



NWCG Smoke Committee Conference Call 12/03/2020



Present:

Blane Heumann (TNC)
Colby Jackson (NWCG)
Dan Chan (GA Forestry)
David Mueller (BLM)
Doug Whisenhunt (NRCS)
Gary Curcio (IPA)
Janice Peterson (USFS)
Josh Hyde (Univ of Idaho)
Katy O'Hara (NWCG)
Lou Ballard (FWS)
Mark Fitch (NPS)
Mary Uhl (Westar)
Nick Yonker (OR)
Pete Lahm (FS)
Shaina White (BIA)
Tammy Eagan (FL)

Action Items

- [Action Item All] If you want to be involved in the IRPG review efforts let Pete know.
- [Action Item Katy] Please put Smoke Committee on the radar when revisions are requested for the NWCG red book.
- [Action Item All] if you have projects for the NWCG FY22 funding, let the group know.
- [Action Item Pete and Katy] Discuss NFDRS and smoke needs this month.

Wildfire and smoke activity round robin

- Pile burn activity is picking up in the west.
- Though the main wildfire season is winding down, there are still some wildfires but too early to tell if these will grow or be contained shortly.
- New Mexico is not doing any broadcast or pile burning due to very low fuel moistures and weather indices not conducive to rx.

Next Call – Dec17, 2020,

NWCG Business

- Smoke Management Field Guide Effort – Next call 12/15
- SOF#/MEDL/LOG# video progress – Mark Cantrel (Media) has been assigned to work on this and will be contacting Pete.
- Revitalization of the SmoC Training Subcomm – Funding procured for update of Smoke and Air Quality for Land Managers – Role in RX410? Task Team being established. The online course can be used as-is for some RX-410 purposes and a revision can be useful if introduced partway through the 2021 RX410 year (



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- Roadway Safety material, will it be present? Not part of current 410 effort but has been discussed as an option for longer term development, this is an important topic and keep this in mind as a potential funding proposal item for NWCG.
- There was a 3-D simulator proposed a few years ago but the project was shelved, if that got off the ground gain this could be a really engaging method to deliver smoke safety lessons, smoke management techniques, etc.
- NWCG Guide for Prescribed Fire Smoke Management (2020) PMS 420-3 final versions. Status- Jesse plans posting final shortly and keeping the 2001 version (PMS 420-2) as reference posted as well. Will be officially announced by NWCG shortly. Hard copy printing of PMS 420-3 will occur in roughly 8 weeks.
- Stand up of Mixing Height Work Group with FENC - Fire Weather Subcommittee –Questions from Robyn on whether it needs to be led by a Committee or it can be co-led
- RX-410 Remote learning for 2021 – work continues with recordings being made – goal of 12-28-20 for all recordings
- Status of SmoC comments on IPD's – Reply of positive changes made on FOBS
- NWCG Glossary review due December 7 – Comments needed asap.
- New IPD's (RXB/RXM) – Dave is looking for the information on this, we did submit statements at one point.
- IRPG Review needed by 2-1-21 – Gary has recommended changes. Establish Task Team needed.
- PMS 210 Discontinued –Two items “assigned to SmoC” have no foreseeable home other than IRPG out in 2022 or Red Book which review has passed for this year? Response from SmoC options?
 - [Action Item All] If you want to be involved in the IRPG review efforts let Pete know.
 - IRPG tends to support wildfire. With 210 going away, there is less support for Rx fire.
 - There was a pretty good writeup in 210 about CO and mitigating the impacts, there is no source now for that information. They could be sending people to PMS 420-3 for this.
 - [Action Item Katy] Please put Smoke Committee on the radar when revisions are requested for the NWCG red book.
- Funding opportunities in FY22 due in January – Projects continuing? New Projects/Needs?
 - Assessment of RX-410 course materials – next year
 - PB Piedmont and Smoke Managers – probably completed this year
 - Smoke Field Guide – ongoing but probably completed this year
 - [Action Item All] – if you have projects for the NWCG FY22 funding, let the group know.
- Smoke Pocket Card-Meeting next Tuesday

Wildfire Smoke and COVID 19 Efforts

- Agency coordination continues on these efforts.
- Some states have made progress in considering COVID in their RX fire decisions.
- Will be a focus of the incoming presidential administration.



Webinar thoughts from the IFTDSS presentation

- We'll need to consider how smoke will enter into the IFTDSS framework, those efforts will be significant.

Upcoming Workshops-SmoC Participation

- 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

- No News.

Training

- No Additional News

Round Robin

- **No progress on Consume Fuel Moisture Efforts**
- PB-Piedmont, Gary will be doing a speed test and will report out when finished
- Superfog Assessment Model (SAM) and its products will be getting a full assessment from Gary
- Smoke Pocket Card formatting is completed and now working on getting the last aspects of that card finished.
- NC Fire webinar – Fire Weather Forecast is not to be used in Rx decisions, but the hourly graphic is. Gary would recommend using it as a complement, not barring its use completely and will be dialoging on this.
 - This is a departure from past procedures and emphasizes the fact that the hourly graphic with its production and resolution has been used extensively by rx burners and is useful resource.
- [Action Item Pete and Katy] Discuss NFDRS and smoke needs this month.



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- WFLC meeting – Integrated assessment of wildfire vs prescribed fire was a topic of discussion. This encompasses several agencies. This report will be peer reviewed in a similar process as ISA's are for criteria pollutants. Anticipating final report in summer of 2021. Timber Crater 6 and the Rough fire are included in this assessment.