

NWCG Fuels Management Committee

Meeting Notes and Decision Log

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Date: 6/8/22

Begin Time: 1300 MST

End Time: 1630

Attendees

FMC Members

Present: Mike Van Hemelryck (NPS) Chair; Angie Simpson (BLM); Chris Marks (FWS); Deb Fleming (NWCG); Frankie Romero (USFS); Mark Jackson (BIA)

Absent: Andy James (NASF)

Guests

Bre Schueller (notes), Annie Benoit, Heather Heward, Lisa Ellsworth, Dave Mueller, Beth Newingham

Decision Log

Topic: SageSTEP

Presenter: Dave Mueller, Beth Newingham, Lisa Ellsworth

Discussion/Considerations: Beth Newingham and Lisa Ellsworth presented outcomes of one of the longest running and largest replicated fuel treatment experiments in the Department of the Interior-SageSTEP. The overview covered both vegetation and fire behavior impacts and outcomes. The group is working to make the data publicly available and is asking to have this data added to national datasets so it can be widely accessible. Funding has been requested for FY23 to continue this program and its benefit at the interagency level. Requested FMC inform them know of any managers who would be interested in helping to develop the Species Guide.

Topic: USFS National Rx Fire Program Review

Presenter: Frankie Romero (USFS)

Discussion/Considerations: Frankie gave an update on the status of the USFS Rx Fire stand down due to the Hermit Peak/Calf Canyon FLA. Final report on Hermits Peak should be out in a few weeks. A review team is being stood up for the Calf Canyon fire. USFS Rx Fire stand down will be through August 18. The agency will be reviewing internal processes and policies and will initiate a national program review. This is a multi-phase endeavor up to 90 days with extension if needed. A core review

team is convening with a mix of FS and interagency partners. They are tasked with overseeing the review elements and will assemble various sub-teams.

Prior to this, FMC initiated an updated Escaped Prescribed Fire Review and was in the process of awarding a contract to begin this work. Frankie would like contractor can engage with the RMRS research branch to review in a research fashion that might lead to development of predictive models. FMC thought this was a good idea and will engage with the contractor to understand what is needed.

Topic: SOPL

Presenter: Mike Van Hemelryck (NPS)

Discussion/Considerations: The FMC reviewed the SOPL description in the IPD and decided on proper wording as to indicate that this position can work for and with many functional areas. The FMC decided to go with the following:

The Strategic Operational Planner (SOPL) is responsible for developing the course of action on long-term wildfire events. The SOPL may be ordered by and work for the host unit, the Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC), or an Incident Management Team (IMT). The SOPL may work in the Planning, Operations, or Command functional area, or separate from the IMT with the Agency Administrator (AA), Fire Management Officer (FMO), local fire management organization, or entity that orders the SOPL.

Topic: RXB Standards review extension

Presenter: Heather Heward and Mike Van Hemelryck

Discussion/Considerations: Initial timeframe was tight and extending the deadline to deadline of June 13 was proposed and accepted. Contract with Heather runs out end of the month. Annie will work with Heather to see if we can get an extension on the contract. Will need SME group to work with Heather to get things done.

Issue of Standards vs Requirements was raised and how do we differentiate what is legally required vs “best practices”. The need for nationally approved requirements will keep us from having to go back to solicitors. Agencies can make more strict requirements, but we need the national minimum requirements. Without these the field also is confused about the differences. We need to go through the document and somehow differentiate between the two.

Action Items or Assignments

Name(s): FMC All

Action/Assignment: Let Dave, Lisa, or Beth know if there are any managers the FMC knows of that would be willing to help with the Species Guide they are putting together.

Name(s): Frankie Romero

Action/Assignment: Reach out to RMRS Fire and Fuels to see if they can engage in the Escaped Rx Fire Synthesis and contribute analysis that could lead to predictive models and/or datasets.

Name(s): Deb Fleming

Action/Assignment: Get new SOPL language in the proper locations for IPDs and task book.

Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting

Date: July 13, 2022

Time: 1300-1700

Location: Microsoft Teams