

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

The seventh meeting of the FDWT was held in Washington, D.C., and was hosted by the US Forest Service. The status of fire danger rating in the Eastern Area was the geographic focus presentation. Highlights of the meeting are presented here. More detailed information is available in the meeting minutes on the Team's home page: (URL address) <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, ASCADS, and WFAS. Agencies have agreed in principle to work together for the duration, recognizing individual needs to address system function requirements. The team remains committed to a business needs analysis of the entire fire-weather program in support of fire and other resources. A joint position paper was proposed stressing the importance of having on-call coverage for these systems during fire season. Regarding upcoming WIMS revisions: the ability to archive the 88 Greenness factors and season codes, and the 78 green-up dates will be the priority for database upgrades

2. Fire Danger PocketCard

The team reviewed the purpose and intent of the Fire Danger PocketCard for Firefighter Safety. Improving situational awareness during initial fire size up, initial attack and extended attack was affirmed as the primary intent of the pocketcard. The objectives of the card were clarified and posted on the team's PocketCard website: <http://famweb.nwcg.gov/pocketcards/>.

3. Research updates

Al Ribau presented the Fire Consortia for Atmospheric Mesoscale Modeling Systems (FCAMMS). These are regional mesoscale modeling centers funded by research dollars of the National Fire Plan. Facilities are or will be located in Seattle, Reno, Fort Collins, East Lansing, Athens, GA, and Missoula. The program will be pioneering in the integration of weather observations, remote sensing, emissions inventories, and mesoscale meteorology models. The program still needs meaningful partnerships

4. NFDRS training

S491 Intermediate NFDRS should be on the PMS shelf Fall 2002, along with the document "Gaining an Understanding of NFDRS" and the NFDRS Reference CD. There is a clear need for "processor" (i.e., WIMS training). The team proposed definitions and uses for the terms "climatological breakpoints" and "fire business thresholds".

5. Industrial Restrictions

Russ Gripp presented a proposed industrial restrictions decision matrix, called the Protection Activity Level, developed for California. The proposed Protection Activity Level (PAL) is based on analysis of fire weather and equipment fires and could be applied in other locations.

6. Next meetings

- a. November 19-21, 2002, Scottsdale, AZ
- b. March 17th or 24th, Fairbanks, AK (with GACC Mets)
- c. November 18-20, 2003, tbd