

Fire Behavior Subcommittee

Monthly Call Notes

Dec 20th, 2023, 0900-1045

1. Participants: Kyle, Matt, Dan, Chris, Tonja, Tami, Nathan, Rocco, Ryan, Nicole, Mitch, Cheryl
2. FBS FireNet site has been partially organized by Chris/check it out
3. **Curriculum**
 - a. NWCG asked where LAL and Haines were listed in behavior course curriculum
 - b. Discussion:
 - i. Mitch:
 1. S-190....should be a quick fix online and need tell instructors not to teach to it via a change memo
 2. S-290...no Haines or LAL in the new course
 - a. Deleted out terms in the text base FWF forecast
 - c. S-290
 - i. Mitch
 1. Joe and Heather put on a new “test” course.
 - a. Got some good feedback.
 2. 1st six units thru the review process
 3. Last 4 units being reviewed
 4. Course coming up in CO
 - a. Mix of 1st six reviewed units and following 4 units (draft)
 5. Hope in early Jan to have final edits
 6. Heather has found folks to do cool illustrations
 7. Trying to pick an official NWCG blessed course for S-290 in Jan/Feb.
 8. Hoping to get feedback during initial certified courses (first six months) and make edits as needed.
 9. Hope to make annual updates as well.
 - ii. Chris
 1. Call with Kevin (NWCG), Heather etc yesterday to discuss updates
 2. Need to find a test course
 3. Heather would like to put together a 1-2 hr “How to teach” the class video for the portal since it is a blended course.
 - a. Train the Trainer
 4. Is March the certification deadline?

5. Chris will ask Kevin if the course doesn't get certified in March can folks still use the material?
- iii. Rocco
 1. 48 students for 2 different sessions (24 students each session)
 2. Need to get students logged into portal
 3. 2 days onsite
 4. Student needs to clear "Info" button to get to next slide (Articulate)
 - a. Should get that cleared up soon
 5. Comments box added so students can provide feedback
- iv. Tami
 1. Annual updates will help with getting funding each year.
- d. Fire Videos/Fire Wx Handbook (Ryan/Brent)
 - i. 2 videos recorded
 1. Introduction to Fire Weather (complete)
 2. Heating and Cooling (almost done/few tweaks)
 - ii. Temp and RH relationship script almost done
 - iii. Air movement script being worked on but close to being done
 - iv. Additional ideas for videos include inversions, cold front, stability and plan to pull Mental Model script off shelf and do some revisions
 - v. Samantha producing videos/animations and getting feedback
 - vi. Darren has been busy as of late so no updates on the handbook.
- e. Ring O Rang- Knowledge as a Service (KAS) Chris
 - i. Talked to Dave Schultz (NWCG liaison) wondering if WFIT is an option on how to move forward (ie get approval etc).
 1. Need to know whether Ring O Rang use can proceed otherwise all of the other work is for not.
 - ii. Mitch:
 1. Ring O Rang is really cool.
 2. There is a front-loaded effort to get questions set-up for each course.
 3. Hope to continue to use it for S-290
 4. Does Implementation go to GATR and course lead?
 - iii. Dan:
 1. Current contract was tough to push through....it was picked up by an East Coast team so was tougher to work through.
 - a. Delayed start of contract 6 months
 - b. Current agreement runs through March 2024.
 2. Suggests let current contract run its course then do a new one.
 3. Dan talked to Robert at KAS....their development team is not spending as much time because of SME's/Mitch good work

- a. Thus, excess of \$30,000 dollars available
 - b. Idea for stand alone app (NWCG or USFS) that could make things more manageable (IT) down the road.
 - 4. Didn't address whether need more licensing.
 - 5. Decision that needs to be made...use \$\$\$ to add more licensing or create a more concise App or perhaps do both
 - 6. Dan put in proposal for IAWF conference (Boise) after our face to face and it got accepted.
 - a. Robert/Dan will present
 - 7. Tami: Wildfire Magazine hungry for articles so tossed that idea out about the blended learning approach Fire Env has adopted plus use of Ring O Rang for adult education
 - a. Highlight we are trying to teach differently to get student's head around the Fire Environment subject
- f. S-390 (Chris)
 - i. Kick off meeting in Moscow January 16-18
 - ii. Matt will lead that effort with Mitch's help
 - iii. Looking to hire a few more SME's so this doesn't turn into a full time job
 - iv. Possible people:
 - 1. John Saltenberger (plans to retire in May)
 - 2. Chuck Mchugh plans to retire this year
- g. S-490/590 (Chris)
 - i. Was at 590 steering committee mtg last week
 - ii. 37 students will go to course
 - iii. Many students didn't meet pre-req including S-495 and other items due to fire season
 - iv. Tonja:
 - 1. Went to mtg Dennis put together
 - 2. Two S-490 courses being taught during week of April 8th
 - a. CA
 - b. Great Basin
 - 3. Latest Behave may not get released in time
 - v. Nicole:
 - 1. PNW group will meet and discuss teaching course in perhaps 2025
- h. International Workshop/Continuing Ed (Tami)
 - i. Canadians interested in this
 - ii. Leverage IAWF to deal with logistics on back-end
 - iii. Formulate a plan in terms of requirements for refresher due to changing science etc
 - 1. FBS, Fire Env?
 - 2. Probably not each year

- i. Statement of work for S-390/490
 - i. Annie...forwarded to us because
 - ii. Large Contract (U of I):
 - 1. \$200,000 or 390
 - 2. \$200,000 for 490
 - iii. Try to use some of the \$\$\$ for SME development which would make it easier
- 4. **Budget Fiscal Year 2024 (Tami)**
 - a. Ready to implement \$180,000 for U of I and need to decide *where* to push the \$20,000 for future FBFRG/pocket guide updates
 - b. Current UAF agreement
 - i. Negatives:
 - 1. Tami is only one on sub-committee that can manage this contract right now but Dan could take that on.
 - a. WO FAM
 - 2. They pay less per hour
 - ii. Positives:
 - 1. Unique consortia with good commo with Canadians and CFDRS
 - iii. \$17,000 left for UAF (5 yr agreement, in place for 1 year)
 - c. So, we have a decision:
 - i. Push additional \$\$\$ to UAF or push \$20k to U of I
 - ii. Group decided to move \$20,000 to U of I
 - d. \$100,000 will go to Ring O Rang
 - i. Dan: probably too much \$\$ unless we go down the S-390 route
 - ii. Per another convo Tami had....Heather thinks that Ring O Rang could be used for a S-390 refresher (pre-course set of modules) vs use for S-390
- 5. **Budget Fiscal Year 2025 (Chris)**
 - a. Due Jan 5th
 - b. Thought was to request another \$200,000 for U of I
 - c. Dan
 - i. suggests we ask for \$100,000 for KAS and more \$\$\$ for video development
 - d. Mann Gulch?
 - i. Tami: good with current sole source contract
 - ii. Kyle:
 - 1. Patrick (chair) good with hosting material/video on leadership toolbox
 - 2. In order, to get an official Staff Ride...need to have all 3 phases represented including integration.
 - iii. Do we wait and see how field responds to the videos or should we try to fund another development idea?

- iv. Group decided to request funding for another project

6. Spring (May 13th) Meeting

- a. Mann Gulch:
 - i. Heritage (National Forest/archeologist group) limits onsite visitation to 15 people so we need to navigate that
 - ii. Need a point/logistics person...Dan will do that
 - 1. We need permission from district ranger
 - iii. **Action Item: FBS members need to tell Dan by next month who will be going on Staff Ride due to logistics/people count**

7. Fire Environment Business Mtg (Chris)

- a. Talk about business needs for Fire env group
- b. 2 days of discussion
- c. Decisions:
 - i. National Fuel Moisture Database will go back to FEMS
 - 1. Hope to have it released in 2024
 - ii. FENC undergo membership revision
 - 1. SME's from each agency
 - 2. Help with communication with Executive board
 - iii. FENC will be a business lead for all things fire env
- d. Group will meet on a regular basis
 - i. Ex. **Meeting Jan 30 – Feb. 1** for FEMS

8. NWCG Annual Mtg Feb 21st-22nd Boise

- a. FENC annual meeting Feb 23rd
- b. Chris will attend

9. FBS website updates (Chris)

- a. Working with Dave

10. Round Robin

- a. Cheryl: FEMS and fuel moisture database/sampling being built out and hope to finish by March, met with Scott Linn last week in Duluth
- b. Kyle: use or lose leave and planning for the future
- c. Dan: been asked by risk management committee end of Jan in Boise to present about safety zones
- d. Matt: Moscow Mtg for S-390...get curriculum development moving quicker, plan to attend a S-490 session as a coach or bystander to gauge state of S-490
- e. Mitch: been focused on S-290 past 2 months and likely thru Jan....hope to update NWCG guides via UAF work in Feb
- f. Tonja: getting arms around things going on in sub committee
- g. Tami: dive into Fire Net files to clean things up, there is an old calendar invite so delete the one invite (Go To Mtg one), coordinating with Dan to figure out Mann Gulch logistics, will send out form to determine how many people will go, will help Chris with budget (2025) and statement of work (Annie gave us)

- h. Nate: echo what Tonja said, has some spare time to work on a project
- i. Rocco: excited about teaching S-290 and interested in S-390 (need by 1st week of Feb), will help out as coach in S-590
- j. Ryan: been working with Darren/Heather/Mitch S-290 and videos
- k. Nicole: interested in developing a SME group for S-395, detail as deputy RD&A director end of Jan
- l. Chris: trying to catch up...S-491 letter needs to get submitted soon (will be taught annually at NAFRI unless curriculum changes/last week of Feb)....will be doing a detail at RD&A end of Jan