NWCG Fuels Management Committee

Meeting Notes and Decision Log

Microsoft Teams Meeting
Date: Feb. 12, 2025
Begin Time: 12:00 pst
End Time: 14:22 pst

Attendees

FMC Members

Present: Chris Marks (CHAIR-FWS), Mark Jackson (BIA), Jamie Tripp (USFS), Angie Simpson (VICE CHAIR-BLM), David Schultz (NWCG), Mike G. VanHemelryck (NPS), Brad Shoemaker (OWF),

Absent: Laura Harger (Liaison), Andy James (NASF)

Guests: Casey Boespflug (FUSC), Todd Rankin (FUSC), James Dunn (FIRB Training), Ian Barrett (OWF)

Administrative Matters:

- **Agenda Review:** Jamie Tripp proposed adding a discussion about work on prescribed fire status radio buttons in WILDCAD, information only.

- **Meeting Notes:** Chris Marks will coordinate the posting of the monthly notes on the NWCG site after review and approval. Will work with Dave Shultz for 508 check and forwarding to publish on the interwebs.

Decision Log

Topic: **Fire Use Subcommittee Update & NWCG Funding Request**
Presenter: **Casey Boespflug**
Discussion/Considerations:

- **Subcommittee Status:** Meetings have been infrequent, with the last meeting being short and the one before canceled.

- **Funding Request:** A funding request for the "RT300 video" was submitted to NWCG. They were informed the request was expected to be moved to FY26 due to FY24 funding priorities.

- **Task Books and Guides:** Prescribed Fire Burn Boss (RXB) and Firing Boss (FIRB) task books are nearly ready. PMS 430 (Wildland Fire Module Guide) work is in final editing stages with publication shop.

- **Funding Request Details:** The RT-300 video request was approximately $38,000.

Topic: IPTM Update on FIRB
Presenter: Matt Dunn
Discussion/Considerations:

- **Project Lead:** Matt Dunn is the new firing boss project lead, taking over for the retiring Kevin Meyer.

- **IPTM Transition:** The project is transitioning from a traditional knowledge-based system to an integrated performance-based system, emphasizing skills development and on-the-job training to reduce training time.

- **Key Project Elements:**

  o Updated incident position description.

  o Incident position standards (new for NWCG).

  o Task book line items.

  o Updated S-219 course.

  o Performance support packages (project deliverables).

- **Standardization:** Language and terminology have been standardized across all single resource boss positions, and an online single resource boss training module is in development.

- **S-219 Course Updates:**

  o Online training unit with focus on relevant firing boss duties and removal of extraneous content (e.g., complex firing situations material that resembled a compressed S270 course).

  o Instructor-led training includes scenario-based learning.

  o One scenario is a straightforward prescribed fire in Florida; the other is based on a wildfire in southern Arizona.

  o Test course planned at the Southwest Idaho Fire Training Week.

  o The course is slated for launch in mid-to-late July.

- **SME Group:** The project has a large SME group with representatives from various agencies, including a USFS SME, the Superintendent of Cherokee Hotshots, an NPS rep (Alpine Hotshot), and two state representatives from South Dakota and Florida.

- **Executive Board Tasking:** The in-person, scenario-based training was added due to an Executive Board tasking that wanted some form of instructor-led training.

- **Approval Process:** It was clarified that the FMC is the steward for this project, with the final decision-making authority. Dave Schultz indicated that concerns about a lack of operational perspective have been addressed with the addition of two hotshot superintendents to the SME group.

- The updated S-219 course will be required for Firing Boss per the new IPTM process.

- The FMC will also review and certify the incident position standards and the next gen position task book before they go live.

- **Field Portion:** The in-person scenario training can be sand table, table-top, or, at the instructor's discretion, field-based but doesn't have a live-fire portion in the official guidelines.

- **L-280:** There is a question if the L-280 course was discussed and required for the new FIRB course, and Matt will look into it and provide a response.

Timeline: A decision from the FMC is requested by the next monthly meeting regarding training design approval.

Topic: RX-300 IFTDS Pre-Work Removal
Presenter: Dave Schultz
Discussion/Considerations:

- **IFTDS Removal:** IFTDS pre-work was removed from the RX-300 course due to broken links and the unavailability of the training material.

- **Original Content:** The course did include a 3-4 hour IFTDS training for burn plans, but the link was broken.

- **Agency Views:** BLM and BIA didn't have an issue with the removal.

- Forest Service wants spatial modeling emphasized and would like to see it reintroduced, citing the Chief's prescribed fire review.

- Park Service would like to move away from requiring things that people are not required to use, but there was also the recognition that if coursework required the knowledge of IFTDS that some training would be helpful.

- **Portal Resources:** There are on-demand video training resources within the learning portal (How to Use IFTDS to Write Burn Plans), but these may be tied to older programs/data that might have limited relevance or functionality for the current version of IFTDS.

Topic: Red Book Chapter 17 Review
Presenter: Mike VanHemelryck
Discussion/Considerations:

- **Interagency Collaboration:** Proposed a collaborative approach for updating Chapter 17 of the Red Book, aiming for interagency consistency instead of agency-specific edits.

- **NFPORS Language:** Mike removed references to NFPORS due to the system being phased out, but found conflicting language that needed to be updated.

- **Data Reporting:** Reporting of fire data (FACTS, IFPRS, INFORM) should be consistent across agencies, and identified inconsistencies with current guidance that required attention.

- **Wildfire Acres:** Discussions were had about how to consistently report wildfire acres that meet resource management objectives across agencies.

Topic: RXB & FIRB Training Requirements
Presenter:
Discussion/Considerations:

- **Purpose:** To review and update required courses for firing boss, burn boss, and RXB, and assess potential courses for NWCG standards across Agencies.

- **Pause Memo:** Recognition that outside of IPTM there is limited possible actions due to the NWCG pause on new position and training requirements.

- **FIRB: S**-219 will be required at the conclusion of the IPTM process.

- L-280 is required for BLM but not other agencies, and will be highlighted for future discussion.

- The new single resource boss course (S-219) will be a requirement for firing boss upon completion and will be a standard for inclusion in PMS 310-1 going forward.

- **RXB:** RX-300 was agreed to be required across all agencies. Dave S. will verify if this has already been submitted as a change for PMS 310-1 or needs to be re-submitted. Some agencies are reviewing whether to require RT300. ICT3 is currently required for BLM.

- RT-300 may be required by some agencies at three-year intervals.

- L-380 is required by some, optional by others.

- Some discussion of 'grandfathering in' those that are previously qualified.

- **FEMO:** Dave noted that FEMO is slated for the next round of IPTM positions, asking the group to consider if any of the current supporting trainings (field observer and RX-310) should move to required, or if any other changes are needed.

Topic: WILDCAD Radio Buttons Discussion (not on Agenda, late add)
Presenter: Jamie Tripp
Discussion/Considerations:

- **Purpose:** To better track prescribed fire status and improve situational awareness.

- **Prescribed Fire Status:** Proposal to add radio buttons for planned, active, patrol, and out for prescribed fires in WILDCAD, aligning with PMS 205 definitions.

- **Dispatch Coordination:** It was recognized that the dispatch community would need to be engaged since they would be the ones who were updating the status.

- **Current Funding:** The current contract has $300,000 from BLM and $300,000 from the Forest Service. And there are limitations in the current contract and the contractor's workload that could hinder this integration work.

- **Ignition Unit Entry:** Discussion around entering a new entry for each ignition unit to keep the WILDCAD records clean. But there was concern around increasing dispatchers data entry duties.

Action Items or Assignments

Name(s): ALL
Action/Assignment: Review video and determine of it is sufficient. IFTDSS video ←Link

Name(s): Dave Schultz/Chris Marks
Action/Assignment: For RX-300 Dave will work with training to validate a current link and see if there is updated IFTDSS training that could be added back in. Chris will reach out to Heather Heward, who redeveloped the course, for her recommendations or discussion.

Name(s): Mike VanHemelryck
Action/Assignment: Post Chapter 17 (Red Book) on FMC site and send out a link for review. Be prepared to discuss at next meeting.

Name(s): Dave Schultz
Action/Assignment: Email the group questions to scope the need to revamp the FEMO position.

Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting

Date: March 12, 2025

Time: 13:00 mst

Location: Microsoft Teams