

FBS Monthly Call Notes

Wednesday, March 19th 2025 0900 to 1045

1. Participants: Rocco, Chris, Nate, David Schultz, David G, Nicole, Cheryl, Tonja, Steven Stolze, Nick,
2. IPTM update
 - a. Draft produces from ICF sent to SMEs.
 - b. SMEs have been reviewing. Joe meeting with NWCG. and talk about comments.
 - c. Joe will present results to FBSC 4/4 0900
 - d. Date to review draft Position Analysis Recommendations Report 3/28-4/11
3. NWCG update
 - a. The two other coordinators retired/took new job.
 - b. Minimal additional coverage for now.
 - c. Pubs. Has only 2 positions out of 5
 - d. 8–12-week turnaround
 - e. Training is down 50%
 - f. Trying to detail in vacancies.
4. S-290
 - a. Chris is working on the certification process
 - b. Appendix B still shows up on the 290 page in the Portal. Will be removed with the new course.
 - c. The shell is large and need to be able to share the shell.
5. S-390
 - a. Test course feedback summary
 - b. Minor clean up in lessons
 - c. People want a workbook; lots of handouts. Needs organization.
 - d. Wind and stability may be too long?
 - e. VPD hard topic hard to teach. How in depth should we go?
 - f. Where does FEMS stand
 - g. SSD ws confusing
 - h. CFFDRS too much?
 - i. PocketCards discussion
 - j. How much behave vs spatial modling
 - k. Is vectoring in Behave obsolete or a useful steppingstone?
 - l. Cadre not comfortable with FlamMap
 - m. Does it prepare students for 490?
 - n. Overall great course
 - o. Nomogram demo was a good thing. Students were into it.
 - p. Teach the fundamentals of modeling. Skipping Behave is an issue.
 - q. Need to teach skills in an orderly fashion.
 - r. Need to understand where the numbers are coming from.

- s. Heather Gonzalez was looking at S-490 storyboards and lots of Behave mention in it, trying to make it agnostic.
 - i. Chris: NWCG would like to see term “Fire Behavior Application” instead of use of Behave etc
- t. Comments
 - i. Cheryl:
 - 1. ERC 97th percentile has no direct correlation to fire behavior in NFDRS unless a business analysis was done
 - 2. CFDRS does have ability to translate outputs to fire behavior
 - 3. S-491 currently doesn’t provide incident level teaching
 - 4. Fire danger has carryover states so represents the changing fire potential
 - a. Fire Behavior can have the same inputs therefore same outputs
 - 5. Take trend potential
 - ii. Tonja:
 - 1. Struggle with applying fire danger to an ignition that has already started
 - a. Once you know wind direction, slope, etc then Behave is the tool to use
 - iii. Chris:
 - 1. When writing a burn plan and fire behavior doesn’t match up with the fire spread so might trigger you to change your fuel model with your at 100th percentile ERC
 - 2. Is the prescription going to really capture the fire behavior potential because snow went off earlier than normal etc so they ended up getting more behavior
 - 3. Pocket Card information is good but the method of delivery isn’t great
 - 4. No one on a fire would create a pocket card, the district will so why is it being taught in an incident based class
 - iv. Cheryl:
 - 1. S-491 will be taught in the fall so still time to configure the class to fit some additional needs
 - 2. Don’t like pocket cards in the ‘90 series curriculum
 - 3. FEMS will provide a seasonal trend graph for every RAWS
 - 4. Can see Pocket Cards built into FEMS some day
 - 5. If it is taught, should be taught in S-290

- a. Currently a small segment taught in S-390
 - v. Nate:
 - 1. Firefighters have seen pocket cards their whole life and they are frustrated by them....when they get on an incident, it is already dry, don't need additional context
 - vi. David Greathouse
 - 1. Only time pocket card is useful is when you have it in your hand and you are given an absolute value
 - 2. Percentiles are much more important because it normalizes values across the country...a 97th percentile BI is generally a bad ass day whether its in Maine or CA.
- 6. S-490
 - a. Deadline to provide comments on the OLT storyboard (165 pages) has been extended to March 28th vs March 17th
 - b. Meeting for yesterday was cancelled and re-scheduled
 - c. No additional updates
- 7. FireSense project funded by NASA
 - a. Casey Teske was looking for feedback on the project
 - b. Steve S is part of that project
 - i. Serves as the liaison between scientists and ground personnel
 - c. 4 stages to the different projects
 - i. Pre-burn
 - ii. Active burn
 - iii. Air quality
 - iv. Post burn
 - d. Scientists apply for the program and then NASA helps facilitate tying those ideas to the field, within the scope of NASA's mission (satellite based)
 - e. Web page set up so folks can review the different project ideas
 - i. <https://cce.nasa.gov/firesense/projects.html>
 - f. 2 active campaigns this week and 1 next week
 - i. At Risk Sensor flown
 - 1. Texas Crabapple fire on March 18th and will be flying over a RX in Alabama next few days
 - 2. Multi spectral imagery provides a clear identification of the fireline
 - ii. Next week, Merritt Island RX
 - g. UAV's doing soundings and scientists taking soil moisture levels
 - h. Need fire people feedback so check out the website and see if interested

8. FEMS fuel moisture standards (Chris/Cheryl)

- a. Chris reached out to fuels committee and they didn't seem interested in creating and/or maintaining standards
- b. Cheryl: don't have standards and FEMS developers tried their best to create charts for the LFM sampling module
 - i. Cheryl posted a chart example
 - ii. Getting feedback
 - 1. charts don't provide max-min line and perhaps not "pretty" enough
 - iii. Data isn't great or easy to chart because not super consistent
 - 1. Samples don't occur on the same day for example
 - 2. When the lab had it, lots of interpolation still needed to be done
- c. Comments:
 - i. Tonja: Region 4 has created a task group to discuss consistency in data collection
 - 1. Currently asking forests about their sampling program
 - 2. Getting some good feedback, some don't want how they been doing it touched and others seem to do it when they can (no consistency)
 - ii. Chris: one of the big problems, people are doing the sampling but are slow to load into FEMS or not loading it
 - iii. Cheryl: FEMS doesn't have any technical support outside of Travis, Scott and Cheryl in terms of re-programming things
 - 1. Have nothing to throw at the Field Sample module
 - 2. There is no live Help Desk support outside of them
 - iv. Cheryl will be anxious to get feedback from Tonja based on what the task group learns
 - v. Rocco: who is controlling notice to be able to upload LFM data
 - 1. Cheryl:
 - a. Different Designations
 - i. Area Editor
 - ii. Group and Site Editor

9. Analysis Refresher Virtual Workshop (Tonja)

- a. There was a Mtg this am, same time as this call, so missed it
- b. 8-10 different tracks and each track has a 2 hr window when you click on the link
 - i. No expectation to fill all of the 2 hr window
- c. Speaker will start at their designated time, might be an empty room but the presentation will be recorded so allows people to jump between room to room

- d. Billy Phillips is organizing the agenda
 - e. WFDSS Next Gen, Critical Weather stuff, RIST
 - f. Comments
 - i. Chris: There was a SW refresher last week
 - 1. Diane A: MTB lesson
 - 2. Chris M: Farsite lesson
 - 3. Wes H: NextGen
10. Spring Mtg May 5th to 9th (Chris)
- a. Adding topics to talk about
 - i. Chris pushed FBFRG update needs to FENC for discussion
 - 1. Followed up with Mitch to determine if 2 per year update schedule is necessary
 - a. Mitch thought it was good especially dealing with weblinks
 - 2. Will discuss during April mtg
 - ii. S-491 and 90' series connection
11. Round Robin:
- a. Cheryl:
 - i. NDFC mtg yesterday
 - 1. briefing paper circulating about WIMS/FEMS transition
 - 2. discussed transition process to the board
 - 3. WIMS goes away in Sep and FEMS will be the authoritative source by Oct 1st
 - 4. Reanalysis needed due to data changes and system parameters like setting defaults changed etc
 - 5. Nick and Cheryl gave the briefing
 - 6. More job aids will be created but relying on 3 people doing it
 - b. Nick:
 - i. NDFC
 - 1. need to push the paper down
 - 2. board members asked to make sure there are job aids or reference material
 - 3. 1 hurdle passed in securing additional funding for FEMS development BUT that is just 1 hurdle
 - c. Tonja:
 - i. Trying to make sense of NextGen before goes live, both analysis and decision parts
 - d. Nate:
 - i. Canadian mtg about update 2025 CFDRS

1. Some different calculations to FWI so likely won't impact training in the lower level classes
 2. Additional changes likely coming, no main changes to the system right now
- e. Rocco:
- i. Fire season getting active including blowing snow and dirt (snirt) this am
 - ii. S-390 in April and S-290 in June
- f. Steve S: nothing
- g. Brent:
- i. PS monthly meeting was yesterday, 2 big discussion topics
 1. FEMS user experience
 2. Annual Operating Plan meetings including 2 hot topics
 - a. Learn how different areas were adjusting Red Flag criteria due to removal of LAL/Haines (i.e. replacement parameter etc)
 - b. Particularly Danger Situation (PDS)
 - ii. 2 sub or task groups under PS guise
 1. Curing Level led by Geo Task group
 - a. Kick off mtg was March 2024
 - b. Deliverables likely this spring and posted to a website
 2. Long range Guidance tool request to CPC
 - a. Group had a first call yesterday to discuss PS guidance tool needs
 - b. Right now, CPC is experimentally producing NFDRS percentile forecasts in the 8-14 day period once per day
 - c. https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/people/mchen/fireWeather/cpc_wk2fw_index.html
 - d. Need for monthly resolution vs 3 monthly to match our seasonal outlooks
- h. Chris:
- i. S-290 change summary to Heather by end of week
 - ii. Follow-up with Matt about S-390 discussions