

# **FEWT Ground Ignition Task Group Meeting Minutes**

**Location:** MTDC, Missoula, Montana

## **Members Present:**

Wesley Throop, FS  
Shanon Boehlke, FS  
Carl Romnes, BIA  
Larry Anderson, FWS

## **Members Absent:**

Charlie Elliott, FS  
Mike Dueitt, FS  
Jeff Schardt, FWS  
Chris Farinetti, BLM  
Dan Yturriondobeitia, BLM  
Chris Worrell, Florida Division of Forestry  
Dave Loveland, NPS

## **Members Needed:**

NPS replacement for Dale Miracle  
Representative from a western state

**Dates:** April 3-5, 2007

## **Equipment Approval Process Discussion:**

The equipment approval process developed at the last meeting by the Ground Ignition Task Group was rejected by the FEWT. In its place a draft QPL process complete with draft manufacturer submission procedures, a draft specification, and draft equipment evaluation forms was developed and presented to the Task Group for comment. Group comments are as follows:

The QPL process would appear to work well for large expensive pieces of equipment or where large volumes of less expensive equipment could be sold.

The QPL process does not appear to allow the field to get equipment the field wants approved if the vendor is not willing to pay for evaluation costs.

The QPL process could eliminate small vendors that cannot afford testing.

The QPL process could eliminate field use of small quantities of specialty equipment.

There does not appear to be an effective way to “grandfather” existing equipment in.

To address these concerns, an alternative approval process was developed. This approval process consists of 3 parts:

Use the QPL process where it is effective – large expensive items or small items where large quantities could be sold. Evaluation costs would be paid by the vendor. Equipment would be listed in the guide as approved for interagency wide use.

Use the T&D Steering Committee process for field requests to evaluate equipment where the vendor is not willing to pay for an evaluation. Evaluation costs would be paid by the government. Equipment would be listed in the guide as approved for interagency wide use.

Allow each agency to develop its’ own approval process for specialized equipment that is used in limited quantities and in limited geographic areas. Evaluation costs would be born by the evaluating agency. Equipment would be listed in the guide as approved only for the evaluating agency’s use.

We will present the alternative proposal at the next FEWT meeting. (Note: the proposal is scheduled to be presented at the Sept – Oct FEWT meeting)

### **Ground Ignition Guide:**

Carl and Larry continued work on the terra torch chapter of the ground ignition guide.

We began working on the drip torch chapter of the ground ignition guide.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting is tentatively set for Oct 30 – November 1 at the Great Smoky Mountain Park