

2017 Learning Summit – Pre-Read Material

November 6 thru 8, 2017 at Sacramento, California

Agenda: https://wfmrda.nwcg.gov/docs/NLOT/2017_Learning_Summit_Agenda.pdf

All documents are located on the NLOT web page: https://wfmrda.nwcg.gov/national_line_officer_team.php

Click on the individual links below for the specific document.

1. *RMAT Summary of Learning – 20171028 RMAT Summarized Next Steps Final*
https://wfmrda.nwcg.gov/docs/NLOT/20171028_RMAT_Summarized_Next_Steps_Final.pdf

During 2017 the Forest Service tested Risk Management Assistance Teams (RMAT) in an effort to provide support to fire managers. The Risk Management Assistance Teams conducted work in Regions 1, 3, 4 and 6. The RMAT conducted an AAR to determine the next steps to continue to provide support to fire managers. See link above for a summary of what RMAT members believe to be the most important topics to improve upon or areas that provide for the greatest return on investment.

2. *Additional Telemetry Unit Summary – ATU National Summary Preliminary Figures*
https://wfmrda.nwcg.gov/docs/NLOT/2017_ATU_national_summary_prelimFigures_101217.pdf

Additional Telemetry Unit (ATU) sensors provide spatially and temporally explicit drop location data for all US Forest Service contract large airtankers, very large airtankers, scoopers, and tanked Type 1 helicopters (only Exclusive Use helicopters). The RMAT used these data in 2017 efforts to enhance communications regarding risk and strategic planning between the aviation branch, IMTs, and AAs. RMAT's work in 2017 demonstrated a strong desire from these various players to have access to mapped drop lines in near real time. These data have not been widely used or shared within the Agency until fire season 2017.

RMAT team members have pulled and processed all available ATU data for 2017 (through 9/18, the date of the last pull) to demonstrate the wide-ranging utility of this information at various scales. The referenced pdf describes some of the limitations within the existing ATU system then presents a national map of drop activity for 2017. Various map extents are shown to highlight detail (Western US and USFS Regions). Incident-scale maps are then provided for the 10 highest cost USFS fires from 2017. These efforts are intended to highlight use alone and do not indicate effectiveness. Nor is the intent of this work to criticize or scrutinize tactical actions. Instead, this work is meant to share information about the availability of an Agency-owned dataset (ATU) that can aid decision support during an incident and facilitate tracking of annual Agency-wide metrics of usage patterns at the end of a fire season. For example, when used in near real-time, the objective information from the automated sensors (accurate depiction of the location and volume of drop activity shown on a map) coupled with operational knowledge and expertise from the field (context) greatly enriches conversations about the alignment of aviation strategies with fire management objectives. Additionally, these ATU data naturally support Learning Key Performance Indicator (LKPI) efforts; they allow the Agency to learn and improve by providing the ability to quantify use patterns over time. Agency leadership has begun to explore with key personnel the feasibility of a real-time mapping system that could facilitate enhanced AA/IC engagement around effective strategic aviation usage for the 2018 fire season.

3. Risk Communication – *Risk Management Communication SW NR Finalv2*
https://wfmrda.nwcg.gov/docs/NLOT/Risk_Mangement_Communication_SW_NR_Finalv2.pdf

On January 20, 2017, the Coordinating Group Advisory Council (CGAC) approved Rob Allen to develop a task group to work on the following:

- 1) Gather baseline information regarding models used to communicate risk to Agency Administrators (AAs) by Incident Management Teams (IMTs).
- 2) Make a determination regarding the effectiveness and efficiency of the models and methodology used by IMTs to communicate risk.
- 3) Make a recommendation regarding the best management practices to communicate risk to AAs.

Jayson Coil and Todd Abel are members of the task group. During the 2017 fire season, they engaged with multiple Type 1 and Type 2 teams in the Southwest and the Northern Rockies. These engagements focused primarily on determining what barriers IMTs faced when communicating risk to AAs and what actions or processes they have credited for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of these communications. Additionally, Journeyman AAs were interviewed to determine what they saw as indicators of successful IMT/AA interaction and what conditions prompted them to increase their level of engagement. This preliminary document summarizes their recommendations.

4. NFLC “Values” – *2017 NFLC Value Statements*
https://wfmrda.nwcg.gov/docs/NLOT/2017_NFLC_Value_Statements.pdf

The Wildland Fire System must continually evolve and improve to meet the demands of changing environmental and socio/political conditions. There are three primary focus areas that must be addressed to maintain stability in the system and ensure effective service delivery:

- creation and maintenance of fire resilient landscapes
- delivery of efficient and effective response operations
- establishing necessary infrastructure to support personnel

The National Fire Leadership Council (NFLC) Value Statements represent the context and values underpinning the NFLC program of work.

5. More Fire on the Landscape – *20171031 NFLC More Fire on the Landscape BP Final2*
https://wfmrda.nwcg.gov/docs/NLOT/20171031_NFLC_More_Fire_on_the_Landscape_BP_Final2.pdf

In April of 2017, the NFLC determined that a major priority area for the group’s Program of Work needed to focus on getting “More Fire on the Landscape”. A workgroup was formed and preliminary findings were reported at our fall meeting. The workgroup highlighted four major themes across regions in regards to achieving the goal of creating resilient landscapes utilizing wildland fire (both planned and unplanned ignitions) as a tool for creating resilient landscapes. These themes (i.e. areas where efforts should be focused to meet the goal of increasing the amount of landscape treated by wildfire) were as follows:

- 1) Education/Training for Line Officers and Fire Managers
- 2) Short and Long Term Planning Efforts
- 3) Social License
- 4) Clear Leader’s Intent

At this meeting, the NFLC revalidated that important work needs to be done around the “More Fire on the Landscape” effort. It was acknowledged that there is inconsistency across regions regarding Leader’s Intent, particularly as it relates to using naturally ignited wildfires to create resilient landscapes. The NFLC feels the workgroup should not proceed with efforts around “More Fire on the Landscape” without addressing that inconsistency first. The Learning Summit offers the opportunity to ask for alignment, clear articulation of expectations, and intentional messaging from Senior Fire Leaders to line officers and fire managers regarding the use of naturally ignited wildfires.

6. NFLC Program of Work (POW)

No Pre-Read, notes below are inclusive.

The NFLC POW identifies priority work that the NFLC members are working on which will serve as a catalyst to improve the wildland fire system to one that more reliably protects responders and the public, sustains communities, and conserves the land. POW includes:

- Type 3 Management – Discuss management of Type 3 fires and if Type 3 ICs are being stretched.
- Wildland Fire Policy – Define 2017 fire messaging for all employees, publish policy guidance on interagency terminology, and ensure consistency in guidance documents.
- Prescribed Fire Certification – Explore opportunities for the prescribed fire program, including certifications and qualifications, national standards, management of workforce, line officer/AA engagement, etc.
- More Fire on the Landscape – Identify ways to encourage line officers and fire managers to meet the goals of the Cohesive Strategy. Some of the issues/challenges identified include a need for specific training, short/long term planning, social license, and clear Leaders’ Intent.
- Taking Care of Our People – Develop a strategy around a future proposal for how NFLC will address Taking Care of Our People.
- National Fire Hire – Develop a fully designed and coordinated process for a national collective hiring program.

7. Level 1-4 Letter from the Spring – *2017 Fire Response Learning Review Letter*
https://wfmrda.nwccg.gov/docs/NLOT/2017_Fire_Response_Learning_Review_Letter.pdf

The letter, signed by Vicki on July 17, 2017, lays out the expectations for, *2017 Fire Response Learning Review*. Data collection, Key Performance Indicators (KPI), NFLC Red Book Review and this Summit were all discussed.