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**Wildland Fire Management RD&A**

## **GA LEAD WEBINAR – April 19, 2012 – 1300 MDT**

**Call # 888-858-2144    Code# 9320471**

### **Action Items/ Follow Up from 4/19/12 Call:**

- Next Call – GA Editor AAR / Meeting – May 17, 2012, 1300 MDT
- FMU updates – data to Ben by April 30, 2012 for loading into WFDSS by May 4, 2012
- Email Lisa Elenz and Amanda McAdams if you want to be involved in new complexity analysis/ONA process being tasked by NWCG.
- If you are experiencing WFDSS security/access issues/workload for State folks in your area, email Lisa to let her know so she can forward through other channels.
- GAEs need further direction on how to handle non-Fed/State WFDSS access requests—what is the guidance? Rob?
- If you signed up to receive text messages for incoming fire behavior requests but did NOT get one for the Apple or Jordan fires in the last 3 weeks, email Rob to troubleshoot.
- Questions regarding data layers (use of bug kill layers, problems with boundaries, etc) can be forwarded to Ben, Rob, and Lisa.
- See the Letter of Expectation template in the 2012 SOPs posted on the RD&A website (link is in Section 2, page 10); comments to Tonja Opperman.
- If you have GACC-level SOPs for handling WFDSS requests, the RD&A would like a copy so that we know how to best coordinate with you. Please forward to Laurie Kurth.

## **Agenda Items**

### **Roll Call –**

**John Barborinas, Russ Babiak, Mike Boomer, Lisa Elenz, Kim Ernstrom, Mark Grupe, Marsha Henderson, Stewart Hoyt, Linda Kerr, Paul Langowski, Jason Loomis, Shari Miller, Caroline Noble, Tonja Opperman, Dan Mindar, Janet Passek, Mark Pater, Gwenan Poirier, Harold Riggs, Rick Stratton, Cory Winnie, Ben Butler, Marla Willey**

### **Action Items from GA Editor AAR**

- AAR Action Items List –
  - IMT role in WFDSS – Lisa: NWCG Memo came out this week; Lisa can send via email if you need it. NWCG had some clarifying questions only. This provides a starting point for agencies to work from. Lisa will check if it is going out through “official” FS channels. UPDATE: it looks to be coming through GACC chairs to the field.
  - ONA - Amanda/Lisa: We got a thumbs up on new ONA so that some things go to Type 3 instead of Type 2; hoping to have it implemented with WFDSS changes in late May. NWCG is assigning a “tasking” to OWDC and that is to get feedback from GA Editors to evaluate whether we need one process (Complexity Analysis + ONA). Goal is getting it



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cleared up in the Red Book. Anyone interested, please email Lisa Elenz and Amanda McAdams in order to get involved. There is no official person to send comments to at this time since it hasn't been tasked.

- Communication on role of fire managers in WFDSS –
  - Now that we have IMT role document, what happens? (This was covered above; waiting on any further agency direction that typically comes out after NWCG memos). At November meeting, there was concern that people at local units need better understanding of this role and it is still unclear whether this NWCG memo will actually solve the problem or if it needs more attention. We are in a holding pattern for now.
- Non-Fed access to WFDSS, IT security etc. – Lisa: Lisa attended Western State Fire Managers call, mentioned States need their own representative to track security paperwork; they weren't aware of the problem. Is this still an issue for GA Editors? Some folks said it is not a problem, but increased requests from academia/research. Lisa's interpretation is that this is a federal system and that type of access is not allowed. It becomes more complex when academia is asking for access when they are funded by gov't. Another grey area is access for ADs supporting fires (current direction is to grant them access and revoke it when incident is over, but this is difficult to manage for every incident this person works on, or when they work outside of the GA, and some do consulting outside of fire season using their continued access—fairness issue?). GA Editors who spoke up indicated they are not approving non-State/Federal requests at this time, but are interested in further direction on the issue. Send Lisa a note if they are having trouble in their area and Lisa will work with State folks on the calls she attends; allows focused discussion by GA.
- WFDSS notification of fire behavior requests
  - If you signed up for the notifications, did you receive Apple Fire request on March 28 or the one for Jordon Fire on April 13? If not, let Rob Seli know. Harold, Shari did not get the texts.
- Tim Sexton starts June 4 as the new WFM RD&A Program Manager.

### **WFDSS Updates**

- New WFDSS push approx end of May; there will be more information on the next GAE call:
  - New ONA
  - Weather fixes, herbaceous moistures
  - Decision Editor (under the hood improvements)



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### WFDSS Training & Help

- Website training materials (Tonja): If you go to WFDSS>Training page you will see WFDSS 101 materials Lessons 1-8. Three new lessons will be posted tomorrow: automated fire behavior, decision support tools, and relative risk. Also, we are posting 6 new fire behavior training documents on 4/20/12; please do not use the two that are dated 2011.
- WFDSS Support Videos (Tonja): Search for WFDSS on YouTube and you will see our video(s) at WFDSSSupportVideos where you can subscribe as we continue adding video training content over the next several months. We are hoping this will alleviate issues folks are having with accessing the video content we've posted on WFDSS Help.

### Geospatial Data

- FMU Updates (Ben): an update coming end of April; due to your Agency lead VERY SOON because due to Ben by 4/30. Schedule is posted to webpage. Will be finished first week of May.
- Interagency Historic Fire Perimeters (Ben): No longer accepting submissions, but working with Interagency folks to get dataset together and it should be completed soon and in WFDSS; may have a graphic to share on the next call (display data by decade, for example?).
- Sage Grouse Layers (Kim): Two different layers are coming for sage grouse; help will be updated to go with this layer. Layer will be renamed as per BLM requirement.
- Recent Data Updates (Ben)
  - Fire Weather Zones: We use this to pull the correct fire weather forecast; Nat'l Wx Service has been aggressive with keeping this updated, and so are we.
  - BLM Buildings: new source for this data, so this is new dataset.
  - Campgrounds (USFS and BLM): dual source layer, has been updated.
  - Wilderness Areas: updated (this is big-W from wilderness.net).
  - USFWS Admin Boundary: from cadastral data site, updated.
  - FS Aerial Retardant Avoidance layer: has been uploaded from FS Data Warehouse and it's enabled in everyone's preferences under "Fire Related". WFDSS only ingests this data and does not have any oversight regarding this layer. See help for information about who manages these data and who can answer questions about it.
  - There was a question regarding SMA layers (Nevada)...Ben said there is a request to get the data updated so WFDSS can use it, and Ben will work with Triplett to work it out. Contact Ben or send him information.



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- Question regarding Aerial Insect Detection layer ingested into WFDSS to see bug kill areas? Send Rob, Ben, Lisa a note on this so they can discuss. It's on R1 GIS layers website.

### Miscellaneous

- WFM RD&A SOPs, Letter of Expectation (Tonja, Kim). It's linked from the SOP guide, Section 2, page 10. This has not been field-tested yet, but based on our experiences last year; we will use it this year. Comments, suggestions can be directed to Tonja. We are open to modifications as needed.
- Help requests
  - Please make sure your contact information is current in WFDSS Address Book
  - A cell phone number would be really helpful for off-hours coordination.
  - How is WFM RD&A to handle requests and interface with the GA editors?
    - Central number as in northern rockies? They have a Forest Service document for who to contact; Shari can share this with the RD&A, but should it reside in a common area?
    - GA editor for the incident/on call?
    - Typically we wait 30 minutes for request to be picked up before we contact the GA
  - Sharing GA Decision Support SOPs/Protocols (Southeast, Southwest) other?? – Where should these reside? - Kim: we would like you to share these with us so that we know how to best coordinate with the GACCs using their local procedures. Send to Laurie Kurth; we will not post, but would like to read them.
    - PNW is working on an SOP for FS/BLM. Rick has drafted a series of questions that he wants requestors to answer; will send RD&A a copy.
    - Northern Rockies working on final draft of their SOP
    - SE has an SOP doc
    - Rocky Mountain has an SOP (couldn't understand Paul L. very well)
    - SW is working on an SOP (Harold).
    - Alaska has SOPs and will forward to RD&A



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## GA Editor Feedback - All

- Your opportunity to share information
  - Alaska—thanks for helping with the AK fire behavior workshop; they have 12 people signed up to help this summer instead of the usual 2.
  - Northwest—WFDSS is getting positive feedback from users in this region.
  - Northern California—training is occurring this month and next; rolling out info to IMTs soon.
  - Southern California
  - Western Great Basin—workshop planned in May.
  - Eastern Great Basin—no rep.
  - Northern Rockies—they are doing a workshop next week; are using the fire behavior documents that we are posting. Problems with WFDSS Lite with Blackberries—there is a browser security setting issue that we cannot offer a fix for and WFDSS is a secure site (<https://>); you have to contact IT—it has to do with accepting cookies and certificates and we cannot offer advice for fixing this. Thanks for helping with fire behavior workshop.
  - Rocky Mountain—no update
  - Southwest—Workshops went well this year; editing their SOPs.
  - Eastern—no rep
  - Southern—have had some activity with IMTs; continue to be dry.