



Integrating
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and fire management.

Wildland Fire Management RD&A

GA Editor WEBINAR – Aug. 21st, 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: Andrew Bailey, James Newman, Kristy Swartz, Nancy Lee Wilson, Jesse Duhnkrack, Brett Fay, Ben Butler, Marlena Hovorka, Mitch Burgard, Janis Hancock, Shari Miller, Tim Sexton, Diane Rau, Lisa Elenz, Thomas St. Clair, Liz Struhar, Brian Sorbel, Kim Ernstrom, Stu Hoyt, Larry Hood, Cody Wienk, Gwenan Poirier, Harold Riggs, Ken Schmid, Caroline Noble, Craig Goodell, Rick Stratton, Sam Amato,

Notes: Tami Parkinson

Agenda Items

General- Morgan

- Understanding why/when analysts use Training rather than Production for current fires so we can improve our training in this regard. Poll Question. Why or When have you (or someone you know) used WFDSS Training for analysis rather than Production on a current active fire.
 - Poll results; 69% don't use training for real fire analysis; 23% do it when they prefer to calibrate on training; 13% when they weren't the analyst with the team; 9% when they weren't the on-scene analyst (note more than one choice could be selected so total is more than 100%).
 - Bigger picture it is more than analysis – the training site should be different than production because the sites look identical... should have a color/texture change so there is something that clearly differentiates training/production
 - Non fed analysts – worked on training side pre IRWIN because in the past an incident wasn't created
 - Some analysts don't feel comfortable running on production side
 - Some folks feel they may not have authority to do analysis runs on production side
 - RD&A recommendation is to have folks do their analysis runs on production side so that information is captured and shared appropriately.
- RDA Mentee and RxBurn assistance
 - Analysis requests have slowed down for Wildfire support but are there opportunities to help the field with some large landscape burns or something?
 - If so let Morgan Pence know and she will help coordinate

General- Lisa

- Fire Behavior Community status
 - This is up and running



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- Risk and Complexity Assessment Help/Guidance document status (Action Item 14-11)
 - Risk has been uploaded
 - Complexity should be uploaded and cleaned up this week
 - Will be posted on references page off RD&A website but will link off of the WFDSS site
 - Lisa will mail this out to the GAE's when completed

WFDSS Quick Tip – Ben

- Incident KMZ Download
 - There are many different KMZ downloads in WFDSS. Today Ben covered the following:
 - Incident List kmz downloads
 - Incident Group kmz downloads
 - Pending/Published decision kmz downloads
 - Incident List KMZ
 - You can find the instructions for creating an incident list kmz at the link below:
 - http://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss_help/index.htm?page=WFDSSHelp_Gen_KMZ_Files_Incident_List.html
 - Incident Group KMZ Downloads
 - To download a group kmz click the radio button next to the group you are interested in then click “view group map”. When the map loads click on the menu tab (in the third row of tabs) and choose “Group KMZ”. Select the layers you would like in your kmz and give the download a label.
 - You can then download the resulting KMZ from your “My Home” tab under the “My Activities” heading.
 - Pending/Published decision KMZ Downloads
 - You can find the instructions for downloading a pending/published decision KMZ at the link below
 - [Pending Decision](#)
 - [Published Decision](#)

Field Report - Colville Nation had some issues with shape uploads- recommended to have them submit feedback so we can help them out

WFDSS Updates –Marlena/Mitch

- **Tim Sexton**- State Inclusion in WFDSS
 - Meeting with Jim Hubbard – dep chief for state and private and Tom Harbour – They would like to see more access for the State and Local government where possible and where they are interested we should be granting them access to WFDSS, opening it up to those folks as much as they want to use this information
 - If there are issues with workloads please let the RD&A know and they can assist as needed
 -
- **Tim Sexton**- Incident Objectives – feedback from several site visits throughout FY 2014



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- We are not being as good with our incident objectives and making them relevant to the specific fire that is being managed
- DC leadership is seeing incident objectives that are pretty boiler plate and not site specific
- We are seeing some decisions where there are NO Incident Objectives – despite it being required to have Incident Objectives
- Protection Objectives are required within ALL decisions this is USFS only
- Should be relatively specific to the time of year,
- Need to be clearer with COA, need to articulate the values that need to be protected not just giving some directional direction ie: keep fire east of XX river, west of XX ridge etc... need to discuss the value that is needed to be protected or evaluated
- What is the most important objective associated with the fire, to help the team prioritize the actions that need to occur
- Careful of buzz words or phrases ie: this fire will use full suppression strategy – what does this mean, is it full perimeter control, point protection.... Be clear with the direction the line officer is giving the team
- Direction from AA is provided in various methods outside of WFDSS, this should be kept within WFDSS so it is fully documented
 - Orally at in briefing, planning meetings etc this should be captured accordingly, make sure this documentation is included in the periodic assessments and included in the next decision
- Tim/Lisa will share their findings with NWCG fire directors and OWF leadership so leadership direction can be consistent among the different bureaus
- WFDSS may be going the same route as FARSITE in that people are doing the training but they aren't around/available when the fires start
- New release items/when is next release-moved to mid September due to late arrival of 'blade servers' for the fire behavior models
 - Training site is down due to migrating to the new hardware
 - Will document what is/isn't working
 - Plan to move production over in mid September
- 2015 Task Orders-hope to have it awarded by the end of August
 - Still working on this, making some progress
- Working on O&M contract renewal for July 2015.
- Map loading issues? Has anyone heard of issues? Please let Marlena know.
 - Situation maps were getting bogged down, and not loading right
 - Initially thought it was bandwidth but may be a pull from USGS
- Training is down today and moving to a new server hopefully up and running August 22

IRWIN Status

- Current Status
 - Items changed in FireCode are now being pushed to IRWIN
 - FireCode updates to fix submission of duplicate fires underway
 - WildCAD 6 is online at ten dispatch centers:
 - IDGVC - Grangeville, ID
 - ILILC - Illinois Interagency
 - UTNUC - Northern Utah



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- SCSCC - South Carolina
 - WYCDC - Cody, WY
 - CALPCC - Los Padres NF
 - CAYPCC - Yosemite NP
 - ORMIC - Medford BLM
 - AZPDC - Prescott
 - IDBDC - Boise
- Additional WildCAD 6 sites should begin coming online in September
 - Still seeing duplicates, mostly incidents that began life as Forest Service ABCD Misc fires which achieved the size required for a unique FireCode - FireCode is not preventing these duplicates.
 - Also seeing duplicates from users going to WFDSS first, FireCode second. Cleaning these up as we're able, usually have to work with the IRWIN team and Sit209+FireCode development teams to clean these up.
 - 3 IRWIN Documents on the WFDSS Home Page:
 - An IRWIN overview:
<http://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/pdfs/WFDSSIRWINBasicInformation.pdf>
 - WildCAD 5 batch upload is disabled:
<http://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/pdfs/WFDSSIRWINBatchUpload.pdf>
 - Order of Fire Record Creation in Dispatch Centers without WildCAD 6 - FireCode, WFDSS, ICS-209:
http://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/pdfs/order_firerecordcreation_noWildCAD6.pdf
 - I will add white paper for dealing with False Alarms, Severity, Step Up, and other non-fire incidents by coding them as "Other".

Geospatial Data Updates: Andrew/Ben

- Fire Management Unit/Strategic Objective shapes
 - Next FMU Update August (data due from Agency fire GIS leads 8/25)
 - Subsequent update (final 2014) will be November (data due from Agency fire GIS leads 11/17)
- Fuel Treatments
 - Are in Production as of 7/22. Will work with data providers for a fall update.
- 2012 and prior historical fire perimeters were loaded on 7/31/2014 and added source field.

Review Action Items- Morgan

Updates on:

- 14-11 Marlana, status of guidance document on RCA (similar to old RR guidance) – should be completed within the next week or so

GA Editor Feedback

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

- Alaska: not a lot going on
- Eastern: not a lot to report



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- Great Basin: Red Book updates are due September 25th, Jesse is working on NPS specific WFDSS updates
- NoCal: Larry – Busy in N. Cal
 - SoCal:
- Northern Rockies: Things are tapering off after last week due to some moisture, Tim/Lisa on Thompson River incident reviewing Incident Objectives
- Northwest: appreciate all the help, on the down hill slide, things are tapering down
 - Duplicate fires has been an issue but working with Andrew to resolve
- Rocky Mountain: pretty quiet, some fires in general, no real issues to report
- Southwest: operations Normal
- Southern: all quiet in southern area

Next Call

- September 18th at 1300 MT
- Decision Making for Wildland Fire Incidents
<http://www.wfmrda.nwcg.gov/docs/DecisionMakingforWildfireIncidents.pdf>