

# NWCG Interagency Fire Planning Committee

Monthly Meeting Notes

December 13, 2013

November & December Combined Meeting

Attendees		
X	Reeve Armstrong: BIA – Vice Chair	Elaine Waterbury: NWCG Branch
	Scott Bradshaw – Associate	Tami Parkinson: FS
	Steve Larrabee – Associate	X
XX	Laura Barrett: FS – Primary	Marlena Hovorka: FS (cc)
X	Bob Sommer – Associate	Jaymee Fojtik: FPA Liaison
X	Becky Brooks: FWS – Primary	Dan Smith: NASF – Associate
X	Tate Fischer: BLM – Chair	Mark Lichtenstein: FS (cc)
	Mary Huffman: TNC – Liaison (cc)	X
	Jeff Manley	Jenna Sloan: OWF (cc)
		Ben Butler: IFPC Exec. Asst.

## Issues/Discussions/Actions:

- The previous meeting minutes were approved
- The committee agreed that it would be useful to maintain an internal Action Item Tracker and Ben will build and maintain that in Google Docs

## **Fire Planner Learning “Pathway” Project**

- A special meeting was held to discuss the involvement with FMC to build the portal website.
- The WFM RD&A has a detailer that will be starting in January and will be available for several months (2-3). Annie Benoit will be the detailer and the group feels that she would be an excellent person for the job.
- Tate is waiting on a response from the Fuels Management Committee chair (Mark Jackson) with regard to developing an agreement between the two committees to develop a website.
  - Reeve will be following up with Mark to ensure that this happens.
- ***Tate will be the IFPC liaison between the two committees for administrative oversight and group involvement. Laura will be a secondary liaison for website content and development.***
- The two committee liaisons should meet with NWCG to identify where the portal website will live (A URL / web location)
- The WFM RD&A has a close relationship with the University of Idaho who manage FRAMES. FRAMES is now utilizing a Drupal database. The portal website could potentially be hosted on the FRAMES server as a draft page as an interim solution until the NWCG contract is settled.
- The IFPC needs to get together to flesh out the scope of work that is shared with the WFM RD&A detailer.
- Names: Tate will collect suggestions for the naming of the website portal and everyone should send their suggestions to him.

## **Action Items:**

Assigned to	Due Date	Description
All Committee Members	12/19/13	IFPC will get together to work on yarding up website content and leverage Jeff Manley's time
All Committee Members	1/7/14	Send your suggestions for names of the website to Tate.

## Fire Management Plan Direction

- NPS inserted language in the RM18 regarding the ability to utilize spatial fire planning
- How does the committee want to go about putting out guidance on the ability to use spatial fire
- BIA has developed a Spatial Fire Management Plan template and is in the process of vetting the documents within the BIA.
  - The guide should be approved and able to be shared with others in mid to late January
  - The template will not be required it will be used as a tool should the field want to utilize it
- WFDSS Questions:
  - If a unit only has a text based fire management plan should they be allowed to toggle the spatial fire management plan?
    - Yes – WFDSS chose the name “Spatial Fire Planning” but at the root it is simply an option that gives greater flexibility to the field.
  - WFDSS could/should be or become a tool to help create spatial fire management plans
- Three options for getting formal guidance to the field “allowing for” spatial fire management planning/plans
  1. Try to move forward as an NWCG IFPC committee to say “yes” spatial is an option
  2. Bureau by Bureau in an integrated effort to ensure that it is all timely
  3. Move it forward from the OWF perspective.
- The committee agreed that the template does not need to be NWCG given the fact that the Forest Service will have their own guidance
- When the Forest Service guidance comes out IFPC will send guidance through NWCG stating that the 2009 template is still the Interagency Standard for DOI with the amendment addition regarding spatial fire management planning/plans.
  - Tate – will work to draft the NWCG memo.
  - Each Bureau can then develop their own guidance to tier off of the NWCG memo to further their direction.
  - A discussion was held regarding whether this should be a DOI policy rather than an NWCG memo.
    - The same memo will need to clearly identify that this is no longer an NWCG item/policy. It is DOI...
    - The NWCG is still a standards group and as a result there is still a need for our plans to fit together and be standardized (much like hoses and other equipment needs to work together across bureaus). Therefore the NWCG will continue to play a role in the process.
      - To this end the template becomes strong guidance by the IFPC and then each agency can and should develop their own guidance and/or templates.
- The Fire Learning Network (Mary) offered assistance in working with the field to help encourage innovation and creativity with regard to the creation of Spatial Fire Management Plans.
- Forest Service Update:
  - Issue guidance in early January to allow folks to have time to develop spatial plans before fire season

- The field will have a year to develop spatial plans and therefore the guidance that is sent out will be interim guidance.
- The guidance will still come out in January.
- The DOI Departmental Manuals (DM) are being updated and the committee is aware of this and the committee feels like what is in the new versions regarding fire planning will suffice.

**Action Items:**

Assigned to	Due Date	Description
Tate Fischer	12/19/13	Draft a memo for NWCG outlining to the field the DOI guidance for fire planning and plans given the updated Forest Service guidance and policy.  This memo will need to be submitted to NWCG for approval and distribution.

**STARFire (Jeff Manley)**

- Jeff presented an overview of some of the internal (NPS) analyses that have been done using STARFire and the committee members are very interested in making this product an interagency tool that can help all of the agencies.
- Andy Kirsch will be the lead from NPS when Jeff retires.

**Virtual Field Trips: SFMP Units (Huffman)**

- Given the amount of activity in the fire planning arena now is a good time to re-engage with the field regarding spatial fire plans as a means of establishing active feedback loops.
- Doesn't have to be a field tour as was originally thought.
- Could put on a webinar to have folks get together and share success stories, ideas and other discussion on spatial fire planning.
  - This would ensure that IFPC is catching some of the lessons learned from the field and keep up on how they are working to build the new plans.

**Action Items:**

Assigned to	Due Date	Description
Mary Huffman and Ben Butler	First webinar by February	Work to develop and set up several webinars to engage the field and highlight successes and struggles.

**SFMP Geospatial Task-Group**

- The committee has determined that they are strongly in need of a 'Geospatial Task Group'
- Need to develop the "task" – what is it that this task group would do?

**Action Items:**

Assigned to	Due Date	Description
All Committee Members	12/19/13	Develop the tasking for the 'geospatial task group'. This should include the skills and knowledge that are needed for the members.

**Open Discussion**

**January Meeting**

- January 23 at 09:00
  - Jeff Scott will be the NPS representative in Jeff's absence
  - Frank Fay will be the USFS representative along with Laura in Bob's absence

**Future Dates of Interest:**

**Geospatial Task Group Tasking Session**

December 18, 2013

13:00 – 15:00 MDT

NIFC, JW Bldg., 2nd Floor BLM Conf. Room

877.952.2522

PIN – 9099004#

**Pathway Portal Website Content Development Session**

December 19, 2013

13:00 – 15:00 MDT

NIFC, JW Bldg., 2nd Floor BLM Conf. Room

877.988.5301

PIN – 248665#

December 13: Ted's cookie-crumble (1330 MPR)

December 20: Ted's last day in the office

December 24: Christmas Eve

December 25: Christmas Day

December 31: New Year's Eve

January 1: New Year's Day

January 3: Jeff's last day in the office