



Integrating
science, technology,
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Widland Fire Management RD&A

NOTES - GA LEAD WEBINAR – January 20th, 2011 – 1300 MDT

Attendees – Doug Havlina, Gwenan Poirier, Ken Schmid, Larry Hood, Laurie Kurth, Linda Kerr, Mark Hale, Mary Taber, Mike Lambright, Mitch Burgard, Nancy Lee Wilson, Ryan Whiteaker, Tonja Opperman, Brenda Wilmore, Gladys Crabtree, Lisa Elenz, Marlena Hovorka, Morgan Pence, Rob Seli, Christie Neill, Kim Ernststrom, Ben Butler, Tami Parkinson, Reeve Armstrong, Shari Miller, Mike Boomer

Action Items from the November AAR – Lisa

- Review of the November AAR Action Items
 - *Notes can be found in the AAR Action Item document posted to FRAMES with the AAR Notes and agenda. Each call these items will be reviewed and the status updated.*

WFDSS Updates –Rob

- Power Outage – Tuesday January 24th (afternoon) to Jan 25th (morning).
- Project Manager / COR for WFDSS Contract – Dorothy Albright
 - *Dan Keller retired and Dorothy is detailed behind Dan for project manager duties*
- Contract Status
 - *The WFDSS contract runs out March 31st. We are pursuing an extension to hopefully go through fire season, and then change over to a new contract in the fall. The implications are that some developments items are going to be put on hold because of these contract and budget issues. Rob will continue to keep the group posted on the status.*
- WFDSS / FPA NESS environment
 - *The National Fire and Aviation group is hosting this site and it is being rebuilt to encompass EROS and the Kansas City data. WFDSS is going to move to it as well, this process will start in a month.*
- HelpDesk
 - *Rob & Marlena met with the folks that will be running the new helpdesk contract for the FAMWEB helpdesk recently. They discussed moving the WFDSS helpdesk and how it has the potential to improve the capacity to answer user questions.*
- Common User Authentication
 - *Due to the WFDSS contract issues and other items this will be on hold for a while.*
- Release 3.14, this will hopefully occur sometime in March. If you have any questions regarding the following list of bullet items contact Rob.
 - No more RAVAR Requests in WFDSS
 - Organizational Needs Assessment
 - Improvements to the Decision Process
 - Display Pending Decision in expanded state by default
 - Values Inventory Date (a VI will be completed and dated based on when the decision was submitted for review/approval)
 - Incident History – add spreadsheet icon to Incident History list
 - Remove Dispatcher Validation capability (it will continue for Incident Owners)
 - Add warning message when Save is used for Objectives, COA, and Validation when a pending decision does not exist



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- Copy Decision
- Reorganize map layers (layer switcher tree)
- New colors for SMA, Responsible Agency, and Incident shapes (508 compliant)
- New KMZs
- Map Bookmarks - return to the last map for now
- Final Fire Perimeter / Size
 - *Rob led a discussion regarding the idea of getting rid of the box users can check on the Incident Information screen that allows them to indicate that the final fire perimeter has been loaded. One thought is that people don't know what the check box means and aren't using it, and it could be removed. The implication of that would be that the most recent perimeter would be considered the final fire perimeter once an incident is out. Another thought is that it would not be safe to assume that the latest fire perimeter loaded to the system is the final, as many users don't keep that perimeter up to date since it is not directed in policy that WFDSS will be the repository for these shapes. Another comment was that if/when there is potential for WFDSS to link with the other fire reporting mechanisms at that time direction could be given that WFDSS is the place of record, but until then policy does not require us to enter final fire perimeters/size in WFDSS and therefore it is unreliable to assume that the perimeters in WFDSS are final. An additional side discussion started regarding whether or not the acreage entry should automatically update as a result of the latest fire perimeter in the system. It was noted that not everyone has a perimeter to load but they might have a rough estimate on size so they wouldn't want the system to update to the latest acreage size. It was also noted that even if you don't have a file to load, you most likely have some idea where you fire is and you can draw perimeters in WFDSS, you don't have to have a file to upload to update the perimeter. The discussion ended by tabling the discussion on checkboxes/auto updates of acreage for a later time and for now decided to keep the check box in place. If you have feedback on this issue and weren't able to speak up on the call send it to Lisa.*
- Duplicate Fires
 - *There are a couple dozen fires in production that still have duplicate fire numbers. It was decided on the call that the WFDSS group will let the GA editors know if they have any in their area so they can contact the dispatch units and help them get the data cleaned up. The deadline was set to Feb. 4th. After that the WFDSS group will need to move on fixing them for units. **Message sent 1/20/2011 by Marlena Hovorka.***

Training –Marlena

- As you begin to plan winter training schedules, let us know if you need assistance.
 - *If you are doing training we can help by possibly traveling to you or doing a webinar, or Q & A.*
- Let us know training dates so we can try to schedule system updates to avoid training days.
- February – we will be updating and creating more training/ref materials for the website
 - Schedule more webinars covering enhancements in late February
 - Looking to purchase new service or software to create longer videos of webinars
 - Interim fix is short videos of each functionality covered in webinars
- Updated Security training information on WFDSS FRAMES site under GA Editor Resources:
<http://frames.nbii.gov/wfdss> *this includes the FS CIO page and it has links to same material*



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Geospatial Update – Gladys

- Fire history layer (*This was covered in Action Item 24*)
 - *They are updating the NPS Building layer, FPU layer, and communication layer. The updates will be soon. They are also putting together a data refresh plan which will be posted on the GA site on FRAMES and will provide information on specific layers proposed update date, source, symbol, etc.*

RAVAR Update – Laurie

They are working on transitioning to a less complicated process for RAVAR, and will be meeting next week to go over that process. Laurie will have more information on the next conference call.

Air Quality Tools – Lisa / Tami

They have met with the Air Quality folks to determine what products can be more automated and further brought into WFDSS. The Air Quality group will be on the next GA editor call. They provided a webinar in November on their tools/products, and are currently working on a matrix to sort out who might use the tools the most/compile names from areas that might use the tools so they can target training. If you have ideas on this topic you can send them to Tami Parkinson. Rob mentioned that they are working toward providing a simplified zone air quality forecast in WFDSS.

Action Items – Lisa

- Protecting Agency – GA Editors please plan to provide more information to Rob as to the request in the November meeting.-
 - *If you have feedback on this please send it to Rob.*
- Line Officer's Text Box upon Approving a Decision – GA Editors –
 - *Please provide Rob with more information regarding this request from the November meeting. Gwen noted that what they had mentioned in November was that if a person approving a decision doesn't have a WFDSS profile (like a state or other non-fed agency/cooperator) there isn't a place to note in WFDSS that they have also approved it. They had proposed putting a text box with the Approver section that could be checked and then they could type in the person's name/affiliation and indicate that they were approving the decision as well and have signed a hard copy outside of the system. Rob said he would have to think about that for a bit.*
- Automatic Acreage Updates
 - *This was discussed when Rob led the discussion on the idea of removing the checkboxes for indicating that the final fire perimeter was loaded, see those notes above.*
- Next Call???
 - *It was decided that the next call will be Feb. 24th at 13:00 MT, and was noted that at the GA Editor AAR in November there was some consensus to move the date to the 3rd Thursday of the month, however that does not work for the RDA group in Feb. because of an annual meeting. It was also noted that the FS has regional fire calls on the 2nd Thursday of the month and that the 3rd Thursday is better for the NPS.*