

NWCG Fire Environment Working Team  
Fire Behavior Committee  
Teleconference  
February 14, 2008  
FINAL

Members Present:

Kyle Cannon  
Kelly Close  
Dan Jimenez  
Risa Lange-Navarro  
Punky Moore  
Tami Parkinson  
John Saltenberger  
Larry VanBussum  
Robert Ziel

Others Present:

Wayne Cook  
Noble Dunn  
Laurie Kurth  
Paul Schlobohm

Meeting Minutes from January 24, 2008:

Minutes were approved with minor edits.

Advanced Fire Behavior Assessment Course Curriculum Update:

Laurie Kurth reported the steering committee is working with four learning objectives that have been identified. Taskbooks have been reviewed for the requirements that are necessary for Fire Behavior Analyst and Long Term Analyst positions. Looking at the learning path that includes the fire behavior components that are already being taught in existing courses and identifying what is not, then determining what should be included in new course(s) that are replacing S492 & S493.

Steering committee: Laurie Kurth, Robert Ziel, Wayne Cook, Chuck McHugh, Matt Jolly and Pat Stephen. Kathy Schon represents the host (Univ. of Idaho) for planned online spatial analysis course.

The committee is working with Paul Schlobohm to develop a funding request for the Interagency Fuels Committee that includes a contracted training specialist position. This specialist will help the committee look at a variety of learning methods to decide which options will be used to present material.

Need to explore agreement with McClellan and how they want to participate logistically and administratively since they were going to host S492 & S493. Decision was made for the FBC to make this contact.

**Action Item #338:** R. Ziel will contact Jim Barnett (USFS-Boise), due date 3/27/08.

Further discussion included the good response from the call for cadre members. Steering committee may consider a subset of the cadre as reviewers. Steering committee requested current version of S490 from Noble Dunn; he will forward to steering committee. The final corrections for S490 will be made Feb. 25 & 26.

Curriculum update – Noble Dunn

S190:

On the shelf, working on final details to post online version.

S290:

There were errors in the final test. FBC responded to Noble's email message. FBC discussed how to send additional changes to Noble, format and content. Noble is developing a new form to use for responses, but until that is received, continue to send clear, concise responses via email. Some of the responses are opinions and not used. It was suggested that filtering the reviews could eliminate some content that might be helpful to reviewers. Noble will send the editorial comments to FBC.

Received three errata concerns back and they were all the same. Also received concerns about problems with FLAME.

S390:

Nothing new on course. There should be some responses forthcoming from northern geographic training group. In the next revision, once it's on a website, we can make changes quickly.

S490:

Editorial staff is finishing today. Final correction workshop will be held on Feb. 25 & 26. Noble asked for assistance if there are questions for FBC. Committee needs content to reference; Noble will send out course cds to members.

John Saltenberger – volunteered

Risa & Tami – teaching that week, can be reached

Zeke – teaching that week, can be reached

Issue Paper:

Development Group submitted an issue paper to request the S490 course be electronic and cd only. FBC expressed approval about the ease of making corrections electronically thereby reducing errors. Items of discussion included:

- 1) request to TWT, needs to be forwarded to FENWT, FBC
- 2) meeting with LLC to discuss website similar to Rx 310 or S491

- 3) consider how this could work for S490
- 4) building a new format that would be a database where instructors are only working with the front page
- 5) anything corrected would have a version date for reviewers
- 6) auto populates changes so the instructor guide is not different from student workbook or powerpoints

Another issue paper will be submitted for approval of a new website to house the course.

#### Field Reference Guide:

The finished student workbook will include the reference guide. It is already electronic and needs to be updated. The version on MFC was scanned from the 1992 guide. Zeke will change to pdf file and forward to Noble to add to student cd. Responsibility for content remains with the FBC; it is still a work in progress.

#### FLAME:

Online – in the process of submitting a request to instructional media shop to begin formatting to go online. Hope to have it completed by summer, for both instructors and students.

Field guide – book will be available from Boise with flame sheets and instructions

#### FENWT Report:

Paul Schlobohm provided an update from the NWCG meeting that discussed combining subgroups under NWCG and NFAEB. The process includes reorganizing the subgroups into branches with similar function. It is proposed to move FENWT into a group called Equipment and Technology. This group may also contain IRM WT, Equipment WT & Radio and Voice groups. These groups did some rearranging and will remain in a branch. There will be a branch director that works between NWCG directors and subgroups inside the branch. FENWT is proposing to have a Fire Weather subcommittee like the current one and a Fire Modeling subcommittee that is organized to the future to handle the scope of the current Fire Danger and Fire Behavior committees by FY 2010. Further, there would be another subcommittee for fire occurrence in order to maintain continuity and oversight of activities chartered under NFAEB.

There is likely to be much more overlap between Fire Danger and Fire Behavior as tools and underlying models are updated. Another factor in the proposal to combine Fire Danger and Fire Behavior Committees into one subcommittee is the fact that both the Fire Danger and Fire Behavior committees have been challenged to find a chair.

FBC needs to digest suggested changes and submit input soon thru Paul or NWCG rep. NWCG Directors are spending time each week to structure this concept by March. No immediate impacts on FENWT or committees, but changes are expected. NWCG direction is to be thinking about this new proposed structure in regards to FY '09 budget. As soon as it is available, Paul will forward electronic material on restructuring to chairs.

*Agenda item - March teleconference*

NWCG Liaison:

Membership discussed interaction between development group, TWT and FBC. What is the FBC role in commenting about the S490 Issue paper? Mark will respond to Deb Epps that FBC agrees with the issue paper.

Relayed information to Mark Koontz from Advanced Fire Behavior Assessment Training Steering Committee update. Clarified that Zeke will contact McClellan on future course curriculum support. Current agreement will be the basis to discuss where to go. Identifying other training needs from various groups will be helpful.

Interaction with TWT and Development group:

FBC will be meeting in Boise April 7-11. Would this be a good time to spend some time together to discuss S190 thru S490 course issues?

**Action Item #339:** Zeke will contact Deb and Mark to identify a time for them to meet with FBC in Boise to discuss SMEs, course revisions, etc., due date 3/27/08.

*Agenda item - April meeting, April 10<sup>th</sup> looks good*

Budget:

Committee discussed possibility of shifting some funds from other committees for state rep travel. What agency should handle the money? Paul will make arrangements to have the funding set up appropriately. FBC will look at the budget exercise from Tucson and send info to Paul.

*Agenda item - March teleconference*

Training – NR Fire Behavior Workshop:

- Good turnout, went well, good feedback, better understanding of the WFDSS decision making process.
- Updates from Predictive and NWS services – Activity Planner on the NWS website for burning and other activities to know about the weather related to projects
- Case Studies from NR geo area – life changing events related to fire behavior were shared at the workshop
- Wind Wizard presentation by Brett Butler (corporate license for different agencies, should be pursued)
- Unable to use Webinar, may help out with budget concerns in the future
- Dan & Risa made a presentation about what FBC does. (Communication Plan input?)
- Video conference – Mark Finney and 2007 fire activity, evacuations, law enforcement, etc.
- Landire presentation – Jeff Jones made a presentation about current status (need to contact Chris Lee to get somebody to make a presentation)
- FWS representative, Shane DiGrasso, presented information about his assignment as FBAN assessing how fuels project areas are responding to fire. Interagency

Fuels Group may be looking for FBANs to lead these groups on future assignments

- Next year - Human Factors lesson and 2-3 hour WFDSS session

John Saltenberger is interested in workshop planning for future fire behavior workshops. Risa will forward the NR workshop agenda for consideration. Basically, NR asks what the fire community would like to see during the workshop.

'88 Fires – Yellowstone & Beyond Conference:

Dan and Punky drafted the abstract and posted on MFC under Fire Research, (deadline for submission, April 15). FBC needs to submit poster ideas to Dan. Dan will check whether there is a fee for submitting the poster abstract.

**Action item #340:** FBC submit poster ideas, due date 3/10/08

**Action item #341:** Dan will confirm whether there is a fee associated with submitting the poster abstract, due date 3/27/08.

Communication Plan:

Punky reminded committee to post ideas for the Communication Plan by March teleconference.

**Action Item #342:** Punky will post outline on MFC under Communication Plan topic, due date 2/18/08.

Viegas Model Request for Review:

The request for review is ready to send; Zeke will email the request to Collin Hardy.

Round Robin:

RAWS/Roman report – There is support for the business analysis; now working on providing the life support funding for Roman. There is also consideration to fund the analysis of the Raws network, size and density. Risa added that NR workshop participants were encouraged to contact their state fire head about importance of RAWS/Roman accessibility.

Tami – Talked to Al King about FBC's primary contact with the Fireline Safety Refresher Training Steering Committee. They have not set dates for '09 work yet. We will build time into the Boise agenda to have someone from the steering committee meet with us.

**Action Item #343:** Tami will inquire who can give update during meeting in Boise, due date 3/27/08.

*Agenda item – April meeting*

FBC protocol question. Post information to the MFC where all can see and followup with email.

Larry – S290 Comet

Met with Shari Gary and Wendel Welch, pursuing a way to get \$100,000.00 for Comet effort through the National Science Foundation. Course is on track. Will start converting course in April or May, 18 month project, a lot of the material exists already; conversion should be easier than starting from scratch. Weather units will be done first.

Fire agencies give the final blessing before it goes live.

*Agenda item – April meeting*, discuss with Deb Epps and Mark Koontz the final product approval process.

**Action Item #344:** Larry will check whether Comet received the S290 cds, provide information to Risa, due date 3/27/08.

Next call March 27

Adjourned 1155