

# Information Resource Management Working Team

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*Special points of interest:*

- Fire-MAP
- Internet connectivity (Cobell Litigation)
- THANK YOU to Marvin Olson
- IRMWT Members
- Meeting Dates/Location

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## Fire-MAP (Fire Management Analysis Process)

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) suggested a review of the federal agencies' wildland fire budget and planning models. In September of 2001 the Department of Interior and the Department of Agriculture authorized a review, with the ultimate purpose of providing a basis for "development of a single, uniform, performance-based system for preparedness and fire management program planning". Team members represented all five federal fire-management agencies, National Association of State Foresters, and the University of Montana's School of Forestry. The team's final report was completed Nov. 30, 2001 and is titled "Developing an Inter-agency, Landscape-scale Fire Planning Analysis and Budget

Tool". This report is also referred to as the "Hubbard Report".

The review team recommends that the Departments of Agriculture and Interior develop and implement a common interagency fire management analysis process within the next five years. The working name for the analysis is Fire-MAP (Management Analysis Process).

From the executive summary of the Hubbard report .... *Fire-MAP will focus on achieving a full scope of fire management activities. These activities include protecting life and property; using fire and other treatments to restore and maintain ecosystem health; and reducing hazardous fuels in fire management resources across jurisdictions.*

## DEVELOPING A NEW FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND BUDGET TOOL

*Fire-MAP will have the ability to determine the most cost-effective wildland fire management program that meets program objectives.*

## Internet Connectivity (Cobell Litigation)

There has been some relief for Internet connectivity for the Department of Interior bureaus. The Bureau of Land Management, Fire and Aviation Program at NIFC gathered input from all the Interior fire bureaus regarding the impacts to Emergency and Wild-

land fire response due to the lack of Internet connectivity. BLM forwarded the document—"Impact of the Cobell Litigation on the Department of Interior's Emergency and Wildland Fire Response" on February 5th to the Department of Interior.

The National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management received authorization around the middle of February to re-connect to the Internet. Reconnection dates for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Fish & Wildlife Service are still unknown.

## WIMS Re-Engineering

The Weather Information Management System (WIMS) is in the Requirements phase of a re-engineering process.



This Phase has two objectives:

- 1) WIMS application redesign to review/validate user requirements and prioritize application modifications, and
- 2) WIMS/NIFMID database redesign to optimize new database to take advantage of Oracle 8x features and segregate transactions from queries.

The redesign of WIMS will include the following functionality:

- 1) Eliminate the need for user intervention;
- 2) NFDRS Update—this will improve the calculations and 10 hour fuel moistures and new algorithms will utilize a) new sensors for hourly observations of solar radiation and b) multiple observations per day;
- 3) Spatial component for NFDRS; and
- 4) Spatial delivery of weather and climate data.

WIMS interfaces with numerous applications such as ASCADS,

Non-Satellite RAWs, NFDRS, NWS, WFAS, FireFamily+, PCHA and ad hoc queries. If there are other interfaces you are aware of please contact the project manager, Dan Keller at [dkeller@fs.fed.us](mailto:dkeller@fs.fed.us) or 770-297-2926.

The projected completion date for this phase is 2005. The redesign is being chartered jointly by NWCG, Fire Danger working team, and the IRM working team. It is being sponsored by the Forest Service Fire and Aviation Management (FS-FAM).

*Vendor selected to begin the next phase for IQCS: design, construction, and implementation*

## IQCS Project Update

The Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS) project will begin the design, construction and implementation phases May 1, 2002. The estimated duration of the project is five months for the design, seven months for the construction and 11 months for implementation.

The vendor selected for this phase of the IQCS project was

KPMG Consulting. KPMG Consulting is a technology integrator based in Indianapolis, Indiana. KPMG has partnered with ML Technologies and have proposed a PeopleSoft based solution for the IQCS.

The IQCS Project Manager is currently vacant. The position was advertised the first of January. The advertisement has

closed and a selection panel met the week of February 18th to start the selection process.

Interviews with the top candidates are taking place during the week of March 18th.

The IQCS Team will be located in Boise, ID at the Bureau of Land Management Idaho State Office.

## SAFENET (Wildland Fire Safety & Health Network)



John Gould, Safety & Health working team representative reported on SAFENET. SAFENET provides another way for front-line firefighters to be heard—to get unsafe situations resolved on the fireline. SAFENET is also a means of providing important safety-related data to the national center to help determine long-

term trends and problem areas. SAFENET does not replace accident reporting. The Safety Management Information System (SMIS) Accident/Incident Report is the official DOI system for reporting incidents and accidents. FS has the same basic reporting system called SHIPS (Safety & Health Integrated Per-

sonnel System).

NWCG has adopted this reporting system. Contact John Gould at 208-387-5177 for additional information.

URL: [www.nifc.gov](http://www.nifc.gov), select Safety.

# JFSP National Preparedness Level Process Project

Gerry Day, Center Manager of the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center gave a presentation on the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) National Preparedness Level Process Project. This presentation was based on a pre-proposal to the JFSP titled “Techniques for Creating a National Interagency Process for Predicting Preparedness Levels”.

Currently, the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) and all Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs)

utilize different methods to establish daily preparedness levels. None of the methods provide a complete and detailed assessment of risks and benefits associated with wildland fire and prescribed fire operations. The intent of the Preparedness Level Planning process includes:

- Gauge/estimate the expected workload
- Gauge ability of wildland fire organization to respond to current and expected workload

- Define a set of actions and responses to accomplish more work at a lower state of risk
- Assess and account for “other” factors that influence “workload”, “capability to respond”, and “actions”.

Contact Gerry Day at 503-808-2732 or Neal Hitchcock, Center Manager for NICC 208-387-5662 for additional details.

## *JFSP PHASE I: PREDICTING PREPARED- NESS LEVELS*

## National Fire Plan Reporting

Harry Croft (USFS), Sally Hampton (DOI), and Steve King (DOI-IRM) briefed the NWCG IRMWTT on the continuation of the National Fire Plan Reporting effort. Harry Croft and Sally Hampton provided their prospective regarding the next phase for the National Fire Plan Reporting System.

There are two versions of NFOInfo that were developed using different approaches. The USFS used a bottom-up ap-

proach based on FASTRACS. DOI used a top-down approach based on FY01 Workload Measures. Currently the reports generated by each of these systems must be manually integrated to produce a single accomplishment report to congress. Phase 2 of this project is being sponsored by both DOI and USFS Wildfire Coordination Offices. The approach is to build an integrated system as follows: Hazardous Fuels– Use enhanced USFS de-

sign, Burned Area Rehab – Use enhanced FS design, Firefighting Suppression–use existing Fire Occurrence systems, Preparedness–use enhanced DOI model, Community Assistance–Redesign pending further analysis, and Research– Replace existing spreadsheets. Phase 3 Analysis Effort would further define requirements for an integrated system and focus on wildland fire business processes and enterprise standards.

## *National Fire Plan Reporting*

## NWCG Continuity of Operations (COOP)

With the current Department of Interior Internet connectivity issues the IRM working team reviewed the NWCG Continuity of Operations (COOPs).

A Continuity of Operations plan analyzes potential threats to continued operations, and identifies procedures and/or technology to

mitigate them. The current COOPs do not address our current situation.

John Gebhard and Mike Barrowcliff will put together a proposal to address the following:

- Review/Audit Existing COOPs Plans

- NWCG Charter Deliverable—Standards
- NWCG Enterprise-level COOPs

Please contact Mike Barrowcliff at 208-387-5280 Or John Gebhard at 208-387-5164 for additional details.

# Commercial Hosting of Web Services

## ***NEW HOSTING OF THE NWCG WEBSITE!***

The NWCG IRM working team will use a commercial vendor to host and provide web services for the national, interagency wildland fire community. The current NWCG site is located on a Fish and Wildlife server.

The IRM working team requested that, prior to spending additional money for a separate contract for hosting NWCG website, the potential of using the existing contract for hosting the NIFC homepage be reviewed. The limitations in place

for that website do not appear to meet the needs identified for the NWCG website. The NWCG Webmaster is preparing comparisons of several vendors for the procurement process.

The NWCG working teams, task groups, and Program Management Office (PMO) have numerous requirements for this web server. An information needs assessment (INA) will be completed to identify business needs and services required for the interagency fire community.

Ted Tower, the current NWCG Webmaster will lead the INA and work with all of the NWCG working teams, task groups, and PMO to identify the current and future requirements.

Please contact Ted at 208.387.5565 for additional details and information regarding this project.

The NWCG website has been re-hosted temporarily.

**[www.nwcg.gov](http://www.nwcg.gov)**

***IRM PROGRAM  
MANAGEMENT  
OFFICE PROVIDES  
PRODUCTS AND  
SERVICES  
FOR THE  
INTERAGENCY  
WILDFIRE  
COMMUNITY.***

## **NWCG Program Management Office (PMO)**

The NWCG created the IRM Program Management Office (PMO) in September 2000 as a partnering organization to the NWCG's IRMWT. The IRM-PMO provides products and services to establish and maintain an NWCG architecture consisting of principles, rules, and standards that guide development of wildland fire information systems.

The IRM-PMO is made up of four full-time interagency employees:

- Barry Mathias, Program Manager, 208-373-4075, or [barry\\_mathias@blm.gov](mailto:barry_mathias@blm.gov)
- Judy Crosby, Data Architect, 208-373-4077, [judy\\_crosby@blm.gov](mailto:judy_crosby@blm.gov) or [jjcrosby@fs.fed.us](mailto:jjcrosby@fs.fed.us)

- Allen Deitz, Repository Manager, 208-373-4076, [allen\\_deitz@blm.gov](mailto:allen_deitz@blm.gov) or [adeitz@fs.fed.us](mailto:adeitz@fs.fed.us)
- Al Borup, Application Architect, 208-373-4074, [al\\_borup@blm.gov](mailto:al_borup@blm.gov)

Call Barry, Judy, Allen or Al for questions or comments regarding the products and services the PMO provides.

## **Data Administration Working Group (DAWG)**

***DAWG ASKING  
FOR YOUR HELP  
IN ENSURING  
NWCG DATA  
STANDARDS ARE  
ADOPTED.***

The NWCG Data Administration Working group (DAWG) is currently drafting their charter. This working group will be responsible for establishing and maintaining data standards for the NWCG working teams and IRM-PMO.

A data standard is a specification

for a data item that has been established by authority or general consent. Once established, the data standard should be used by automated and manual systems to ensure that data has the same format, usage, and valid values across systems. When systems standardize on common data definitions, data can be shared

and exchanged across system boundaries resulting in better information services.

Please contact Judy Crosby, Chair of the NWCG DAWG at 208-373-4077 or [judy\\_crosby@blm.gov](mailto:judy_crosby@blm.gov) or [jjcrosby@fs.fed.us](mailto:jjcrosby@fs.fed.us).

# Geospatial Task Group (GTG) Update

## **GTG PROVIDES A FORUM FOR THE INTERAGENCY COORDINATION OF GEOSPATIAL ISSUES RELATED TO FIRE MANAGEMENT!**

An NWCG IRM Geospatial Task Group (GTG) meeting was held in Boise, ID January 23-25, 2002. Joe Frost, Chair of the GTG briefed the IRM working team. An abbreviated copy of the meeting notes was provided to the IRM working team.

The meeting goal was to provide a forum for the interagency coordination of geospatial issues related to fire management.

The group established their meeting schedule for 2002:

- 5/29-31/02—Boise

9/23-27/02—Florida

The Chair/Vice Chair positions were established. The team adopted a rotating strategy for the Task Group Chair. The chair and vice chair position will rotate between agencies on a 1 year basis with the vice chair moving to the chair position. The charter was revised to reflect the above change.

The group is addressing several issues: 1) FEMA Coordination Incident Mapping

- 2) Fire Perimeter Data Standard

- (interagency)
- 3) Mapping 5100-29/1202 data
- 4) Interagency (Fire) Geospatial Strategy
- 5) Incident Support with GIS
- 6) Geospatial Training.

For additional information or updates please contact Joe Frost at 208-387-5961 or [jfrost@fs.fed.us](mailto:jfrost@fs.fed.us)

or Susan Goodman, Vice-Chair at 303-236-4242 or [susan\\_goodman@blm.gov](mailto:susan_goodman@blm.gov).

*Task group established to review oversight issues for NWCG sponsored projects.*

## Project Oversight Issues

Shari Shetler, Chair of the IRMWT lead a discussion regarding project oversight issues. The issues involve the IRMWT and Program Management Office (PMO) review and/or approval requirements.

Each Department and Bureau has an official IRM staff which is responsible for project oversight. Within the Interagency Fire com-

munity we need to ensure success and support of Fire-related IRM projects. The NWCG IRMWT and PMO will scope and define a process to work in conjunction and interact with the department and bureau processes. The NWCG IRMWT is sensitive to adding oversight or an approval process that is not responsive and realistic.

Discussion involved developing a "watch-out" pocket card for NWCG parent group and working teams.

Shari established a task group to develop a road map which will flush out the project oversight process. The task group members are Shari, PMO, David Potter and Ken Reninger.

## ROSS HELP DESK

The National Interagency Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) provided a briefing for the working team.

A contract support desk was awarded to User Technology Associates of Arlington Virginia. The Help desk went on-line 12/17/2001. The Help desk provides service through three

methods:

- Phone—1-866-224-ROSS (7677)
- Web—[ross.nwcg.gov/user\\_support.htm](http://ross.nwcg.gov/user_support.htm)
- E-mail—[helpdesk@dms.nwcg.gov](mailto:helpdesk@dms.nwcg.gov)

Staffing continues to be an issue

for ROSS.

Product Releases will be issued for ROSS shortly.

Contact Neal Hitchcock, NICC Manager at 208-387-5662 or Jon Skeels, ROSS Project Team Leader at 303.275.5746 for additional information.



## National Wildfire Coordinating Group

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Boise, ID 83705

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Fax: 208-387-5359  
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## NWCG Mission Statement

*The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) is made up of the USDA Forest Service; four Department of the Interior agencies: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS); and State forestry agencies through the National Association of State Foresters. The purpose of NWCG is to coordinate programs of the participating wildfire management agencies so as to avoid wasteful duplication and to provide a means of constructively working together. Its goal is to provide more effective execution of each agency's fire management program. The group provides a formalized system to agree upon standards of training, equipment, qualifications, and other operational functions.*



***THANKS MARVIN!!!!***

***A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MARVIN OLSON, BIA FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE NWCG IRM WORKING TEAM.***

***MARVIN ANNOUNCED HE WILL BE RETIRING THE END OF MARCH.***

***WE WILL MISS YOU MARVIN!***

## NWCG IRM Working Team Members:

- **Chair**—Shari Shetler, BLM  
208.387.5700
- John Gebhard, BLM Advisor,  
208.387.5164
- Ken Reninger, BLM Advisor,  
208.387.5704
- Phil Murphy, CO State,  
970.491.7533
- Ernylee Chamlee, CDF Advisor,  
916.657.4929
- Andrea Olson, FWS, 208.387.5597
- Ted Tower, BIA, 208.387.5565
- David Potter, BIA Advisor,  
208.387.5237
- Mike Funston, FS,  
202.205.1504
- Mike Barrowcliff, USFS Advisor,  
208.387.5280
- Don Latham, USFS Research,  
406.329.4848
- Gladys Crabtree, NPS,  
208.387.5214
- Doug Stephen, NPS Advisor,  
303.969.2947
- .....

## ***Future Meeting Dates:***

- *April 16 -18*  
*Boise, Idaho*
- *June 11 - 13*  
*Boise, Idaho*
- *August 20 - 22*  
*California*
- *November 5 - 7*  
*Boise, Idaho*