



GA LEAD WEBINAR NOTES – July 21, 2011 – 1300 MDT

Roll Call –

Lisa Elenz, Marlena Hovorka, Kim Ernstrom, Brett Fay, Caroline Noble, Christie Neill, Clint Cross, Gwenan Poirier, Harold Riggs, Jan Passek, John Barborinas, Tonja Opperman, Diane Rau, Reeve Armstrong, Lori Clark, Louisa Evers, Mark Grupe, Marsha Henderson, Michael Boomer, Mitch Burgard, Nancy Lee Wilson, Paul Langowski, Phil Bowden, Ryan Whiteaker, Tami Parkinson, Rob Seli, Linda Kerr

Action Items from GA Editor AAR – Lisa / All

- White Papers –
 - Item 1 – When a Decision is Required, Item 2 – Role of GA Coordinating Group in WFDSS, Item 9 – Role of GA Editors/Agency Experts
 - *The final draft of the combined paper went to NWCG yesterday, titled Wildland Fire Decision Support Implementation Clarification White Paper and will come out to the field from NWCG shortly. Lisa will forward document to GA Editor list.*
 - Item 3 – Role of IMT in WFDSS
 - *Harold has been a little busy, so we'll need to follow up with him now that things have slowed down a bit*
 - Item 13 – Fire Behavior Specialist Requirements
 - *Brenda completed this and we will post it to the GA Editor FRAMES page for use in the future to assist GA Editors in determining or supporting qualifications standards.*

WFDSS Updates –Rob

- WFDSS Contract – *Two weeks ago WFDSS/FPA contracts rolled into FAMWeb contract proposal. If things work out the new WFDSS contract will be in place by August 1st. Because of possible new contract limitations (fixed base contract) when things need to be fixed/added/developed, it will likely take several months to implement. It is not like before when we could just call IBM and get it done*
- 3.15 Release – *Will try to release before new contract to have a good stable place to start new contract, most changes with 3.15 will be under the hood.*
- GA Editor Role – *We see the GA Editor role changing as more people learn the tool and the program itself doesn't change do you all have any thoughts on that?*
- Fire behavior model access... follow up from last call
 - *Question: Could it be possible to not have to create an incident in WFDSS to use fire behavior analysis tools? Some States want to use the WFDSS tools, but are not keeping up with declaring fires out etc.*
 - *Rob's Answer: Although people have asked about this, it is not really in the original charter. WFDSS is supposed to be a decision support tool, not a fire behavior tool. Consider putting the fire in production if there is any possibility of it burning on federal lands so all the information will be included. If the fire is not likely to get on federal land is it better to put the fire in training and run the tools there. There are ways of declaring fires out, so we wouldn't want to build another system, just to get around that issue.*
 - *Clint Cross – Many of the State Fires in WFDSS are from the Southeast. Southeast GA editors will follow up with States on declaring fires out. In many cases State fires were entered to support FMAG requests.*



WFDSS Help – Marlana

- Help content is more robust – We have been adding a lot of *HELP* content, working on incorporating quick tips and reference into the *HELP* directly so will have one stop shopping for reference materials. Will be working on this and hopefully have things in place sometime in August.
 - Working on reference for how to put long term risk assessment info into WFDSS decision doc, - now included in WFDSS Decision Documentation in Related Resources, and in Quick Tips under Training
 - Please provide feedback on any of this information.

Geospatial Data – Marlana

- FMU, Responsible Agency, Admin Boundary, SMA/Jurisdiction – *Upgrades in FMU layers recently. Responsible agency layers (California, Alaska) updated, still some fixes needed (Rob says the AK responsible agency layer had some issues, so the old one is back in there for now until Ben can take a look at it). SMA/Jurisdiction recently updated (California), some correction still needed. Gladys retired so Ben is the main keeper of the Data. If you have Data needs that need to be worked on let Lisa/Rob know and they'll get the right person to get things fixed. No firm date on getting Gladys position filled, still hasn't been announced.*

GA Editor Feedback - All

- Please provide feedback on the following:
 - GA Anticipated needs -
 - State interest in WFDSS what is your read
 - Lessons learned this summer that would help other GAs
 - *Mike Boomer (Western great basin) no issues, but expecting activity to pick up.*
 - *Paul Langowski (Rocky mountain) - things have moderated, state activity has been relatively slow. WY, CO wanting some support for FMAGs in the past, but not so far this year. Gwenan: some state fires wanting to run fire behavior when a federal team assigned, then when fed team leaves no one there to follow up on declaring fire out etc. Interagency dispatch centers are often loading state fires automatically, but no one from state to "put them out" –*
 - *Rob: reminder that any dispatcher role can update the fire and GA Editors are automatically "owners" of all the fires in their GA.*
 - *Clint Cross (Southern Area) – thanks for all the help sending folks down to the SE. PL3 in the SE, still not enough rain yet, half of the region still not out of the woods. Two analysts, GIS person and coordinator (Clint) for now still in place at the Coordination Center. Need some tropical moisture to alleviate problems, could run into the fall if it doesn't happen. Will be doing an internal AAR to coordinate with National AAR in the fall. Likely there will be more opportunities for folks that need some training etc. let Clint know if you have anyone. Working on SOPs and summary and recommendations etc. will be ready for the fall meeting*
 - *Marsha Henderson (AK) – State has a written policy on how to use WFDSS, declaring fires out etc. Jan Passek (AK) – Fall and spring training needs, working on developing more trainees, will need some support on who to use for mentors, workshops etc.*
 - *Lori Clark (Northern Rockies) – starting to dry out even though things are looking green, fuels drying and could be busy in August. State participation in fires mostly through delegation of*



Wildland Fire Management RD&A

authority, Feds handling the WFDSS part. Local state dispatch centers have some interest and they have been briefed on some options for using WFDSS

- *Louisa Evers (NW) – still cold, snow on the ground above 4500 ft. Rangelands (if it dries out) could be busy due to grass etc. but still not dry yet. Some State employees that are on IMTs in Washington showing some interest in WFDSS due to multi-jurisdictional fires*
- *Harold Riggs (SW) – appreciate all the help, 2/3 of the GACC is pretty well caught up, but a few areas still getting some significant activity. Stood down regional decision support, working things more locally or through NFDSC on-call line as needed. Kaibab has some good documentation on supporting managing fires instead of full suppression to address interest by the Regional Forester – you might be interested in looking at them. State of New Mexico has been working with WFDSS, not dealing with State of Arizona very much, coordinating with the Southern Region for W Texas.*
- *Nancy Wilson – lessons learned: when folks go to another region, make sure that you know who has the authority to approve Decisions – California is a unique situation for the BIA. Might consider developing timeline guidance in the future that speaks to when a Dec Doc Once needs to be completed to so it will tie to the IAP for the next day and not having to be signed at midnight as it is too late then.*

Fall AAR / Conf Call Series - Lisa

- *Dates Because of travel restrictions utilize a series of conference calls based on topics. Likely November timeframe again*
- *Agenda – who is interested in helping? Brenda Wilmore*
 - *Any known items now?*
 - *Linda Kerr - 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. Marlana reiterated that you can have multiple approvers, even though some folks at the beginning of the season didn't realize that.*
 - *Brenda – security training for non-federal folks*
 - *Jan – issues within the software, buttons that gave trouble etc.*

Action Items

- *RAVAR SOP's (will be sent out shortly & posted to web)*
 - *Close to having SOPs dialed in, will be sent out to GA's so they can see what the procedures are for utilizing Values capabilities in WFDSS*
- *Next Call – August 18*