NWCG Interagency Fire Planning Committee

Agenda: 11/10/2020 1100-1230 (Mountain Standard Time)

Invitees

Present: Kristy Swartz (OWF), Justin Boeck (BLM), Becky Brooks (FWS), Melissa Forder (NPS), Laura Barrett (FS), Reeve Armstrong (BIA), Mark Hale (RD&A), Mike Butteri (State - AK), Gwenan Poirier (BLM), Peter Butteri (FWS/BLM), Kendra Fallon (BOR), Deb Fleming (NWCG)

Guests: Shelby Law

Absent: Nate Barrons (State - NV), Lisa Hanson (READ subcommittee, (NPS)), Zack Lyon (BLM - notetaker)

Agenda Items

11:00 2022 NWCG Funding Request (5 Minutes)
Quick reminder of availability

11:05 FEMS – Fire Environment Mapping System (15 Minutes) – Shelby Law
Shelby provided a summary/vision of the FEMS project:
- Collecting data, Repository of fire environment data to create fire danger and risk models.
- Bring together historical and forecasted Fire Environment Datasets into one big cloud-based data cache.
- Runs fire danger models which produce gridded, hourly values. Makes data available to any application needing gridded weather, fire danger or other fire environment data.

Overview of FEMS Data Flow Structure:
- WX
- NFMD
- Fuel Loading Forecasts and Observations (Fuel Sampling)
- Fire Occurrence Data

Would eventually replace WIMS, create an online version of FF+, not just weather and fuel moisture, fire occurrence data.
- Phase 1: next version of WIMS, User Interface, Deploy weather service
- Phase 2: Develop RSS for Gridded Fire Danger System Data

Timeline:
- May 2021 – v.5 User Interface testing, Gridded Weather Service Deployed
- May 2022 – v1.0
- May 2023 – Full transition from WIMS to FEMS

Make Fire Danger Analysis easier – as all data would be "housed" in the same place.
- Lightning Data
- Historical Fire Occurrence Data (INFORM...Data Cache...)
- NFMD

Eventually "FEMS" would be the Data Cache...but would have a user interface to access WX and Fire Danger Analysis tools

Roles:
- Stewardship over datasets within FEMS...
- Guidance on development of the UX
- Ensure FEMS data is appropriately connected with the agency applications which may use its data

**Peter Butteri and Laura Barrett volunteered to work with the FEMS group in development and provide updates to IFPC as things progress.

11:10 READ Subcommittee Updates (5 Minutes) - (provided via e-mail)
READ SC continues to work on IPDs, trying to stand up a ARCH Sub Group, and working on some form of a fire season AAR.

11:15 Quick update on SO/MR/FMU Data Standard (5 minutes)
Looking to use a feature service, hosted external to the WFDSS application itself. Four buckets within a single "dataset"
- Multi-unit
- Unit-wide
- Non-overlapping
- Overlapping

Andrew Bailey still working on draft white paper
Committee members noted: Very flexible, like the direction of where we're headed. Much easier to keep current if hosted in a different (from WFDSS), cloud-hosted data source.

11:20 Glossary Terms (30 minutes) - decision:
Reviewed and recommended the following proposed changes be submitted:

Fire Management Unit
Proposed Definition:

Areas designed to organize fire management information across landscapes.

Existing Definition:

A land area definable by specified management objectives, constraints, topographic features, access, values to be protected, political boundaries, fuel types, major fire regime groups, and other defined elements that set it apart from an adjacent area. The primary purpose of developing Fire Management Units in fire management planning is to assist in organizing information in complex landscapes. A fire management unit may have dominant management objectives and pre-selected strategies assigned to accomplish these objectives.

Fire Planning Unit
Proposed Definition:

Remove (Archived)

Existing Definition:
The geographic scope of the landscape defined for the fire management analysis. A Fire Planning Unit consists of one or more Fire Management Units. FPUs may relate to a single administrative unit, a sub-unit, or any combination of units or sub-units. FPUs are scalable and may be contiguous or non-contiguous. FPUs are not predefined by agency administrative unit boundaries and may relate to one or more agencies. They may be described spatially.

12:00 NWCG Memo - #10-042 Implementation of Revised Complexity Analysis (ONA/RCA) ~2010

5 Years length of memo, point of contact assigned (see 3 attachments)

Redbook (p. 252)
- Confusion re. duplication of effort (Red Book, WFDSS)
- Separate instructions between WFDSS & Red Book
- Variable and confusing application of products
- NWCG 14-019 Revision of WFR & RCA (archived (which stated discontinue previous))
- Red Book direction reflects 2010 NWCG Guidance
  - RCA will accompany published WFDSS Decision
  - FS Footnote

Red Book: T3 – Incident Complexity Analysis complete on a daily basis for IC (only mentioned for this one)

Recommend Memo Archived, but Single Standard may still be useful - **need to follow-up on ONA/RCA consistent documentation and direction

12:00 Committee Chair Transition, 2021 Meeting Schedule 10 minutes (prep for December Meeting)

Quick nudge – will discuss during our next meeting

Topics for Next Meeting & Upcoming Meetings/Calls

Topics for Next Meeting
- Committee Chair Transition
- 2021 Meeting Schedule: Maintain current or adjust? Face-to-face (or longer virtual) working meeting?

Long-term BIN
- Review NWCG Glossary Terms
- Semi-annual updates (or as needed) from Fire Danger Rating Subcommittee, Fire Behavior Subcommittee, Fuels Committee (SOPL & M-482), Office of Wildland Fire, M-581 Steering Committee, and M-582 Steering Committee.
- IT business needs and requirements
- Update M-581 content
- Develop standards for WFDSS
- Review and update the Resource Advisor Guide

Upcoming Meetings
(1-2:30 Eastern Time/12-1:30 Central Time/11-12:30 Mountain Time/10-11:30 Pacific Time/9-10:30 Alaska)
- December 8th