

NWCG Fuels Management Committee

Meeting Notes and Decision Log

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Date: 06/09/2021

Begin Time: 1300

End Time: 1700

Attendees

FMC Members

Present: Mike Van Hemelryck (NPS) Chair; Andy James (NASF) Vice Chair; Mark Jackson (BIA); Angie Simpson (BLM); Tate Fischer (FWS); Deb Fleming (NWCG); Frankie Romero (USFS)

Absent:

Guests

Henry Bastian (DOI-OWF IFTDSS), Jason Fallon (DOI-NPS-IFTDSS Bus Lead), Tim Sexton (FS-IFTDSS Bus Lead), Bre Schueller (Notes/IFTDSS), Caroline Noble (FS-IFTDSS), Kim Ernstrom (NPS-IFTDSS)

Decision Log

Topic: Role Call/Approve May Notes

Presenter: Mike Van Hemelryck (Chair-NPS)

Discussion/Considerations:

- Comments were put in document on Teams
- Frankie emailed his response that they looked good
- Mike will take one more look and will look at Angie's comments and get them finalized and to Deb for posting

Topic: Position Standards and References

Presenter: Deb Fleming (NWCG)

Discussion/Considerations: Folks in the field asked to see Standards and References added to IPD pages. The FMC has 6 positions where Standards and References were added which need to be reviewed. Deb requested that a couple of FMC members review the Standards and References for the 6 FMC positions to ensure they are relevant. This should only take 2 members about 30 minutes per position.

Decision: Mike and Angie volunteered to help. Deb will reach out to set up a call in the next couple of weeks.

Topic: RX Fire Escape Commonalities

Presenter: Frankie Romero (USFS)

Discussion/Considerations: Frankie reported that within the Forest Service, Burn Bosses and Regional Program Managers have been asking if a new review of escaped prescribed burns could be synthesized for lessons learned. The last synthesis was done in 2004-2005 by Anne Black and Diedre and resulted in an article in FS Fire Management Notes (“Learning from escaped fires”) and a GTR. A new synthesis of commonalities could be summarized and prescribed fire watchout situations could be formulated. Tate just finished a document for the declared wildfire review guide that might be helpful in this effort. Angie likes the idea of doing this as she has similar information that she would like to organize. Andy also likes the idea but is not sure how much data can be extracted from the state but having the platform and sharing information across interagency boundaries will be helpful.

Decision: Frankie will put a proposal together on behalf of the FMC and will get it to Mike so the group can review it and determine if an agreement can be reached on how to pay for and staff the project.

Topic: Production Rate Tables-Update

Presenter: Frankie Romero (USFS)

Discussion/Considerations: Contact was made with both Faith Anne and NTDC on hosting Production Rate Tables in the Behave Application and on the NTDC website, respectively. Both entities agreed to host the tables. Frankie will create a clipped version of the tables to Faith Anne and NTDC for hosting. Ralph Gonzalez at NTDC would like a formal request from the FMC for this project so he can take it to leadership and get it on their work schedule. The FMC agreed that they would like the tables hosted in both locations.

Decision: Frankie will work on a formal request for NTDC and will clean up the tables and send them to the FMC as a PDF.

Topic: IFTDSS-FTEM-FMSF

Presenter: Henry Bastian (OWF-DOI IFTDSS PM)

Discussion/Considerations: This IFTDSS/FTEM/FMSF update is framed a little bit differently than previous updates in that it was largely centered around bullets that the FMC had sent to Jason Fallon. The goal is to answer FMC questions rather than give a regular update. Caroline Noble gave a high level overview of the IFTDSS/FTEM/FMSF/Tech Transfer Road Map. Highlights include that IFTDSS is in the process of transitioning to a new cloud vendor and FTEM upload/download bulk monitoring design is ongoing with the FTEM SC (set to start development in July/August).

Discussion then moved to the Burn Planning Assessment. A group of SMEs has been identified but there was question if the group represented well enough all geographic areas and agencies. Within the group of SMEs, there was concern over level of commitment and time associated with the project and in addition, no one was up for taking the lead. Ultimately, it was decided that the larger assessment would be postponed and that the identified group already organized can be used as beta testers for the NAFRI “How to use IFTDSS for Burn Plan” course Kim Ernstom is working on. This group’s feedback on the course would be leveraged to determine how current IFTDSS functionality could be enhanced to meet prescribed burn planning needs more holistically.

There was a presentation and short discussion surrounding IFTDSS and FTEM user statistics. Jason Fallon posed the question about metrics: are we more interested in volume of users or target audience

(are they using the system). The data could be normalized based on percentage of users that each agency expects to use the system-this could be further analyzed in the future.

Tech Transfer was discussed in terms of what the IFTDSS team is currently doing in that regard and the question was posed to the FMC if this is in alignment with their expectations of what should be happening in this arena. Tim Sexton acknowledged that the entity responsible for fuels training is the FMC. He mentioned that the IFTDSS team will continue to work to develop content and test out ways to deliver content but that they cannot deliver all the training to all of the personnel that want IFTDSS training. Others commented that we need to think outside the box in terms of figuring out ways to deliver IFTDSS training, possibly using academia, train the trainer, etc. Henry reiterated that the current IFTDSS contract is for development, not tech transfer, and that we will need to figure out a way to contract this work. DOI members were asked what they think the appropriate level of Tech Transfer for IFTDSS should be. The group should work towards a strategy and direction for IFTDSS tech transfer (per Henry). Mark suggested that the DOI FMC members get together to discuss this further in terms of their thoughts and approach. Henry will follow up with DOI members on this.

Henry presented a bit about the IFTDSS-NFPORS connection and closed with a revisit of the original IFTDSS vision from JSFP (software chaos) and the Carnegie Mellon review in 2013, as well as from the NWCG FMC letter. Jason mentioned that this was a good plan and roadmap but if needs have changed, we shouldn't be afraid to change our course of action. As IFTDSS grows it has implications to federal agencies but it goes further than that. We must compromise. Maybe it is eventually used as an academic tool but it would educate our future fuels planners. FMC is critical in formulating the IFTDSS future but it is not the only voice. Henry says that if we need to adjust the vision, we should do that.

Decisions:

- FMC will think about how they can help with IFTDSS tech transfer.
- DOI FMC members will meet to discuss IFTDSS tech transfer from the DOI perspective.
- Henry will work with DOI FMC members to figure out what would work for them in terms of tech transfer for IFTDSS.
- Each FMC member work towards getting potential number of users for their respective agency/bureau
- Henry and Kim will work with established Burn Planning group to get them on board with beta testing the "How to use IFTDSS for prescribed burn planning" that she is working on with NAFRI

Action Items or Assignments

Name(s): Mike VanHemelryck

Action/Assignment: Mike will look at Angie's comments from 5/12/21 meeting notes one more time and will get the draft off to Deb for posting.

Name(s): Deb Fleming

Action/Assignment: Set up a call with Angie and Mike to review Standards and References for 6 IPDs on the FMC site in the next couple of weeks.

Name(s): Frankie Romero

Action/Assignment: Frankie will put a proposal together for an escaped prescribed fire review/synthesis on behalf of the FMC and will get it to Mike so the group can review it and determine if an agreement can be reached on how to pay for and staff the project.

Name(s): Frankie Romero

Action/Assignment: Frankie will work on a formal request for NTDC to host Production Rate Tables and will clean up the tables and send them to the FMC as a PDF. Frankie will send the tables to Faith Anne once cleaned up and reviewed by the FMC.

Name(s): DOI FMC Members

Action/Assignment: DOI FMC members will meet to discuss IFTDSS tech transfer from the DOI perspective. Henry will follow up with this group.

Name(s): All members

Action/Assignment: Work towards getting a count of potential users of the IFTDSS system for your respective agency/bureau.

Name(s): All members

Action/Assignment: Consider talking more about the relationship between NFPORS/IFTDSS/ETC in terms of reporting outcomes (posed by Frankie)

Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting

Date: July 14, 2021

Time: 1300-1700

Location: Microsoft Teams