

Fire Environment Committee

Conference Call Notes

July 26, 2023

On the call:

Christopher Moore

Cheryl Bright

Cole Belongie

Tim Chavez

Darren Clabo

Robert Clark

Bill Gardunio

Chad Hoffman

John Hiers Nick

Nauslar

Robyn Heffernan Tim

Brown

Round Robin

- **Chris Moore:** Fire Behavior Subcommittee will host their in-person on October 16 in Missoula with at least one joint day with Fire Weather. They are re-writing 290 for certification hoping it can be used next spring. The Ringarang interface is being worked on to see if we should fund it for next year. Currently working with Fire Weather to create videos that better support the handbook. Discussion on one version of S-290 and if that will work with NWS. The S-390 and -490 rewrites will begin and be contracted through NWCG. Also working on Man Gulf videos.
- **Cheryl:** The Fire Danger Subcommittee is hitting a reset button and has completely redone the primary objectives that they will be posting on the site. Focusing on Fire Danger as a whole, including Canadian fire danger and looking at standing up two subgroups to work on the technical requirements, developing data standards, operational standards, etc. Taking a few steps back on 191 and working with an NWCG training specialist before the course gets to a test phase. Getting more stakeholder involvement in content.
- **John Hiers:** Working on projects and coordinating with interagency smoke group to ensure things are complementary with the rest of the research community.
- **Chad Hoffman:** USGS is working through the final stages of a bill proposal with OWF for funding. Risk work for DOI lands as well as DOD lands at risk is also being focused on as well as funding for Eros updates to add bark mapping.
- **Darren:** The Fire Weather Subcommittee meeting discussed the red flag warning matrix and criteria. Combined subcommittees will be meeting tomorrow and will be meeting in Missoula the week of October 16. Cheryl will present operational tools and data standards for discussion. Haynes Index will be discussed. Trying to iron out the NWCG 190 and 490 courses and glossary rewrites.

- **Tim Chavez:** NWS is hiring a physical scientist as a part of the plus up the agency recently had funded. The Cal Fire research and development group is putting up a network of 6 sensors in the Lake Tahoe basin. The AI can detect lightning strikes, in addition to picking out the strikes that will cause fires.
- **Billy Gardunio:** PSOG continues to work on Buckets 2 and 3 drafting the recently agreed upon proposals for FMB.
- **Tim Brown:** Red flag warning system was discussed with the Fire Weather and Fire Danger sub- committees, receiving feedback from both. Ben Hatchett will be leaving next week to go to the Fire Weather testbed at NOAA. Ben will be reaching out to several persons and the FENC group to discuss the lightning briefing and research he's been working on with Nick.
- **Cole Belongie:** Working on standards and coordinating training through the portal trying to make the process more seamless. RMA dashboard has reached out regarding what they could post publicly for the lightning research.
- **Robyn Heffernan:** NTR