

Fire Environment Committee

Conference Call Notes

April 24, 2024

On the call:

Nick Nauslar
Kit O'Connor
Julie Malingowski
Robyn Heffernan
Chris Moore
Billy Gardunio
Dave Schultz
Chad Hoffman
Robert Clark
Chuck Maxwell
Pete Lahm
Cheryl Bright
Travis Verdegan
Jim Wallmann
Wes

Round Robin

- **Nick Nauslar:** Should hear soon when the public comment period will be, proposing May 1-August 1. Will consider core partner and user feedback more heavily. Continue giving Haines and LAL presentations to articulate what is happening and why the two are going away. Have received some feedback against Haines and LAL going away but overall, it seems to be going well and most people understand the reasoning. It has been stressed to the iMets that they should talk with their partners to find a Haines replacement as the index didn't complete what it was intended for. LAL has more of a replacement with precipitation and lightning forecasts than Haines does. Lightning contract is up April 2024 so lightning unit will be reconfigured to assist with the contract and to fill the needs and requirements for new contract bidding in the fall.
- **Jim Wallmann:** The Fire Weather testbed project is set for mid-June and are looking for volunteers to help with fire alert testing.
- **Chris Moore:** S-290 has agreed on guidelines with NWCG with a test course planned for June. There has been feedback received against the hybrid course but overall the new version is much better. NWCG obtained \$450,000 to update S-390 and S-490 and will be meeting with contractors this summer, hoping to get them started in January 2025. Labor request for FY 25 was turned down by NWCG. S-490 re-write will start in October, looking to put together a SME group for the revision with it being completed in spring 2026. Finalizing Mann Gulch site ride and finishing up the report in June.
- **Chuck Maxwell:** Status and gap is currently in drafted version 1.2 with data from 2000-2022 with updated snow flags, bodies of water, and resolutions included. Will be presented to FEMS May 15. Nick will send out a follow-up meeting next week regarding taking the

provisional off. Current data draw request, through all mechanisms, cannot get data without a password until August 14.

- **Cheryl Bright:** Several concerns have been brought up regarding mixing backfilled point and gridded data with 2000 timeframe without having had the sensors then. The group has decided to go with a period of record that is not the entire period as NFDRS requires certain data that was not available at the beginning. Version 1.2 will be truncated to the period of record that serves the model needs of NFDRS v4. There is an interesting research-to-operations pathway as there will be separate data sets and time frames. Sources for raw data could use non-gap fill once the entire period is QC'd. FENC will have to decide how to communicate RAWS data including where things are located and how they were derived. There will be no backfill data, it will be a partial period of record data set starting at 2005 due to model requirements. Both non-gap data and QC'd data will be desired as only some of the data sets will have NFDRS requirements applied to them. Non-QC'd, raw data should be maintained somewhere for NextGen analysts to access. The preference is to maintain gap-fill and non-gap fill data to allow the analysts the opportunity to decide which data sets are appropriate. There should be discussions surrounding having a finite number of data sets with clear requirements. Some data is specific to fire danger while others are needed to QC for RAWS. Currently there are numerous data sets that we aren't sure what the differences are, and those need to be reviewed. The preference would be to have as few data sets as possible. Fire Danger Subcommittee discussed glossary terms at the last meeting and are working through creating examples.
- **Robert Clark:** Attended IAWF which saw great attendance. Cal Fire planning for interagency workshop with 80 state, local, and federal participants. Will set aside a timeframe to discuss LAL and Haines during the workshop.
- **Wes:** Re-engaging subcommittee to build timeline for the remainder of 2024 webinars and discuss changes to allow users to be more involved in the trainings.