



Integrating
science, technology,
and fire management.

Wildland Fire Management RD&A

GA LEAD WEBINAR – October 20, 2011 – 1300 MDT

Roll Call – Brett Fay, Caroline Noble, Cathy Stewart, Christie Neil, Gwenen Priorer, Jan Passek, Ben Butler, Janis Hancock, Jason Loomis, John Barborinas, Jon Wallace, Kevin Knauth, Kevin Weaver, Larry Hood, Lori Clark, Mark Grupe, Marsha Henderson, Meshia Nyman, Mitch Burgard, Paul Langowski, Reeve Armstrong, Rick Stratton, Sam Amato, Shari Miller, Phil Bowden, Diane Rau, Russ Babiak, Rob Seli, Lisa Elenz, Marlena Hovorka, Morgan Pence

Action Items from GA Editor AAR

- AAR Action Items List –
 - Deferred to the Fall AAR meeting in November
We have been bringing up items from last year and will defer a full run down on items to next month's GA Editor AAR. The full list of AAR items is on the webpage if you want to review before the fall meeting. <http://www.wfmrda.nwcg.gov/> It is under GA Editor Resources. The agenda should be out soon and will focus on T-Th with the regularly scheduled Thursday meeting being a recap of the meeting.
- The message has been relayed that the USFS needs direction on the NWCG memo.

WFDSS Updates –Rob

- WFDSS Contract / Winter development:
 - *There is a planned deployment for mid Nov. It will focus on cleaning up issues related to the map viewer and the decision editor. New feature- an automated map will now come into the decision. It will be on a topo background and have the current perimeter.*
 - *In future you will not be allowed to repeat passwords- they must be unique every time. This may cause problems with people remembering passwords- but as most people have to write them down anyways it might not have that much impact.*
- Bogus Unit IDs – Unit IDs to declare a fire out?-
 - *There are 2 fires showing up in WGB because they have NV id, but one is in UT one in OR, Rick/Amanda please check. Not entirely sure how this happened, could be from people overriding correct queried id from lat./long from intel page or from miss-entry. Potentially could be from creating incident from intel page by placing a lat/long in wrong place and then correctly editing lat/long on info screen but not correcting the unit id.*
 - *There were some fires without a unique fire id. Creation without the unit id is allowed so that people can start working before assigning a fire number, but they never closed the loop. WFDSS could require it in order to declare a fire out and that would help force it to be entered. Discussion on whether to do this or to continue with clean up at end of season: In the future the goal is for many systems to talk to each other and forcing correct info at this point might help further that process and make it less painful later on. There is not currently a way to check the unit id's against a list of valid id's- too problematic for state and local but not impossible and may be workable in the future. The system does currently prevent duplicate unit ids and require a valid state id. There wasn't any opposition to moving ahead on requiring a correct Unit ID to declare a fire out.*
- Limiting the location of ignitions – do we still want to do that and how?
 - *Initially it was set up so you can't create an incident outside of your GA to prevent incidents being created in oceans...but they could adjust this to prevent incident creation at a different extent, possibly state or smaller- for the purpose of preventing errors. Call participants didn't think this was a high priority for improvement- except for AK which indicated they did have some problems but could likely be resolved in another manner and would discuss with Rob.*



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- Decision Editor proposal-
 - *There has been issues with decisions getting corrupted. This happens when users open/close objects and insert text around them. Possible solution would be to provide the object in a view mode in a separate pop up window rather than expanding/collapsing the object. This would also allow for the removal of the lower viewer pane which many users don't know is there/use. Feedback: don't like the idea of a pop window and it prevents users from seeing how the entire content flows and will look in a final format. A better option would be to just make it more obvious where users can edit items and insert content to prevent the corruption. The editor is cumbersome and confusing- make it easier to tell where to edit items.*
- Super Viewer Role-
 - *Some folks have been asking for a Super Viewer role rather than making more GA Editors (GA Editors can make non fed users which may some day present a problem if there are lots of GA editors) which will likely be a concern for security folks in the future - discussion on creating this user role which would allow viewing of decisions prior to publishing but not allow user role editing. Feedback: 3 spoke up in favor noting that it is very cumbersome for regional levels folks to get added as editors and viewers to each incident they are assisting with and they have regional oversight and would like ability to look at incident prior to publishing. Lisa reminded folks that WFDSS had been touted for allowing units to work on and make decisions without regional viewers unless they designate them editors and viewers and the field may not appreciate a change in this policy especially given it is the Line Officer's responsibility. 1 person spoke up in support of that thought. It was noted that this decision will only be made after consulting various parties.*

WFDSS Helpdesk Transition – Marlena

- Updates-
 - *The Helpdesk number has changed; it now goes to IBM and has since Sept. 7th. They were pretty busy for 2 weeks but have slowed down. If you have feedback from your local units on how the helpdesk is working for folks please let Marlena know. We will discuss this briefly at the fall AAR.*

WFDSS Training & Help – Marlena

- WFDSS Help
 - *They have been redoing the Help- when you click Help and you land on a topic it gives you an overview and then gives you different topics on where and what you can do from each page. A lot of users don't open help because it took a while to get up to speed, so now when you use it when helping the field let them know it is available. If you have problems with it pass that along to Marlena so she can work on improvements. They are also going to be redoing the training on the website and will have an exercise on an Intro to WFDSS.*
- Winter training-
 - *Remember to let rob/Marlena know if you have some training dates so they can let you know if there may be a conflict with WFDSS updates. They can also post the dates on the GA calendar so that others are aware of your training dates which may facilitate field training.*

Geospatial Data – Ben

- FMU Update – *FMU update is potentially next week, but may be looking to include more data so schedule isn't set yet. If anyone has FMU updates let Ben know your time frames so they can build that into their schedule.*
- Update schedule - *Working on data refresh plans for next year and will have more info soon – as that comes out they can schedule a data manager call.*



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GA Editor Feedback - All

- Your opportunity to share information
 - NW- no
 - NR- want times and dates for fall AAR so they can plan- It will likely be webinar not VTC to reduce potential problems
 - NorCal/- SoCal- no
 - EGB- no
 - Eastern- no
 - Southern- no
 - AK- doing internal webinars on fire behavior modeling once a month and planning to have a face to face in the spring with people who are interested in fire behavior modeling in the region
 - RM- no
 - SW- no

Fall AAR / Conf Call Series - Lisa

- Dates identified by doodle poll. (multiple conf calls to cover the meeting)
- Agenda – is anyone interested in helping?
 - Agenda items to date:
 - 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. Idea is to make sure there is nothing that hasn't been dealt with. Current AAR document is on the web showing status of action items.
 - NFDSC/GA Editor contact procedures. (Centralized number, weekend coverage, working between agency GAEs)
 - Jurisdictional Agency – who is included, where (see notes from 9/15 call)
 - Fire Behavior Requests – how to make requests, using the button in WFDSS, is it still needed?

Request to add info updates on the GTR regarding decisions- update on call from Paul: the idea generated from the Fire Use Subcommittee in discussing the need for a job aid for the SOPL position. It morphed into the need for a job aid for decisions- but not specific to WFDSS. It is about considerations for decisions and is patterned after the info that used to be in the fire implementation guide. For example: if you are assessing the situation think about these things.... Or here are some considerations for MAPs.....and to incorporate risk into the process. They are currently pulling together info- some of the work will be done this winter, with a draft for next summer for people to use, with a goal of having a publish date for next winter.

Action Items/ Follow Up

- Next Call – GA Editor AAR / Meeting – Week of November 14th- Tuesday–Thursday, likely in 1 – 3 hour chunks of time. Agenda will be out soon. GA Editor Mtg Wrap up will be Thursday at 1300.