

NWCG Fuels Management Committee

Meeting Notes and Decision Log

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Date: 12/8/21

Begin Time: 1300

End Time: 1515

Attendees

FMC Members

Present: Mike Van Hemelryck (NPS) Chair; Bil Grauel (BIA); Angie Simpson (BLM); Jon Larson (FWS); Deb Fleming (NWCG); Frankie Romero (USFS)

Absent: Andy James (NASF) Vice Chair; Mark Jackson (BIA)

Guests

Jason Fallon (OWF), Bre Schueller (USFS, notetaker), Krista Gollnick (BLM), Doug Havlina (BLM)

Decision Log

Topic: Role Call

Presenter: Mike Van Hemelryck (NPS)

Discussion/Considerations: Bil Grauel is filling in for Mark Jackson today and Angie invited Krista Gollnick and Doug Havlina to participate for BLM.

Topic: Next Gen NFPORS Update

Presenter: Jason Fallon (OWF)

Discussion/Considerations: Jason gave a high-level overview of the status of Next Gen NFPORS.

They are in the process of getting the contract in place. At this time, the plan is to leverage some of the infrastructure and processes that INFORM has been successful at getting in place and information that the team worked with Kristi on has been handed over to the data/IT folks. The architecture for the new system will be relational and pliable as to be able to meet future needs as they change. Initially, Next Gen NFPORS will collect data that will answer questions at a high level (agency/departmental) as to not get bogged down by minutiae right out of the gates. Eventually, the FMC will need to look at some of the data standards and field definitions to see if they need to be updated but the system will be built in phases and the FMC will be brought in as needed thru development. Ultimately, it is understood that different agencies and bureaus have varying needs and will require flexibility in data reporting. There were no action items for this topic.

Topic: RXMG Required Experience

Presenter: Mike Van Hemelryck (NPS)

Discussion/Considerations: At one point, the topic came up regarding RXMG's and requiring that position to be RXB1 rather than RXB2, which is where it currently stands. The FMC could not recall why this came into question and decided to keep the RXB2 requirement for RXMG. There were no objections, however if this becomes problematic in the future, the FMC will revisit. There were no action items for this topic.

Topic: RXB2: Require Both Rx301 and 341?

Presenter: Mike Van Hemelryck (NPS)

Discussion/Considerations: There has been an ongoing discussion on whether the RXB2 position should require both Rx301 and Rx341 NWCG courses. The group reviewed priorities that came from the 2018 tasking document which determined Rx341 should be prioritized for revision but could be considered as "other training that supports" the position but is not required, whereas Rx301 should remain required. Generally, consensus is both should be required to keep the course around, however, BLM does not require Rx341. Jason mentioned consideration of non-federal partners and industry standard, which is not set by NWCG. The action item for this topic requires folks to reach out to non-federal partners to get their perspective as well as Jon and Bil reaching out to their folks to get a better idea of their view on things.

Topic: Rx510 and M580 Possible Extinction?

Presenter: Mike Van Hemelryck (NPS)

Discussion/Considerations: There is a general concern that courses that are not required for Rx or S positions will go away if they are not required. Deb said there has been no decision to get rid of these courses that are not required, rather they could be categorized as continuing education. Concern was expressed that some of these courses are how practitioners are exposed to fire science and other ecological fundamentals. If they are not required, where will they acquire the knowledge, they need to implement work that is driven by policy? This type of decision falls under NWCG but it is being discussed in many arenas. Frankie is working in a group to address the wildland firefighter job series tasking and is exploring some of our past practices that moved firefighters from technical to professional positions. FMC must be mindful that NWCG doesn't set policy for individual agencies and that we need to be sure we are not putting the tasking in the wrong place. We need to acknowledge how our NWCG standards impact partners. Action items for this topic include Mike digging up and sharing notes from the observation session that occurred in Tucson as well as reaching out to a few folks from the group and Deb after the new year to continue the discussion.

Topic: Production Rate Tables-Expansion?

Presenter: Mike Van Hemelryck (NPS)

Discussion/Considerations: The FMC will pursue two taskings with NTDC in regards to Production Rate Tables. First, update the existing Line Production Rate tables. Second, request for new production rate tables for other things that aren't in the current set that are useful to the field (mowing, timber module, hand piles, mastication). Angie would like to ask the field what they might need and others agreed this is a good idea.

Action Items or Assignments

Name(s): All

Action/Assignment: RXB2: Require both Rx301 and 341? The action item for this topic requires folks to reach out to non-federal partners to get their perspective as well as Jon and Bil reaching out to their folks to get a better idea of their view on things.

Name(s): Mike VanHemelryck

Action/Assignment: M510 and M580-Possible Extinction? Action items for this topic include Mike digging up and sharing notes from the observation session that occurred in Tucson as well as reaching out to a few folks from the group and Deb after the new year to continue the discussion.

Name(s): Mike VanHemelryck and Team

Action/Assignment: Production Rate Tables: Mike will get the first tasking off to Ralph. The rest of the team can reach out to the field to inquire as to what would be desired in regards to production rate tables for fuels related work.

Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting

Date: January 12, 2022

Time: 1300-1700

Location: Microsoft Teams