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Wildland Fire Management RD&A

GA LEAD WEBINAR – September 15, 2011 – 1300 MDT

Call # 800-621-9687

Code# 81437

Agenda Items

Roll Call – Kim Ernstrom, Laurie Kurth, Rob Seli, Larry Hood, Louisa Evers, Caroline Noble, Dan Mindar, Gwenan Poirier, Harold Riggs, John Barborinas, Kevin Knauth, Linda Kerr, Marsha Henderson, Marva Willey, Ryan Whiteaker, Shari Miller, Ben Butler, Brenda Wilmore, Lori Clark, Dan Warthin, Rick Stratton

Action Items from GA Editor AAR – Kim

- AAR Action Items List –
 - Item 3 – Role of IMT in WFDSS – Harold
 - Draft white paper sent to Linda K, Amanda McA, Lisa E
 - Harold is waiting for feedback from small work group prior to sharing with the whole group. Linda Kerr will provide comments tomorrow.
 - Other items from 2010 have been dealt with. However, the NPS and FS have not seen anything official regarding the white papers from NWCG. BLM has seen them through the agency. FS in CA got them from the GACC, but not from the agency. Kim will follow up with Tom Z regarding this.

WFDSS Updates –Rob

- WFDSS Contract
 - A new contract for operations and maintenance has started and it is attached to FAMWEB contract. It has about 50 percent of previous work available. There will be limits to how many fixes, modifications can be done. There will be at least 4 releases each year to incorporate a quarters worth of needs. There are a fixed number of data loads each year as well so need to carefully plan data loading. New development will have to occur under a separate task order/contract. This is being explored to develop a 'WFDSS light' mobile webpage designed to work on small screens such as android. This won't include mapping, but many of the functions. This may begin to be available by the end of 2011 and finalized by March 2012. WFDSS will not have to wait for another FAMWEB application prior to being released. However, WFDSS is sharing personnel with other applications so may need to wait until there is a person available to complete the tasks. Hans Fiedler is still full-time. He is training some people to do data loading.
- 3.15 Release – new pdf feature. Feature works well, but a small percentage of fires don't work. Other fix is corruption and losing decision data. There are problems remaining, but many have been resolved. Summary risk assessment report (Hubbard letter)– 10 questions are included into the report section. This is a requirement for the FS if the fire is managed by type I or II team, but not other agencies. Once report is created, you can copy into rationale or decision. In CA, FS is asking that the questions be included in the decision rationale. The last 2 questions can't be completed in rationale...they are in the custom report.



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- WFM RDA will provide information on background, why it was developed and where this is located. It's a standard report that you can get when you create a report. Can be built for interagency if needed in the future.
- Reports are not automatically incorporated into decisions. They can be copied and pasted into the decision.
- *Clarification on what jurisdictional agency means. Does it mean for the planning area, burned acres or ?* On information page, the jurisdictional agency(ies) noted - there is no correct answer now. That portion of the page is a holdover from early WFDSS development. Because there are more data now available regarding the location of the fire, this function may not need to be on the information page. WFDSS can determine how many acres are within what jurisdiction. This may be more appropriate for the decision or to be linked to approvers. General jurisdictional agencies should be the planning area because those agencies are involved in the planning and perhaps decision development.
 - Alaska has a definition – 'The agency having overall land and resource management responsibility for a specific geographical or functional area as provided by federal or state law.' Gwenan's question is what is the geographic area to which the definition applies.
- Data Updates? – Ben Data sets will be grouped together for data uploading. There won't be as quick turn around on data uploads...may wait to have more data bundled. We will still be processing data, but the load times will be longer. We will have some firm dates for updating data. There is new data for Wilderness Study Areas, NPS admin boundary, trails – national scenic trails, byways, recreation trails, USFWS refuge trails, etc. Remember to add these in your system preferences. FMU update coming at the end of October.
- Moving information from FRAMES to WFDSS and WFM RDA websites (FRAMES being phased out) All GA editor information is now at www.wfmrda.org. All the materials will be moved off of Frames site to the WFDSS website. Goal is to have only 2 websites.

WFDSS Helpdesk Transition – Rob

- New information – On 9/7/11, the fire applications help desk was shut down and is now FS help desk – CHD. It is now interagency..... There will be someone available 24/7 to be able to answer basic questions. They are being trained for more complex questions. Sharon and Emma will be taking over some of the roles that Rob, Marlana, and Mitch have been involved with. The contact information is on the WFDSS page and is: 866-224-7677 or 360-326-6002 or fire_help@fs.fed.us.
 - Please have some patience with the help desk as this transition is new and people are learning.
 - Let Marlana and Rob know if the help desk is providing incorrect information. This will help the help desk.

Fire Behavior Specialists - Kim

- *Information sharing on some questions that are coming up – possibly check on who has Fire Behavior Specialist role for your GA* Throughout the summer we have had a few situations with people trying to run fire behavior tools and they call NFDSC for help. It becomes clear they have the Fire Behavior Specialist role, but they don't have the background or training to be conducting fire behavior. Perhaps this is an artifact of early procedures for assigning roles. NFDSC wants to help people, but will likely call the GA Editor to let them know the situation.



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Now is a good time to query WFDSS and review who has the FBS role and make sure they meet the requirements/recommendations that have been developed.

One concern is that there are people in with FBS that haven't used the system and should be removed. However, if the GA Editor removes the person, they get phone calls so they don't want to remove people. PNW has been monitoring the situation and has been working with people. Need to retain the requirements, let people know, and enforce them the best we can. Many people know they are outside their knowledge, but the problem is the people who don't know they don't know. In CA there is no state or local agency representative so it makes it really difficult. CA could use a state rep. In OR and WA, the GACC has worked with the states and has been working well, but there are fewer people. Tom Zimmerman will be talking with the NASF to see how they want to participate.

GA Editor Feedback - All

- Your opportunity to share information
 - AK – Marsha – quiet currently
 - Eastern – no representation
 - Eastern Great Basin – no representation
 - Northern CA – no comments
 - Northern Rockies – have been busy with a lot of type III, resource objectives. Working on sorting out when to do decision, how to work with complexes, some people put in fire behavior requests and pick them up themselves while GA Editor is trying to find analysts, some pdf issues. NFDSC has provided fire behavior support
 - Northwest – fairly busy, maybe need to discuss requests
 - Rocky Mountain – no comments
 - Southern – no representation
 - Southwest – things are slowing down. Harold is trying to get some units to do some cleanup. Some units aren't doing the cleanup. May have an early fall season.
 - Western Great Basin – no representation
- Sit 209 & WFDSS - Gwenan – No national documentation on the connection in Sit209 – it's a one way, one-time upload from WFDSS into Sit209. Once this is done, you must make any adjustments in both systems...i.e. they don't talk to each other. Marva - Intel group national is working on updates and being able to move information from WFDSS to Sit 209. The program is running on the FAM test site. Gwenan pointed out it's on the 209's not just the test site.
- System queries - Gwenan/Rob – If people have query needs, contact Rob

Fall AAR / Conf Call Series - Laurie

- November 14th – 18th Dates identified by doodle poll. (multiple conf calls to cover the meeting)
- Agenda – is anyone interested in helping?
 - Agenda items to date:



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- Framework for protocols on multi-jurisdictional fires, how to get all agency administrators involved - example Gila Cliff Dwellings and Miller Fire, AA was at the table but his name was not on the Approved Decision
- State and local (non-federal) WFDSS use, including security training for non-federal folks
- Issues within the software (buttons that gave trouble etc).
- Review 2010 Action Item List – revisit some items that may have cleared or are no longer issues...ideas is to make sure there is nothing that hasn't been dealt with. Lisa will send out something to review so during AAR can deal with remaining issues.
- NFDSC/GA Editor contact procedures (centralized number, weekend coverage, working between agency GAE's)
- Jurisdictional Agency – who is included/where (see notes above)
- Fire Behavior Requests – how to make requests, using the button in WFDSS, etc.

Action Items/ Follow Up

- Next Call (October 20)
- Please update your contact information in WFDSS. Much of the information is dated. – Cell phone numbers are useful for weekend calls. We are moving away from the GA Editor list, toward using WFDSS to query for GA editors.