via Conference Call) (Exhibit H)

- Group Additions/Departures
 - Robyn Heffernan rejoined the subcommittee to replace the retiring Rick Ochoa in August
 - In September 2010, the subcommittee welcomed Calvin Bailey as the Eastern States Representative to the group
- FY2010 Project Update
 - RAWS Maintenance Noncompliance solution initialized – *They are requesting that the report be divided into portable and fixed RAWS. They are working to grant RAWS station owners' permission to again log their own maintenance. Stations still found in noncompliance will be removed from the network; the data will still be archived. The two requests have been forwarded to Herb Arnold.*
 - WFMI/WIMS Location Metadata project moving forward – *The final letter requesting station owners to site their stations using the NAD 83 datum has been submitted to NWCG for dissemination.*
 - RAWS Standards Research Project: contract awarded to Quality Parks Incorporated – *Will also be examining how the RAWS Standards were determined.*
 - FWSC Intent Document completed and submitted to FENC in June 2010
- FY2010 “Other” Projects
 - RAWS Data Archive: NWCG BLM Funds moved to DRI
 - The FWSC began building further inroads into the academic community with requests made to JFSP to call for more fire weather-related research
 - Provided feedback to Roger Lamoni on the new version of the NWS Fire Weather webpage
 - After investigating planned upgrades to WFMI, opted not to pursue a proposed backup system to the existing RAWS network and data network. – *The WFMI*

backup will be a full backup and should be completed within a year; it will be visible to the users.

- Funding Issues
 - A lot of progress has been made in recent months in developing vehicles to move NWCG funds from the source to the vendors
 - Paul Schlobohm, Kelly Martin, Robyn Heffernan and Lisa McDevitt deserve a lot of credit and thanks for their efforts!
- Funding for FY2011
 - FEOU Lightning Contract funded for \$171,000
 - RAWs Data Archive funded for \$25,000
 - New data server to host the RAWs Data Archive funded for \$5,000
 - My focus is to find projects that are high impact and low/no cost that will benefit those we serve
 - Given the existing and anticipated budget climate (decreasing funds) I think that the “pot” is only going to get smaller each year
 - The budget allocations above reflect FENC’s unified approach to making sure that the funds are spent in the most efficient manner
 - I am always open to comments and suggestions: bryan_henry@blm.gov
- FY2011 RAWs-Related Projects
 - Bring outstanding RAWs projects to conclusion (noncompliance and metadata projects)
 - RAWs Standards Research may (should) lead to new projects...depending on the results of the initial investigation
 - Review and Update the Interagency Wildland Fire Weather Station Standards and Guidelines
 - Address new RAWs issues
 - Standardization of the WIMS ID Number process
 - 1300 NFDRS Obs Delinquency
- FY2011...Continued
 - Making inroads with Environment Canada
 - Development of partnership has many potential benefits
 - Our Canadian friends deal with some of the same data quality issues that we deal with
 - Partnership may lead to not only better relations and cooperation between the fire communities of both countries, but better and more uniform solutions that will benefit both fire weather programs
 - Should the RAWs program move toward adherence to WMO standards, we would need their participation

Agenda Item: Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) Update – Morgan Pence (Exhibit I)

Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) and National Fire Decision Support Center (NFDS) Information and Update

- Background

- Wildland Fire Management Research, Development and Application (WFM RDA) – Tom Zimmerman
 - Roles and Responsibilities
 - Coordinate Fire Science Application
 - Develop and Support a Wildland Fire Decision Support System
 - Project Fire Season Costs
 - Coordinate Scientific Efforts Associated with Wildland Fire Costs
 - Participate in Developing Hazardous Fuels Planning Applications
 - Participate in and manage the National Fire Decision Support Center
- National Fire Decision Support Center
 - Improve agency capability to make and implement wildland fire decisions
 - WFM RDA manages NFDSC and provides the application component, initially functional late 2009
 - Composed of Forest Service and Department of Interior members; consists of four analysts, four Lead analysts and one manager (Lisa Elenz)
 - Roles and Responsibilities
 - Develop, improve and increase production and operational use of decision support products
 - Provide practical mentoring and other means to strengthen decision support capacity at regional and field levels and achieve refresher and currency training for non-NFDSC analysts
 - Develop a comprehensive plan for integrating new knowledge into existing wildland fire curricula
 - Provide a primary point of contact for communication between scientists and participating field managers
 - Strengthen post-fire reviews and evaluations to improve applications and develop lessons learned
- WFM RDA and NFDSC Website
 - www.wfmdra.org
 - Background information about WFM RDA and NFDSC
 - Vision and Mission Statements
 - Links to 2009 Annual Reports (2010 coming soon)
 - Link to WFDSS Homepage
 - NFDSC Standard Operating Procedures and contact number/email
- WFDSS Homepage
 - <https://wfdss.usgs.gov>
- How to keep up to date on WFDSS stuff
 - WFDSS home page has new postings all the time including Camtasia “how to” videos
 - RSS Feed/Twitter
 - WFDSS Release Notes
 - Monthly Geographic Area Editor calls/meeting in November
 - Use the Training Site
 - Use the “Feedback” button to provide feedback
- New/Upcoming Items to WFDSS

- Helpdesk
- Data layer improvements/additions
- Smoke/Air Quality tool links
- Possibly (depending on funding) Fire Behavior tools use gridded weather rather than require user to select a RAWS
- Contract with IBM ending, new contract process beginning
- NFDSC
 - Overview of Fire Season 2010 Operations
 - Communicating and Requesting Assistance
 - Documentation Support
 - Analysis Support (in coordination with Geographic Area Editors)
 - Supported 78 Incidents (May 17th – September 28th)
 - Incidents were primary Forest Service
- Feedback through online evaluations
 - Analysts sent link to “customer” with anonymous online evaluation
- Rocky Mountain Center Manager
 - Ned Nikolov (manager of the Rocky Mountain Center) just joined WFM RDA
 - More information to come on how he will interface with our group and how he might connect/relate to Predictive Services through WFM RDA

Discussion:

- *Concern is how to get Predictive Services involved in WFDSS.*
- *Predictive Services could be the weather consultant; aiding in determining the validity of the data and selection of the appropriate RAWS or correct grid points.*

➔ **Action Item 278:** Schedule a Conference Call to continue the conversation regarding Predictive Services involvement in WFDSS.

Responsible: Gina Dingman, Tom Rolinski, John Barborinas, John Saltenberger, Dan O’Brien and Robyn Heffernan

Due Date: October 29, 2010

Agenda Item: Update on ROMAN Migration to WIMS – Jeff Barnes

The project is currently delayed due to technical issues and the agreement process. The agreement is currently with NOAA legal prior to signatures. The target date for implementation is the end of 2011.

Agenda Item: Bin Items

Automated WIMS/Nelson Model

Larry Bradshaw and Sue Petersen have been evaluating the model and process. Information should be available soon, with anticipated implementation mid-October/early November.

Agenda Item: Update from Fire Reporting Subcommittee – Rochelle Pederson

- *Integrated Reporting of Wildland Fire Information (iRWIn)* – This project is still in the development phase

- *FORS Group* – The group previously developed the data standards for the Unique Fire Identifier. There were problems that developed when WFDSS incorporated the data element into their program. The group has made some revisions and hopes to have them released soon.
- *WFMI* – The WFMI Change Management Board submitted a proposal to the Fire Reporting Subcommittee to determine if there are elements that they would like adopted on an interagency basis and what the business rules would be.
The WFMI System is looking at a major refresh that would provide one system for all its users. They are also looking for places to find data that would eliminate the need for the user to reenter data and to collect information that was previously accessed.
(Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI) Indicator Code and how tactics were influenced).
- *DAWG* – This group has dissolved and a new subcommittee that will oversee the development and maintenance of data standards. Rochelle is the Acting Chair.
- *Unit ID* – In 2005 NWCG tasked the ROSS Group under Phase 2 of their Charter to cleanup and provide oversight for the Unit ID. A new data standard has been proposed for Unit IDs and NWCG has recognized the need for a Change Management Board to oversee the process. John Barborinas is on the board and it will be organized under the Fire Reporting Subcommittee.

Meeting Adjourned