

**National Wildfire Coordinating Group
Fire Environment Working Team
Fire Behavior Committee
Meeting
FINAL**

**NIFC Boise, Idaho
May 30 – June 2, 2006**

May 30 & 31, 2006

Members Present:

Dan Jimenez
John Barborinas
John Saltenberger, joined 6/1
Larry VanBussum
Risa Lange Navarro, joined 5/31
Robert Ziel
Wayne Cook
Punky Moore, Executive Secretary
Shari Shetler, Facilitator

Continued developing Strategic Plan

- Prioritized Strategies
- Focused on highest priorities
- Built Action Plans, assigned responsibility and due dates.
- Posted draft on MFC

Action Item #203: Wayne will present draft Strategic Plan next week (6/5/06) in NY at the FENWT meeting.

Curriculum Matrix Revision:

Developed plan to update course matrix:

Telecon with Paul Werth to obtain missing S290 weather input to matrix

Began revision process – reviewing S190, 290, 390 & 490

Identified discrepancies between matrix and course materials

Added numerous components, reworded, reorganized, deleted outdated information

- Will work in task groups to delve deeper, resolve questions and finalize changes.
- **Need to assign task groups**
- FBC will send a memo to Training Development group relative to discrepancies in materials and updating issues
- Suggestion to add continuing ed to matrix

Action Item #204: Wayne will present draft matrix next week (6/5/06) in NY at the FENWT meeting.

June 1, 2006

Guests joining meeting:

Paul Schlobohm, FENWT
Tim Sexton, FUWT, NIFCG
Pat Garbutt, S590

Tim:

Fuels Curriculum and Applications:

Group is working on an overall training strategy for the fuels curriculum.

Overall training strategy topics:

1. Spatial skills, appropriate scale and resolution
2. LANDFIRE data, industry standard for fuels planning and fire issues (consistency)
3. Photo series – no training sessions to learn how to use
4. New technology (wind wizard tool) how to make available to field
5. F CAM, better site specific forecasts (point and click application)
6. Risk quantification and contingency planning
 - Need to do a better job, develop tools and deploy to field
 - Reviewed escaped Rx fires – recognized poor contingency planning
 - Protecting Communities by reducing risk of wildfire – determining how much risk is reduced after treatments.
 - Displaying tradeoffs in a quantitative manner, people may be more willing to accept impacts

Risk to firefighters – how do we get the research to the field in a usable format?

Collectively, we need to look at prerequisites for FB and fuels curriculum – identify common areas where we can work together to become more efficient (developing building block courses)

- **FB has some applications and lesson plans that can be utilized**
- **Eliminate competition and overlap**
- **Leverage the resources we do have**
- **Ensure there are no gaps with related courses receiving most current fire behavior advances if course updates are being done on different schedules.**

Discussed proposal to TWT for FBC oversight of S490 plus courses. Fuels Group agrees oversight should go to experts responsible for specific courses. Fuels Group is responsible for maintenance of fuels curriculum taskbooks.

NIFTT was developed for a specific purpose – LANDFIRE data development and tech transfer.

Then what? Long term maintenance is a big issue

Workshops and distance learning opportunities are currently available for LANDFIRE training (U of Idaho)

Will discuss possibilities of working in conjunction with NIFTT

Annually, satellite burn severity imagery is available.
Is it possible to update LANDFIRE database?
Validation and correction – not institutionalized

How can we work more closely together?

FBC will be added to NIFCG mailing list for meeting notification (2nd and 4th Wed of the month)
Access to website where notes are located
Invitation to call in – can raise issues

How can FENWT and FUWT coordinate?

Dick Bahr is on both teams – should be the liaison between the groups

Continuing Education issues:

Is FUWT working toward CE? Rx 300, 310 & 341 initially
Looking at distance learning, merits of required refreshers for burn bosses
Is the update model meeting the needs of the fire community?

Pat Garbutt

S590 Steering Committee

Committee recognizes need for representation on FBC; proposed that S590 Steering Committee member attend FBC meetings as an adhoc member until a full time member can be identified. FBC proposed that FBC member/S590 cadre member represent FBC as faculty adhoc member at S590 meetings. Will also determine which meetings could benefit from representation from both groups.

'06 course review:

Steering Committee is looking at the course relative to costs, time commitments and course length. Can the course maintain its integrity and be shortened to one week? The committee did not think so.

- a. Have not taken an adequate look at the course to see what can be distance learned. Will send a recommendation to NAFRI to have professional educators review the course
- b. If distance learning is selected, committee is not confident that students could pull it off with time commitments

Are distance learning statistics available?

Action Item #205: Wayne will raise the question next week (6/5/06) in NY at the FENWT meeting.

Issues discussed:

- We need to be looking at all possible alternate learning mechanisms, not just distance learning.
- Policy and terminology – consistent terminology is a must
- Leaving slots open in the curriculum for new technology (processors), built in flexibility

- Interpretive skills – written and oral communication needs to be carried thru the curriculum

Mentoring process update:

Is there an opportunity for a Mentoring presentation at the Fire Behavior Conference in March? Global mentoring idea; not specific to S590. Formal process will be used for solicitations for presentations. Will keep committee updated with conference planning and schedules.

Who is managing the graduate database for S490, 491, 492, 493? Has not been identified.

June 2, 2006

Guests joining meeting:

Paul Schlobohm

Tim Sexton

Wendel Hann

Kathy Schon

Reviewed meeting minutes and decisions thus far.

Tim suggested to the group additional training issues that were identified from escaped fire reviews:

Deficiencies in measuring weather – how it's being done and what is being used.

- FBC initiated process to address this issue with John Saltenberger developing an initial fire weather refresher module that is being utilized through WFSTAR.

Action Item #206: Decision was made for Wayne to take this topic to FENWT meeting. FBC supports the continued development of this project. Due date: 6/5/06

Taking fuel moisture samples is not practiced consistently. Where in the curriculum does this training fit?

- FBC can extract the fuel moisture lesson in S390 to be used as a building block for further training.

Action Item #207: Wayne will raise the issue at the FENWT meeting to help identify a lead on this issue. Due date: 6/5/06

Wendel Hann:

NIFTT - National Interagency Fuels Technology Transfer:

The team was created to support the collaborative nature of the NFP and Healthy Forest Initiative. The team is using an integrated process to bring fuels specialists and resource managers together in the land management planning process. Because users are coming to the table with varied backgrounds and levels of experience, the

team has developed training to teach an integrated approach to fuels, fire and resource planning by using LANDFIRE data in spatial analysis.

Courses being offered include 437 (online tutorial for LANDFIRE data, concepts and science) & 438 (advanced applications of LANDFIRE data for fuel assessment).

Discussion included the possibility of FBC and NIFTT collaborating to develop a course for acquisition, critiquing and editing spatial data. These components would be extracted from existing S492/493 lessons. Also discussed the appropriate source for training spatial data core skills and how to institutionalize the training.

Methods for training:

Developing new courses vs. university courses

Need GIS prerequisites. ESRI ArcGis online course is currently being used. After this fall, LANDFIRE courses will roll into online courses in a maintenance mode. Discussed possibilities for the ESRI course to be tailored to fire. We need to be charting courses for training, education and retention, not just looking at week long courses. There could be a lesson plan/path of knowledge that needs to be started at the S190 level.

Level of training required:

Revising land management plans - There are deficiencies in fuel model skills. What is the knowledge level that planners need? All disciplinary planners need to have some knowledge about fuels and fire behavior. The prerequisite level for planners needs to be determined. This course is not just a federal agency issue. It is similar to fuel model regionalization concept and should be offered to states and regions.

Scott's 40 fuel models – is this going to be the standard model?

Joe Scott has been added to the training cadre.

Items for discussion at NIFCG meeting - June 14

- What are training needs and how are we going to address?
- What do we need from NIFTT?
- NIFTT needs to chart a path for potential new course (acquiring, critiquing and editing spatial data)
- Wendel - Draft the content
- What's being offered, what needs to be developed in addition – identify all courses that would be affected
- Kathy – GIS prerequisites
- Focus on learning, understanding and retention – an ongoing process not restricted to one course. Where does CE fit in?
- Can Mark Finney provide an update on new fire model?
- Range Report that identifies the gaps between job ksas and necessary training to move from an entry level position to master level will be sent to Wayne before meeting. Charting a course for individual development plans based on a Job Taskbook.

- Wayne will present NWCG FB information during meeting

Memo from Fire/Air Issues Coordinating Group to FENWT for FBC response regarding Smoke Management Training:

FBC was asked what kind of content is available now and what content should be taught. Smoke management training is introduced in S390 and S490 in the stability and instability lessons, assessment and forecast projections are included in S492 & S493 and briefing and written forecast projections are included in S590.

Action Item #208: Wayne will carry this information forward at the FENWT meeting. Due date: 6/5/06

Action Item #209: Assigned Curriculum Matrix Tasks. Due date: 6/14/06

- Wayne – S491
- Zeke – S492
- Risa and John – S590
- Zeke – Recategorizing
- Punky – Distribution

Next conference call scheduled for June 16th, 0900 MDT
Meeting adjourned June 2, 2006 1400

