

NWCG Interagency Fire Planning Committee

Monthly Meeting Notes

August 15, 2013

Attendees

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

Issues/Discussions/Actions:

Note: The July meeting was deferred due to fire activity and schedule conflicts. Today's meeting will comprise the August IFPC meeting. The next regular IFPC meeting is scheduled for September 26.

Planner Pathways Website

- Digital Visions Enterprise Team has been contracted and awaiting further information from IFPC
 - An IFPC subgroup met a few weeks back to start outlining the structure/hierarchy/general topical areas for the website. Further work on that has been delayed by unavailability of Ben
 - We should make continue to make headway without Ben and catch up with him as able.
 - Elaine suggested that we schedule an off-site workshop this fall to work on building content for the website.
- **Decision**
 - The committee will continue work on the development of a mock-up.
 - **Action Item** – Jeff will put out a doodle poll to schedule a work session in the next two weeks. He'll also work on a powerpoint representation of the mock-up work done to-date.
 - **Action Item** – Jeff will contact Craters of the Moon superintendent to see if we can revive the plans we had last year to conduct an off-site workshop there. He'll also send out a doodle poll to see which week might be the best for the session.

Cohesive Strategy

- Jenna has sent out the Phase III draft for review and comment
- Substantial work is needed to organize the report and formulate a strategy. Becky, Tate, and Dick Bahr are working with Jenna via teleconference this week to help move it forward.
- Consolidated agency comments are due to Jenna by August 16.

FMP Template

- BLM/Ted had some suggested edits to the template language. All were accepted by those in attendance.

- FS is still working on their FMP strategy and will hopefully know something more by Oct 1. Their direction may wind up needing to alter references to FS intent in the current draft. Standby for more on that topic.
 - **Actions:** Jeff will update the template draft to reflect those changes and gin up a draft cover memo for NWGC approval.
 - Elaine will get us on the NWCG agenda for mid-October for us to present the modified text and cover memo.

Terminology

- Laura presented some ideas on how or whether to change the NWCG “Threat Fire” definition. She will send out more specifics on the proposal for further discussion
- Elaine recommended that we invite Dick Bahr to our next meeting to discuss some fire management definition suggestions we had for the policy group. Similarly there will be 30 words from fire policy going out to the committees soon for review and comment back to NWCG. Again, informal communication and negotiation with the policy group is desired to work out disagreements to the extent possible prior to sending in comments.
- There was also discussion on the proposed use of the term “complex” to define a particular fire complexity. There is concern that this would become confusing with regard to the term “complex” already being used to define a group of fires managed under a single incident management organization. WFDSS/RD&A has drafted a paper on the topic and sent it out to GA leads. It has not circulated within NIFC/NWCG committees to our knowledge.
 - **Actions:** Laura will forward the RD&A paper to IFPC
 - Becky will contact Dick Bahr re: coming to our September meeting to discuss terminology
- Links to ‘complex’ issue documents can be found at:
- http://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/pdfs/WFDSS_DataSharing.pdf
- http://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/pdfs/WFDSS_Complexing.pdf

Wildfire Coding

- FS via FIRESTAT is considering additional fields to enrich information on wildfire response. NPS is working on the same issue through their pilot effort. Laura and Jeff will share with IFPC those efforts

NPS Strategic Plan

- NPS is working on an updated strategic plan. It is out for internal NPS comment at present. Jeff will send it to IFPC for information with a request that it not be forwarded

Fire Management Planning

- FS is continuing work on revising their fire management planning processes and requirements
- NPS and FWS are similarly undergoing a process of examining existing FMP requirements and processes.
- Most efforts are focused on improving plan quality and utility while reducing complexity, time and cost to produce plans given shrinking capabilities and budgets
- BLM is beginning a multi-year process to reconsider their LMP process and requirements, which may affect fire planning down the road
- All are committed to sharing information on their agency efforts (to the extent their agency leadership will allow)

- There are common elements among the efforts, and at minimum it is important to share agency ideas as they evolve to understand how each agency's approach may affect other partner agencies.

Bin Items

- Suggested topic for future meeting – STARFire (Jeff Manley)
- Elaine suggested that we invite Roshelle Pederson to an upcoming meeting to discuss IRWIN

Upcoming Meetings and Dates:

September 26 – Monthly IFPC

October 24 – Monthly IFPC