

National Wildfire Coordinating Group
Fire Use Working Team
c/o U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Interagency Fire Center
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September 23, 2004

Memorandum

To: Allen Deitz, Executive Secretary, National Wildfire Coordinating Group

From: Chair, Fire Use Working Team

Subject: FY04 Annual Report

Team Management (\$4,000 for 2 meetings) - Working Team business included two formal meetings: Missoula, Montana (June 8-9, 2004) and Nebraska City, Nebraska (November 4-6, 2003), a fire use qualification conference call (October 7, 2003), and a joint safety officer conference with the Safety and Health Working Team.

Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System (\$0)

The Team completed the review and testing of the fire use qualifications for the 2005 PMS 310-1. New Position Task Books were created for the [Fire Use Manager 1&2](#) and [Prescribed Fire Burn Boss 3](#), and leadership skills were added to the Prescribed [Fire Burn Boss 1&2](#) and [Ignition Specialist 1&2](#) position task books. Change the system to establish minimum qualifications on any prescribed fire where resources of more than one agency are utilized. [Position Qualification](#) changes are:

- Physical fitness changes in the Ignition Specialist, Burn Boss 1&2, and Prescribed Fire Manager.
- Fuel group qualification requirements were removed from the Burn Boss 1&2 positions.
- The Fire Use Manager was typed into type 1&2.
- A Prescribed Fire Burn Boss 3 position was created.

Fire Use Training Development (\$15,225)

RX-xxx (Prescribed Fire Planning) was initiated and continues on schedule. A development team was established and individual lesson plan developing begun. Course completing and testing should be completed next year.

Use Of Safety Officers On Prescribed Fires (\$0)

The Fire Use and Safety and Health Working Team collaborated on a response to the Sawtooth Mountain Prescribed Fire review team recommendation for the NWCG establish some threshold where a Safety Officer is assigned to a prescribed fire. Both teams worked on the issues and there was a joint conference call to resolve differing ideas. A joint team resolution will be presented to NWCG at the 91st meeting.

Prescribed Fire Risk Analysis (\$0)

The Team completed reviewed and discussed the development of a risk analysis. The Prescribed Fire Complexity Rating System Guide currently has an assessment of risk. As stated in the Guide: *The "Risk" and "Potential Consequences" ratings can be used to help determine an overall management risk associated with the project.* However, there was a consensus it would be next to impossible to develop some sort of risk analysis that can incorporate all areas of risk (e.g., operational, political, economic, social, etc.) across all geographic and ecological regions, and encompass all agency missions and objectives that is neither too conservative that appropriate projects are not pursued nor too liberal that inappropriate projects are implemented. The Team recommended that an additional review process be added and that the Prescribed Fire Risk Assessment be replaced with an [Agency Administrators Go/No-Go Checklist](#). NWCG at the 89th meeting accepted the recommendation.

Team Web Presence (\$0) - The FUWT has a full presence on the NWCG Web Page including the team charter, membership, business (minutes and annual action plans - FY96 to present), and activities.

Bill Leenhouts

cc: Team members