

NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP
WILDLAND FIRE EDUCATION WORKING TEAM

MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 27 - 28 , 1999

GRAND RAPIDS INTERAGENCY FIRE CACHE, GRAND RAPIDS, MN

TEAM MEMBERS PRESENT:

Willie Begay, Bureau of Indian Affairs, USDI
Maureen Brooks, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Rick Gibson, Oregon Department of Forestry
Rem Hawes, Bureau of Land Management, USDI
Cathy Rezabeck, Fish and Wildlife Service, USDI
Connie Rudd, National Park Service, USDI (by telephone)
Lou Southard, Virginia Department of Forestry
Billy Terry, Forest Service, USDA

ANNUAL BUDGET SUBMISSION TO NWCG: Maureen Brooks

Maureen briefed the Team on the annual budget submission which is required by NWCG. The Team's input will be reviewed at the NWCG June meeting. There was a general discussion about the NWCG budgeting process, what our submission should contain and how it should be presented.

COURSES AND GUIDES PROJECT: Maureen Brooks

Maureen reviewed the status of the various courses and guides which are being developed by Pat Durland, from the National Interagency Fire Center, for the Team. There was a brief discussion about the publications which remain to be completed and how the draft content of those is being reviewed.

EDUCATION STRATEGY PROJECT: Connie Rudd

Connie brought the Team up to date on the status of the project. She reported that she had met in Marana with a group of people she had commissioned to assist in development of the project. She reviewed the need to find a way to consistently spread the message across all agencies and via all possible modes of communication. There was a general discussion about how to best accomplish this objective. Connie addressed several concerns which surfaced during the discussion, including the projected cost of the project, concerns about a prospective contractor and concerns about the curriculum format and how it should be aligned to meet the various state standards. There was a general consensus that the strategies should offer a range of "fixes", in terms of implementation costs, and should offer managers the tools necessary to achieve implementation. Discussion also included the audiences to be targeted and the measurement standards to be employed to determine if success has been achieved. Because of the scope and cost of the project, it was decided that the project should be presented to NWCG, during the budgeting process, in a sequential decision point process.

ROLE OF FIRE BROCHURE: Rem Hawes

Rem reviewed progress on the brochure to date. In spite of various setbacks and problems, layout of the brochure has been completed. Discussion focused on concern over the projected production costs of the final product, the need to have the right to reprint the photos which are being incorporated into the brochure and the need to secure ownership of the camera ready copy. Rem will work to resolve the issues on each of these points.

WILDLAND ARSON REDUCTION PROJECT: Rick Gibson

Rick reported on the status of the various arson reduction projects which are being funded under this project. The majority of the discussion centered on the strategies for dealing with the few agencies which have failed to comply with the reporting requirements. It was decided that Rick would forward information on the specific projects not in compliance to the Team's regional representative. The representatives would then directly contact the appropriate persons and seek a resolution to the reporting deficiencies.

INTERNET PAGE PROJECT: Lou Southard

Lou briefed the Team on the status of the NWCG web site and lead a discussion about what the Team's portion of the site should contain.

BIBLIOGRAPHY PROJECT: Cathy Rezabeck

Cathy reported on her progress with the project. The discussion which followed dealt with potential contractors, the overall scope of the project, how to solicit nominations for new bibliography material, and how best to reach the target audiences.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: Maureen Brooks

Maureen described her recent trip to Argentina, where she was part of a three member team which met with members of that countries fire service. She described to them some of the wildland fire education programs in the United States and how wildfire education is conducted at the national and regional level as well as at the local level. She indicated there is a need to define common terms and phrases, so that they can readily be used by Spanish speaking audiences.

It was decided to obtain and present plaques to former members of the Team, in recognition of their work and efforts.

FUTURE MEETINGS: Maureen Brooks

The Team decided to hold the next meeting October 19-20, 1999 in Boston.