

National Wildland Fire and Aviation System Coordination Group (SCG)

Meeting Minutes

Boise, Idaho

November 04, 2005

Attendees

	Members:
X	Al Borup – NWCG IRM-PMO (Chair)
X	Mike Barrowcliff – USDA FS (Vice-Chair)
	John Gebhard – BLM
X	Erik Torres for Gladys Crabtree – NPS
	Andrea Olson – FWS
X	David Potter – BIA
	Rick Mills – DOI Aviation
X	Carolyn Chase – Fire Research
X	Keith Smith – NASF
	Jon Skeels - ROSS
	George Conley – IQCS
	John Noneman – FPA
	Dan Keller – FPA/Landfire

	Bruce Jeske - Landfire
	Dorothy Albright – IBA
X	Andy Gray – ICSB-R

Guest: Bill Rush – NIFC USDA FS

There were no specific agenda items for this meeting, other than review and update of the Current Action Item List.

Round Robin:

AI:

- Gave an update of the current status of the NWFEA Project – the Kick-Off meeting happened yesterday (Nov. 3rd) in Denver. The Project Team is a mixture of government employees and contractors from the BLM, the FS, and the PMO. Frank Peters is the Project Manager. The main intent of this project is to develop an EA capability for the WF community. Once in place, we will have an established Business Transformation Team who will be able to use this capability to modernize WF business areas.
- System Transition Plan – Mike surfaced his concern that this is just a small part of the overall project/system methodology that we need to address. If we can adequately embed long-term O&M considerations upfront in our development process, a System Transition Plan would be taken care of. Creation and development of that larger plan is more

appropriately addressed at the IRMWT level, with the SCG engaging for input on the O&M issues. Regardless, the group still felt that it is important and useful for the SCG to analyze and create a System Transition Plan that at the least identifies the appropriate elements that need to be addressed when a system transitions from project into O&M. David Potter and Mike Barrowcliff agreed to join with this task. We would ultimately like to leverage this effort into a larger end-to-end Project Management methodology package for NWCG.

- COOP – This is a pending action item introduced a few meetings ago. This call to convene a working group to address plans for internet disconnection still needs to be pursued. The group will need to brainstorm about short and long term strategies and philosophies - back-up and recovery, hot-sites, and interagency designs to help mitigate problems.
- Service Level Agreement template – Haven't been able to move forward with the task of developing a standardized template for NWCG. David Potter volunteered to take over the task of developing a first cut at this template. Al will send David all the examples he has accumulated. David will respond back to the SCG with something by December 9th meeting

Erik:

- Microsoft Exchange will be here in 18 months for NPS – will be DOI managed servers, but agency-centric to begin with – all tied into FBMS (summer 2007). Impacts – list of approved applications – only those that are on the list will be allowed or they will be automatically erased. How does this impact fire? All fire apps must be on the list. A Change Mgmt Board will be established at the Dept level that will approve or disapprove what can go on the list. They proclaim 30 days max for approval. They will not allow any open-source software for any reason. We, as an organized community, need to figure out how to push back on some of these things. The incident base is a unique environment and needs to be separately considered. Erik says they will allow for emergency-type waivers, but will still have to follow on with the approval process. We need to press to get a member on this CMB that understands fire and can speak for fire's needs. It may be that we need to leverage OWFC for this.
- Smart Cards – anyone, ft, temps, anyone who touches an NPS system must have a background check (\$92) before they can work. Supposedly can get the check done with a 30-day turnaround.

David:

- Rumors that Congress is moving forward with proposals to somehow end the Cobell problem. Still will be a long drawn-out process.

Andy

- ICBS-R – wrapping up high-level design sessions – National Cache Mangers' Meeting in Monterey in a couple of weeks – Need to synchronize project schedule with the Enterprise Service Bus project, ROSS, etc. – Preliminary plans are to complete the design and construction and perhaps beta testing in a couple of the caches next year – but possibly doing it in a phased way – Still very happy with the Yantra team – It brings a lot of credibility forward to the cache community. Will keep eyes open for opportunities to leverage the Yantra toolset for other uses in NWCG (like NIFC RAWs shop effort).

Keith

- Glad he's not a fed. He assures us, though, that Cobell is an impact to the States as well.

Carolyn

- The group asked her to be our eyes and ears on the FRAMES effort.

Bill Rush

- Bill got a recent message from John King (USDA FS Chief Architect) that the implementation of the FS architecture must happen this year – there will be strong Departmental pressure. USDA CIO has pressured its agencies CIOs, and told them that they will implement EA in 2006. It will be an element in their performance evaluations. Since the USDA contractors and the ones employed for the NWFEA Project are the same, it might be an impact on the contractor's time.

Mike

- A lot of stuff on the table
- Met with Gladys Crabtree and John Gebhard yesterday regarding Fire FTP issues. John has agreed that the primary FTP services can move to NITC, and that DOI will provide a backup service (DOI services location is still undefined, but it might be NIFC).
- Help Desk – Gladys, Mike, and John reaffirmed the desire and need to provide a more unified approach for the WF community Help Desk services. We need to at least get interoperability between BLM, FS, and contractor Help Desks. From a field perspective, we need to have them go to one place for service. The SCG will review the upcoming results of the Help Desk task group study, agree on a proposed approach, and then carry recommendations forward to the IRMWT.
- There is a major effort by FS to consolidate all of their applications into one data center at NITC – *including the fire applications*. This is a current proposal on the table - (Mike will forward to us). There is about a three-year window to move to the solution. There's talk about a development/test site in Portland and a hot-site in Albuquerque. Mike is working hard to assure that this endeavor is fully conscious of the unique requirements of the interagency fire community so that our critical needed services are not jeopardized.
- ISO shop has issued a new policy on the disposal of old computers – it's no longer possible to use excess laptops for incident support. There's a perceived impact to the interagency community. Each region supports incidents differently – Mike's still trying to assess what the impacts of this are. Fire was not consulted before the policy was implemented.
- Fire Domain – Gina Bald chosen for the study group about the "Fire Forest" proposal. There has been no real forward movement on the task, mostly due to scheduling problems. The suggestion was made that perhaps there should be some interaction with the newly forming CTSP Task Group.

Next Meeting Date - Friday December 9th 0900-1200