

FBS Monthly Meeting

0900-1030 PST Jan 15th

1. Participants: Tonja, Nick, Chris, David Schultz, Rocco, Mitch, Kevin, Nate, Joe flores, Cheryl, Andrew, Dan, Nicole, Matt, David Greathouse, Steven Stolze
2. Introductions to Joe Flores:
 - a. He will be attending our monthly meetings due to IPTM process
 - b. Kevin Maier NWCG retiring soon and Brian Holmes taking over curriculum Liasson.
3. IPTM FBAN/LTAN Process (multiple people)
 - a. Outstanding questions going forward
 - i. Division requirement still needed?
 1. In past, discussion about combining LTAN/FBAN position
 - ii. Can lead instructor be LTAN qualified?
 - b. Comments:
 - i. David Schultz: this round of IPTM and schedule for FBAN/LTAN is pretty tight contractually
 1. Getting position description and creating the new standards
 2. **Contract to set up to be done by July 2025**
 3. Some of the changes just mentioned won't necessarily get completed by IPTM process due to contract timeline
 - a. Certainly, those things can be talked about in the analysis process and during the SME workshop
 - b. Will need to document and keep track of those needs
 - c. Will ultimately need to be changed through the formal NWCG request for change process (RFC)
 4. Will be short turn around times to get comments back so be flexible with your schedule
 - ii. Chris: we want a larger group (not just FBS) to discuss those outstanding questions
 - iii. Kevin Maier: once inventory those 2 positions during IPTM process and contract closes out can use IPTM products/assessments to help direct where we go
 1. IPTM won't resolve the issues/questions but help direct future change requests via recommendations
 2. Long term Goal: findings perhaps lead having a singular fire analyst position
 3. Near term Goal: FBAN/LTAN positions lined out in an IPTM style
4. Increase AD Rate (Chris)
 - a. Email sent out during holiday period

b. Q & A/comments

- i. Nick asked Dave about the “Pause” memo for NWCG changes
 - 1. Dave: Lots of discussion about AD rates for other groups too
 - a. NWCG doesn’t determine AD rates the agencies do
 - b. Incident Business Committee (IBC) webpage has some information/guidance on how to walk thru the process for adjusting AD rates
 - c. IBC will take the info and look at IPD then send off to the departments
 - i. IBC is basically part of the pass thru process
 - d. Departments do all of the leveling and make decisions on the rates
 - ii. Tonja: read the doc and thought content was good, may need a date
 - iii. Matt:
 - 1. not every FBAN supports a CIMT
 - 2. FBAN’s have had to step up due to ISAP process

5. Curriculum (multiple)

a. S-290 (Mitch)

- i. Not a lot of updates
- ii. In NWCG hands for certification
- iii. Comments:
 - 1. Kevin: pdf containing a list of issues sent this morning from NWCG publications to Heather’s group
 - a. Mostly grammatical
 - i. Weird cap
 - b. Course will have to go thru w/o Key Terms and Questions (KT & Q) and Notes part that was initially blessed but publications doesn’t have a template for it
 - i. Doesn’t fit in their NWCG system/compatibility/how they streamline courses
 - ii. KT & Q is a pre-worksheet for students
 - iii. So, need to re-record Unit 0
 - 2. Rocco: used the new shell of it last week for 2 classes and well received by the students
 - a. **Action: Will write up thoughts about the success of KT & Q during those classes**

iv. KAAS (Dan)

- 1. No updates
- 2. KAS has access to the latest shell in the Learning Portal so will be updating their material

b. S-390 (Matt)

- i. Moving right along
 - ii. Online training is out for review
 - iii. Contractor turned over Units to NWCG so currently in a review process as of yesterday morning
 - iv. Matt says they already know they need to tweak a couple of units
 - v. On track for March test course in Great Basin (Boise)
 - vi. Joe Hernandez going to use the shell for teaching the course in SW but won't be a test course
 - 1. He is setting it up in the Learning Portal
 - vii. Using a different process to do the course compared to S-290
 - 1. S-390 contractor is much more versed in IPTM process and dealing with the bureaucracy
 - viii. Comments
 - 1. Kevin:
 - a. S-390 draft course done by the end of Jan
 - b. David G can use the new version in June as a test course but won't be certified by then
 - 2. Rocco:
 - a. Will be using some version of the new course in Feb
 - b. Shell should be in the portal today sometime
 - 3. Chris: how do people get the updated class?
 - a. Kevin: Once they run the test course (assuming no major issues) in March then test course can be used for future teaching from NWCG
 - c. S-490 (Tonja)
 - i. Contractor (Soft-tech) sent out Training Design Plan Dec 31st to SME's
 - 1. Tonja: Who blesses the design plan?
 - a. Kevin said NWCG will bless it
 - ii. Most of the work has been on the Training Design Plan
 - 1. Lots of comments on it and meeting done to deal with those issues
 - iii. Once plan ok then NWCG will go into development
 - d. Mann Gulch/RT-130 (Dan)
 - i. Nothing additional
6. Budget 2026 (Chris)
- a. Wind Reduction factors (Dan)
 - i. \$150,000
 - ii. Missoula Lab
 - iii. Came out of convo with Technosylva
 - 1. Wind reduction factors don't see as refined as they could be

- 2. Need to collect high-res data using lab wind tunnels and place high resolution sensors/towers in different land feature locations in an experimental forest
 - 3. \$\$\$ towards setting up array and developing a sensor array
 - a. 50k towards instrumentation
 - b. 50k towards the contactor to design and build
 - b. Mitch's position (Chris)
 - i. May get turned down due to labor
 - ii. 15k every 2 years to help maintain publications
 - c. Comments:
 - i. Nick: what is the line between salary vs not salary (fed vs SME)?
 - 1. David: Unsure can give a clear answer, this transition occurred when he just got in
 - a. \$\$\$ put towards completing a product
 - b. Not super clear
 - c. Document concerns and can put forward
7. Spring Mtg (Brent)
- a. Week of May 5th
 - b. No real updates
 - c. Haven't receiving a key email so plan to submit a request to Omna (formalized Staff Ride) to get a quote
 - d. Need approximate attendance number
8. Hosting Fire Behavior Refresher (Tonja)
- a. Help teach or refresh skills or new skills
 - i. Good for collaboration and refresher
 - ii. Nextgen, Behave 7, case studies
 - iii. Not re-create S-495 so some baseline knowledge needed
 - b. Reached out to Lawen (Region 1) to see if they wanted to collaborate
 - c. Billy Phillips does annual risk training
 - i. Nice layout for training
 - d. Erin Noonan RMA also interested
 - e. Considering a Fire Behavior track mimicking what Billy Phillips has done
 - f. Hope it aligns well with the committee
 - i. Inter-agency collab effort
 - g. Comments
 - i. Matt: they did this in the past (fire behavior workshop) including discuss case studies, present new research from the Lab etc, great idea
 - 1. Really good if can broadcast to multiple regions
 - 2. Great for unit folks
 - 3. Usually kept it to 1 to 1.5 days
9. Live Fuel Moisture Sampling (Nick)

- a. LFM database up and running in FEMS
- b. Need to emphasize standards
 - i. Units should do it every 2 weeks and enter the data
 - ii. When fire season gets busy that falls off
- c. Who should champion this within Fire Env?
 - i. Nick thought FBS would be best suited for this
- d. Comments
 - i. Cheryl: there is no designated steward for fuel moistures
 - 1. Learned this from FEMS development
 - 2. Therefore there are no standards (aka sampling process etc)

10. Round Robin

- a. Cheryl: FDSC meeting next week,
 - i. WIMS to FEMS transition this year (end of life fall of this year)
 - ii. Look at clean-up of guides/resources
- b. Brent: video update
 - i. NWCG funding completed but still working on videos since NAU will fund the work if it can be used in their curriculum
 - ii. Group members: Heather Heward (Univ Idaho), Darren Clabo (Univ SD), Ryan Leach (NWS), Brent Wachter (PS), Eric Evenson (retired NWS), Scott Stearns (NWS)
 - iii. Currently working on Inversions, T-storms and Mental Model
 - iv. Mental Model script was one of the original scripts that was funded by NWCG but got shelved
 - 1. A working draft has been resurrected and currently in “mature” form
- c. Others: nothing additional to add