

WFDSS GAE January 2024 Call Agenda

Call Number: [Microsoft Teams](#)

If you don't have the TEAMS invite reach out to TJ Boyer, Rick Mowery, or Morgan Pence

Call purpose:

To share information between and among the GAEs and the RDA to promote coordination and information exchange to and from users.

Roll Call:

BIA	BLM	FS
<input type="checkbox"/> Shawn Kelley, EA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wendy McCartney, AK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matthew Malesic, EA
<input type="checkbox"/> Kim Kelly, NW, GB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Williams, GB	<input type="checkbox"/> Raymond Parrish, EA
<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Gustafson, RM, SW	<input type="checkbox"/> Casey Boespflug, AK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Ginder, GB
<input type="checkbox"/> Cheryl Bright, National	<input type="checkbox"/> Dylan Rader, GB	<input type="checkbox"/> Tonja Opperman, GB
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Valdis Neha, RM, SW	<input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Hrobak, AK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Billy Gardunio (Backup) ON, OS
<input type="checkbox"/> Reeve Armstrong, National	<input type="checkbox"/> James Newman, ON, OS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patrick Doyle, ON, OS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom St. Clair, AK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karly DeMars, NR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erin Noonan, NR
NPS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gwenan Poirier, RM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Morgan, AK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Sorbel, AK	<input type="checkbox"/> Robert Saavedra, SW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Russell, RM
<input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Barnes, AK	<input type="checkbox"/> Rance Marquez, SW	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh Warden, GB
<input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Anderson, ON, OS, NW, GB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Justin Boeck, National	<input type="checkbox"/> Kristen Sanders, NR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eamon Engber, GB, OS, ON, NW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeremy Sisneros, GB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ian Rickert, NW, AK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patty Johnson, OS, ON, NW, GB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barry Klecker, NW	<input type="checkbox"/> Trevor Miller, NW, AK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nathan Williamson, NR, RM, GB, SW, SA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Hird, RM	<input type="checkbox"/> Shawn Burt, ON OS (backup)
<input type="checkbox"/> Cody Wienk, NR, RM, EA, SA	FWS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ben Curtis, NW, AK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Windy Bunn, NR, RM, GB, SW, SA	<input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Saperstein, AK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kip Van de Water, NW, AK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Missy Forder, National	<input type="checkbox"/> Peter Butteri, AK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Maier, NW, AK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Travis Neppi, SA	<input type="checkbox"/> James Roberts, ON, OS, GB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Sinkovitz, RM
<input type="checkbox"/> Calvin Farris, ON, OS, NW, GB	<input type="checkbox"/> Tate Fischer, RM, NR, GB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cary Newman, RM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diane Abendroth, NR, RM, GB, SW, SA	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh O'Connor, (non GAE)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alison Richards, RM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chip Collins, SW, RM, SA, GB, NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Jon Wallace, SA	<input type="checkbox"/> Francisco Salazar, SW
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Casey O'connor, AK	<input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Conn (non GAE)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abie Carabjal, SW
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Morgan Voss, RM, NR, EA, SA	<input type="checkbox"/> Jeffrey Adams, SW	<input type="checkbox"/> David Quisenberry, SA
<input type="checkbox"/> Christopher Moore, NW	<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Mursu, EA	<input type="checkbox"/> Allan Hepworth, EA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Casey Teske, National	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Pagoaga, EA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wyatt Palin, ON, OS (backup)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daniel Michael, ON, OS (backup)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Joe Alyea, EA
State, County	<input type="checkbox"/> Andrew Bailey, National	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Osborne ON, OS
<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Butteri, AK	<input type="checkbox"/> Maija Corliss, NW	<input type="checkbox"/> Kristen Allison, ON, OS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Shelton, OCFA		<input type="checkbox"/> Clint Cross, area None
<input type="checkbox"/> Rocco Snart, CO		<input type="checkbox"/> Jonathan Olsen, NR (primary)
BOR		<input type="checkbox"/> Rick Stratton, area None
<input type="checkbox"/> Laura Harger, National		<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Teeter EA

Note taker: TJ Boyer

Notes are posted [here](#)

Agenda Items

Reminders/General Awareness:

- Current WFDSS does not use INAP or passwords as a login method and therefore a INAP account or password is not required.
 - Rick Mowery- Because we have recently made the changes to using FAMauth or login.gov for users to get into WFDSS, there have been a raft of issues that came with that. One of the things that we're running into right now is an education issue, both with WFDSS users and with the IAA help desk. WFDSS is not using INAP at all, and we've had some folks kind of taken down the wrong Road by the help desk, either because they mentioned something about their INAP profile or the help desk started looking for an INAP profile for WFDSS for them, and it doesn't exist. So that's something you may run into users that have some access issues if they say the word INAP, steer them clear. WFDSS as it exists right now will not be using that. However, the upcoming replacement WFDSS will. More to come.
- To keep up with the effort to update WFDSS and provide your feedback on issues you have experienced with the current WFDSS system and what improvements could be made in the next version of WFDSS, check out the [Next Generation WFDSS](#) section on the RD&A site for more information.

Emerging Issues – Rick Mowery/All Participants

New GAE Welcome – TJ Boyer

- If you have GAE changes, please let Rick, TJ, and Morgan know. We adjust the roles in WFDSS, the mailing list, and the IIA helpdesk contact list.

RDA Staffing – Rick Mowery

- Nicole Vaillant has started her detail as Deputy Program Manager for RD&A behind Bre Schueller.
- Heidi Leritz has closed out her detail with Audio Visual Specialist – we are looking for candidates for the next RMRS detail opportunity.
- [Data Analyst Fellowship through the ORISE Program](#) – applications must be submitted by 2/16/2024 and 11:59:00 PM EST.

Correspondence Logistics (quarterly calls/monthly email info and GAE verification) – TJ Boyer/GAEs

- Are the GAEs getting the type of info they need from the monthly emails/quarterly calls?
 - Amy Russell- Notes are providing what is needed and are shared with the forests.
 - Abie Carabajal- Looking for some sort of repository for notes to be viewed.
 - TJ- Notes and recordings are posted on the RDA site: [GA Editor Resources](#)
- Are we providing the right level of detail? What information are you not getting that you would like us to add?
- Verify GAE status. TJ will email the list of GAE representatives to the GAE team for review. Let us know if there are changes due to retirements and job changes.
- Send your area's WFDSS refreshers and training dates to TJ (tederell.boyer@usda.gov), Rick (rick.mowery@usda.gov), and Morgan (morgan.pence@usda.gov) for inclusion on the GAE

Calendar and to assist the RDA in avoiding planned outages during trainings.

Summary on WFDSS from 2023 – TJ Boyer

- Overview of O&M efforts in 2023 (releases, major bugs, On-Call Support, issues)

Feedback on WFDSS from 2023 – GAEs

- Feedback from GAEs on how the season went/what they would like to see different/what we can do better.
 - Brian Sorbel- In Ak on the application side everything worked as it has. Wanted to express thanks for Rick Mowery for coming up and helping during the busy bust in August for a couple of weeks.
 - Erin Noonan- NR was busy, but didn't have a lot that was overwhelming. Appreciate the help for LTANS that submitted feedbacks and keeping them informed when a solution was finally solved. Communication has been great.
 - Daniel Michael- When there are application issues do people start with the IIA helpdesk or reach out to WFDSS support?
 - Rick Mowery- If someone has a problem logging into the application, they can contact IIA helpdesk. If there are issues within the application, you can either call the on call number or submit a feedback within the application. The feedback is nice because it goes out to about 20 people at once including whoever is on call.
 - Jeff Shelton- During the fire season, Kevin Osborne at North OPS took the lead on organizing a call. It was for not only just the analysts but the weather and anybody who is in the Intel shops on these different fires and a lot of the information that was shared in those morning calls had a clear Nexus to WFDSS and helping each other out on inputs and problems. It was kind of a defacto help desk that was happening on a daily basis there and would encourage folks who have that skill set in no matter where you are in the country to start up that type of a call system when it fits into your briefing schedules in the morning because it probably really diminished the amount of traffic going through the help desk. It was actually kind of a cool learning experience and shared quite a bit of information on the tips and tricks and different ways to use the models that are like commonly advertised or what we teach in 495.

Plans for 2024: Current Gen – Rick Mowery/TJ Boyer/Amanda Rumsey/Jonah Vaughan

- Release plans, system updates, supporting incidents, on-call, IRWIN Integration (Part D Org Assessment, Fire Reporting from INFORM)
- Data Updates:
 - Review of 2023 data refresh efforts.
 - Overview of 2024 data plans and important timelines.
 - Request for contacts or links to datasets for state-by-state Authoritative Fire Protection Data.
 - Discussion on available building footprint data sources.
 - Amanda Rumsey-
 - We have the data refresh plan going on and we are responsible for updating quite a few supporting data sets for WFDSS classic. In 2023, 39 datasets were updated within the WFDSS system. We reviewed 12 datasets thoroughly, but they had no updates so there was no need to update them in WFDSS. Ten of those data sets we were just unable to get to just due to staffing and time limitations that year. We did get pods into the system, so large shout outs and thank yous to Lauren Miller and Ben Gannon who have been organizing the pod services and in putting out those user guides and getting that up and running. Huge shout out to our developers to get those into the system and thank you to all for updating your pods because it's gonna be a really good data source moving forward.
 - Going forward with the 2024 data refresh plan and FMU update schedule, both are available on the WFDSS home page. FMU schedule

mimics pretty much last year Schedule, 6 updates throughout the year, but our first ones coming up in February. Make sure that you are working with your agency reps or agency leads to get your fmu and strategic objective shapes in by February 1st.

- For PODs, Lauren, Ben, and I have been working on putting together a pods update schedule for you guys. We're thinking 2 updates, one in early spring to catch early fire season and one early summer to catch the later fire start with the fire season. You'll hear more from Lauren, Ben, and us. Make sure that you make your pods updates by March 1st. At that point Lauren is going to probably ask you guys to stay out of the service for a couple days so she can do some clean up, and then we'll pull the data from there and get them into WFDSS hopefully by the beginning of April and July.
- For Protection agencies right now our current data layer includes protection information for six states. We're looking to expand this, so if you have any contacts or links for datasets for state level protection agency or authoritative Fire Protection data set, go ahead and send it to Jonah Vaughan, the newest member of our data team. He's taking on this data set this year, so please send it to him.
- For building data sources, we are gearing up for WFDSS Nextgen and kind of looking at different building or infrastructure data sets available to us. Jonah has done some awesome research and has reviewed what HIFLD, FEMA's USA structured data set, and MS buildings footprints has to offer.
 - Erin Noonan- Has there been any work on developing schema for unit level shapes for Nextgen WFDSS?
 - Susan McClendon- Gave an update presentation to IFPC on the status of spatial fire planning and we are releasing the standard a little bit slowly right at the moment. It's gone out to a couple of people on IFPC. It'll go out to GSC here shortly and work its way through both of those groups to get the standard approved, but I'm happy to provide you the draft standard as long as you know we may tweak it just a little bit more. And that does have the unit outlines in there as well. As where we're at with special fire planning, folks might have noticed that the latest data we have up on the nifc agol org is version 73. We're on version 80 now. I'm working on getting that released. That's not to say that the versions between 73 and 80 all had a bunch of data. They didn't. Some of them had no submissions to fmu, so it's really only three submissions that we were behind. But we are trying to go ahead and get that out and get that standard finalized and you can reach out to me for any additional questions on that.
 - Brian Sorbel- The State of Alaska get building data from this source: [Building-Based Geocoding | Ecopia AI — Ecopia AI \(ecopiatech.com\)](#)
 - Erin Noonan- NR is leaning toward using the Wildfire Risk to Communities for structures and risk to structures. <https://wildfirerisk.org/download/#PopulatedAreas>

Plans for 2024: Next Gen – Rick Mowery

- Status of Next Gen and plans for 2024.
 - Rick Mowery- We have been working on a lot of things for the application. We've got several parts of the application that are up and running, and if you haven't seen it yet, it's available for you to log in and look at. We have the UAT environment up and running and set to where you can log into that and poke around and take a look at what things are doing. Anyone is welcome to the application. When you put in a request, it will go to one of

our teams to approve. It would be great for folks to get in there and take a look and see how the system is set up. A bit of a caution, new changes are being pushed and that means that things get wiped out or overwritten. For instance, if you go in, you can set up the areas that you are a GAE for. Keep in mind that as we do new deployments and push things out and get new feature set, you might have to go back in and do it again. We've got some things such as you can view all the analysis, all of the incidents in the country, pick and initiate a WFDSS record for an incident. We have our Irwin connection up and running for the system and we'll be working as part of the IRWIN integration testing next week. We have a lot of the groundwork and analysis set where you can put in all the inputs for an FS pro run. We have the system set to where you can display the results if you get them, but we're still plugging in some of the pieces like editing landscapes in between. We are working on setting up all the infrastructure for our training and production environments, which we are looking to have training online and available for everyone this summer. Production going up by the spring training season coming up 2025, so definitely we wanted to encourage people to get in this year as you get time during the summer, poke around in the training environment for Nextgen and as you're working a fire in current WFDSS, take a look and see how do we do that in Nextgen or what would that look like just to start getting familiar with everything. <https://wfdssuat.firenet.gov/>

Round Robin:

Share coordination opportunities, anticipated fire activity and trainings, share feedback from WFDSS users, etc.

- Alaska:
 - Thomas St Clair- The big things are the third week in March, we're going to have our spring operational meetings. Usually we do a WFDSS update for the interagency community, and then I think the GA's will probably start talking about what the best option for a in region or using the nationwide refreshers for agency administrators AAR.
 - Wendy McCartney- on detail, but will be back in regular position at the end of Feb. We've got some management option changes that we're working through up here. It's basically a similar situation to what you might think of as a run card where we have places identified across the state that are limited, modified, full, and critical response. This is kind of our time frame where we update those response areas.
 - Rick Mowery- There was the new kind of element in Irwin set up for the Alaska Fire Management option at point of origin. Are any of the dispatch centers or any other system going to be pushing that this year?
 - Wendy McCartney- Amber S. would be a good contact at AK dispatch. Jennifer Jenkins, AK GIS, can maybe assist as well.
- Eastern:
 - Matthew Malesic- We're closing up the zoom meeting for two day WFDSS refresher for region 8 and region 9. Northern portion of our GACC in eastern area is looking pretty snow covered at this point. We can anticipate in the next couple months for the Southern Tier to pick up fire activity. There could be potential for some WFDSS decisions to be put into the system. We are looking at doing a similar region 8 region 9 or see what it evolves into WFDSS two day refresher that's a virtual delivery similar to spring session in the fall of this year.
- Great Basin:
 - Matt Ginder- No refresher scheduled yet. We've got a lot of snow so no activity in the basin.
- NorCal:
 - Patrick Doyle- We will be having an agency administrator refresher. No dates set yet. PODs

workshops for ANF, BDF, CNF, and LPF ongoing this Winter/Spring. Should be having preliminary QAQC for feature service for June 1st update.

- Daniel Michael- N. Cal is wet. No activity.
- Eamon Engber- No activity to date. Will be hosting agency administrator refreshers and at least one NPS unit specific refresher. Still working on those dates.
- SoCal:
- Northern Rockies:
 - Erin Noonan- Discussing WFDSS refreshers with the forest. No dates set. Continuing to work on collecting data so we can have usable data.
 - Karly DeMars- Discussing planning WFDSS refreshers. No dates set yet.
- Northwest:
 - Ian Rickert- Will send over WFDSS refresher dates. Expect some follow communication on the protection agency data gap. No fire activity.
- Rocky Mountain:
 - Amy Russell- Working on scheduling WFDSS refreshers. No dates yet. Will be updating a few pod boundaries on the Forest Service land on a couple of forests. We do have areas of below average snowpack, but we don't anticipate any wildfires. We're mostly working on pile burning where we have snow.
- Southwest:
- Southern:

Next Call:

- Thursday, April 18th, 1300, Mountain Time.
- Monthly emails will come out the third week of the month for February and March.

Main WFMRD&A contacts for WFDSS related items:

- WFDSS Operations and Maintenance: Morgan Pence morgan.pence@usda.gov, Rick Mowery rick.mowery@usda.gov, TJ Boyer tederell.boyer@usda.gov
- WFDSS Data: Amanda Rumsey amanda_rumsey@NPS.gov and Jonah Vaughan jonah.e.vaughan@usda.gov
- WFDSS Role Issues: Contact the On Call Coordinator: 208-387-5253
- IRWIN WFDSS liaison: Morgan Pence morgan.pence@usda.gov, Rick Mowery rick.mowery@usda.gov
- Active incident decision and analysis support: All NFDSC personnel, best to contact On Call Coordinator (208) 387-5253
- WFDSS NextGen: Sam Amato sam.amato@usda.gov, Wes Hall Wesley.hall@usda.gov, Rick Mowery rick.mowery@usda.gov, and Sara Synoweic sarah.synowiec@usda.gov
- IFTDSS: Bre Schueller Brianna.schueller@usda.gov, Kim Ernstrom kim_ernstrom@nps.gov, and Tessa Nicolet tessa.nicolet@usda.gov
- GAE call management: TJ Boyer tederell.boyer@usda.gov and Morgan Pence morgan.pence@usda.gov
- When in doubt contact the On-Call Coordinator and they will route you: (208) 387-5253

References

Agency Administrator Toolbox: https://wfmrda.nwcg.gov/agency_admin_toolbox.php

GAE Resources: <https://wfmrda.nwcg.gov/wfdss-ga-editors.php>

LANDFIRE Data Alerts: [LANDFIRE Program: Data Products - Alerts](#)