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## Wildland Fire Management RD&A

### GA Editor WEBINAR – May 15th, 2014 – 1300 MT

**Call purpose:** to share information between and amongst the GAEs and the RDA to promote coordination and information exchange to and from users

**Roll Call:** Lisa Elenz, Marlana, Mitch, Andrew Bailey, Kim Ernststrom, Ben Butler, Brenda Wilmore, Brett Fay, Brian Sorbel, Diane Rau, Doug Alexander, Doug Havlina, Gwenan, Harold Riggs, Janis Hancock, Jeremy sisneros, Jesse Duhnkrack, John Barborinas, Mark Grupe, Mark Hale, Reeve Armstrong, Rick Sterry, Shari Miller, Tom St. Clair, Tonja Opperman

### Agenda Items

#### General- Morgan

- Call purpose, frequency, timing, topics
  - Preferences for call frequency? Over 60% want to keep the call once a month.
  - Keeping or changing call day? Overall group wants to keep the call day as it is.
  - Keeping or changing call time? Overall group wants to keep the call time as is.
  - Are topics of call appropriate? Topics are appropriate, Morgan will collect any other ideas via email.
- Our CWN List – has been shared through the email with the call agenda – please do not share outside of the GAEditor group – for use when needing to grab an analyst for your area
- Area SOPs- have received Alaska and PNW modeling request form for this year. Will roll over from last year the following
  - PNW FB request contacts
  - Great Basin DSC guidelines
  - Great Basin FS FB request protocol
  - Northern Rockies (FS) WFDSS SOPs
  - Northern Rockies link to GACC site with WFDSS direction
  - SW Decision Support Team SOPs (2012 doc)
  - Rocky Mountain Area FB request contacts
    - Please send any updates otherwise these will be rolled over for this year.

#### General- Lisa

- Status of RD&A Positions
  - Mark Hale in Vice-Laurie Kurth position, Caroline Noble will be taking the Vice- Jeff Jones position. Both will be starting on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The Vice Mitch Burgard position is in the works and should be decided soon.
- 508 compliance- please communicate with us if you have individuals in your areas with specific needs
  - The FS/interagency IT programs/applications are going through 508 compliance reviews. Some applications need to be adjusted to meet 508 requirements. If you have any staff



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that need assistance with 508 compliance types of issues and WFDSS please let us know as we can often help with those needs while some of the WFDSS issues are being addressed. We can send information on what 508 compliance includes if anyone needs more information – let us know and we'll send along

- Distribution of Tamara's project, sense making software and fire behavior perceptions
  - Tamara Wall works for DRI – she is working on a project to get feedback from field that "we are seeing fire behavior that we have never seen or experienced before" She will be conducting interviews/surveys of firefighters this fire season using Sensemaker Software to ask about these questions on "unexpected extreme fire behavior". She will be at the large fire conference and will be handing out information on how fire personnel can get involved in this project. She would like to get as wide a base of experience as possible to inform the project.
- Suggested Decision Organization changes survey
  - Lisa sent out information and proposal of adjusting the output of the Decision Document in WFDSS – re-ordering things (putting Rationale at the beginning of the Documents and then supporting information below). This would happen in the June release if it happened. 14 responses so far with 4 of them pretty strong on NOT changing anything due to training having already taken place. This would not change the way information is entered into WFDSS, it would only change the output (PDF) of the Decision Doc.
    - Shari mentioned maybe needed a little more time to discuss this and provide further input. Lisa – we can take some time to edit and incorporate comments so it meets needs. Shari and others have a lot on their plate right now and maybe don't have the time to dedicate to commenting and assisting.
    - Larry thinks it might not be a huge impact and in fact may help bringing the most important to the top and some people may like it (moving the strategic objectives to the bottom) – but could also wait to the fall.
    - Mark Hale doesn't think the impact would be too much of a problem for R9. Shari points out that it might cause some people to ignore the stuff at the bottom of the document...
    - Doug Alexander from Alaska says no strong opinions from the folks he discussed with.
    - Lisa says it will be an important thing for the WFDSS team to re-visit in the fall and yard up any feedback received through the summer as to how things could be adjusted further or changed back to the way it was etc.
    - Provide more feedback to Lisa if you have strong opinions one way or the other.

### WFDSS Updates –Marlena/Mitch

- Relative Risk- Barriers to spread misinterpretation
  - Low, Moderate, High for this part of the Relative Risk (Low says it has many barriers, High means it has few barriers). This is confusing folks. It has been noted and the text has been added: "High - Few" and "Low - Many"



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- Relative Risk Guide on the WFDSS site is not on the website anymore – it was the document that defined each of the elements of the RR. Lisa says we'll get that back up and will be re-posted in the next month. Everything had to be re-done after the NWCG changes.
- Larry offered to help update this if needed
- Organization Assessment requirements
  - Most FS folks that Marlena has talked to would like this to be required so it has to be included in a decision. Larry says this was an issue on a So. Cal fire – a type 2 team was ordered but a Flame Act report was not generated because the OA was not completed. BLM is requiring the OA to be done – most of the BLM folks didn't think it was a problem to have it required. Let Marlena know if you have any issues with this. Will probably happen with a June release.
- New release items
  - SCI in AK except FS – Brian Sorbel may have some questions/feedback – will submit to WFDSS. SCI will be generated for federal fires over 300 acres
  - Unit and GA report features - Can show summary report on the intelligence tab
  - Hauling chart (fire characteristics chart) – available with short term and basic - within results tab, the idea is to provide another visual way to assess risk – ellipse for each fuel model (relative to percent of landscape) shows the range of flame lengths that would be experienced – SURFACE FIRE BEHAVIOR only.
  - FSPro extras –
    - Results tab (event coverage) – ERC class burn day summary (some charts and graphs coming soon)
    - Winds: on the left side what you used as inputs and on the right side what FSPro Used
- User Centered Design Review update:
  - 232 comments and feedback have been collected
  - Different prototypes have been explored from these comments (examples: map always available, some features always present on the screen, different ways to access info, intelligence etc.) A variety of user interfaces are being explored and these wouldn't be implemented until the fall and maybe have some new interface features for next fire season 2015 – nothing will change between now and the fall/winter. More feedback will be needed as this moves forward later in the summer (likely July). If you are interested in staying involved let Marlena know.
- Highlighting changes made from GAE and field feedback on our website
  - WFMRA will list the changes that have been made to WFDSS that came from GAE and user feedback
- Email to users when new releases have updates that will affect users
  - Did not get an email out on this last release, but will definitely try to do that for the next changes. We would like to hear if you have an opinion on getting email messages from WFDSS when changes are made.

## Geospatial Data – Andrew/Ben

- IRWIN status - will go live next week 5/19<sup>th</sup> – 5/22 sometime.



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- How does it affect WFDSS: fires generating from a CAD will end up in WFDSS automatically. If no CAD then will get the info from FireCode. If entered from a CAD than you have to go back to Dispatch to change basic info on the Information page even after someone accepts ownership of the fire. If a 209 is generated than the info will come from the 209. If you need to change info at that point you will need to go back to the keepers of the 209. This is a major change and it will be a learning process as we go through the season.
  - Jurisdictional agency is owned by WFDSS so the owner of the fire can change the check boxes – do not have to go back to CAD
- Order of precedence: CAD, 209, then WFDSS, then FireCode – once a 209 is submitted the 209 takes over.
- Rx Fire and “Other” options – Use Training for RX planning, but if you have fire on the ground and is “active” than you could put the fire in production and check the RX button.
- Fire Management Unit/Strategic Objective shapes
  - Due May 19<sup>th</sup> from GIS leads – next update will be in August 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Terrestrial/Aquatic Retardant Avoidance Areas: submitted to developers and should be loaded into WFDSS soon
- Fuel Treatment Polygons - submitted to developers and should be loaded into WFDSS Training soon – if people have comments or notice things are missing or wrong they need to get with the Agency GIS contacts
- 2013 Historical Fire Perimeters – hopefully by the end of May
- Other Data Updates

## Review Action Items- Morgan

Updates on:

- 14-9 Lisa, potential FS memo on RCA – tried to get it on a fire directors call but didn’t happen. Still trying to sort it out, we will keep bringing it up.

## GA Editor Feedback

**Purpose: share coordination opportunities, anticipated fire activity and trainings, share feedback from WFDSS users, etc.**

- Alaska: Red flag warnings, new jurisdictional agency layer for Andrew coming soon.
- Eastern: Quiet
- Great Basin: Jesse – briefing with other GA’s on pre-season info. Jeremy asking about DOI Line Officers/AA WFDSS cheat sheet/guide etc? Has been brought up with some of the OWF folks and there is some discussion on putting something together – nothing formal happening as of yet
- NoCal – no report
- SoCal – no report
- Northern Rockies: some WFDSS training has already happened, more coming up. Thanks for being included in the UCD and Decision Doc proposal.
- Northwest: no report



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- Rocky Mountain: GA Editor Coordination call coming up soon, FS will be having a button pushing exercise and training on May 28<sup>th</sup> for the field. Had a coordination call with other GA's.
- Southwest: Jesse will try to pull together a call to help coordinate with other GA's in that area.
- Southern: no report.

### Next Call

- June 19th at 1300 MT
- Decision Making for Wildland Fire Incidents  
<http://www.wfmrda.nwcg.gov/docs/DecisionMakingforWildfireIncidents.pdf>