

NWCG Fuels Management Committee

Meeting Notes and Decision Log

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Date: May 12, 2021

Begin Time: 1300

End Time: 1600

Attendees

FMC Members

Present: Mike Van Hemelryck (NPS) Chair; Andy James (NASF) Vice Chair; Angie Simpson (BLM); Deb Fleming (NWCG); Frankie Romero (USFS)

Absent: Mark Jackson (BIA); Tate Fischer (FWS)

Guests

Dave Mueller, Bil Grauel (for Mark Jackson), Roshelle Pederson, Bre Schueller (notes), Kristy Swartz, Judy Wartella, Jason Fallon (NPS)

Decision Log

Topic: Role Call – Approve April Notes

Presenter: Mike Van Hemelryck

Discussion/Considerations: No changes or edits. Deb will get them posted.

Topic: SmoC Update

Presenter: Dave Mueller (BLM)

Discussion/Considerations: Dave presented an update for the Smoke Committee. General updates include:

- Smoke Management Field Guide updates should be reviewable by the FMC in the next 1-6 months
- Smoke Pocket Card is complete and was submitted to NWCG for editing.
- BLM, NPS, FS NW Research Station agreement to develop smoke planning tool is in the works.
- Video for SOF/MEDL/LOG should be coming out before the summer season.
- Smoke Monitoring agreement with FS-OWF has committed to wanting to fund for next year. Smoke Committee needs to come up with documentation on guidance for smoke monitors, setting them up, and returning as early as next year.
- Discovery phase for U of I agreement to review and analyze RX410
- Comparing Wildfire and Prescribed fire impacts from 2019 fires- assessment document is in peer review and it should be available shortly
- With PMS210 discontinued, looking where that information should go

Topic: RXMG IPD Approval

Presenter: Mike Van Hemelryck

Discussion/Considerations: No comments have been submitted on the IPD in a while. There was discussion about a prior question regarding required experience for this position: RXB1 or RXB2 as it pertains to the level of fire behavior training (490). As of today, required experience is RXB2. We are coming up on the deadline to submit change updates for the 310-1.

Decision: FMC approved the IPD but will review the documentation to determine if required experience should be changed from RXB2 to RXB1.

Topic: Home for Production Rate Tables

Presenter: Frankie Romero

Discussion/Considerations: Have not yet found a spot for these tables. George Broyles indicated that they would be willing to consider it but that the FMC would need to make a formal request. IRPG/Red Book is problematic given how small the type is. Faith Ann with Behave is another option. Frankie will make a formal request to Faith Ann but will also see if MTDC will maintain a page with the tables.

Decision: Mike will start writing up formal requests to MTDC and Faith Ann (Behave). If needed, tables can go on the NWCG-FMC website.

Topic: PIO Rx Fact Sheet

Presenter: Mike Van Hemelryck

Discussion/Considerations: A PIO Prescribed Burn Fact sheet was discovered on the NIFC website on the Prescribed Fire Summary page. It is an external site so was written for media and the public. There was the question of how often it gets used or if anyone uses it at all. It was suggested that a link is provided to Agency's site that covers Prescribed Burning information.

Decision: Mike will reach out to Internal Affairs to see how much traffic the information sheet gets. Deb will send Carrie Bilbow's contact information to Mike.

Topic: Fuels Knowledge Graph

Presenter: Roshelle Pederson

Discussion/Considerations: Roshelle presented details of how the Fuels Knowledge Graph project can help manage massive amounts of fuels related data and information. At a high level, the project works to tie information back to policy that underlies our business. It is an important step in building relationships between terms we use in fire business. There is a public facing version that anyone can viewed and is linked to the NWCG website. The project is funded thru October of this year so there will be a report out in September with what they have found. They are starting to get a good handle on data sources and are still meeting with SMEs to gather more information. They will start exploring the data in different ways and will come back to the FMC as they start to link the data together. This type of work will need to come back to business SMEs ultimately, so they can develop official standards. They are getting close to this point where they will require FMC engagement. In the interim, they will look at publishing some of the information they have gathered specific to fuels so the FMC can examine it and provide feedback.

Decision: Invite Roshelle to future meeting and discuss more of the project.

Topic: Prescribed Fire and INFORM

Presenter: Mike Van Hemelryck

Discussion/Considerations: Mike reached out to Andy Kirsh and others about direction on using INFORM. People are being told to use it but have not gotten direction on how to use it. Minimum Interagency business standards on data entry needs to be developed. Mike will work with Andy to try and get an idea as to the minimum information that is being used. He will include Henry. Roshelle mentioned that this is some of what they are exploring with the Knowledge Graph. They need to get further along before they involve the FMC but Roshelle will speak with Judy about making this a higher priority. Establishing a standard is a good place to start. The more we have defined, the easier it will be to implement a technology solution to meet business needs in the future.

Action Items or Assignments

Name(s): Deb Fleming

Action/Assignment: Approve April FMC Meeting notes.

Name(s): Dave Mueller

Action/Assignment: Work with Sage Step group and Mike VH to get on the June 9 FMC agenda. Needs 1.5 hours for presentation.

Name(s): All FMC

Action/Assignment: Revisit RXMG IPD to determine if required qualification should be RXB1 or RXB2. It is currently RXB2.

Name(s): Mike VanHemelryck

Action/Assignment: Contact Jesse Bender about housing the Line Production Rate Tables. Also, write formal requests to MTDC and Faith Ann (Behave).

Name(s): Mike VanHemelryck

Action/Assignment: Mike will reach out to NIFC Internal Affairs to see how much traffic the PIO RX Burn Fact Sheet gets.

Name(s): Deb Flemming

Action/Assignment: Deb will send Mike, Carrie Bilbow's contact information about the PIO Rx Burn Fact Sheet on the NIFC website.

Name(s): Mike VanHemelryck

Action/Assignment: Ensure Roshelle Pederson and Fuels Knowledge Graph group is on the June FMC agenda.

Name(s): Mike VanHemelryck

Action/Assignment: Get Roshelle information on Prescribed Burn data from CADS if he finds anything.

Name(s): Frankie Romero

Action/Assignment: Consider hiring a contractor to evaluate commonalities on escaped prescribed burns for a lessons learned type report. Have not done this since 2007.

Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting

Date: June 9, 2021

Time: 1300-1700

Location: Microsoft Teams