

Fire Use Working Team  
Meeting Minutes  
November 8-9, 2005

NAME	AGENCY
<b>Members Present:</b>	
Tim Sexton	USDA Forest Service
John Segar	US Fish & Wildlife Service
David Mueller	Bureau of Land Management
Ed Mathews (for Colin Hardy)	USDA Forest Service Research
Merlin McDonald	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Ed Brunson	The Nature Conservancy
John Dickinson	South Carolina Forestry Commission
<b>Members Absent:</b>	
Dick Bahr	National Park Service
Jeff Stephens	California Department of Forestry
Kirk Rowdabaugh	NWCG Liaison
<b>Advisors Present:</b>	
<b>Advisors Absent:</b>	
Woody Kessler	BLM Training
Cyndie Hogg	NAFRI Training
<b>Guests:</b>	

The meeting was held at the Hampton Inn-Historic District in Charleston, SC.

## **AGENDA ITEM #1:**

Develop a group to review Rx310 (FIRE EFFECTS), Rx410 (SMOKE MANAGEMENT), and Rx510 (APPLIED FIRE EFFECTS) for redundancy and gaps.

Remove Rx410 from review as it is smoke management course and not a fire effects course.

Review objectives:

**Look for redundancy and gaps between Rx310 and Rx510**

Question: Does Rx310 prepare trainee for Rx510?

Question: Is Rx310 appropriate for entry level Rx positions?

Question: Should Rx310 be a requirement for certain Rx positions?

FUWT consensus is to make Rx310 **required** for RxB1 and Rx510  
**recommended** for RxB1

Question: What portions of Rx310 should be required to be consistent across regions?

Dick Bahr will be lead person on this item.

Recommendations for review group composition:

Interdisciplinary; interagency (federal & state); one fire ecologist  
Consider Helen Smith - Fire Science Lab

Deb Epps contact person with the training group

Completion due by next FUWT meeting - week of June 5, 2006

## **AGENDA ITEM #2:**

David Muller (BLM member of FUWT) informed the team of the current status of Rx300 (Burn Boss) and Rx341 (Prescribe Fire Planning)

Woody Kessler is contact person. (NWCG Training and Development Team)

Rx341 – final stages of developing the course; test course will be given March 06 in Boise. The test course is targeted towards interagency qualified burn bosses who have done planning. Focus of course is planning for prescribe burn.

Rx300 – first meeting of the rewrite team is scheduled for February 06. Will be rewritten to focus on implementation of prescribe burn.

Noted: Interagency prescribe fire planning and implementation reference guide will be completed in January 06.

## **AGENDA ITEM #3:**

**Target date for completion of assignments is January 30, 2006**

Need for an interagency review of prescribe burning program nationwide:

FUWT suggestions for review issues:

### **Issue #1 - Identify elements which are “bottlenecking” the accomplishment of prescribe fire goals.**

Team suggestions to identify “bottlenecking” elements:

Conduct a survey to identify the elements

Study particular projects – both successful and unsuccessful ones – to  
Identify bottlenecks and determine solutions.

Develop criteria for “successful & unsuccessful projects”

John Segars (USFWS team member) will review the national fuels meetings minutes to gather data.

Tim Sexton (USFS/Chair of FUWT) will confer with the USFS fuels group.

Ed Matthews (Missoula Fire Lab; substitute for team member Colin Hardy) will check with Fire Modeling Institute to determine if they can oversee/conduct survey.

Merlin McDonald (BIA team member) will check with various units in BIA to gather data.

### **Issue #2 - How many fire use positions (i.e. RxB1) do we need?**

**Issue #3 - Can cross billing be established for prescribe burning? (I.e. reimbursing state employees for providing prescribe burning on federal lands)**

**Issue #4 - Review certification process for private contractors (specifically for non-NWCG entities).**

Document should be crafted stating this problem and submitted to IOS Working Team.

Ed Matthews will be lead person.

**Issue #5 - Review the use of AD’s (i.e. Native American crews), prison crews, and other non-traditional resources in accomplishing prescribe fire goals.**

Tim Sexton will ask the Regional Program Managers.

Dave Muller will develop a position statement for prison crews use on prescribe fire in DOI.

## **Agenda Item #4:**

Rx410 as a requirement for fire use positions

Recommend that Dennis Haddow (USFWS Denver) be invited to next FUWT meeting to brief on possible smoke management issues that could impact national prescribe fire goals.

John Segars will deliver the invitation.

Noted that USFS and BLM currently require RxB1 to take Rx410.

## **AGENDA ITEM #5**

Team Membership analysis

Tim Sexton will determine if Jeff Stephens, West Coast Representative will be able to start attending meeting.

If a change in West Coast Representation is needed Dave Mueller recommended that Montana be considered.

Ed Matthews noted that numerous West Coast states are doing prescribe burning.

## **AGENDA ITEM #6**

Conference call with Paul Schlobohm (BLM – fire management scientist; FENWT Chair)

NOTES FROM THE CONFERENCE CALL:

Fire Environment Working Team (FENT) is one year old – two meeting – third next week

Reduce the number of use teams with NWCG

Fire weather, fire behavior committee of the training working team, fire danger working team,

Other partners are: natural predictive agency group, fuel group, national weather service, fire research, etc

FENT should be more strategic – issues common to all of above groups

Close to developing a strategic plan

Scope

About the “fire environment”

Defined around fuel, weather, topography – influences prior to fire and during fire

Not about fire effects, but do look at smoke management during the fire

Question from FENT - Are they encroaching on other teams in particular FUWT?

Tim Sexton comments

In the draft scope there are elements of immediate post fire effects; deals with physical and biological environment.

Some reason to think that there is some overlap with FUWT.

FENT – planning is shared with FUWT; predicted elements for fire is FENT; smoke monitoring may be an element of FENT

FUWT – implementation of wildland fire use; fire effects

FENT – predicted tools

FUWT – using tools for monitoring and implementation of fire use. Impacts of fire elements such as smoke.

## **AGENDA ITEM #7:**

Combining of RxI1&2 and the Firing Boss Positions

Team recommends combining the positions.

Eliminate the firing boss position

Change RxI1 to Ignition Boss 1 (RxIB1)

Change RxI2 to Ignition Boss 2 (RxIB2)

Use the current RxI1 & 2 Task Books

If RxIB1 or RxIB2 is assigned to wildfire, must meet wildfire and physical fitness requirements. (i.e. arduous fitness level). This should be made clear in 310-1.

Recommend to Training Development Unit that S-234 is updated.

Tim Sexton is tasked with agenda item.

## **AGENDA ITEM #8:**

John Segars will develop a briefing paper on potential prescribe fire qualifications/suppression qualifications bottlenecks in training.

## **AGENDA ITEM #9**

Discuss shortage of LTAN

Tim Sexton will discuss this issue with the FENWT and the Predictive Services Group and other entities. In particular, the assigning of LTAN to the GAC's in a predictive services capacity.

Recommend further discussions at the Wildland Fire Use Workshop in February.

Points discussed:

Not assigning LTAN to teams but placing in pool of LTAN's

Forming teams of LTAN's to work fire complexes, etc.

Reorganizing Predictive Services to have LTAN assigned to the GAC

Stronger, more structured mentoring system for qualified LTAN's to develop their skills

## **AGENDA ITEM #10**

Fire Management Notes Special Addition on Fire Use (published in fall of 2006; deadline for articles due end of January 2006)

Each member of team submits a short description of wildland fire use in their agency.

Due date by the middle January. Submit to Tim Sexton.

## **AGENDA ITEM #11**

Meeting Management Discussion

Week of June 5, 2006

Possible meeting places

California – CDF

Colorado – BLM

Northern Plains – USFWS

## NWCG Fire Use Working Team Action Item Tracking

Agenda Item #	DATE ASSIGNED	ACTION ITEM	Issue #	DUE DATE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DATE COMPLETE
<b>Charleston, SC – November 8-9, 2005</b>						
1	Nov. 2005	Dick Bahr to convene a task group to review Rx-310 and Rx-510 to ensure content meets needs of Rx B2 and Rx B1 respectively.	N/A	6/05/05	D. Bahr	
3	Nov. 2005	National Interagency Fire Use Program Review	#1		Segars, Sexton, Matthews, McDonald	
Same	Same	Same	#3		No assignment	
Same	Same	Same	#4		Matthews	
Same	Same	Same	#5		Sexton, Muller	
4	Nov. 2005	Invite Pete Lahm or Dennis Haddow to next meeting (June 2006)	N/A		John Segars	
5	Nov. 2005	Status of West Coast State Representative	N/A		Sexton	
7	Nov 2005	Recommend to Training Development Unit that S-234 is updated	N/A		Sexton	
8	Nov 2005	Briefing paper on potential prescribe fire qualifications/suppression qualifications bottlenecks in training	N/A		Segars	
9	Nov 2005	Contact FENWT and Predictive Services Group about establishing Fire Behaviorist positions at GACs (replacing one of the 2 meteorologists)	N/A		Sexton	
10	Nov 2005	Each member of team submit a short description of wildland fire use in their agency	N/A	Around January 15	All team members	
11	Nov 2005	FUWT membership review; Sexton will talk with Colin Hardy and Jeff Stephens/Don Artley; ask Stephens to host the next meeting (week of June 5 <sup>th</sup> )	N/A		Sexton	
		Increase our efforts to develop agenda and briefing paper for all topics included on the planned agenda.	N/A		All members	