EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP
FIRE DANGER WORKING TEAM
January 2002 meeting

The sixth meeting of the FDWT was held in Austin, Texas, and was hosted by the Texas Forest Service. The focus of the meeting was on recent advancements in fire danger-related technology and application, and how they will be incorporated into the updates of national systems such as the Weather Information Management System (WIMS) and the Automated Sorting, Conversion and Distribution System (ASCADS). More detailed information is available concerning these and other issues. Please refer to the Team's home page for a copy of the meeting's minutes. The Team's web site (URL address) is http://www.nwcg.gov. Select Working Teams and then Fire Danger.

1. **National Systems re-engineering**
   The team reviewed the ongoing re-engineering of WIMS and ASCADS. Discussion of WIMS included the "future condition" of WIMS (see meeting minutes for details), the retirement of the legacy WIMS (re-scheduled for and completed in February, 2002), Phase 2 requirements, and Forest Service funding reductions. A needs assessment is underway for the new ASCADS, to be followed by a requirements analysis. The team will provide interagency user feedback to the process similar to that for WIMS re-engineering.

2. **Research updates**
   Firefamily Plus version 3.0 beta is very near release (February 2002). The new dead fuel moisture algorithm using solar radiation should be ready for calculating 1-, 10-, and 100-hour fuels by summer 2002. A priority for the team is to advance the live fuel moisture algorithm in NFDRS. Mesoscale weather modeling is ramping up at four regional centers (MI, GA, WA, CA). RAWS stations will be essential for initializing and validating the models. Work to assemble a national Haines Index database continues. Recent applications of climatology to fire management were reviewed, including regional station network analyses and lightning climatologies.

3. **Predictive Services and Interagency Fire Weather Program**
   Discussion included the status and direction of the new Predictive Services function at the National Interagency Fire Center. Products being developed include a 7-10 day fire weather outlook, a national description of fire danger, and a resource allocation decision process. A key element of this program is to explain how fire danger applied at local, geographic area, and national levels is complimentary, not mutually exclusive.

4. **A progress report**
   A review was made of the recommendations provided by the National Advisory Group for Fire Danger Rating (predecessor to FDWT) for the Interagency Management Review Team of the South Canyon Fire in 1995. Many of the recommendations related to training development have been addressed (basic, intermediate, and advanced curriculum), while others have not (inclusion of fire danger training modules in other existing courses, especially fire behavior, fire management).

5. **Next meetings**
   a. June 11-13, 2002, Washington, D.C.
   b. November 19-21, 2002, tbd in the Southwest
   c. May 13-15, 2003, tbd