



NWCG Smoke Committee Conference Call 11/19/2020



Present:

Colby Jackson (NWCG)
Dan Chan (GA Forestry)
David Mueller (BLM)
Doug Whisenhunt (NRCS)
Gary Curcio (IPA)
Josh Hyde (Univ of Idaho)
Katy O'Hara (NWCG)
Mark Fitch (NPS)
Mary Uhl (Westar)
Pete Lahm (FS)
Shaina White (BIA)
Tammy Eagan (FL)

Action Items

- [Action Item Katy] Ask around NWCG on getting illustrations created for the Smoke Management Field Guide, Jenn Croft is the chapter author needed the illustrations.
- [Action Item Colby] will ping the video contractor for the MEDL video so they can start discussing the producing with Pete Lahm.
- [Action item Pete], Keep PMS-210 on the Smoke Agenda. This is probably going away and this concerns SmoC as there is a lot of smoke content in there.
- [Action Item Pete] Keep the COVID topic on the SmoC agenda for the 12/3 call and do a report out describing efforts in more depth. Send out a couple links on the COVID resources to the group.

Wildfire and smoke activity round robin

- Last ARA returned from Creek fire.
- The main fire season is done, moving into prescribed fire especially in R2 where monitoring cache monitors have been deployed
- Lost several monitors this year that will be sent to MetOne for repaired
- Initiating some CO monitoring work – securing funding and acquiring monitoring devices
- BLM is doing a lot of pile burning in MT and ID and some broadcast burning in Northern Cal.

Next Call – Dec 3, 2020,

Webinars

IFTDSS Webinar today at 1100 pacific

New Members

Katy O'Hara - New NWCG Branch Coordinator. Quick intro – Prior to stepping into the NWCG position she was with DOI-Office of Wildland Fire as the Partnership Programs Lead working with Tribal and International wildland fire partnerships and before that she spent 10 years with the Forest Service in Eastern Oregon. Katy continues to roster and serve with Pacific Northwest Team 3 as a PIO.

NWCG Business



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- Smoke Management Field Guide Effort – Next call on Dec. 1.
 - We're looking to get some illustrations for this through NWCG but have not been able to make progress
- SOF#/MEDL/LOG# video progress – [Action Item Colby] will ping the video contractor for the MEDL video so they can start discussing the producing with Pete Lahm.
- Revitalization of the SmoC Training Subcomm – Funding procured for update of Smoke and Air Quality for Land Managers – Review needs to begin. In the next couple of weeks we intend to gather a task group and begin reviewing the version 2 and developing the new version 3.
- Pete submitted NWCG Guide for Prescribed Fire Smoke Management (2020) PMS 420-3 version, that is with Jesse.
- Stand up of Mixing Height Work Group with FENC - Fire Weather Subcommittee – Jay Charney is working on this topic, looking at the vent rate, methodology, and how it ties to other products, that is what the main efforts will focus on. Gary is staying engaged on these efforts.
- RX-410 Remote learning for 2021 – NWCG is working with groups and individuals to produce a remote version of this and efforts will be ongoing to get this offered this winter.
- Status of SmoC comments on IPD's – These are under review now that many people are back from fire season. This does include the RX fire manager so we should evaluate that among the Smoke Committee.
- NWCG Glossary review due December 7.
- New IPD's (RXB/RXM) – Smoke???
- Concerns about PMS - 210 going away. There is a lot of smoke content in that. We don't have the same standards and guidelines around smoke that we have for other regulatory/liability issues. Keep on the agenda to discussed on next call. [Action item Pete], Keep PMS-210 on the Smoke Agenda. This is probably going away and this concerns SmoC as there is a lot of smoke content in there.
- NWCG is planning to do a virtual meeting this year

Wildfire Smoke and COVID 19 Efforts

- There are biweekly calls to address this during incidents. Pete also conducts a weekly call with regional fuels leads and focuses more on Rx fire.
- Discussed messaging on this on the FS side when the spring RX burning season starts. Is there helpful technical approaches and messaging that can address this.
- National Weather Service Fire Weather grids have been moved the southeast to get better resolution products to help plan impacts and avoid impact COVID hotspots.
- [Action Item Pete] Keep the COVID topic on the SmoC agenda for the 12/3 call and do a report out describing efforts in more depth. Send out a couple links on the COVID resources to the group.

Upcoming Workshops-SmoC Participation



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- Rocky Mt Regional Wildfire Smoke Symposium Nov. 13th.
<https://www.boisestate.edu/ceehs/rocky-mountain-regional-wildfire-smoke-symposium/> - Feedback from those attended indicates this was a good presentation.
- American Geophysical Union – Dec 1-7 <https://www.agu.org/fall-meeting>
 - [There are several smoke-relevant topics here and Pete is working on getting involved.](#)
- Air Sensors International Conference April 27-30, 2021 <https://asic.aqrc.ucdavis.edu/>
- American Meteorological Society (AMS) 13th Fire and Forest Meteorology Symposium. May 11-13, 2021. Palm Springs, California. <https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/meetings-events/ams-meetings/13-fire-and-forest-meteorology-symposium/>
- Pete is hoping to do an in-person ARA training in the Spring 2021, in a similar time-frame that they've trained in the past.

Subcommittee Roundup

Smoke Managers

- No news this call.

Technical Topics

- Garys annual operating plan topic, this will be discussed among Pete Dave Susan and Mark and will get back in touch on this.

Training

- No news in addition to what was mentioned in NWCG updates.

Round Robin

- Pete send the CDC/EPA/ DOI/ others, joint visions statement, as well as a Wildland Fire Leadership Council memo addressing wildland fire operation and Regional Haze. The latter focused on collaboration among land managers, state regulatory agencies and others. These documents may be shared.
- Hearing on a bill under consideration, the hearing included Ntl Association of Counties, BLM and FS leadership, and an Environmentalist. Role of, and need for, RX fire is included.
- Still working on the smoke pocket card, group meeting next Tuesday
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