

## WFDSS GAE September 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shawn Kelley, EA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wendy McCartney, AK	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew Malesic, EA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom St. Clair, AK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Williams, GB	<input type="checkbox"/> Raymond Parrish, EA
<input type="checkbox"/> Kim Kelly, NW, GB	<input type="checkbox"/> Casey Boesflug, AK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Ginder, GB
<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Gustafson, RM, SW	<input type="checkbox"/> Dylan Rader, GB	<input type="checkbox"/> Tonja Opperman, GB
<input type="checkbox"/> Cheryl Bright, National	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Hrobak, AK	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Gardunio (inter-agency), ON, OS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Valdis Neha, RM, SW	<input type="checkbox"/> James Newman, ON, OS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patrick Doyle, ON, OS
<input type="checkbox"/> Reeve Armstrong, National	<input type="checkbox"/> Karly DeMars, NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Erin Noonan, NR
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gwenan Poirier, RM	<input type="checkbox"/> Eric Morgan, AK
<b>NPS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Robert Saavedra, SW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Ham (Russell), RM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Sorbel, AK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rance Marquez, SW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brett Smith (Detailed), NW
<input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Barnes, AK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Justin Boeck, National	<input type="checkbox"/> Kristen Sanders, NR
<input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Anderson, ON, OS, NW, GB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeremy Sisneros, GB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ian Rickert (BLM OR/WA), NW, AK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eamon Engber, GB, OS, ON, NW	<input type="checkbox"/> Barry Klecker, NW	<input type="checkbox"/> Trevor Miller (BLM OR/WA), NW, AK
<input type="checkbox"/> Casey Teska, National	<input type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Hird, RM	<input type="checkbox"/> Shawn Burt, ON, OS backup
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patty Johnson, OS, ON, NW, GB	<input type="checkbox"/> James Dickinson, NW (backup)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ben Curtis (BLM OR/WA), NW, AK
<input type="checkbox"/> Nathan Williamson, NR, RM, GB, SW, SA	<b>FWS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Kip Van de Water (BLM OR/WA), NW, AK

<input type="checkbox"/> Cody Wienk, NR, RM, EA, SA	<input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Saperstein, AK	<input type="checkbox"/> Brian Maier (BLM OR/WA), NW, AK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Windy Bunn, NR, RM, GB, SW, SA	<input type="checkbox"/> Peter Butteri, AK	<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Sinkovitz, RM
<input type="checkbox"/> Missy Forder, National	<input type="checkbox"/> James Roberts, ON, OS, NW, GB	<input type="checkbox"/> Cary Newman, RM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Travis Nepl, SA		<input type="checkbox"/> Alison Richards, RM
<input type="checkbox"/> Calvin Farris, ON, OS, NW, GB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tate Fischer, RM, NR, GB	<input type="checkbox"/> Francisco Salazar, SW
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diane Abendroth, NR, RM, GB, SW, SA	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh O'Connor, ON, OS, NW, GB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abie Carabjal, SW
<input type="checkbox"/> Chip Collins, SW, RM, SA, GB, NR		<input type="checkbox"/> David Quisenberry, SA
<input type="checkbox"/> Casey O'connor, AK	<input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Conn (non GAE)	<input type="checkbox"/> Allan Hepworth, EA
		<input type="checkbox"/> Wyatt Palin, ON, OS detailed
<input type="checkbox"/> Morgan Voss, RM, NR, EA, SA	<input type="checkbox"/> Jeffrey Adams, SW	<input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Michael, ON, OS (backup)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Alyea, EA
<input type="checkbox"/> Christopher Moore, NW	<input type="checkbox"/> Maija Corliss, NW	<input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Osborne ON, OS
<b>State, County</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Mursu, EA	<input type="checkbox"/> Kristen Allison, ON, OS
<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Butteri, AK	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Pagoaga, EA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clint Cross, area None
<input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Shelton, OCFA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andrew Bailey, National	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jonathan Olsen, NR (primary)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rocco Snart, CO	<input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Aeby, N. ops	<input type="checkbox"/> Rick Stratton, area None
<b>BOR</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jenna Harsha, GB	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Teeter EA
<input type="checkbox"/> Laura Harger, National	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leta Douglas, SA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dan O'Connor, ON, OS
	<input type="checkbox"/> Benjamin Hornsby, SA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carol Ewell, ON, OS

Note taker: TJ Boyer Notes are posted [here](#)

Attachments: None

## Agenda Items

### Emerging Issues – All Call Participants

#### Reminders/General Awareness:

- Current and past GAE Quarterly and monthly notes can be found on the [GA Editor Resources](#) page.
- We have the [UAT environment](#) (User Acceptance Testing) up and running for Nextgen WFDSS and set to where you can log in 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 the WFM RD&A to approve.
- Nextgen WFDSS UAT help site is located here:  
<https://doifirefighterlawenforcementtm.mcoutput.com/wfdss/Content/Home.htm>
- Send us (TJ Boyer, Rick Mowery, or Morgan Pence) your units WFDSS Training dates as you become aware of them. We will add them to the [GAE & Training Calendar](#).

#### New GAE Welcome –

- Welcome to Carol Ewell, FS N. ops and S. ops.
- If you have GAE changes please let Morgan, Rick, and TJ know- we adjust the roles in WFDSS, the mailing list, and the IIA helpdesk contact list.

#### RDA Staffing –

- Bre Schueller has started her detail as Director of Fire Modeling Institute (FMI).
- Jackie Christolini ORISE Data Analyst Fellowship is coming to an end and her last day is September 27. She will be moving into a position with USGS.
- Dan Mindar will be back the end of September to continue assisting with on call support for WFDSS.

#### Classic WFDSS Updates –

- Continue maintaining system functionality and supporting incidents this busy season.
- Deployed a release, [8.3.1.4](#), to which we applied a fixed to an ongoing issue this fire season that caused frequent hang-ups when generating a Landscape with multiple masks. We have the release note posted to the [What's New in WFDSS](#) page and Hot Picks section of the [WFDSS homepage](#).
- Since the application seems to be stable and we are mostly aware of ongoing issues we shifted focus back to sunseting and transition activities for the application. Some of these activities include Devs converting files to archive and working with the data warehouse team for storage space and upcoming testing.

- Cutover/transition work Plan:
  - Classic goes into Read Only status with IRWIN.
  - Nextgen start receiving new incidents.
  - Start manually importing over anything that's in progress at that time.
    - -TJ: The vision on what it would look around maybe Jan-March of 2025 timeline is making classic go in to read only mode. Meaning classic would stop bringing incidents from IRWIN. Eliminating the ability to create new incidents within classic itself. Creating new decisions, uploading shapes. Etc. Nextgen will be live with IRWIN turned on to receive new incidents and we start the work of manually porting over anything that's in progress at that time, but that's the point where there would be no more publishing decisions, starting decisions, and everything like that in classic. There is a comm plan being develop to help inform users and facilitate this transition. We will continue to communicate and inform users of any necessary work that may need to be completed such as maybe if there's things that you need to wrap up on an incident, like if you have something that you know is not going to be called out before then, but you know that the incidents more or less wrapped up, download your stuff or whatever you need to get things in order before we get to that transition date.

### Geospatial Data –

- The last FMU/Strategic objectives shape uploads for the year were due to agency leads earlier this month. The data team are working on having the final FMU/SO shapes submissions available in WFDSS.
  - Amanda Rumsey- Expect to be in the system probably next week.
  - Susan McClendon- Reminder: Once the data is in WFDSS classic, then we take a cut of everything for spatial fire planning and that will be the last cut before we make the transition. So I would imagine if you're working on any management requirements, language changes, things like that that are outside of your fmu submissions, you might want to think about getting those in here at the end of this month. End of Sept. for shapes cutoff. Data team will copy over shapes to spatial planning services in Oct.
    - Patrick Doyle- Is it possible in the spring to be able to submit a new updated FMU strategic shapes?
      - Susan McClendon- So in the in the spring, we're hoping the new application will be launched and you will have an editing application for your spatial fire planning. You'll be able to check it in, check it out, and edit it in Arc Pro for shapes and the plan is to have an experienced builder application for working on language and approval and things like that. Spoke with NPS fire planners and a lot of parks were going to hold off and put their information into the new system rather than trying to put it in classic and let it ETL over.

### IRWIN Status –

- IRWIN has deployed an initial v10 build to their lower environments. This build is an initial base build in order to get the v10 environments operational including the read-only services. The IRWIN team plans to add the additional v10 functionality in the coming weeks. Additionally, there are a few changes awaiting final determinations before they are implemented in this version that would be released in a future v10 build. More details on updates can be found in the [Release Notes](#).
- IRWIN is currently in development of IRWIN v10 which is scheduled to be released in production on Wednesday, March 5, 2025. For more information about the enhancements and development of IRWIN v10 refer to [Data Management & WFIT - Integrated Reporting of Wildfire Information \(IRWIN\) | Wildland Fire Application Information Portal](#).

### WFDSS Next Gen Update –

- Demo

### Round Robin:

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

- Alaska:
  - Thomas St Clair- Pretty wet and it might start snowing in the northern part of the state soon. A team is mobilizing to Oregon and so focused on supporting the lower 48 states.
  - Wendy McCartney- Focusing on prescribed fire implementation and pile burning, slated for next month, in coordination with our state partners. We have two new RMPs that have just been approved and posted, which will initiate changes to our Fire Management Plan and fire management option data layers this winter.
- Eastern:
  - Joe Alyea- One fire up in the BWC that Allen Hepworth's working on some SOPL and some decision support up there through WFDSS. We are seeing some drying in the Great Lakes and then of course along the East Coast in the Southern Tier. We've got several forests that have thrown in some severity request. Right now, nationally we're an exporter, but we're looking at starting to import back into the region for fall fire season. Allen Hepworth and myself have been talking about what do we need to do to start to get the region wrapped around WFDSS next Gen. so we'll be reaching out a little bit on some different ideas on putting some trainings together later this winter with spring fire season starting in March in the Southern Tier.
- Great Basin:
  - Jeremy Sisneros- We still have the Great Basin MAC stood up and with it the decision support center. Starting to phase out some of that as we get into October. It's been pretty successful this year and they're still doing a little bit of support through the RIST with a couple of LTANS still attached to and it's working pretty well. Looks like things are cooling off

a bit and then the fire load has been reducing, but we still have quite a few on our priority list so we're just going to hang around until those start to decrease in teams go away.

- N. Ops/S. Ops:
  - Eamon Engber- Somewhat of a cooling trend in North OPS this week but going hot and dry again over the weekend and early next week. Had some Lightning recently. For South ops as far as Park Service and WFDSS, still have the coffee pot fire that's going to be transitioning back to Sequoia National Park sometime this weekend going to Type 3, so we'll be updating that WFDSS decision. Generally, pretty busy on Park Service units this year. Some good lessons learned between ISAP, WFDSS, and management action points and trying to be consistent there.
  - Patrick Doyle- For the Forest Service side, it's still kind of quieting down a little bit. We've had some weather coming in, so it kind of get into those fall conditions, but with the potential for it to dry out, we're still potentially looking at some new starts. We had lightning come through, but there is in the future, more moisture in Southern California. That's going to help with the three big fires we got going on down there, the bridge, Airport, and Line fire. Otherwise, it's kind of transitioning into more of potentially looking at what we're going to be doing more for prescribed burning in the next couple months. Everyone's still kind of out. A lot of presents still in region 6. Still trying to get some workshops together for next Gen.
  - Daniel O'Connor- Looking for Fire Behavior Specialist roles within WFDSS and wondering if there is any kind of policy or protocols for granting those.
    - Morgan Pence- This is the Suggested Training and Prereq for FBS role in WFDSS Doc. This was initially put together by the GAEs in 2011 and was revised in 2019 when there was a change to GSAN (that being it went away). If GAEs have a desire to change this please let us know, we can facilitate comms on that
      - [https://wfmrda.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/docs/WFDSS/WFDSS\\_Fire\\_Beh\\_Spec\\_Suggested\\_Training.pdf](https://wfmrda.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/docs/WFDSS/WFDSS_Fire_Beh_Spec_Suggested_Training.pdf)
- Northern Rockies:
  - Johnathon Olsen- Had a fair bit of precipitation over most of the geographic area over the last week, week and a half, which is moderated conditions significantly. We still have a number of large fires out on the landscape though, so keeping an eye on those. We still are operating our decision support through the RIST. Worked really quite well for the season. We'll keep that going with just minimal staffing until we get a more definite season ending event. As far as training and other things going on, we're starting to schedule WFDSS next Gen. training sessions. Looking at starting mid January, for the first of those and then continuing through the winter early spring.
- Northwest:
  - Ian Rickert- Have 12 teams out. We're still at PL-5, but it's pretty much a slow taper to our fire season at this point. Lot of our existing fires have picked up some precip in the last week. Don't really see a definitive season ending event on the horizon, but all things workload wise, whether it's analytics or creating decisions, there's a slow taper going on

there. On the next Gen. training front, I've been kicking around a lot of emails with Sam and Wes so we're going to actually start in on all of that in October and then really focus in with more in person trainings and support on a unit by unit basis beginning in January.

- Rocky Mountain:
  - Gwen Poirier- We have scattering of incidents across the landscape. No WFDSS issues. Suppose to be getting some more moisture starting this weekend, which should alleviate the activity.
  - Valdis Neha- BIA RM nothing to report quiet; BIA SW Quiet as well; looking at possible training next year. Currently doing SOPL work on the Tonto with SW CIMT Team 3 on the West and Preacher fire. See you all on the next call.
- Southwest:
  - Rance Marquez- We're pretty much done in the Southwest, except for with the exception of the Southwest part of the state. They're still in restrictions getting some IA, but nothing's going very far. The day length and cooler temperatures have helped us out a lot for our never ending fire season.
- Southern:
  - David Quisenberry- Tropical storms are helping to moderate fire activity. Outlook for fall is too close to call. Expecting dry conditions eventually, but may arrive too late to impact the fire season and/or tropical activity offsets dryness. NextGen training scheduled for Dec. Working through a resource benefit/ PL5 decision this week.

**Next Call:**

- Thursday, October 17th, 1300, Mountain Time.

**Main WFMRD&A contacts for WFDSS related items:**

- WFDSS Operations and Maintenance: TJ Boyer [tederell.boyer@usda.gov](mailto:tederell.boyer@usda.gov) , Rick Mowery [rick.mowery@usda.gov](mailto:rick.mowery@usda.gov), Morgan Pence [morgan.pence@usda.gov](mailto:morgan.pence@usda.gov), KC Shedden [kenneth.shedden@usda.gov](mailto:kenneth.shedden@usda.gov)
- WFDSS Data: Amanda Rumsey [amanda\\_rumsey@NPS.gov](mailto:amanda_rumsey@NPS.gov)
- WFDSS Role Issues: Contact the On Call Coordinator: 208-387-5253
- IRWIN WFDSS liaison: Morgan Pence [morgan.pence@usda.gov](mailto:morgan.pence@usda.gov), Rick Mowery [rick.mowery@usda.gov](mailto: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](mailto:sam.amato@usda.gov), Wes Hall [Wesley.hall@usda.gov](mailto:Wesley.hall@usda.gov) , and Sarah Synowiec [sarah.synowiec@usda.gov](mailto:sarah.synowiec@usda.gov)

- IFTDSS: Bre Schueller, Wendy Detwiler, and Kim Ernstrom, [Brianna.schueller@usda.gov](mailto:Brianna.schueller@usda.gov), [wendy.detwiler@usda.gov](mailto:wendy.detwiler@usda.gov), [kim\\_ernstrom@nps.gov](mailto:kim_ernstrom@nps.gov)
- GAE call management: Tederell Boyer [tederell.boyer@usda.gov](mailto:tederell.boyer@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/index.php/interagency-agency-administrator-toolbox>
- GAE Resources: <https://wfmrda.nwcg.gov/index.php/decision-support-toolbox/ga-editor-resources>

LANDFIRE Data Alerts: [LANDFIRE Alerts | LandFire](#)