

# Fire Environment Committee

Conference Call Notes

October 25, 2023

## On the call:

Cheryl Bright  
Darren Clabo  
Robert Clark  
Billy  
Gardunio  
Chad  
Hoffman  
Christopher Moore  
Nick Nauslar  
Katie O'Hara  
Tim Brown  
Cole Belongie

## Round Robin

- **Nick Nauslar:** Attended the Fire Behavior Subcommittee meeting last week which went well. The Fire Environment meeting is scheduled for in person in Boise next week and will discuss standards, data, and processes. Will be sending out a poll to schedule the annual FENC meeting in the next week.
- **Katie O'Hara:** Katie will be transitioning out as the NWCG representative, with Bill identified as the replacement. NWCG will be hosting their annual in person meeting November 21 and 22, inviting all committee and subcommittee chairs and members to attend.
- **Darren Clabo:** Fire Weather Subcommittee has discussed dropping the Haynes Index as well as the Lightning Index and will be submitting both of those recommendations. He is working with NWS and will be penning a memo to FENC in the next couple of weeks regarding getting rid of the Haynes Index completely industry wide. If the NWCG Executive Board agrees to remove the Haynes Index from all products, that could be used as supporting documentation with the removal completed by January 1, 2025. This decision would need to be widely publicized. Discussed Fire Weather Handbook S-360 updates. All S-390 class information is now uploaded to the site and was well received by the students. Working on S-290 and incorporating updated Fire Weather Handbook information. They have recommendations on how to move forward on the Gap Fill Climatology document whose comments will be addressed by Tim Brown's document. However, there needs to be more discussion on utilizing 0 flight data and yielding appropriate results. RAWS data ownership is currently still under debate. Katie O'Hara will put the Haynes Index document discussion on the NWCG Executive Board November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda.
- **Chris Moore:** S-290 is on track to be submitted for complete certification in March and the University of Idaho is working on a test course for January. S-390 will be the next on the list for course revision after S-290 is complete. The

committee's annual meeting will occur in May to ensure necessary documents are completed before Man Gulch staff rides in August. Discussed membership and have identified an Eastern state representative that's in the process of being approved. Tammy will be leaving the subcommittee in May with an identified replacement. Subcommittee has approved an exercise and will discuss CFFDRF and its addition to several of the courses as a frequently utilized system.

- **Robert Clark:** Request for NFDRS feedback for state utilization has only yielded 2 responses so far. Cal Fire is holding a workshop May 6-10 in Sacramento and hosting S-491 satellite class this spring as well.
- **Billy Gardunio:** Looking at possible PSOG face to face meeting in February. Still receiving FMB feedback on the Buckets that have already been presented.
- **Cheryl Bright:** Fire Danger Subcommittee sent NFDRS request for feedback as there are NASF holes. Task group working on fire danger ratings. Second task team is looking at framework for an NFDRS reference guide and considering what should be archived. Looking to compile training and set up a way to look at what standards need to be created to help determine lanes between Fire Danger and Fire Weather. Lori from NWCG Instructional Design has been invited to discuss the fire danger courses. Going through the process of creating 191, it became apparent that having the Instructional Design analysis piece is key. Consider creating modules rather than maintaining the current courses. The introduction video for 191 was reviewed last week and have submitted feedback as the beginning to getting other stakeholders involved. The development of S-290 has been updated with parts of 191 with further development as an introduction with fire environment continuum. S-491 will be taught in February trying to catch up on backlogged personnel who haven't fulfilled the requirement.
- **Chad Hoffman:** NTR
- **Cole Belongie:** Rochelle will attend next week's Fire Environment meeting. Curious about WIMS station ID proposal and how that will be communicated to those that will be pulling the data in.
- **Tim Brown:** Great to be in Missoula and report out. Today there is a hearing in the Senate that includes several wildfire bills, several of which will be relevant to this group. The budget is requesting several billion dollars for suppression and a couple million for prevention.