

Fire Environment Committee

Conference Call Notes

January 24, 2024

On the call:

Cheryl Bright
Robert Clark
Chad Hoffman
Dan Jimenez
John Hiers
Larry Van Bussen
Christopher Moore
Nick Nauslar
Robyn Heffernan
David Schultz
Tim Brown
Travis Verdegan
Jim Wallmann

Round Robin

- **Nick Nauslar:** The four requests will go up to NWCG for funding. In person meeting will be February 21-22 and will include a virtual option.
- **Jim Wallmann:** Removal of Haynes and Lal. Spoke to WFSTAR and this will not going to happen this year due to processes. Will look at other means of alerting people to disperse the information for stability and lightning. Will create a more complete video for Spring of 2025 but will be discussing that with WFSTAR.
- **Larry Van Bussen:** TX FS is trying to put together a virtual S-390.
- **David Schultz:** No other documentation is needed for the Fire Danger Subcommittee to move forward with the four requests before going to NWCG.
- **Chris Moore:** Content for the -490 revision will be heavily discussed this winter though it may be beneficial introducing some of those concepts in earlier courses. Will be looking to explore near misses that aren't as popular or learned about as main goals. S-290 just had two unofficial test courses that got great reviews though several graphics are still being updated. CA will hold an official test course in the middle of March. Fire Weather videos are still in the works for the remaining funding. S-390 hopes to have a test course ready by October 2024 dependent on the release of new Behave 7. There is no clear direction regarding safety zones from NWCG at this time. There will be a short introduction to CFFDRS incorporated into S-390. There is nothing on the NWCG website surrounding an ARA get into class though there is an agreement for iMETs and ARAs to take the class. S-390 is an internal requirement that iMETs have and though they've always been able to get in, it's not a guaranteed acceptance. Secured funding to complete statement of work with an NWCG contractor to deal with 508 compliance and formatting. S-490 subcommittee working on objectives. Planning on revision meeting in October. S-590 will be the first week in March with -491 prerequisite change request submitted. All new subcommittee members are up and running. Will be looking to hire another SME. University of Idaho looking to buy an articulate license with SME funding. Will be looking at course content and target audience if S-395 is needed. 495 last year looked at potential items that can be trimmed out to avoid lengthening the training into the weekend. Would something more modular or continuing

education be more beneficial rather than adding another course before S-495? The Spring meeting will be in Missoula May 13.

- **Dan Jimenez:** There is money in the current contract to develop a standalone app that will have the FS legend we want. The next step will be working with NWCG for an implementation plan and ensure the cadre is familiar with and can launch it. Unlimited licensing will also be incorporated. Success and contacts with the CIO will be leveraged to work with WIFFIT. Will be presenting at the IAWF conference in April. The \$100k would go straight into an agreement with the University of Utah as a proof of concept for 3 things including a visibility index. There could be may cultural changes. On a landscape it would identify potential open areas. The Ring O Rang request form would ask for \$100k. The '25 funding would go towards S-390 and developing content. Continuing to add modules and video content rather than all flat visuals to assist learning.
- **John Hiers:** DoD funded a couple projects to develop advanced tools as well as basic interactions that might be an option to look at. DoD will be hosting a collaborative event in Fort Stewart the week of February 7th. Have 50 proposals surrounding understanding micro-meteorology and researching strategic value.
- **Chris Moore:** Want to continue with the re-write of 390 and 490, bringing on another SME to help chaperone how the courses get developed. The IT portion and implementation will be two factors to work through.
- **Robert Clark:** Tim Chavez has retired. Working on hosting interagency CA Fire Danger operating Plan Workshop in May and going through the process for Ca Cal fires hosting S-491 next month.
- **Cheryl Bright:** Fire Danger Subcommittee has a definitions task group that has pulled together definitions to be updated. S-290 and the use of fire potential and trying to get the concepts in the continuum has been a struggle. The group will try to define fire potential, fire danger indicators, and fire danger rating systems. Will push the definitions to this group for feedback before submission. At the annual meeting, would like to look at all of the glossary terms and their stewardships under FENC and the related subcommittees. Brad Smith (NASF rep) has retired and has been replaced by Travis Verdegan.
- **Tim Brown:** NOAA announced they received \$35M to study fire detection and 3D modeling that was a secret flow of money that not many people knew about. The money will go to the company of institutes but will all be accounted for as potential grant programs. The details should be announced in the next couple of weeks. Working on RAWs QC version 1.1 and seeing if there can be some improvement on the coastal stations and how the snow flag is working.