

GSC Conference Call Notes

August 6, 2014 13:30-15:30 MST

20140806_GSCConferenceCallNotes

GSC Conference Call Notes

August 6, 2014

1:30 - 3:30 MST

Next call: Wednesday, September 3rd at 1:30 MST

Welcome

Meeting Facilitator: Andrew Bailey

Notes: Autumn Mason

Attendance:

Conference Call Attendees				
BIA	BLM	DOI -OWF	FWS	NPS
Joe Kafka	Dianna Sampson	Susan Goodman	Cameron Tongier	Kathie Hansen
Luther Arizona	Vanessa Glynn-Linaris	Andrew Bailey	Kari Gromatzky	Skip Edel
		Roshelle Pederson		Dave Hammond
USFS	USGS	Eastern States	Western States	Guests
Sean Triplett	Liz Lyle	Curt Stripling	John Watermolen	Ed Delgado
Autumn Mason	Susan Stitt	Jason Braunstein		
Andy Wilson				
Jill Kuenzi				
Alison Fletcher				

Agenda:

Item	Goal	Lead
National Fuel Moisture DB redesign	Informational/Feedback	Ed Delgado, NICC Predictive Services
GSTOP status	Informational	Kathie Hansen
NWCG Organization Overview	Informational	Andrew Bailey
Membership List Feedback	Discussion	Andrew Bailey
GSC Org and Intent Document	Discussion	Andrew Bailey
GSC Standards: Fire Occurrence, Fire History Polygon, Fuel Treatment Polygon	Discussion/Recommendation	Joe Kafka/Kathie Hansen/Andrew Bailey
GSC Standards: Future	Discussion/Recommendation	Kathie Hansen/Andrew Bailey
GSC Round Table	Round Table	All

National Fuel Moisture DB redesign:

- Redesign of fuel national moisture database. Tour of site by Ed Delgado.
- Background - 2006 fuels info from field in multiple formats to GACC's. Difficult to get big picture of fuels status with all the diff formats. Annie Brown (Benoit), Ed Delgado, and Julie P designed a new Eastern Great Basin project, expanded to national project. Built in-house with various players.
- Search by state or GACC. 936 US sampling sites, mostly in the west. 147,000 records in system after 8 yrs. Color of pins on map indicate its sampling recency. Station names on right side, fuels sampled are on left. Scale dependent.
- Can query by GACC, state, site, and fuel type. Generates graphs by fuel type by historical low, average, and high. Business logic applied to DB to make values meaningful and useful. Can compare multiple years to see how they are trending.
- Metadata (called site info) also available for each station which includes a remarks section. Weather data linked to nearest RAWS station.
- Designed to be simple for various users. Over time, additional functionality has been requested. Starting new DB from scratch. Building using Postgress SQL to get a more robust DB. Adding GIS layers to plot sites and data itself. Can export data but only one station at a time at the moment. Can import historical data. Going to add more statistical analysis tools for better query and viewing options.
- Need to get feedback from business community and make data available for anyone who needs to use it.
- No national interagency standard for fuel sampling – can't guarantee quality of data
 - Data is generally pretty good but does have some outliers.
 - Limited high level research use.
 - Only readily available fuel sampling data.
 - Very useful for fire.
- Would prefer a coordinated group response from GSC
 - Fwd. comments to Andrew for now
 - They will be compiled and sent to Ed
 - Feedback in by early September
 - Email Ed with questions only – all other feedback submit to Andrew
- Do you maintain data or do individual units maintain data?
 - Not an official archive of fuel moisture data.
 - Individual units keep all records and archive data.
 - System only gets final calculated value of fuel moisture.
 - Fuel samplers collect and keep all the data collected.
- Bring a data feed into EGP? Question for Sean.

GSTOP Status:

- Received a draft copy from the National Operations Center (DOI - NOC) about 2 weeks ago. Sent to Elaine Waterbury – acting NWCG PMU Branch Chief
 - Reviewed draft with Cindy Wolf and their web assistant and came back with 6

pages of concerns and changes, including 508 compliance issues.

- Kathie sent back to the NOC
 - Editor and graphic designer on leave this week – hope to have changes included soon.
- Overall happy with the result.
- NIROPS naming convention - do we want to address with new version of GSTOP coming out? Good topic for next DMC meeting. Can this wait until next season or do we need to address this season? Consensus - need to address but it can wait until after this fire season is over. Will pursue as opportunity becomes available.
 - Need to at least highlight the discrepancy in training for GISS.

NWCG Organization Overview:

- Org chart shared via GoTo Meeting. Equip and Technology Branch Coordinator is vacant (what GSC is ultimately governed by). DMC and GSC are under Planning and Management Branch instead for the meanwhile. Elaine Waterbury is coordinator. No timeline on when Equip and Tech Branch Coordinator will be filled. NIAC is now under Preparedness Branch for the meanwhile.
- Elaine Waterbury needs to be coordinated with for any GSC/DMC efforts being done.
- DMC, the GSC parent committee, is responsible for identifying who needs to be involved when drafting a data standard and also manages the process. They also interact with the WFIT process (interagency IT investment side).
- DMC will have an October meeting in Boise and would like GSC to be involved.

Membership List Feedback:

- General unrest among some for being excluded from GSC focus group. Purpose was not to restrict flow of info, but to focus on business of the GSC.
- Ideas on how to function better as a sub-committee but still ensure that info gets out?
 - Strengthen info sharing in own agencies.
 - Notes sharing via GSC site.
 - LLC new community? Can use the subscribe method to get word out that notes are up, etc. Autumn/Andrew will follow up and try to find the community that Dorothy Albright created 5 yrs. ago, see if it survived the transition.
 - GSC site will be revamped at the end of the year via re-compete contract with another FAM-IT application. More to come on this, Autumn is POC.

GSC Org and Intent Document:

- DMC feedback will help to define the GSC focus areas. This will be tabled until further notice.

GSC Standards: Fire Occurrence, Fire History Polygon, Fuel Treatment Polygon:

- Aviation Hazards in 60 day [external commentary phase](#). Ends Sept. 30th.
- New spreadsheet for proposed standards is now being used to address consolidating comments. Voting members need to look at and make sure they concur with layer specific attributes and core attributes. Some redundant (b/n specific and core) have been removed by DMC to eliminate confusion. Core - dropped HAccuracy and VAccuracy based on review. Layer specific for point - many come out of the IRWIN project. When data standards are approved, will convert worksheets to multi-page pdf's. Providing empty GDB schema will be critical.
- Standards are intended to be a minimum set of data to facilitate data sharing; they are a container that can contain general types of data and they do not define any specific layer. For example, Fuel Treatment Polygon standard could be applied to roll up all completed treatments for a specific time period, or only proposed treatments. Layer metadata defines what is represented by a specific dataset.
- Wildland Fire Location Point (proposed) - Can link fire occurrence with WFMI database, for example. Fewer attributes for polygon standard. Question about Ignition Source Kind (assigned) and Point Type – the source of the domain values is unclear. Would make it difficult to crosswalk. Did one come from WFMI? Kathie will check with Skip.
- Wildland Fire Perimeters (proposed) – Changed language from “Storage” to “Exchange”.
- Fuel Treatment Polygon - comments were straight forward. Added domains (acres) and agency info. Treatment status (planned, initiated, or completed) was re-added to support use of the standard by NFPORS since last time sent out.
- Andrew will distribute these 3 standards for approval by email once Ignition Source Kind and Point Type domain issues have been clarified.

GSC Standards - Future:

- Have several requested and assigned.
www.nwcg.gov/pms/standards/index.htm#assigned_standard
- Need to talk to NICC Predictive Services and see if some of these are still needed and what is priority. Andrew will coordinate with Ed Delgado.

GSC Roundtable:

- Opportunities for GISS assignments
- Next meeting Sept. 3rd
- Vanessa will be leaving for new position. Will need new BLM representative.

Action Items:

- All: Comments on National Fuel Moisture db project to Andrew.
- All: Save the date for GSC meeting the week of October 20th.
- Andrew, Autumn, Susan, Vanessa: Fire GIS Community / info flow
- Kathie: Standards domain clarifications
- Andrew: Coordinate w/ Predictive Services on data standards priorities
- Andrew: Distribute standards for subcommittee approval