



*Integrating
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Wildland Fire Management RD&A

GA LEAD WEBINAR – May 19, 2011 – 1300 MDT

Roll Call – Laurie Clark, Kathy Stewart, Louisa Evers, Rick Stratton, Russ Babiak, Morgan Pence, Diane Rau, Dorothy Albright, Tami Parkinson, Lisa Elenz, Rob Seli, Ben Butler, Gladys Crabtree, Marlena Hovorka, Janis Hancock, Caroline Noble, Mark Grupe, Reeve Armstrong, Kevin Knauth, Marsha Henderson, Nancy Lee Wilson, Anne Rys-Sikora, Tonja Opperman, Laurie Kurth, Dan Warthin, Harold Riggs, Ken Schmid, Janet Passek, Shari Miller, Brenda Wilmore, Paul Langowski, Doug Havlina, Larry Hood, Marva Willey, Andy Norman, Gwenan Poirier, John Barborinas, Kim Kelly, Linda Kerr, Robert LaPlant, Brett Fay, Lori Clark, Mark Pater, Michael Boomer, Kim Ernstrom

Websites:

- NFDSC: <http://www.wfmrda.nwcg.gov/nfdsc.php>
- Call-When-Need (CWN) Fire Behavior/Decision Support Spec Form/Survey:
<https://spreadsheets.google.com/a/firenet.gov/viewform?hl=en&formkey=dFhmaENNMDVHNFdFWnoyZlYtdWE3OUE6MQ#gid=0>
- WFDSS: http://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/WFDSS_Home.shtml
- WFDSS Training: http://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/WFDSS_Training.shtml
- WFDSS AAR items:
http://frames.nbii.gov/portal/server.pt/community/wfdss/688/ga_editor_resources/3491
- GA Editor Documents & Calendar (FRAMES):
http://frames.nbii.gov/portal/server.pt/community/wfdss/688/ga_editor_resources/3491
- WFDSS Data Downloads (FRAMES):
http://frames.nbii.gov/portal/server.pt/community/wfdss/688/wfdss_data_and_ga_editors/3163

Action Items from GA Editor AAR – Tami

- GA Editor Action Items document - see FRAMES for updates on the following items:
http://frames.nbii.gov/portal/server.pt/community/wfdss/688/ga_editor_resources/3491
- White Papers –
 - Item 1 – When a Decision is Required – Linda Kerr
 - Went to Tom Zimmerman end of last week, Tom will present this to NWCG Wednesday May 25th, a final draft will be provided to them for review by June 1. NWCG is hoping to have final guidance to the field through specific agencies by the middle of June.
 - Item 2 – Role of GA Coordinating Group in WFDSS – Linda Kerr
 - Went to Tom Zimmerman end of last week and Tom presented will present to NWCG Wednesday May 25th.
 - Item 3 – Role of IMT in WFDSS – Harold Riggs
 - Still working on it due to current fire season
 - Item 9 – Role of GA Editors/Agency Experts – Linda Kerr
 - Went to Tom Zimmerman end of last week, Tom will present this to NWCG Wednesday May 25th, a final draft will be provided to them for review by June 1. NWCG is hoping to have final guidance to the field through specific agencies by the middle of June.
 - Item 13 – Fire Behavior Specialist Requirements – Brenda Wilmore/Larry Hood/Louisa Evers
 - Need group dialog, where to go with this thought



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- Tami (as Co-Chair of Fire Behavior Sub-Committee) provided an update to the new position called a Geospatial Analyst (GSAN). All students who have completed S-495 will be qualified as a Technical Specialist – GSAN, it is in IQCS as well as ROSS for both updating red card qualifications and ordering. For more information please see the final documentation from OWDC at the following link:
http://frames.nbii.gov/documents/wfdss/OWDC_14_2010_ReplaceRERAPwGSA_N.pdf

WFDSS Updates –Rob

- Decision approval process – nuances to be aware of
 - Pending decisions for review process – button?
- Issues to be aware of regarding STFB and NTFB – brief overview
 - Weather issues with STFB & NTFB - we temporarily mitigated the issue. It appears to have disappeared and not sure if it is fixed. Let us know if you see anything.
- Organization charts within WFDSS
 - Request to put Organization chart in the decision document. Did not include in decision document due to the flexibility it provides in the decision document.
- Copying a decision and timelines available for the copy function
 - Can now copy a decision but it will not work if a decision was created before 5/12. It only works under the v3.14 which was released 5/12.
 - Review your copied decision to ensure you do not include what you don't need in current decision.

Training - Marlena

- 3.14 video/PowerPoint is available on WFDSS Training website under Videos :
https://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/WFDSS_Training.shtml

- WFDSS spring training documents:
 - WFDSS Pre-season Refresher
 - WFDSS Fire Behavior Specialist Refresher
 - WFDSS Publishing a Decision
 - WFDSS Decision Document Examples
 - Air Quality Tools Presentation
 - Smoke Matrices

The above documents are located at https://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/WFDSS_Resources.shtml

- WFDSS Fire Behavior webinars posted on FRAMES:
http://frames.nbii.gov/portal/server.pt/community/wfdss/688/training_webinars/3606

Unit Shape/GIS Shape issues – Ben

Ben gave a brief update on issues we are seeing as units upload various shape files.

- no hard & fast 'rules'
- Complex shapes not recommended due to browser limitations, polygon complexity, etc.



- Individual Polygon complexity
 - Non-Complex polygon shapefiles (<50,000 vertices) can fail to upload
 - This seems to be due to the fact that while the layer is not overly complex; the individual polygons vary in complexity within the layer (e.g. some polygons contain very few vertices while others contain many)
 - In other instances the polygons are very small (overly detailed) and therefore the thinning algorithms WFDSS uses get “confused” due to the fact that some of the small polygons cannot be thinned without deleting the entire polygon. Wanting to maintain as much of the layer integrity as possible the application rejects the upload rather than deleting the polygon(s) from the source layer.
 - Slivers add to complexity
 - Thinning algorithms have difficulties thinning sliver shapes
 - Since slivers are very small WFDSS cannot thin these shapes (thinning would likely result in deletion of the entire shape – or turning that shape into line) and therefore the upload will likely fail
- Unit Shape Selection Considerations
 - Users are encouraged to explore the national data sets within WFDSS before deciding what to upload as a unit shape
 - Log into WFDSS – My Home -> System Preferences
 - Move layers from the left box to the right to make them visible on the maps
 - Start small – upload 4-5 shapes that you fully anticipate using on incidents this fire season
 - As the fire season progresses, and your knowledge of how to make use of unit shapes increases, it is likely that you will load more data in unit shapes
 - Consider shapes that represent areas outlined in your FMP that may not be included in your FMU shapefile. Special management areas are often not included in FMUs and therefore may make excellent unit shapes.
 - Consider areas that you will likely want to associate with incident objectives/requirements – these are much different than the FMU concept which is the overall strategic “direction” for a given area (i.e. suppression focus)
- Values reports
 - At the time of upload the user can determine if they would like the unit shape to be included in the values reports within the application (planning area, BFB, NTFB, STFB, FSPro)
 - Users are encouraged to check this box for all layers
 - If the unit shape(s) are enabled to be included in the values a textual summary of the affected unit shape(s) will be included in the decision based on the planning area (and/or the BFB, NTFB, STFB, FSPro if one of these models is run and included in the incident)
- Attribution
 - Shapefile attribution is not leveraged at this time (WFDSS v.3.14). Users cannot view the attributes of the shapefile within the application once it has been uploaded.
- Copying Unit Shapes to other “incident shapes”
 - Copying a unit shape will copy the entire shapefile
 - You cannot copy an individual polygon within a unit shapefile.



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RAVAR update – Laurie

- Laurie gave a brief update on data and expectations
 - WFDSS has incorporated various ways to incorporate values so shifting from external RAVAR to WFDSS
 - Webinars scheduled – June 2nd and June 13th for Values webinar:
http://frames.nbii.gov/portal/server.pt/community/wfdss/688/training_webinars/3606
 - Still working on data access outside of WFDSS

LANDFIRE Update - Kim

- LANDFIRE will have Refresh 08 completed for all of US including AK and HI by the end of May
- Refresh 08 v1.1.0 for the continental US is loaded into WFDSS as of this week
- In the future (once AK and HI are done) will have only the Refresh 08 v1.1.0 dataset available in WFDSS, at some point after AK and HI are uploaded, LandFire National v1.0.0 will be disabled
- The separate CA Landscape 2010 will remain available
- Rapid Refresh v1.0.1 was disabled with v3.14 release
- Goal: streamline datasets and use the most update datasets that are available

GA Editor Feedback - All

- Please provide feedback on the following:
 - Data Manager Webinars – have you been on them or heard any feedback?
 - Larry – thanked Ben for his assistance for working with CA data webinars for spatial FMUs for CA
 - GA Anticipated Needs or Ability to Support other Areas
 - Jan – Southern Area – huge learning curve for the WFDSS decision document process. Suggested have an instant meeting /webinar account setup so you can exchange info.
 - Reminder if interested in going out complete form:
<https://spreadsheets.google.com/a/firenet.gov/viewform?hl=en&formkey=dFhmaENNMDVHNFdFWnoyZlYtdWE3OUE6MQ#gid=0>
 - Nancy – helped unit with published decision using GoToMeeting and it worked well.

Round Robin

- Brenda – almost done with training. Really like the improvement made to the WFDSS on line help.
- Sherry – R1 training scheduled for Mon, Tues, Wed (5/23-25)
- Northern CA – completed regional training. Some Forest may be doing individual training.
- BIA – have 2 planned for next week.
- Rocky Mtn – 5/24-25 for interagency training (Brenda)



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Gladys GIS updates

- New layer tree in v3.14
- Updated FMUs last week of May
- Hoping to have SMA layer updated next month
- Tentatively planning a building cluster update first of June

Next Call – June 16th @ 1300