

WFDSS GAE July 2021 Call Agenda

Call Number: **The number has changed- register for the webinar, the phone number will be included in the invite**

Webinar Link: **Register for the webinar series to receive a calendar invite for all the quarterly calls.** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8163448738341250060>

Call purpose:

To share information between and among the GAEs and the RDA to promote coordination and information exchange to and from users.

Roll Call:

BIA	BLM	FS
<input type="checkbox"/> Shawn Kelley, EA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raechel Owens, GB	<input type="checkbox"/> Bobbette Rowe, AK
<input type="checkbox"/> John Mosley, ON, OS	<input type="checkbox"/> Casey Boesflug, AK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raymond Parrish, EA
<input type="checkbox"/> Kim Kelly, NW, GB	<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Moore, AK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dana Harris (detailed), GB
<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Gustafson, RM, SW	<input type="checkbox"/> Dylan Rader, GB (detail)	<input type="checkbox"/> Linda Chappell, GB
<input type="checkbox"/> Brian Tonihka, RM, SW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andy Delmas, GB	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Gardunio (inter-agency), ON, OS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Grauel, National	<input type="checkbox"/> James Newman, ON, OS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patrick Doyle, ON, OS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reeve Armstrong, National	<input type="checkbox"/> Karly DeMars, NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Randy Striplin, ON, OS
<input type="checkbox"/> Paul Ryan, SA, EA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gwenan Poirier, RM	<input type="checkbox"/> DeeDee Cherry, ON, OS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom St. Clair, AK	<input type="checkbox"/> Will Brigs, SW Interim	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chad Pickering, NR
NPS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rance Marquez, SW	<input type="checkbox"/> Kristen Sanders, NR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Sorbel, AK	<input type="checkbox"/> Dianna Sampson, area None	<input type="checkbox"/> Ian Rickert (BLM OR/WA), NW
<input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Barnes, AK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Justin Boeck (non-GAE)	<input type="checkbox"/> David Quisenberry, SA
<input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Anderson, ON, OS, NW, GB		<input type="checkbox"/> Katie Hetts (BLM OR/WA), NW
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Ziegler, ON, OS, NW, GB	FWS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ben Curtis (BLM OR/WA), NW
<input type="checkbox"/> Dan Warthin, NR, RM, GB, SW, SA	<input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Saperstein, AK	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Nelson, RM
<input type="checkbox"/> Jason Loomis, ON, OS, NW, GB	<input type="checkbox"/> Peter Butteri, AK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cary Newman, RM
<input type="checkbox"/> Nathan Williamson, NR, RM, GB, SW, SA	<input type="checkbox"/> Peter Kelly, ON, OS, NW, GB	<input type="checkbox"/> Sarah Synoweic, RM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cody Wienk, NR, RM, EA, SA	<input type="checkbox"/> James Roberts, ON, OS, NW, GB	<input type="checkbox"/> Alison Richards, RM
<input type="checkbox"/> Windy Bunn, NR, RM, GB, SW, SA	<input type="checkbox"/> Rich Sterry, NR, RM, GB	<input type="checkbox"/> Harold Riggs, SW
<input type="checkbox"/> Missy Forder, National	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh O'Connor, ON, OS, NW, GB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abie Carabjal, SW
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Travis Neppl, SA	<input type="checkbox"/> Jon Wallace, SA	<input type="checkbox"/> Allan Hepworth, SA
<input type="checkbox"/> Calvin Farris, ON, OS, NW, GB	<input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Conn (non GAE)	<input type="checkbox"/> William Coates (BLM, OR/WS), NW detailer
<input type="checkbox"/> Andrew Ruth, EA, SA	<input type="checkbox"/> Thad Herzberger, SW, SA	<input type="checkbox"/> Chuck McHugh, area None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diane Abendroth (detailed), NR, RM, EA, SA	<input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Hinckley, ON, OS, GB	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Cahur, AK
	<input type="checkbox"/> Casey Teske (non GAE)	<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Waverek, ON, OS
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Mursu, EA	<input type="checkbox"/> Kristen Allison, ON, OS
State, County		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clint Cross, area None
<input type="checkbox"/> Kathryn Pyne, AK		<input type="checkbox"/> Rick Stratton, area None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Butteri, AK		
<input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Shelton, OCFA		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rocco Snart, CO		

Note taker: Caroline Noble

- Notes are posted [here](#)

Attachments: none

Agenda Items:

General- Morgan Pence

- Planned outages/reboots are posted to the [GAE Calendar](#)
- *Not supposed to be a big impact to user. Done during off hours. Broadcast message is posted.* The RDA has two people assigned to monitor WFDSS feedbacks/questions/issues for the remainder of fire season. The IIA Helpdesk can assist with password resets and simple questions/issues. IIA will elevate issues they can't manage to the RDA. Users can also use the Feedback button in WFDSS to report issues/questions or call our phone number on the homepage.
- **Emerging Issues- All Call Participants**
- *Gwenan RM-BLM– concern about having enough people in pool for modelers, analysts, etc.- maybe a single geo area support center is kegging up people. Could we consider multi-geographic area pool? Posing this question to other geographic areas.*
- *Ben from PNW agrees. Maybe pool up neighboring geographic areas? Eg. Just a pool for rocky mountains may not serve needs. Would need national level support (RDA would be key to this in her opinion).*
- *Tami – she and Tonja had been talking (just before Rocky mountain stood up their support center)- thinks coordinator at GA for MAC groups is important but we could share analysts across boundaries. Guidance from regions might be helpful to support memos that are going out.*
- *Patrick (?) – helps if you keep a list on box for Forest GAEs of all the FBS in the region. Also keeps list of all FBANS, SOPS, LTANS, GISS in region and puts notes on them about availability (retired etc.). they have a regional code for modeling assistance.*
- *Gwenan – have done all that. List has not resulted in many available people (like less than 5). Patrick supports having something in place to work across the regions.*
- *Cary Newman -emerging issue is lack of available folks. Shortage of analysts nationally. Being able to canvas other geo areas is a system we need to put into place. Noticing lack of SW people on call even though PL2 there.*
- *Ray in region 9 also interested. Region 9 is lacking folks.*
- *Morgan – perhaps Mark can speak to how we can facilitate another call to discuss this. Mark is in R1 with decision support now. Maybe go to quasi virtual rather than onsite to support the need. Morgan can help getting a call together for a similar time tomorrow for any GAEs that would like to participate.*

- *Action: Morgan will set up for 1200 pacific tomorrow Friday July 16th.*
- *Gwenan – second emerging issue. Minimum entry for Fire Behavior Specialist in WFDSS. Hearing that SOPL's play an important role and without them having prereqs for FBS, hampering getting work done. Asking if they could open up FBS role to SOPL's..still under tutelage of FBAN or LTAN. Tami thinks it's a person by person decision. If person has had 495, they are an LTAN or LTAN(t). Challenge in that 495 has not been put on for a couple years. Wondering if other GA's are opening up the prereqs a bit. Ben – usually follow prereqs, they have been having folks sign up and do online portion with intent that they take the class as soon as its available. Tonja-only missed one offering. Challenge is in opening taskbooks and getting folks to prioritize that assignment over DIV for example. Lots have people have attended and never opened a taskbook. She thinks opening up can work with conscientious folks who are paired with a good mentor. Tonja mentioned position paper.*
- *Morgan showed position paper excerpt written by GAEs in the past.*
- *Potential follow up for GAE's to update and make sure they have agreement in the language. Gwenan said she will follow up.*
- *Patrick has concerns. Have not had the challenge of a SOPL who had no LTAN or FBAN working with them. He is concerned that SOPLs want to do this. He wonders why? Who would they bounce it off of? A lot of dialog needs to occur here. SOPL's he has worked with have the quals and can converse with team on stuff.*

Fire Behavior Specialist¹ - Previous fire behavior modeling experience is required

Duties

- Selects and runs appropriate fire behavior analyses (Basic, Short Term, Near Term and FSPro) to support wildland fire decision makers.
- Accept (or reject) and document the inputs and outputs of the fire behavior analyses.
- Grant privileges to other analysts as needed.
- Distribute results and provide interpretation of fire behavior analyses to agency administrators, fire managers, Incident Management Teams, and Geographic Area Coordination Center.

Pre-requisites for the Production Side of WFDSS²

Users requesting this role in the production side of WFDSS should have the following courses and experience:

- Previous fire behavior modeling experience, including evaluating and modifying landscape files, historic climate, and forecasted weather as this role utilizes geospatial fire behavior models AND
- S-490 Advanced Fire Behavior Calculations AND
- S-492 Long Term Fire Risk Assessment and S-493 FARSITE, OR S-495 Geospatial Fire Analysis, Interpretation and Application OR qualified FBAN or LTAN with WFDSS Fire Behavior training/experience.

Users requesting this role should provide documentation of their completion of the minimum requirements to their agency point of contact (WFDSS Geographic Area Editor)

New GAE Welcome- Morgan

- Bill Coates (BLM/FS for NW) detailer as sub regional planner is ending we will remove him at end of week.
- Ian Rickert (BLM/OR for NW) is starting a detail as regional planner next week, adding him in at end of week.
- Goodbye to Barbara Knieling and Linda Chappell, will remove at end of month (Dana Harris (detailer) was added as GAE last month).
- If you have GAE changes please let Rick and Morgan know- we adjust the roles in WFDSS, the mailing list, and the IIA helpdesk contact list.
- *Eamon is going to be added somewhere?*

RDA Staffing- Morgan

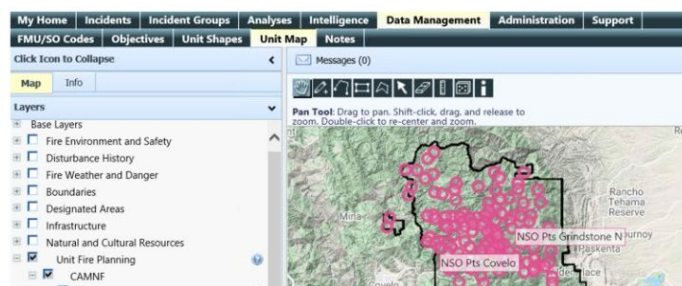
- Diane Rau is retiring at the end of July.
- Francesca Chavez is detailed with the RDA behind Reggie, she is supporting Classic WFDSS and will also work on Next Gen
- Two vacancy announcements with the RDA are available -
 - Visual Information Specialist, GS 9/11
<https://fsoutreach.gdcii.com?id=70D8CF6B6FFA44BE90F4AF5C5735122E>
 - Fire Technology Transfer Specialist, GS 12/13
<https://fsoutreach.gdcii.com?id=1C75C7058F104FA6A8190A9D7DB1314E>

WFDSS Quick Tip - Rick

- Other Unit shape limit on points was increased from 100 to 1,000

Increase limit on Unit Shapes (from 100/75k to 1000/150k)

When spatial fire planning was introduced, there were limits set on the complexity of shapes in order to maintain system performance. These limits were not ideal. In some cases, it caused units to artificially split their planning data into multiple chunks to upload them. In this example, Spotted Owl activity centers for the Mendocino NF had to be split into 4 chunks to upload them.



- Historical fire perimeters are now split out into two categories: Authoritative Source and WFDSS loaded perimeters. The two categories were automatically added to all users system preferences.

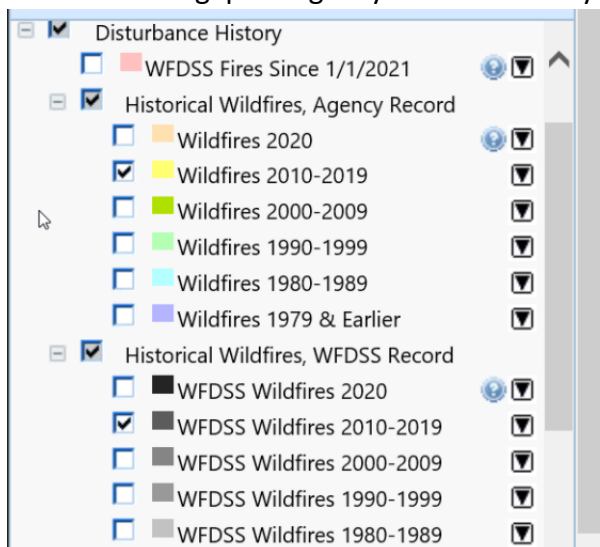
Historic wildfires in WFDSS

We recently made a change to how historic fire perimeters are show in the application.

Previously we took yearly updates from federal fire management agencies, and perimeters uploaded by users into WFDSS and synthesized them into a single dataset. Starting this year, we are displaying data from those two sources separately. In all WFDSS maps, the Disturbance History group now includes subgroups labelled “Historic Wildfires, Agency Record” and “Historic Wildfires, WFDSS Record”. The “Agency Record” includes all of the fire polygons supplied by the USFS, BLM, BIA, NPS and USFWS as their official records. The “WFDSS Record” consists of the perimeters uploaded to WFDSS and (for earlier fires) the synthesis of historic fire records that was made when WFDSS first came online.

There is substantial overlap between these two sets of records. There are differences as well. Some fires may appear in the Agency Records but not in WFDSS when the fires are managed by an agency that does not use WFDSS. In this example, the Pinehaven Fire outside of Reno was reported in the Forest Service agency record but was on State/Local agency jurisdiction and not documented in WFDSS.

- And the WFDSS perimeters are not policed for accuracy. The dataset includes the most recently timestamped perimeter for any given fire. If something is uploaded in error, this dataset will record that mistake. In this example of the Taylor Butte fire in Oregon, the Agency Record is correct. The WFDSS perimeter shown (in grey) was a contingency plan and the fire never grew to that size.
- Is useful to fill gaps in agency. Easier than trying to synthesize these 2 sets of records.



WFDSS O&M Status/Update – Morgan Pence and Rick Mowery

- Release 6.4.10 was released June 16th, see [release notes](#) for specifics. Notably we addressed a bug preventing the Helpdesk from resetting passwords for some users, and

many behind the scenes fixes to improve the performance and system for front end users.

- Release 6.4.10.5 was released on July 7th, see [release notes](#). It addressed two items: corrected a bug in which WFDSS was not properly exchanging the POO Jurisdictional Agency Unit and updated the Sage Grouse legend to be consistent with the new 2021 data. We will be working to correct the POO Jurisdictional Agency Unit for the records that were impacted from the bug.
- In the overnight hours of July 11th we did a repull of the WIMS data for all stations in WFDSS. We did this to address an issue in which ERC G values in WFDSS for some stations that had not recently been greened up were not closely reflecting values in WIMS and were elevated when compared to those values. While we are still working to understand why this happened we will be scheduling future repulls of WIMS data.
- There are currently no planned releases until after fire season wanes. We will schedule if we need to fix urgent or emergency issues.
- With the shift in release date for Next Gen to the Fall of 2022, we will be shifting our focus for the fall and winter to include mandatory upgrades to ensure WFDSS is usable for fire season 2022.
- AK LANDFIRE data will be loaded in August when the remainder of the data is available.
- Monthly reboots are posted to the Calendar. We make every effort to post a system message for planned and unplanned impacts to the system.

AA Information/Coordination: Tami Parkinson

- None for this call

Geospatial Data – Ben Butler

- FMU Schedule- *next update is in fall so data due September 1st.*
- Data Load Progress
 - Historical fire perimeter configuration and 2020 perims available
 - BLM Admin
 - Jurisdictional Agency
 - Fuel Treatments
 - Retardant Avoidance
 - Others

IRWIN Status – Andrew Bailey

- IRWIN V8 planning is getting started. We don't know yet what changes are involved.
- IRWIN will be undergoing maintenance scheduled for the overnight hours of July 27th. Midnight of the 27th to 0100 Pacific time on 28th.

- WFDSS will need to be disconnected for IRWIN during this time. WFDSS will still be functional but will not exchange with IRWIN. We will post a broadcast message when this gets closer to ensure users understand the impacts and timing.

WFDSS Next Gen Update – Sam Amato, Erin Noonan, Trevor Miller, Wes Hall, Jim Riddering

- Status of Next Gen- Sam
- *Have not been able to engage with user groups yet. Don't yet have testing environment. As soon as it is up and running, they will be tapping user group folks but likely active sessions won't start until fire season winds down.*
- *Incident browsing/Map Layers/Incident Details/Incident "stepper" sets a decision process to simplify UI. These will be available for user groups to review in fall.*

Round Robin:

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

- Alaska: Mike Butteri – not much to report. Trying to determine if fire season is coming to a close and should they make resources available to lower 48. Type 1 Team going or went out?
- Eastern: Good call today. Activity is in MN, particularly superior and boundary waters. Type 2 team on a complex. One incident in CA threatening to move south across border. Working with Canadians on that. May be reaching out for assistance. Question for group on how to handle that in WFDSS. Erin Noonan is a good contact for how to potentially create a cross boundary LCP.
- Great Basin: Utah BLM- despite indices it has been quiet. Number of user account re-enables- end up being password resets. Dylan Raider is officially the state fire planner. Likes Gwenan's thoughts about facilitating sharing resources across geo areas. Nothing from Jan or Andy Delmas.
- NorCal/SoCAL: Patrick – USFS have been a number of account access and re-enablement -busy since Feb. or March. Getting non-agency folks through the WFDSS internet security and awareness training. The link in WFDSS and on RDA site has been really helpful in getting folks through the process. Quiet until mid June and then it picked up. Just starting to get busy- not yet exceeding local capabilities. Does support sharing list of resources as previously discussed. Will be driving tomorrow during call.
- Amy – NPS – 5 parks are switching to spatial fire planning. Starting to upload PODs for SEKI in WFDSS production. Also have an atlas for creating atlas on fire behavior and POD leakage. Will have a new GAE. Eamon Engber will be detailed into regional fire planner starting Monday and will be a GAE.
- SoCal:
- Northern Rockies: USFS - Decision Support is set up. Supporting 12 incident management teams plus numerous of Type 3 and other unstaffed fires. ERC's breaking all time records. Rita Chandler retired at the end of May. Detailer getting up to speed.

- Northwest: Ben PNW USFS/BLM – activity picked up in last couple weeks. Holding their own so far in terms of capabilities for WFDSS. Looking forward to discussing sharing modelers tomorrow.
- Rocky Mountain: Gwenan – nothing further than looking forward to tomorrow’s discussion.
- Southwest: BLM – Fire season starting to slow down. BLM went spatial for all units this year. Shout out to Andrew Bailey for helping with the transition.
- Southern: Quiet summer. Greened up and rainy season. Sending folks west and don’t anticipate any needs.

Next Call

- Oct 21st, 2021
- Monthly emails will come out the third week of the month for August and September

Main WFMRD&A contacts for WFDSS related items:

- WFDSS Operations and Maintenance: Morgan Pence morgan.pence@usda.gov, Rick Mowery rick.mowery@usda.gov,
- WFDSS Data: Andrew Bailey and Ben Butler Andrew_bailey@nps.gov, bbutler@fs.fed.us
- WFDSS Role Issues: Contact the On Call Coordinator: 208-387-5253
- IRWIN WFDSS liaison: Andrew Bailey Andrew_bailey@nps.gov
- WFDSS Help Content and Training Resources and Helpdesk Liason: Diane Rau diane.rau@usda.gov
- Active incident decision and analysis support: All NFDSC personnel, best to contact On Call Coordinator (208) 387-5253
- IFTDSS: Caroline Noble and Kim Ernstrom, caroline_noble@firenet.gov, kim_ernstrom@nps.gov
- GAE call management: Morgan Pence morgan.pence@usda.gov
- When in doubt contact the On-Call Coordinator and they will route you: (208) 387-5253

References

Agency Administrator Toolbox: https://wfmrda.nwcg.gov/agency_admin_toolbox.php

GAE Resources: <https://wfmrda.nwcg.gov/wfdss-ga-editors.php>