

Forecasting Tools



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Topics

- NPT Smoke Management Program
- Forecasting Tools
 - The Common
 - The Unique
- Challenges in Forecasting
- What We Have Learned

NPT Smoke Management Program

- Operating on the Reservation since 2002
 - Voluntary prior to the FARR
- FARR effective June 7, 2005
- Delegation Agreement effective June 27, 2005



Burn Permitting

- Produce twice-daily forecasts for agricultural, forestry and open burning
 - All burning within the Nez Perce Reservation is permitted and burned only during approved burn durations
 - Fires set for traditional or cultural purposes are exempt from the FARR burn permit requirements
 - Recreational fires are also exempt except during a burn ban

Forecasting Tools: The Common

- MM5
- BlueSkyRAINS
- National Weather Service
- National Interagency Fire Center
- National Center for Atmospheric Research
- Maps

Forecasting Tools: The Unique

- Ambient Monitoring Network
- ClearSky
- Montana / Idaho Airshed Group
- Bennett Fire Weather Services, LLC
- Field Coordinators
- Comment/Complaint Response Methods
- Interagency Conference Calls
- Local Contacts

Challenges: Complex Geography



Other Challenges

- Increasing competition for the airshed
- 'Conditional' burn days
- New NAAQS
- Changes in burn practices
- Gaps in data availability
- Angry people
- Public & burner awareness

Forecasting: What We've Learned

- Being familiar with the airshed is vital
 - Local wind patterns
 - Effects of terrain/topography
- On site observations are irreplaceable
- Difficult to make an informed decision based on one model or one parameter
- Mistakes do happen – learn from them

Contact Information

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