

# FBS Monthly Meeting

0900-1045 PST Feb 19<sup>th</sup>

1. Participants: Chris, Ryan, Dan, Matt, Brent, Joe Flores, David, Nate, Tonja, Mitch, Steve Stolze, Cheryl, Rocco, Andrew, Nicole
2. IPTM Update (Joe F.)
  - a. Meeting week was successful
    - i. Contractors walked us through it well
    - ii. Waiting for contractors for touch ups on what they talked about
    - iii. Contractor will send out a summary
  - b. Highlights of Mtg
    - i. Wasn't any debate keeping DIVS for FBAN
    - ii. Push to have FBAN count for DIVS assignments
    - iii. Similar language in standards but may mean something different
      1. FBAN more tactical
      2. LTAN more strategic
      3. How these positions integrated in the IMT
    - iv. RX fire assignments can count towards task book
      1. Utilizing fire analysts to help with burning
      2. Don't want a FBAN with just RX training assignments
        - a. Need a wildfire assignment or assignments
    - v. Virtual Decision Support Centers used for lots of LTAN assignments
      1. Will need LTAN on-scene IMT assignments to get signed off
    - vi. What does supervision look like for FBAN and LTANs
    - vii. How do the changes impact current training like S-590
      1. Have had some discussions with steering committee since class coming up
      2. Emphasis on briefings and providing good info/interpretation
      3. Chris: steering committee came up with a set standard for grading the 4 exercises and briefing templates standardized
  - c. Q&A:
    - i. Cheryl: did you talk about S-491 fire danger?
      1. Incident analysis piece to fire danger a big gap
      2. Joe: will show up in new standards but didn't talk about changing classes to meet the needs
      3. Cheryl: haven't taught how to use fire danger on an incident
        - a. Gap has occurred because S-491 teaches pre-planning/preparedness analysis and not so much incident analysis

4. Joe: main thing in standards right now is knowing how to extract data and run climo in FFplus or FEMS (didn't narrow it down to the program used since a changing landscape), compare historical trends to current
    - a. Also discuss other tools analysts might use is getting FDOP from local unit and being able to reach/understand/interpret it vs creating an FDOP
    - b. May mean changes to S-491 or something else
    - c. Another factor playing into this is FEMS
    - d. Stay away from naming the model (i.e. like using WFDSS vs stand-alone)
  - ii. Chris asked Cheryl about S-491 in fall
    1. WIMS gone in Sep/Oct so will be different from past classes
    2. New class may be more geared towards FBAN/LTANs
      - a. Planning part may get kicked up to the S-591 course
  - iii. Chris brought up some comments thoughts about making sure there is continuity between the 90 series classes
    1. Some people would like to see more spatial modeling in S-490 (not just Behave)
      - a. Chris: believe FLAMMAP may have been decided
        - i. Key is teaching the models and not the UI
    2. Chris: how do we get that continuity
      - a. Heather/Joe Hernandez are the only ones on both S-390/490
      - b. Both Matt/Mitch/Andrew agree a state or federal person (perhaps from this committee) should sit on both as they are created
      - c. **Action Item:** Andrew will be that go-between
        - i. Chris will send info to Kevin and provide link to Andrew
3. S-290 Updates (Mitch/Chris)
    - a. From NWCG
      - i. Contractor made corrections to OLT during Jan.
      - ii. NWCG publications received it
      - iii. Course potentially completed by Feb 28<sup>th</sup> 2025
    - b. Mitch changed some font/bolding with new templates
    - c. Rocco took some training to be able to copy the shell so can make some modifications
      - i. Need to be a Content Creator so need to take Editing Trainer course thru Wildland Fire Training Portal
    - d. Chris assumes GATRs would be able to do that for federally taught classes

4. S-390 Updates (Matt)
  - a. Not much to add
  - b. Materials turned over to developer in prep for test course
  - c. Will meet with cadre this week to give background
  - d. Test course in March
    - i. Will basically be Great Basin course
  - e. Includes pre-course stuff and 4.5 days of instructor led
  - f. Used a generic name not wanting to tie to a specific software package since that can change over the years
5. S-490 Updates (Tonja/David)
  - a. Waiting for NWCG to give thumbs up on training development plan
  - b. Holding mode right now
  - c. Class: Kirk/Joe/Richie (3 GACCs combined)
    - i. Oct 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> in Tucson Interagency Fire Center
    - ii. Announcement on March 17<sup>th</sup>
    - iii. Probably around 30 students with 10 per GACC
  - d. Tonja isn't aware of any future course development calls
6. Mann Gulch (Dan)
  - a. How to incorporate Mann Gulch videos into refresher RT-130 module
  - b. **Action Item:** Dan will reach out and Chris will give him a contact
7. Budget 2026 (Chris)
  - a. \$15,000 ever 2 years for Mitch to do updates to our guides (i.e. FBFRG)
    - i. Unsure about getting funding for labor
  - b. Dan's wind reduction factor updates
    - i. DOD has verbally said they would fund it but things have changed since that verbal commitment
8. Mitch Updates (Mitch)
  - a. Alaska Fire Consortium funding from NWCG
    - i. Did it for 3 years
    - ii. NWCG funding has dried up
    - iii. Will be stepping out on March 26<sup>th</sup> 2025
  - b. Will be retiring all together on summer solstice
  - c. If funding from NWCG doesn't come thru and/or Alaska can't find someone to replace Mitch then we will likely have to take it on
    - i. 2 update cycles in the past
      1. Early May before Summer
      2. October before Winter
    - ii. Need to contact NWCG Publishing (Erika Lam)
      1. Paper guide, web versions
      2. Posters
    - iii. Get info to Erika and she passes off to the publishers

iv. Process for Update ("edit work doc"):

1. Paper Guide (pdf): need to convert it to Word version and make edits thru Track Changes and Comments
2. Web Guide: save the page as a word doc (some tricks depending on operating system you are using), make track changes/comments, html coding skills could be helpful

d. Future

i. New CFFDRS will be coming out this year

1. American's likely won't build in the new changes until 2026

ii. Guides/Posters

1. Pretty up to date
2. Fire Danger updated on the online guide
  - a. Talk about restructuring S-491
3. Update tables
4. Add Vortices section
  - a. Might take some of that from S-290
5. Regional Wx Patterns
  - a. May get rid of it or spruce it up in Fire Wx handbook
6. Poster 5 panel idea

e. Comments:

- i. Cheryl: need to push this up to FENC since all groups impacted

9. KAS Update (Dan)

- a. Last bit of \$\$\$ left
- b. Emails between Heather and KAS group
- c. New program called "Wildlander"
- d. New game deployed next week
- e. Can offer it up to folks that teach S-290 but really no implementation plan after that
- f. Robert has solicited CAL FIRE
- g. Robert has been updating Dan

10. NWCG Annual Mtg (Chris)

- a. Was Feb 18<sup>th</sup>
- b. Lots of focus on IPTM and process
  - i. Have gone thru 26 positions so far thus smoothing out the process
  - ii. new info should be placed on website

11. Analysis Refresher Training (Tonja)

- a. Next meeting March 5<sup>th</sup>
- b. Last meeting: 8 tracks with 5 or 6 presentations per track
- c. Spatial modeling, fire weather etc
- d. Comments:
  - i. Chris: Refresher in SW (Diane A.) in March

12. U of I budget (Chris)

- a. Not spending as much as originally thought
- b. \$\$\$ used to get thru S-490
- c. Heather provided 5 ideas (estimate ~ \$30k a piece)
  - i. Fire behavior fuel model class (outside of NWCG)
  - ii. Compare Model 4 upgrade
  - iii. Behave 7 training
  - iv. FEMS training
  - v. S-190 refresh
- d. Think of how we can leverage U of I if we have some leftover \$\$\$

13. Spring Mtg (Chris)

- a. Have heard that travel in May is not looking likely for a couple of folks
  - i. Tonja, Nicole, Dan, and probably USFS folks
  - ii. Ryan has a work conflict
- b. Should we still have a spring Mtg? Set a deadline?
- c. Re-schedule for the fall (in-person) and may plan a virtual mtg
  - i. Final decision in March, topics may be dwindling
- d. Tonja suggested coming up with some long-term issues we may need 2 hrs to work on

14. Round Robin

- a. Cheryl:
  - i. FEMS mtg last week
    - 1. Lack of stewardship and standards for fuel sampling
    - 2. Fuels committee would initially be asked then FBS could be the steward
    - 3. FEMS development will stop in June due to budget
      - a. Will at least have trend analysis charts built out
      - b. Should be a good resource and easier to access data
      - c. Formal communication coming out on transition from WIMS to FEMS
    - 4. 2 releases of FEMS, one in March and the other in June (fire danger trend charts)
    - 5. [www.wildfire.gov/application/fems](http://www.wildfire.gov/application/fems)
  - ii. S-491 geared more towards fire behavior positions
  - iii. Fire danger sub-committee will go thru NWCG materials and figure out where all their info is located to get current info in alignment/updated
    - 1. FBFRG rose to the top
  - iv. WIMS going away in the fall
- b. Matt: nothing additional
- c. Dan:

- i. email from Jonah Vaught (Nextgen team) and slowly but surely integrating safety zone material
- d. Mitch:
  - i. Will send updates to consider for the fall to Chris
  - ii. Will be on the March call
- e. Tonja:
  - i. Grateful this group is put together/challenges going forward
- f. Nate:
  - i. CFFDRS 2025 mtg next week in Toronto/will attend virtually
    - 1. Rolling out what they are planning to do
- g. Rocco: getting thru the winter time and next round of training
- h. Ryan: video progress, t-storms video almost done
- i. Andrew: nothing to add
- j. Steven: involved in planning the burn at Merrit Island (Dan asked)
- k. Nicole: nothing to add
- l. Brent:
  - i. follow up on Ryans brief out about video work
    - 1. t-storm script almost done/got some cool time lapse video from NWS meteorologist to use as illustrations
    - 2. Mental Model script almost done
    - 3. Inversion script likely next
  - ii. IRPG update/unsure where it stands.
  - iii. **Action Item:** Chris will ask FENC during meeting next week about any news
- m. Chris: huge projects wrapping up during the next couple of months and benefit the community greatly