

2015 WFDSS Geographic Area Editor After Action Review

Friday, November 21, 2014

09:00 - 17:00 (MST)

General Considerations

- From time to time there will be things that are “voted on” and attendees will be asked to raise their hands to show support. Please capture these hand raises by a combination of screen capture and tally.
- Morgan will be tracking the action items in a separate document.
 - Ben and Diane will also likely capture action items in the notes and this is okay
 - Action items should be announced to the group and agreed upon before being added to the list
 - If the note taker has a question about whether something is an action item they should feel free to interrupt the conversation to gain clarification
- Discussions may reference the GAE feedback comments, these were the responses received from the survey provided in October for feedback to the AAR and were emailed out with the GAE AAR agenda..
- Agenda items are outlined below and the notes should be entered under the appropriate heading.
- Note Takers - Diane Rau (AM) and Ben Butler (PM)

Roll Call

This will be captured from GoToMeeting and should be populated here after the meeting.

The image displays two screenshots of a GoToMeeting interface. The left screenshot shows a list of 24 attendees and 5 staff members, sorted alphabetically. The right screenshot shows a list of 18 attendees and 5 staff members, with some attendees marked as organizers or presenters.

Attendees (24)

Names - Alphabetically
Andrew Bailey
Brenda Wilmore
Brian Sorbel
Caroline Noble
doug alexander
Harold Riggs
Jeremy Sisneros
Jesse Duhnkrack
john barborinas
kathryn pyne
kathryn pyne
KIM ERNSTROM
Kristy Swartz
Larry Hood
Liz Struhar
Mark Grupe
Mesia Nyman
Peter Butteri
Reeve Armstrong
Reginald Goolsby
Rick Stratton
Shari Miller
Stu Hoyt
Tonja Opperman

Attendees (18)

Names
Ben Butler (Organizer)
Diane Rau (Organizer, Me)
Lisa Elenz (Organizer)
Mitchell Burgard (Organizer)
Morgan Pence (Organizer, Present...)

WFM RD&A Vision/Future (0905-0930 Lisa Elenz)

Request for recommendations to improve AAR and how we do this each year, as well as for ideas to improve monthly calls. Need to make sure we are hitting the right audience at the right time with regards to WFDSS updates and information sharing. Dont want to always be talking to the same group, would like ideas of how to reach greater audiences.

Action Items

Review of Survey Feedback (09:30-09:55 Morgan Pence)

Rick asked for clarification if this is was all the feedback received and the answer was yes.

Mention of names in feedback were stripped out but these edited comments are included in the list.

*Should we continue Quick tips on the monthly calls? 94% yes, 5% no. **78% voted***

*Move GAE round robin to beginning of the call rather than have it at the end? 44% yes, 56% no. **70% voted**. Stu Hoyt recommended folks share big issues or concerns up front, but then keep the report out at the end of the call. Emerging issues, see two down,*

*Calls earlier in the day? 55% yes 45% no. **55% voted***

*Would you like a separate time in the monthly call for GAEs to bring up emerging topics rather than a round robin? 92% said yes, 8% said no. **52% voted***

what can the RDA do to better provide assistance in the decision process or fire behavior analysis? GAEs want ability to upload non fed decision documents into the system. As IA partners, folks want to include documentation in total decision process. RDA stance is we are not the firebox. do not support uploading of outside documents, but they can be referred to by name, location, and or link to a digital version.

Lisa- emerging technologies group working on new ftp site that would be a robust fire sharing site. She can get folks in touch with these folks.

*Would you like the RDA to modify their response time to requests for help from the field? 82% yes (change to 1 hr) 18% no, 30 min works. **48% voted**. Perhaps an acknowledgement button would work, will begin thinking about a technical solution as well. Stu says it is not an emergency. More folks are going straight to the GAEs, this would help.*

*Did not finish this discussion. **Requires more discussion, will shelve it for now.***

<Break>

Action Items

Shari Miller- couldn't locate the Action items on the WFDSS website. We will begin posting them to the website in 2015

WFDSS - Where Have We Been? (10:00-10:15 Mitch Burgard)

IRWIN

IRWIN integrated with WFDSS and was very successful thanks to the support of Andrew Bailey and other WFM RD&A staff. Thanks to IRWIN there is now a unique way for fire reporting systems to talk to each other and recognize incidents.

Hardware Moves

- Moved Development system from Boulder to Sioux Falls, SD. Improved the hardware and increased performance and stability of the application (both training and production).
- Much of the hardware was nearly 10 years old and upgrading means we can now explore the possibility of improving functionality that was previously not possible due to hardware constraints.
- It may be possible in the future for pre-testing releases by a larger audience.

UCD Review

- Making WFDSS more intuitive
- Based on GAE Feedback
- First Steps being implemented in February

“Deep” FSPRO data pulled forward to improve analyses

- ERC classes burn day summary was brought to the front and made easier to access
- a histogram is now provided for as a graphical burn day summary

“Deep” Landscape Critique data pulled forward

- histogram buttons created so folks can explore the landscape data in a graphical representation

Hauling Charts

- hauling charts were added to better evaluate risk to firefighters
- Provides a visual display of flame length and allows you to strategically look at the landscape to find ways to plan tactics

NTFB Animated KML

- currently there is not the ability to display animations on the WFDSS situation map. as a work around you can now export an animated KML for near term fire behavior results and open it in Google Earth.

Review of 2014 Action Items (10:15-10:30 Morgan Pence)

Notes

*Would being able to turn labels off on the map image improve/meet the need identified in Action Item 14-1? 69% yes, it would help; 31% No, it wont help and I dont support it. **52% voted.***

Action Items

WFDSS - Where Are We Now?/ (10:30-11:15 Mitch/Lisa/Morgan)

one more release this year Dec 7th - 9th, 2014

- *Removing validation tab and adding a smarter cost tab*
 - Putting the cost under the Course of Action Tab does not seem like the most intuitive place to put it
 - The stratified cost menu would move out of the left hand menu and be placed under the Cost tab.
 - This will lend itself well toward a left to right workflow
- *KDBI - SouthEast 'Dynamic Layer'*
 - just for the southeast geographic area
 - well vetted, well used, understood application for a single geographic area
 - standard conversion table that can be applied to modify landfire data and create a dynamic layer to use for modeling
 - Based on the 40 fuel models
 - Optional drought-adjusted landscape for SE geographic area
 - This is an optional tool in WFDSS and will only appear for users/fires located in the southeast geographic area.
 - users can use the layer in WFDSS as well as download it for use outside of WFDSS
 - KBDI will be available nationally for viewing
 - This is a proof of concept for future geographic areas.
- *Gridded Weather*
 - *3 year project in progress to produce about 30 years of historic gridded Wx*
 - *Allows WFDSS to:*
 - *move the model inputs to the fire location*
 - *move towards adjusting inputs*
 - *see screen cap*
- *Merging Great Basin on January 1st, 2015*
-

Action Items

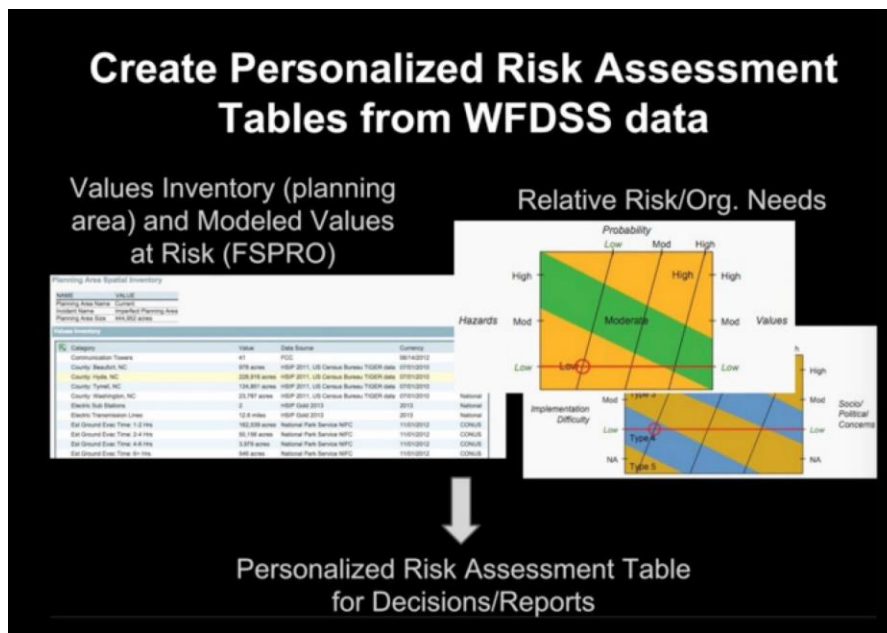
WFDSS - Where Are We Going? (11:15-12:00 Mitch/Lisa/Morgan)

New Contract

- Hopefully awarded in May, 2015, could be later
- Development must go static during award period (2-3 months)
- The contract could go to anyone (learning curve)?
- The new contract may be more agile and allow for development outside of "operations and maintenance"
 - This has the potential to allow us to do things like "modernize the site" and make changes to the "look and feel of the application". These are things that we struggle to do under the current contract mechanism.
-
- **2015 Task Orders**

- Currently there are three releases planned under the current contract (Dec, Feb and May releases) after those releases are complete the contract is up and needs to be renewed.
- 508 access for disabled users
 - Through the compliance efforts we have found novel updates that benefit all users
 - auto-save etc.
- Simple Decision Editor
 - An initial attempt to make WFDSS much more intuitive in 2015 (from the UCD review)
 - hybrid way of making the decision process considerably easier for the fire season 2015 and beyond
 - Will be seeking input from GAEs and other users prior to February
 - “beta” will be released in Feb., 2015
 - User feedback incorporated in May, 2015
 - Simple concept using vertical bars
 - 9 vertical bars that can be completed in any order
 - Incident Information
 - Wx and fuels
 - Modeling (optional)
 - Benefits (optional)
 - Risk Assessment (RR, ON)
 - Objectives (pre-populated)
 - Course of Action
 - Cost
 - Rationale
 - Limited formatting functionality - but fast, intuitive and easy
 - The current editor will be renamed to the “Advanced Editor” and will remain the same. The Simple editor will be the default option. Once you choose a decision editor to use you cannot move to a different one
 - hypothetical: if you publish your first decision using the simple editor and the the fire advances and gets more complex you can decide to move to the advanced editor. Once you go to the advanced editor you cannot switch back to the simple.
 - Simple to Advanced = okay
 - Advanced to Simple = not okay
- Fully functioning situation map available as a second window to reference any time.
 - The ability to “always be looking at a map” will be a reality
 - The map will function as a pop-up and can be open while you enter content and work through a decision
- More auto-saves
 - decisions, reports, relative risk, org. needs, periodic assessments etc.

- A better decision 'to-do' list available from anywhere
 - also for analysis requirements
- Auto-create Groups (complexes)
 - based on iRWIn data
 - complexes are recognized in FireCode and the SIT-209 and they can be referenced as so in WFDSS under the Incident Groups feature
 - This will not include the ability to write a decision on a group of fires/complex
- Upload (simple) Google Earth Files
 - As perimeters, ignitions, etc.
- Create personalized risk assessment tables from WFDSS data
 - The Risk Summit in December will likely flesh out more items for this enhancement



- New Risk 'Assessment' Tab
 - After situation tab?
 - would include relative risk and org needs
 - provide a bucket for future risk products
 - better fit decision flow
 - clean up left hand menu clutter
- User set defaults for situation map
 - No need to click your favorite layers on every time you log in.
 - You will be able to set which layers are automatically turned on when you log into the situation map
- Scott/Reinhardt Crown Fire Model in FSPRO
 - For testing - may or may not enable pending results
- "Smaller Items - Random Sampling"
 - Shape upload option set to blank (to avoid accidental loading of ignitions as perims. etc.)

- Landscape editor dropdown set to blank (to avoid changing canopy base height to 181)
- Production and training will have different look (to avoid accidental mis-entry)
- Org. Assessment will be changed to better match paper version
 - WFM RD&A will be soliciting GAE feedback on display and inputs
- Improved Map Functionality
 - Will indicate in layer switcher which M.A.P.s are active vs. inactive (folders, asterisks?)
 - Will investigate displaying unit shapes for more than one unit and implement if possible
 - Plan to add MTBS (dNBR) burn severity data to '84
 - Adding population density layer
 - M.A.P. label location customization.
- Better Spatial Data Downloads
 - Adding M.A.P number to .shp download
 - Adding .lyr file (legend attribute file) to all fire behavior model downloads
 - More meta-data on who uploaded perimeters (also addition to application)
 - Automated creation of fire progression (downloadable)
- Modeling
 - Add spotting delay to STFB for testing and possible implementation
 - Include more information in the fire behavior request to convey the finer details
 - Add a RAWS station data count (so analysts can find and number data gaps)
 - Longer text for analysis acceptance
 - Ability to delete all or selected notes that were copied over
- Auto-include more items in decision (RR and ON graphs, incident map and values inventory)
- Include periodic assessment information with decision
- Move Landscape editor below view landscape to create more natural "flow"
- Investigate options to incorporate spot weather

What do WFDSS GAE's Think Is Important (13:00-13:30 [Morgan/Lisa/Tim](#))

Webinars?

- Line Officers?

Documenting and Training Significant Changes Coming to WFDSS

- is the WFM RD&A gearing up to do webinars and put on trainings to talk about the changes to the application with the upcoming releases.

- Are the GAEs still doing webinars or should the RD&A be setting the stage by putting on some national webinars?
 - it would be helpful if the RD&A could come up with at least an outline of what to cover.
- The RD&A would like the GAEs to:
 - define the audiences for training materials
 - define the most effective methods for content delivery
 - i.e. webinars, outlines, powerpoint decks, online help, etc.
 - tell us if you are interested
- A request was made for the RD&A to put on several webinars and have them recorded for viewing afterwards
- The RD&A is actively working to edit the help content as the releases come out and will be pulling depreciated content as the features are removed from the application
- The "What You Need to Know About WFDSS" document is very helpful for the start of fire season to find out what is new and significant with regard to WFDSS.
- 130/190 refreshers are an opportunity to tell people what is new. Having a quick powerpoint that can be used during refreshers would be helpful.

Formalized Change Control Board for WFDSS

- Briefing paper/proposal was sent to the WFM RD&A to formalize a process for change control in WFDSS.
- The paper was received by the WFM RD&A several days ago and we have not had
- There is currently a process for managing a change process for WFDSS
 - This process is formalized and meets weekly to discuss and implement changes to the application
 - These changes are informed by the GAEs and other constituent groups
- The WFM RD&A will be providing more formal documentation on how change control is managed with regard to WFDSS
- An investigation will be made into the possibility of implementing some or all of the suggestions that were raised in the proposal that was sent by Shari on behalf of 20 GAEs (Morgan will send out so all can see).
- Many considerations need to be made with regard to implementing an aggressive change control board. Some examples include:
 - time commitments
 - the possibility of limiting development
 - limitations of change control in agile software development
 - .
- The WFM RD&A will be investigating how other fire management and reporting applications manage change control and will be sharing the results of this investigation with the WFDSS GAEs.
- The WFM RD&A will re-engage with the WFDSS GAEs at a later date to share findings and further discuss a path forward
- A distinction needs to be made between the types of changes that are made in the application. Currently there are two general categories recognized:

- Policy changes
 - These changes are made at a higher level in the agencies
 - These changes need to be approved and are requested by the Washington office and are regularly out of the control of both the WFM RD&A and the WFDSS GAEs
- Application Functionality Changes
 - These changes are often in the decision space of the existing change control mechanism but are frequently controlled at a higher level.
 - These types of changes are currently informed heavily by the field and the GAEs and are prioritized internally under the current system
- A recognition was made that regular and clear communication needs to be made on the part of both the RD&A and the GAEs to ensure that all voices are heard with regard to proposing and controlling changes to the application.
- More transparency was requested on the part of the RD&A by the GAEs
- There has not been much change to share with folks recently and this is expected to change in the future. The hope is that a new contract will be based on print cycles and as a result “flurries” of development can be completed and change can happen more readily.

Action Items

Spatial Fire Planning (13:30-13:55 Mark//Diane/Ben)

Notes: Mark participates in regular calls with the Fuels Planning group to communicate on SFP as it is adopted by units. Additionally will plan to put on some training targeted at data managers. R2- has a unit that has implemented and finding it may be a struggle for some FS areas because there is a lack of FS units as examples. DOI may have some good examples to follow, but the DOI is also rewriting their plans to better fit the mould, whereas the FS units may be trying to shoehorn existing plans into a format that doesn't quite fit. Some units may get hung up on the wording that WFDSS uses (such as management requirement for example where their plans say things like 'constraints' or 'mandates'). IFPC was asked to create a crosswalk between the languages in plans/agencies so it can be clearer to the units- Mark (representing that IFPC group) indicates that is something they are working toward. Shari- one of their units (Custer NF) loaded management areas rather than FMUs years ago and it has been more clear cut for that unit on getting the language in that worked for WFDSS. Requesting more than quarterly updates to the strategic objects....from Ben, we will be doing it 6 times in the next year. 3 in the Spring and 3 again starting in August. Should we put together a list of the units that have made the switch so others can see them? this could be a caution because just because a unit did it doesn't mean they did it well/appropriately. Some of these units are best worked on on a case by case basis.

Action Items

IRWIN Update and IRWIN Listening Session (14:00-14:30 Andrew Bailey and IRWIN Team)

Interested in hearing from GAEs about what worked and didn't and then answer any questions that might be on the table still.

What worked

- Having fires show up automatically in WFDSS and other systems cut down on redundant data entry.

What didn't work

- The ability to edit data and make changes (since WildCAD wasn't fully online this year)
- The southwest was already in active fire season when iRWIn came on board and there was very little information shared what clearly spelled out the process for data flow
- The fact that fires are not called out through iRWIn since FireCode does not call fires out.

Objectives Project (14:30-14:55 Tim Sexton)

This discussion will reference the three documents that were sent out with the agenda. These documents share a file name of "trip report"

- about a year ago, Tom Harbour said he had been looking at WFDSS decisions late at night and was not impressed with incident objectives and associated content. Tasked the RD&A to look into this and begin a project. Wants relevant incident obj that a team can use to develop obj in the 204 that are tiered. wants inc obj that are logical to a fire and tiered to a decision and to the LRMP. all should be aligned from a plan to a pulaski swinger. oftentimes we expose FFs to risk because they are protecting a value that is not a priority for a line officer.
- this summer, we saw actions being taken with hundreds of persons assigned with the LO didn't want them to attack it at all. overall obj for the project with tightening these up to not to expose our FFs to unnecessary risk. We should be exposing them consciously because there is something specific we want them to protect. Overall plans aren't great and Joann Fites is working with our group to provide guidance and suggestions to improve how we address fire on forest and unit landscapes. If plans are not done well, we can't expect our other obj to be aligned well.
- inc obj oftentimes lacked priorities and protection objectives.
- oftentimes IRs were listed as IOs and vice versa. and how high is an objective to a LO? is the LO willing to expose a FF to risk to protect it?
- inc obj are vague and it leaves the IMT to be the one that determines how much risk to expose FF to, rather than the LO doing it.
- IMTS get direction from WFDSS decision, inbriefing, DOA. often times they are all misaligned. might be direct conflicts between the documents. DOA to team to manage a fire, and oftentimes there are expanded appendix for the IMT for they should manage the fire on the first. Not inc obj or COA but more behavior type things.
- Three trip reports sent to Tom Harbour and others to evaluate concerns--wants regional fire directors to tackle this. GAEs will be involved as a result. Joann has created some papers that summarize many of the findings. Look through in the next few days and provide feedback to Tim/Lisa.

- WFDSS could be improved--such as the DOA template. perhaps even a section specifically for leaders intent for each unit. some sections could autopopulate, some can be updated as needed.
 - a lot of solutions are technical, many of them can be resolved better in communication but not all in WFDSS. tim says there are a variety of ways to address these issues and not all can be done in WFDSS. One thing, we will provide a variety of sample decisions with multiple types of fires to make sure everyone is on the same page. This should help folks understand what the ballpark is they should be in.
- Terminology is not being used consistency. May need to develop a glossary at some point to eliminate discrepancies. minimize size of fire is not a good objective and typically exposes FFs to unnecessary risk.
- avoid boilerplate phrases that are vague and lack clear direction.
 - Need to get strategic direction identified pre-season.
 - Training to Agency Administrators is key for some of this.
- WFDSS Guides, WFDSS for Dummies---unit created guides or region created guides. The RD&A has resisted a guide because the help should be sufficient to get someone through a decision. At this point, we need to create a new guide to help folks keep up to date.

Action Items

- *Send training materials that you would like to share to the RDA, to help guide/inform creation of new guidebook and/or to update the help and existing training materials.*

What We Are Working On (15:00-15:30 Lisa)

- *Proposal to change order of the Decision sections. Comments due by Dec 3rd. Hope to have these changes in the application in February release.*
- *DOA- with work on Objectives project, we need to yard up with different regions are using and identify what content folks are using. Then we can inform a template in WFDSS for units to use. Contact Morgan or Lisa if you want to assist with this side project.*
 - *Larry said a LO would be more interested in updating a 1 page DOA for an incoming team than a WFDSS decision. dont force them to have to go to WFDSS to create a DOA.*
 - *Shari and Rick---LO will look back on what they have used in the past and update. If they don't have one, they will use one from from a nearby unit.*

Action Items

- *Contact Morgan or Lisa if you want to assist with the above, proposed DOA project.*

Random, end of day items:

- *Brenda: the DOA thing, how can you check and see if someone is viewing something? we can see how many DOAs have been created. OR the hauling charts--can we tell if anyone has used it?*
- *what are the RD&As thoughts on prescribed fires in WFDSS and how they hang out in reports?*
- *IFTDSS--now under RD&A, interest in where its at (Shari) and what do we see. its still under contract with Sonoma Tech. new contract early in 2015, but Sonoma Tech will keep a hand in it until May. Kim and Caroline are the technical leads and Henry Bastian is the overall lead.*
- *expect to see some things after the first of the year, but contact Kim or Caroline if you have questions. Any one can get an account, it is easy to access and not affected by security protocols.*
- *Rick--send out next spatial upload dates---Andrew sent it to agency leads on Wednesday.*