

Fire Environment Committee

Conference Call Notes

May 23, 2023

On the call:

Nick Nauslar, Christopher Moore, Robert Clark (CalFire), Scott Linn, Pete Lahm, John Hiers, Cole Belongie, Darren Clabo, Wes Hall, Chris Moore, Jon Fox (Note taker)

NWCG having better communications with the research community. We don't want more Dan Jimenez issues.

Kevin Hires: Suggests that NWCG promote science applications at a local scale rather than an national scale. The problem is what is operational vs what is NWCG. Should this be a new standard, Should this be taught?

Scott Linn...first FENC meeting. Believes he is a part of the fire danger sub-committee, but also might represent NFDRS.

Predictive services oversight committee...need to establish standards. What standards need to be created and how would this impact operations. PSOG is working on guidelines. We need to hire people to work with the SME's. We cannot operate without this expectation.

Pete...PSOG there is an effort to standardize GACC procedures. How does this cross-over?

Nick...Last year with the NFDRS transition needed to use a short-term plan. Data and guidance needed to be based on Version 4. FMB said go forth with a long-term plan. You aren't making decisions, but rather providing guidance. We need a common operating plan. PSOG won't decide this, but we need some SME's to look this over. We need standards in place that aren't currently in place.

Pete...This looks like 2015-16 when we needed to consider sub surface and surface fuels.

Nick...Cheryl is going to look into this. Because there are identifiable shortcomings that might only identify fire risks in the West.

Nick wants us to focus on standards. Working on this through PSOG. We don't want to add to the workload. We are more than 10 years behind where we should be.

Darren...we change the training and then change the standards, but we never catch up. Nick says we need to find a way to remain dynamic as science changes.

Round Robin:

Rob Clark: Predictive Services chief now. First meeting for FENC

Darren Clabo: Fire weather subcommittee...Next fire weather meeting in 3 weeks. Will bring things up at the next FENC meeting.

Cole Belongie: Loves the idea of standards. Would like to get the staffing, but if it doesn't happen, just pick out your top 3 issues to tackle. Don't get bogged down.

Wes Hall: Small group that does monthly webinars relating to fire environment. Did one last week for fire family plus. Low on staffing and not a lot of people contributing now, But 5 new people are showing interest. No topic lined up for June, but as soon as he has one he will send it out. The group will put on a NFDRS workshop...virtual and in person next year. Got a lot of his new folks at the S-495 class this year.

Kevin Hiers...Eastern Region project pertaining to tech transfer and science integration One DOD funded pilot that WFLC is being briefed on next month. It is a regional prescribed fire science and management effort to test and improve next generation models and 3D fuels mapping efforts.

Scott Linn: New to FENC. Just started with the Washington office of the Forest service. Heading over the FEMS program (from Shelby) and NFDRS program (from Cheryl). He is learning FEMS and what it will look like moving forward. How are we going to implement this? Representative for the USFS for the fire danger subcommittee.

Pete Lahm: Wildfire commission is steeped in smoke impacts. Moving forward with projects for FY23. Took a lot to get the funding. Doing ARA training June 5-9th in Boise. Just had some students who struggled with meteorology during the last training. Integrating smoke dispersion into training could prove worthwhile. Darren will put forward a rewrite of the fire weather handbook, however how much smoke material should be mentioned? Darren wants to make the handbook much more approachable.

Chris Moore...fire behavior sub-committee. Start supporting the University of Idaho for a S-290 and S- 390 rewrite. Get the BETA versions of these classes finalized. S-490 is next. Want to get as many students as possible to get through this class. Using the Beta version. A project to try a new training method S-290. Need new videos to go with the handbook. Dan Jimenez got in contact about safe operating distances. Kevin Mayer has been involved with all these meetings and will hopefully smooth things over as the classes get redone.