

# Fire Danger Working Team

*February, 2005*

## Agenda Comments

### **Item # 3 and #4 (Adjective Ratings):**

- Currently only utilizes BI in calculation along with arbitrary break-points –may/may not be good indicator for everywhere.
- Changes to calculations can range from minor to extensive for WIMS to accommodate as a future change-request. Any change to calculation(s) need to be prioritized with other outstanding work – No unlimited budget for change-request(s).
- User's will want to incorporate Fire Family Plus-type capability to define own break-points – careful to maintain integrity of Adjective Rating (for public consumption) vs. staffing levels.

### **Item #6 (Databases):**

- FAMWEB data-warehouse will provide new structure to provide data stored at NITC – essentially replacing many of the functions currently provided by KCFAST.
- Advantages of data-warehouse include:
  - Single structure to provide data from FAMWEB (WIMS, AMIS, FEPMIS, FireStat, Sit/209). The same structure should be utilized for ROSS and FPA data.
  - Data-warehouse optimized for queries – partitioned from operational systems to avoid resource conflicts.
  - Data organized into pre-determined “themes” for re-occurring reporting needs.
  - Provides flexible tool-sets to easily query data from disparate sources (ie. combine fire-weather data with fire-occurrence and aviation data).
  - Reconciles data between different systems to common representation (while maintaining data-integrity).
- Currently analyzing information requirements for data-warehouse. Many people interviewed from various business perspectives. Requirements from FPA and ROSS will also be considered in the overall design for the data-warehouse.
- Geospatial data requirements are also being incorporated into the data-warehouse design – although the tool-sets to query may be different (eg. Arc-IMS, Oracle/SDE).

### **Item #7 (FPA Dataset):**

- New data-set represents another source of synthesized weather data to fill-in missing weather.
- Data has use beyond original intent (FPA historic analysis). Long-term implications for care & feeding.
- Data standards should be established to utilize meta-data for this, and future synthesized data-sets (ie. how generated, accuracy, etc.).
- Fire-Weather data-exchange format (FWX and FW9) need to be modified to indicate data-source (ie. observed, synthesized, type, etc.).
- Analysis applications (ie. Fire Family Plus, etc.) should be modified to correctly filter data to include/exclude data from analysis.

### **Item #9 (Limited Intervention):**

- Business issue on whether human-intervention should be required as “data-quality” check.
- Hourly calculations will require substantial application and database changes in WIMS. Extensive testing will be necessary to ensure smooth transition.
- Improved models need to be completed by Research, who needs to oversee their implementation.

**Item #10 (NWS Communication):**

- Process needs to be formalized to ensure proper coordination of changes between NWS and WIMS. Service-Level-Agreement (SLA) should be developed.
- Guidance for NWS-WIMS utilization last issued in 1993 in a series of operational bulletins. Should be updated to reflect current system in some kind of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).
- Security Certification and Accreditation (C&A) will require formalized interface requirements to/from WIMS.

**Item #11 (WIMS Task-Group):**

- Timely to review original charter and compare tasks & roles in context of current situation. Validate original intent and membership – possible charter update.
- Business community needs some mechanism to provide oversight & guidance to WIMS application and related applications.
- Original WIMS re-engineering project never really progressed significantly beyond initial stage (technology refresh). Current budget-level(s) will allow a lower level of change over a more pro-longed time-period – unlike the higher-level of effort originally proposed. The possibility of a larger-scale high-intensity effort may be possible – given current NWCG endorsement of a Fire Weather Business Area approach (eg. NMAC – ROMAN letter). <See Item #12.>
- Draft WIMS Service-Level Agreement (SLA) completed – needs to be reviewed by task-group and/or working team.

**Item #12 (WIMS/WFAS/ASCADS Future):**

- Recent letter from NMAC regarding ROMAN seems to endorse a larger Fire Weather Business Area approach to determine information requirements, and to develop a new system “design” on how to meet those needs. Very much similar to the approach suggested by the Team several years ago.
- Group should take advantage of opportunity to at least develop the business case for a project to determine what the Fire Weather information needs are, and how best to meet those needs – whether by re-engineering existing applications, or developing new applications.
- A lead-agency and sponsor should be identified to host the project.
- At the very least, some sort of over-arching oversight should be provided to the existing systems to ensure the work towards the larger “fire-weather” vision – perhaps incorporated into the WIMS-Task Group review (Item #11).

**Item #14 (RAWS Standards):**

- WIMS-Hub functionality will be no-longer available June 1, 2005 due to inability to certify for security purposes (utilizes un-secure technology). RAWS stations should be switched to new standard (ie. satellite telemetry) by that date.
- People have had 5-years to upgrade stations when standard was originally approved.
- Helpdesk working with folks on transition to determine if everyone will be able to make switch.
- Contingency plans to request additional time will require Departmental approval, and delay overall WIMS system security certification, and result in additional operations costs.