

NWCG Fuels Management Committee

Meeting Notes and Decision Log

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Date: 03/09/22

Begin Time: 1300

End Time: 1645

Attendees

FMC Members

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

Absent:

Guests

Roshelle Pederson, Gabriella Branson, Henry Bastian, Andrew Bailey, Skip Edel, Sarah Hartsburg, Matt Tansey, Bre Schueller (notes), Kristy Swartz

Decision Log

Topic: Role Call

Presenter: Mike Van Hemelryck

Discussion/Considerations: N/A

Topic: Next Gen NFPORS (NGN) update; Q&A

Presenter: Kristy Swartz

Discussion/Considerations: This This is an update where the NGN development effort stands. The group had many questions and points of clarification. No action items from this topic.

- Displayed NGN Roadmap and status
- Collected requirements in October-identified data entry fields
- Shared info with data folks (Roshelle and company) November thru January
- MBS is current INFORM contractor and will also work on NGN
- Wildfire reporting module and Fuels reporting module-may be one/combined but not sure yet
- MBS: a little over a year before data entry can occur-for the fuels component (BIA will beta-test)
- MVP is fuels only and does not include the post fire component
- Skip reviewed the NFPORS data model/demo map and dashboard

Topic: EDG Database & fuels integration

Presenter: Roshelle Pederson & Team

Discussion/Considerations: Andrew, Gabriella, and Roshelle summarized what the EDG is currently working on as it pertains to the FMC. This includes adopting and approving reference data sets for applications like IFTDSS and managing fuels related terms for the NWCG Glossary. The Knowledge Graph pilot project is now complete and a link to the CDO review is posted below. No action items or follow up here but FMC will stay in close contact with this group.

Topic: Fuels Data on Forests & Rangelands website

Presenter: Henry Bastian (DOI)

Discussion/Considerations: This arose from a need to better organize and report out on accomplishment data for the agencies on the Forest and Rangelands website. The need to better tell the story with fuels accomplishments rather than simply reporting out acres. Henry is working with Matt Tansey to organize FS numbers to align them with DOI for 2021. Then the updated report will be circulated to the FMC for review before it goes to the Forest and Rangelands website. FMC will continue the conversation about how to pick the right information to be shared in a consistent manner between FS and DOI. States are also interested in telling their story and discussion about how to get them more involved will also be forthcoming. Action items include FMC review of the 2021 report once Henry has it in draft form.

Topic: Fuels Academy update and interagency development

Presenter: Frankie Romero (USFS)

Discussion/Considerations: Frankie gave a high-level summary of how the Fuels Academy session went at Fort Huachuca and asked the group if there would be interest in turning this into an Interagency effort. The effort to refine the current curriculum is beginning this year, so if there is interest from other Agencies and Bureaus, representatives from those entities should be present to help with this effort. There is a proposal to have the Fuels Academy combined with PFTC, the Fire Apprentice Academy, and NAFRI, which includes building a more permanent structure and staff. Frankie asks to what extent the DOI and other entities would want to be involved with something like this and support positions to be part of the core structure. FS will be moving forward with recruiting for another round of the Fuels Academy either way. Concerns surrounding the 401 series and educational requirements arose. Angie and Frankie have started writing up a transition plan to move the Fuels Academy from FS centric to Interagency. If anyone on the FMC wants to recommend folks from their agency/bureau to help, now is the time to let Frankie know. This is the only action item from this topic.

Topic: RX Quals

Presenter: Andy James

Discussion/Considerations: Andy presented the issues the states are having in being able to implement prescribed burn programs. The lack of national standards or consistency with how the states are approaching Burn Boss quals is a hinderance to burning. A coalition of prescribed fire councils is wanting to propose a pathway that will allow firefighters to start as an FFT2 and move in to an RXB5 position to be able to implement low complexity burns. Andy requests that this coalition present their proposal to the FMC. The group is willing to put together a task book proposal for the NWCG. This would allow states to have a consistent pathway to build their capacity to put fire on the landscape. The action from this topic is that Andy will have the coalition finalize their draft proposal and schedule them to present at the next FMC meeting.

- **Andy will have those folks finalize draft proposal and schedule them for next FMC meeting**

Action Items or Assignments

Name(s): All FMC

Action/Assignment: Review 2021 Fuels Accomplishment report for Forest and Rangelands website once Henry has the data aligned and documented.

Name(s): All FMC

Action/Assignment: Let Frankie know if you are interested in working with the Fuels Academy to move it to a more interagency effort.

Name(s): Andy James

Action/Assignment: Andy will have the prescribed fire coalition finalize their draft proposal to create a pathway from FFT2 to RXB5 and schedule them to present at the next FMC meeting.

Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting

Date: April 13, 2022

Time: 1300-1700 MT

Location: Microsoft Teams