



*Integrating
science, technology,
and fire management.*

Wildland Fire Management RD&A

GA LEAD WEBINAR – June 16, 2011 – 1300 MDT

Call # 800-621-9687

Code# 81437

Roll Call – Janet Passek, Laurie Kurth, Dan Mindar, Gwen, Larry Hood, Linda Kerr, Morgan Pence, Jeff Jones, Brad, Phil Bowden, Brenda Wilmore, Nancy Lee Wilson, Mark Grupe, Harold Riggs, Brett Fay, Amanda McAdams, Morgan Pence, Kim Ernstrom, Lisa Elenz, Ben Butler, Gladys Crabtree, Lori Clark, Janis Hancock, Gwenan Poirier, James Newman, Reeve Armstrong

Next Call - July 21st – 1300 MT

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=dFhmaENNMDVHNfFWnoyZlYtdWE3OUe6MQ#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 – Lisa / All

- White Papers –
 - Item 1 – When a Decision is Required
Paper went to NWCG. NWCG wanted all 3 papers combined. The combined memo was reviewed by NWCG 6/15. Hope to have memo out by end of next week.
 - Item 2 – Role of GA Coordinating Group in WFDSS
Paper went to NWCG. NWCG wanted all 3 papers combined. The combined memo was reviewed by NWCG 6/15. Hope to have memo out by end of next week.
 - Item 3 – Role of IMT in WFDSS
Jan P. recommended getting feedback from IMTs who have been on assignments this year. Amanda will work with Lisa, Jan, Harold, and others to get a draft started.
 - Item 9 – Role of GA Editors/Agency Experts
Paper went to NWCG. NWCG wanted all 3 papers combined. The combined memo was reviewed by NWCG on 6/15. Hope to have memo out by end of next week.
 - Item 13 – Fire Behavior Specialist Requirements
Update from Brenda and Larry. Most GA Editors want this to be requirements vs. suggested. Group discussed if there is a different requirement for WFDSS production vs. WFDSS training system. When document is complete group decided to post requirements on the WFDSS GA website.



WFDSS Updates –Rob / Lisa

- New WFDSS findings
 - Finding some bugs in NTFB which are being addressed
 - System hiccups during the late evening hours – being monitored
 - NTFB runs do not cancel till a certain timestamp is reached
 - If an incident is a large incident some units are not able to download the decision report due to agency networks and file size.
 - If an incident is large the KMZ download function may take up to 5+ minutes to process. The user may think the download did not work and initiates another download which causes creating multiple requests which impacts system performance.

Values Update – Laurie Kurth

- Making progress on spatial data
- SOPs almost ready to be published
- Values webinar – recording will be posted and linked to SOPs

Training – Marlana / Lisa

- Webinar videos posted – link to WFDSS home page or NFDSC website
- Other documents posted – post new/revised documents regularly. Please monitor website for updated information/documents
- Fire Behavior webinar - Marlana invited Fire Behavior Specialist

GA Editor Feedback – Round Robin

- Linda Kerr – you can set a user's WFDSS privilege with GA set to None
- Linda K. & Gwen – State and other users are creating Incidents in Production for Fire Behavior analysis and to take advantage of WFDSS tools. Rob has told the GA Editors to use Production. Gwen noted there will be open incidents due to the States using the WFDSS tools and GA editors will be sent emails when an incident is not marked as out or contained. *Lisa to follow up with Rob on the above issues.*
- Harold – concerns with Dispatch Centers and the time lapse of creating incidents in WFDSS. Some use Wildcad so not sure how quickly incidents get transferred to WFDSS. Harold has found communication is much better when NFDSC has been assisting the Region.
- Southwest – Harold mentioned there is confusion on who is responsible for what in WFDSS - Team or local unit. This changes from team to team and unit to unit. This issues ties to the IMT paper the group wants to complete and post. Harold talks to the unit level or Team as to who is responsible for what and the Forest is included in the discussion such as analytical work for FBAN or agency administrator.
- R8 – GACC is at PL5. Amanda (for R8) is looking for someone to serve in a Regional role to manage a regional decision support group. Amanda wants to document how this regional decision support group is working in other regions. Delicate balance at the Regional Decision support group and when to send staff to work directly with a Team – define threshold. How do these groups communicate? Jan has very simplistic rules from Alaska to determine priorities, who does the decision support group work for, etc. which she will share with Amanda.



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- Alaska – Jan P. mentioned BLM computers are not able to download large decision reports due to size of decision document. Jan praised WFDSS for the quick response to feedback.
- Northern Rockies - Lori Clark said there are no needs now due to Northern Rockies are wet. *Do have a list of FS staff that can work with other regions and other agencies – contact Lori for names.* Hosting training in Billings, MT next week.
- California – Larry does not anticipate any needs at this time. Struggling with letter from WO for expectations and IC performance form regarding need to map/document perimeter, direct and indirect lines, protection features delineated, etc. Data gathering will be an issue. How are others approaching this and what does the WO want? R4 working with WO and considers the request for info for the field to think differently regarding risk assessment, etc. Larry thinks it will take time to play out and the risk stuff plays out differently each year. Risk assessment included in decision rationale and last 2 questions. CA is writing up steps how to make a custom report to address questions. *If DOI staff wants to see the letter let Lisa know.* R4 sent out a memo to address how they are going to address the WO memo. CA is writing up info and Amanda will share their R4 memo.
- Nancy Wilson – additional BIA training for extended attack webinars. *Nancy sent link to Lisa and Lisa will forward to group.* Nancy thanked Marlena for taking the lead for publishing decisions and noted Marlena did an outstanding job coordinating this effort.
- Jan asked if there will be a Fall AAR? Lisa said tentatively yes a Fall AAR is being planned. Due to travel restrictions may need to conduct AAR by conference calls or webinars. Group felt conference calls or webinars would work if organized and structured well. Numerous 1 hour sessions over a 2 week span and divided by topics. Early October/November will probably be the time schedule. Next call schedule AAR and identify who will help organize the AAR. One item for the AAR is setting WFDSS priorities for next year.

Action Items

- Next Call - July 21st – 1300 MT
 - Topics for next call: Laurie – Values SOP, Round Robin, schedule AAR and identify who will assist with organizing AAR