

National Wildfire Coordinating Group

Fire Danger Working Team

**Strategic Plan
December 2002**

Direction

The NWCG Fire Danger Working Team facilitates application of the National Fire Danger Rating System. The Team addresses issues of:

- system application
- quality and standards of inputs and outputs
- information flow
- operational continuity
- training and implementation of technical modifications
- coordination with research and
- problem identification and resolution

The Team ensures that notification of modifications is communicated to all wildland fire agencies.

Description

Members of the Fire Danger Working Team are representatives of:

- USDI - Interior Fire Coordination Committee (2 persons),
- USDA -Forest Service fire operations program, national level (1 person)
- USDA - Forest Service fire research program (1 person)
- USDA - Forest Service weather program (1 person)
- State forestry agencies (3 persons representing the three NASF regions)

Non-voting technical advisors that are permanently assigned to the Team include:

- The individual responsible for upkeep and maintenance of the NFDRS code and related systems (1 person)
- An individual representing the NWS Fire Weather Program (1 person)
- Individual representing the interagency use of fire danger weather stations (1 person)
- User representatives from geographic areas (up to 9 persons)
- Representative of Predictive Services

Regular Team meetings are held every six months at places determined by the voting members at the preceding meeting. Special meetings may be convened to address issues assigned to the Team.

Goals and Objectives

Goal: To provide guidance to continually advance the art and science of fire danger rating.

Objective: provide a communication linkage among users, research and development, and system support.

Objective: develop a vision for the future state of the fire danger program.

Goal: To promote coordination and consistent use of NFDRS among all wildland fire agencies.

Objective: ensure communication to all wildland fire agencies of features and availability of NFDRS programs as enhancements are incorporated.

Objective: provide guidance on fire danger rating training to geographic areas and to the Advanced NFDRS Steering Committee.

Goal: To encourage all wildland fire agencies to provide data to the shared interagency weather database (WIMS).

Objective: coordinate the refinement of a simplified data entry, extraction, and analysis system via web-based interface to encourage voluntary data input by all agencies.

Objective: provide training for archiving and processor functions.

Goal: To simplify and automate weather data collection (e.g., hourly data, automatic archiving).

Objective: encourage the use of existing technology that will remotely sense temperature, humidity, precipitation, wind and solar radiation on an hourly basis.

Goal: To simplify data/product retrieval.

Objective: coordinate access to relevant wildland fire danger and weather products

Goal: Coordinate efforts with other NWCG working teams.

Objective: ensure some level of joint membership on other working teams and committees.

Goal: Encourage the development of a comprehensive business model of environmental data processes related to operational fire management.

Objective: Develop a business model describing how weather, climate and Fire Danger relate to fire business.

Products, Tasks and Timelines	Cost	Completion Date
Continually monitor the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision for the fire danger program. • Dead fuel moisture model using solar radiation. • National fire weather station standards. • Evolution of the national fire weather station network. • Fire danger course curriculum. • Evolution of WIMS/ASCADS via standing task group • Application of Fire Danger Pocket Cards for firefighters 	\$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$10,000/yr \$0	2006
National revision of the Haines Index (based on climatology). This will enable local managers to judge large fire potential more accurately.	\$0	2004
Modify WIMS to allow for user-established decision points.	\$0	2004
Provide guidance in development and implementation of fire danger rating products at the regional modeling consortia.	\$0	2006
Provide guidance for fire danger applications to state agencies.	\$9,000	2004
Initiate a business model analysis for fire weather/danger processes.	\$75,000	2005
Publications - New	Cost	Completion Date
"A Guide to Developing a Fire Danger Rating Operating Plan"	\$0	2004

Chair, NWCG

Chair, FDWT