



Integrating  
science, technology,  
and fire management.

## Wildland Fire Management RD&A

### GA Editor WEBINAR – September 20, 2012 – 1300 MDT

**Roll Call** – Caroline Noble, Diane Rau, Gwenan Poirer, Janet Passek, Kevin Knauth, Kim Ernstrom, Larry Hood, Linda Kerr, Marsha Henderson, Michael Boomer, Morgan Pence, Shari Miller, Stu Hoyt, Tonja Opperman, Lisa Elenz, Marlena Hovorka, Rob Seli, Phil Bowden, Rick Stratton, Doug Havlina, Ben Butler, Sam Amato, Hans Fiedler, Darwin Pruisner, Dorothy Albright, Mitch Burgard, Paul Langowski, Nancy Lee Wilson, Mark Hale

### WFDSS Updates –Rob & Marlena

- Latest release issues – Rob—there is a 1% hang-up issue with NTFB when the run hits the edge of the LCP; working on it though is not an easy fix. Downtime on 9/20/12 was due to site administrators installing new software and running into unanticipated problems, causing the site to go down therefore you couldn't get to WFDSS which was running fine.
- Spatial Fire Management Planning – Marlena—Interagency fire planners will continue on DOI efforts and will develop guidance for using spatial planning in WFDSS. Task order is pending to accept more linked Shapes for Strategic Objectives and Management Requirements (anticipated Feb 2013).
- IBM Meeting Update – Rob/Marlena—have been going through the list of items such as: ability to print Draft Decision Documents, organizing/naming Management Action Points, creating template for Delegation of Authority, additional “Reports” in the application. OWDC is working on ONA/Complexity Analysis—we are waiting for their recommendations so that we don't have to do a piecemeal approach to implementing; first coordination call is in October. Thank you for sending in suggestions for this meeting; they are being considered.
  - Q: Are you considering the Rationale and when it is written/finalize? A: Not at this time, we can't yet figure out a way to allow this so that it is not jeopardizing decision content, especially for multiple approvers.
- Dashboard—not all GAEs have seen the Dashboard, yet are being asked to monitor it for out-of-date analyses; less applicable to DOI at this point although there is interest.
  - Quick Demo—Rob—this is a **prototype** to see if 209, ROSS, WFDSS can be put together into a viewer. No user interface exists. Designed to provide value to national level.
    - There is a list of “Fires of Nat'l Significance” – which are USFS fires with Type I or II teams assigned.
    - The “Risk Index” is not well defined yet, but will likely be populated from WFDSS.
    - “Structures Threatened” comes from WFDSS/FSPPro, and a tilde means there is no current FSPPro, so the estimated structures then comes from the 209. When it comes from FSPPro, it is calculated using the “Expected Value” of all probabilities. There is an issue in that the viewer shows only the last completed FSPPro run, not the “best” FSPPro. There are no standards for FSPPro runs that show up.
    - “Percent contained” “Acres burned” and “Costs to date” and “Aggregate cost” all come from 209.
    - “Probability of Containment” is not a valid value at this time.
    - There are National or Regional views. In Regional views, the SIT Report populates the fire list, regardless of agency, but they are not listed as “significant”.
    - Individual fires show resources assigned, PS significant fire potential, acres predicted for current NTFB run w/Crown Fire activity.
    - Firefighter Exposure Index and Aviation Risk are still under development, but there are place-holders in the viewer.



Integrating  
science, technology,  
and fire management.

## Wildland Fire Management RD&A

- Costs over time (209) are graphed for each fire along with Stratified Cost Index (WFDSS). Fires that start on non-federal land but that burn on to federal land will not have an SCI due to lack of data for non-federal points of origin.
- MODIS data for individual fires shows on a map; this work is done in concert with Sean Triplett's "geospatial portal".
- Q: Can Regions get non nationally-significant fires (fires from the portal) to display in this viewer? A: we think they are only fires from the SIT report. The only place to see all the fires would be the Intelligence Page on WFDSS, or turn on the Year-to-Date Historic Perimeters.
- We are trying to determine what elements we could track to identify fires that are "emerging"?
- There is some "heartburn" about being designated as "nationally significant". In 07 it was tied to getting processor time. Now it's Type 1 and 2 fires. One comment was that it appears that it's just "flame-act-eligible" fires. Is it "significance" or "priority"? We will continue to consider how what makes the most sense in the future as we move forward with the dashboard.
- Tim's note about the Dashboard – open discussion/feedback:
  - Paul Langowski—we have spent time making sure people use the right analysis tool for the right question, and concern that we are setting up a requirement that every single Flame Act fire now needs FSPRO run even though we don't need it for decision-making. We are just feeding the beast. If this is a requirement, it's going to have to come from the Chief's level because we cannot support this.
  - Stu Hoyt—we have to be able to turn off the National Significance because Elbow Complex no longer has activity but we are still required to do FSPRO. FSPRO is not the way to show that a fire is experiencing a "lull" in activity.
  - Rick Stratton—concern that we are doing FSPRO to fill in a statistical chart when we can't verify that the output is valid. They are doing more NT right now than FSPRO.
  - Larry Hood—agrees with Paul and Rick—FsPRO is good for an initial run, but NT is being used more to get dialed-in on specific points of a fire and they allow FSPRO to go stale without any issues.
  - *Provide feedback to Lisa.*
- Long Term Plans –Lisa—People are struggling with where to put an LTIP in WFDSS. Our perspective is that it doesn't need to be written as a long involved document, because the WFDSS process replaces the LTIP/WFSA/WFIP products. *If you have ideas about how we can explain this or how it should work in the future provide feedback to Lisa.*

## Geospatial Data

- FMU Layer Update – Ben—We delayed the FMU update due to lack of submissions and/or no critical needs. Data page on WFDSS webpage will contain posts—you will see an email around mid-October. If you have FMU changes, submit through your WFDSS GIS Team Agency Lead—which can be found on the Data Page on the WFDSS website. *If you have questions, call Ben.*
- Data Manager—Lisa—We hired Andrew Bailey to start October 7. Thank you to Ben for his great work and support over the last several months.



Integrating  
science, technology,  
and fire management.

## Wildland Fire Management RD&A

### Miscellaneous

- Decision Making GTR – Lisa—the link was sent out with feedback due on October 15; there is VERY little feedback, please take a look. Link is on the RD&A webpage. Likely the due date for comments will be moved back to December.
- WFM RD&A Positions – Lisa—we sent an Outreach for 3 upcoming vacancies, please spread the word. We will let you know when they are announced next FY.

### GA Editor Feedback - All

- Your opportunity to share information:
  - **WGB:** none
  - **SW:** none
  - **SoCal:** nothing
  - **NoCal:** nothing
  - **Southern:** nothing
  - **RockyMtn:** it has been quiet; Paul supporting Big Horn w/one analysis
  - **Northwest:** expecting lightning and continued high fire danger. Holding OK now, but could change if more fires occur.
  - **NR:** A lot of complexes this summer. Q: can we turn off the automatic message on contained fires? A: We'll have to think about how that works – perhaps they need to contain them then the system will not continue to send the messages. Q: for merged fires, when do you call one of the fires “out” and what acres do you report when they both still have active perimeters in opposite directions? A: most of the fire reporting guidance says to do what works for you; some of these issues will be pushed up the food-chain this summer. Q: some concerns about how spatial fire management planning is really going to work with FMUs. A: it is largely a work in progress and centered on DOI for now.
  - Comment from Nancy Lee Wilson—NWCG Memo 014-2011 has some information on fire reporting with a comprehensive table.
  - **EGB:** nothing
  - **Eastern:** quiet with some going on in Isle Royale, NPS
  - **Alaska:** nothing
  - Comment from Rob—what if everyone on the fire that is on the Incident Contact List can view “Review Status” for fire analyses. Because people are making “draft” runs “Complete” in order to facilitate sharing them with colleagues.
    - Feedback: but they still don't show up on the Situation Map—Hood “Rejects” calibration runs now because if he “Accepts” then they show up on the Situation Map.
    - Feedback: Could also grant “permissions”, which is already an option and then don't run the risk of someone who doesn't know how to interpret the run.

### Action Items / Follow Up

- Fall After Action Review? November?
- Next call October 18, 2012 - 1300