

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

The eighth meeting of the FDWT was held in Scottsdale, Arizona. Highlights of the meeting are presented here. The status of fire danger rating in the Southwest Area was the geographic focus presentation. More detailed information is available in the meeting minutes on the Team's home page: <http://www.nwcg.gov> select Working Teams and then Fire Danger.

1. Strategic Plan

A revision of the team's Strategic plan was the priority of this meeting in advance of NWCG budget requests in December. Projects identified for 2004-2006 included a fire weather business model analysis to define the needs of the interagency fire weather/danger community and the continuation of the interagency cooperative effort to create the ASCADS, WIMS, and WFAS of the future.

2. Fire Danger PocketCard

Reflecting on the implementation of PocketCards during 2002, the FDWT developed a series of recommendations designed to clarify their intended use. PocketCards are most appropriate for initial attack and extended attack as situational awareness aids. They do not provide or replace fire behavior predictions.

3. Possible merger with FWWT

Discussions continued with NWCG at their October meeting on the possible merger of the Fire Danger and Fire Weather Working Teams. The FDWT and FWWT Chairpersons are tasked to prepare possible alternatives for the January NWCG meeting.

4. Systems

WIMS re-engineering Phase 1 is still in progress with the priority being to get off the mainframe, at which time there would be no more charges to users. Phase 2 (in part, developing a Data Warehouse concept) is stalled due to lack of funding. Phase 3 will rely on business model described in 1. above and joint efforts on the new ASCADS/WIMS/WFAS.

ASCADS is undergoing necessary short-term adjustments and has not begun the ASCADS II major upgrade.

The team discussed data quality issues in NIFMID resulting from a data merge intended to fill in data gaps. Plans to correct the problem and notify the field were developed.

5. Recommendations for NWCG

The team developed recommendations for the NWCG on the following topics:

- NWCG adoption of Fire Danger PocketCard
- Acceptable downtime of weather systems such as ASCADS and WIMS
- Three amendments to the 2000 NFDRS Weather Station Standard

6. Next meetings

- a. March 25-27, Fairbanks, AK, Joint meeting with Geographic Area Fire Weather Program Managers
- b. November 18-20, 2003, Tentative Joint meeting with Fire Weather Working Team