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Wildland Fire Management RD&A

GA LEAD WEBINAR – March 17, 2011

Attendees – Jason Loomis, Brenda Wilmore, Nancy Lee Wilson, Mitch Burgard, Anne RysSikora, James Newman, Kevin Knauth, Marsha Henderson, Lori Clark, Jan Passek, Reeve Armstrong, Harold Riggs, Michael Boomer, Tonja Opperman, Dorothy Albright, Tami Parkinson, Dan Mindar, Doug Havlina, Shari Miller, Laurie Kurth, Linda Kerr, Kim Kelly, Phil Bowden, Brett Fay, Jessica Wade, Mark Grupe, Larry Hood, Kevin Knauth, Jon Wallace, Janis Hancock, Mesia Nyman, Gladys Crabtree, Kim Ernstrom, Ben Butler, Morgan Pence, Lisa Elenz, Rob Seli, Diane Rau

Action Items

- **FSPRO Validation** - We are in the process of validating FSPRO using fires from the 2010 season. If you know of an incident in WFDSS that 1) was a free-burning fire with minimal control actions (that doesn't mean it increased in size, just that it was not actively suppressed), 2) burned for more than 6 days under these conditions, and 3) has perimeter files uploaded to WFDSS (at least ignition point and final), please contact Tonja Opperman at tsopperman@fs.fed.us with the name and Geographic Area of the fire. We would like feedback if you think going through the Action Item list is working, etc. Or if we need to move through more quickly etc.
- **Next Call – April 21st at 1300.** (Third Thursday of the months. Keep webinars on the same schedule.) Discussion whether to change the time due to conflict with a few other conference calls.
Send agenda items to Lisa
- Reminder – Next **update for FMU's** is scheduled the first week of April
- We are tentatively scheduling a **Data Manager webinar** to discuss unit shapes, objective shapes, FMUs, etc.

AAR Action Items

- A few priority action items were reviewed. The link to the document is http://frames.nbii.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=688&&PageID=3491&mode=2&in_hi_userid=1025&cached=true
- Item 1 – When & Why to Develop a Decision Document: Linda Kerr – Lisa & Tom's input has been included & final version to larger group by end of next week. Trying to meet the NWCG April meeting date.
- Item 2 – Role of GA Coordinating Group in WFDSS: Linda Kerr - Lisa & Tom input included & final version end of next week. Trying to meet the NWCG April meeting date.
- Item 9 – Role of GA Editors/Agency Experts: Linda Kerr finalized and will go to larger group for review.
- Item 13 – Fire Behavior Specialist Prerequisites in WFDSS – Although it was decided to take this forward through channels to the NWCG, concern had been raised that it might need a little more explanation, clarifying **suggested** Training and Prerequisites for the Fire Behavior Specialist Role in WFDSS. Laurie Kurth - Under 2nd title – Fire Behavior Specialist (requires previous fire behavior modeling



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experience) – need to clarify. Lisa requested a few folks to write it clearly so we do not close the doors for future fire behavior specialist (analysts). Everyone agreed intent needed to be explained.

- Item 15 – Decision Support & Technical Specialist (THSP): Nancy Lee Wilson – Decision Document Technical Specialist you can use the THSP to order for this season. Nancy suggested that people send a note to units to order THSP if they need decision document support.

Do we keep pursuing a decision document technical specialist position?

- Linda Kerr suggested we try without a list and then reconsider end of season. Rob cautioned this type of need can take a life of its own so be careful if you take this path.
- Harold – would like a list available. Lisa – We will revise and update the Fire Behavior/Decision Support list the NFDSC gathered last year to provide a list of names.
- Jan P. suggested using WFDSS to get assistance – maintain in WFDSS? Rob indicated “roles” has been a struggle in WFDSS and noted people struggle getting into WFDSS so they cannot locate the names if the list is maintained in WFDSS. Rob suggested using help desk – they track and maintain a list of SMEs. Mark Hale is creating a list which he will provide. Group agreed GA Editors can submit their names to national level (NFDSC).

WFDSS 3.14 Release (Rob)

NOTE: 3.14 release **tentatively** scheduled the week of 3/28. Delay is due to CR and funding issues which is causing a reduction in contract staff. *Rob used the WFDSS development environment to demo some of the new functionality in 3.14 release:*

- 1) Incident information page: Have been working with Agencies’ Fire Reporting Systems and addressing NWCG data standards and terminology for the following updates.
 - Incident Size (acres) field - Final Fire Perimeter / Incident size fields (box) replaced with Incident Size (acres). When you upload a perimeter it will update the acres using the most recent perimeter or you can manually update the acres, and if you delete the most recent perimeter it will not delete the acres in the incident size field.
 - Added Jurisdictional Unit at Point of Origin – prepopulated field based on existing Surface Management Agency (SMA) spatial layer. If the spatial layer does not contain data for the point of origin selected it will prepopulate with not available. Alaska asked if this can be changed due to confidence in SMA layer. If and when this happens will address the override need.
 - Responsible Agency (s) box is renamed to Jurisdictional Agency(s). Note: On situation page – from your planning area value inventory you get acres for each jurisdictional agency.
 - Responsible Unit Name at Point of Origin field - if a protection responsible unit spatial layer (ex. California Direct Protection Area & displays on the map) is available this field will be prepopulated from the layer or entered manually if a layer does not exist.
 - Unique Fire Identifier – the Unit ID field under Unique Fire Identifier will be prepopulated from the SMA layer but editable if SMA layer is not correct.
- 2) Can turn all base layers off leaving a white background which allows you to highlight any spatial layer(s) on situation and intelligence map.



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- 3) Incident History List – approximately 49 types of information are logged for each Incident. The Incident History List is located on the left menu. The Incident History (log) can be downloaded using the spreadsheet icon.
- 4) RAVAR request button has been removed from left menu. RAVAR Analysis can be completed for an incident by RAVAR Analyst or Super Analyst and results uploaded from the Analyses tab.
- 5) Address book works much better and creating/updating groups will work much more efficiently.
- 6) A lot of changes in Decision and decision editor.
 - Copy button will be new. You can copy most recent decision and update all the required content to current status and then you can edit editable parts.
 - When you open the decision page, the parts of the decision display—don't have to open it to view/edit its parts.
- 7) Organizational needs assessment (ONA) or referred to as complexity analysis - works a lot like relative risk. Relative risk is required for a decision and before the ONA can be done. The ONA is optional. The notes only go to the decision document. Thoughts are you do not want to republish document every time your ONA changes. Line officer can see ONA when doing a periodic assessment. Relative risk helps guide your decision.
- 8) Relative Risk – can partially save assessment inputs. Once complete (Save) no modifications can be made.
- 9) KML (Google Earth) - download option has been enhanced and renamed to KMZ - Incident level KMZ includes the planning area, perimeters, MAPs, objective shapes, points of interest, completed analysis, etc. Shapes are embedded in the KMZ which allows you to display KMZ in 2D/3D in Google Earth and links to individual shape information will display. There are two KMZs available: 1) published decision KMZ is available for any WFDSS user and 2) pending decision KMZ available for incident owners only which could be used for briefing and other purposes.
- 10) You can also edit incident privileges in the address book.
- 11) Map Bookmarking – comes back to the same place if and when you leave the map. Works on Intelligence map and intent is to work on all maps.
- 12) Validation tab - Dispatchers can no longer validate initial response – it was not being used. Approx. 20%+ fires come from WildCAD. Warning happens if decision is not published.
- 13) Decision Tab – expand to 5 sections at one time and can edit individually.
- 14) Can change fire ownership after the fire is out.
- 15) Fire behavior programming – speed up fuel moisture and used for all analysis. Fixed some bugs.
- 16) Fixed issues with Copy/Paste functions.
- 17) The ability to print has not been included in this release.
- 18) Camera button is an option for snapshots.