

Interagency Fire Planning Committee

Monthly Meeting Notes

February 28, 2013

Attendees:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reeve Armstrong: BIA – Vice Chair (cc)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Elaine Waterbury: NWCG Branch
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scott Bradshaw – Associate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tami Parkinson: FS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steve Larrabee – Associate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marlena Hovorka: FS (cc)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laura Barrett: FS – Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jaymee Fojtik: FPA Liaison
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bob Sommer – Associate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dan Smith: NASF – Associate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Becky Brooks: FWS – Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Lichtenstein: FS (cc)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tate Fischer: BLM – Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jenna Sloan: OWF (cc)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ted Milesnick – Advisor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Butler: BIA/NPS – IFPC Exec. Asst.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mary Huffman: TNC – Liaison (cc)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Manley: NPS – Primary		

(cc) = via conference call

Issues/Discussions/Actions:

Minutes

- January notes approved with minor edit from Becky
- Jeff will final and get posted to web

Cohesive Strategy (CS) – Jenna

- Regional action plan public comment period has closed with applicable edits being incorporated into final versions for approval on March 5.
- CS managed out of WFEC (FACA group).
- WFEC will decide whether to publish publically
- Still need to determine how action plans will be turned into actions by various entities.
- Interested to see what actions they suggest as national level actions
- National management action group for fuels has been formed
 - Tasking from WFEC – Erik Christensen, Bob Sommer, TNC, State Forester, rep from each 3 regions (Bob taking place of Liz Reinhart for FS)
 - Evaluate and make recommendations for specific actions
- Q: Are there other groups that will be formed for non-fuels regional action plan recommendations?
 - Jenna – not yet. Thinking about it. Looking to see if there are existing groups that might take them on.
- Proceeding w/ national risk tradeoff
 - Recent meeting to discuss; what scenarios, what tradeoffs, etc. will be examined
 - Scenario example – what would happen if we cut fed investment in a program by 50% - what happens (e.g. fuels program)?
 - March meeting to view progress and take next cut at what is wanted/needed for tradeoff analysis
 - Concerns voiced that this has been attempted unsuccessfully on other projects and agency fire overhead needs to ensure tasking is being followed

SES interest in SFMP – Jenna

- Tate – there already appears to be confusion regarding S Fire Management Plan vs. WFDSS effort (SFP = Spatial Fire Planning)
- Jenna – recently DOI Interior Fire Exec. Committee (IFEC) and additional senior level FS executives (Hubbard, Harbour, et al) discussed spatial fire plan and planning efforts
- Harbour specifically requested that DOI work with FS in this regard
- BIA was the only DOI agency that touted their efforts
- Next steps in this regard
 - Formulate a briefing paper (BP) with the IFEC and senior level FS being the primary audience
 - How we're currently moving forward and what we've done to this point
 - Include what would we would like them to do with this information
 - Info vs. decision: informational only
 - Discussion about going forward with BP from IFPC (all 5 agencies) or just DOI
 - FS uncomfortable with joint presentation and suggests it be DOI-centric
 - DOI briefing paper will be produced with FS contributing as their comfort level allows

Action: Jenna will send briefing paper format to Tate. IFPC will work with Jenna to develop a briefing paper within a timeframe she'll set

FS FMP Direction – Bob Sommer

- Background provided on fire planning issues in the agency focusing on FS differences regarding lawsuits, etc.
- This requires a different approach for FS rather than that from DOI agencies
- Harbour has presented some FS ideas on changes to fire planning to DOI execs
- Still working on shifting all FMP decisions to Forest Plan level
- WFDSS becomes a tool in implementing the forest direction
 - Where is WFDSS getting direction from to work on FS planning direction?
 - Marlina – using advice from IFPC and others to guide changes in WFDSS (e.g. getting away from FMU-centric structure of WFDSS)
 - Changing how decisions and requirements are represented in WFDSS doesn't necessarily change compliance requirements if actions and effects are consistent with LMP or FMP compliance
 - Q: Is FS PNW guidance for LMP/FMP different from that coming out of FS on planning?
Bob – just their way to clean up terminology from 2009 policy changes

FS Chief's 2013 Letter of Intent – Bob Sommer

- This letter appeared confusing to the DOI fire practitioners; last year was more cut and dry – suppress all
- Joint DOI/FS memo released the other day (distributed electronically while on the call)
- Increased focus on risk management with high emphasis on short term cost savings

Terminology – Becky

- Two terms (FMU and FMP) under consideration for updated definition
- IFPC agreed on our proposal for both

Action: Becky will take our proposed language to Fuels committee and Fire Use sub-committee to integrate with their comments prior to giving them to Alan for all-committee review

Learning Pathways – Elaine

- Budget – Curious if the \$50K ear-marked for IFPC is still held in sequestration; NWCG is doing mid-year review in April. They will know more by then (since then sequestration has been put in place).
- Draft white paper – proposal for way forward
 - **Action:** Elaine will work with Deb and Mark on a meeting to discuss the draft and way forward.
 - **Action:** Targeting March 15 date for meeting – Elaine will put out Doodle poll

Round Robin

Laura – Ben met with Fay before she moved on to learn the NWCG portal technical process

Elaine – The new NWCG portal contract/plan has been cancelled – will still be an NWCG web presence, but not sure yet what form it will take. Ben and Laura will still be our contacts for whatever form it takes in the future.

Tate – As Tate takes on detail, Reeve will function as co-chair. Becky will take on NWCG meeting presence for us. Other members will pick up the slack.

Action: Elaine will check to see if anything needs to be done to make Ted official voting member for BLM while Tate is in the detail position.

Becky – request to get together a side meeting on what we need to tackle for SFMP initiative, including FMU guidance. FWS is working on SFMP for MA units. FWS effort will be roping in NPS as well.

Action: Tate will query the masses via Doodle poll and arrange this meeting

Jeff – SFMP project starting in two weeks at San Juan Islands NHP. At TNC's request, Mason McKinley from the Center for Natural Lands Management and co-founder of the Washington Prescribed Fire Council will attend.

Upcoming Meetings and Dates:

March 10 – Daylight Savings Time begins

March 15 – Meeting with WFI (tentative)

March 17 – St. Patrick's Day

March 28 – Monthly IFPC

March 31 - Easter

April 25 – Monthly IFPC