



National Fire Plan

WILDLAND FIRE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

MAY 11-12, 2005 MEETING SUMMARY COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO

WEDNESDAY MAY 11, 2005

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Mark Rey
U.S. Geological Society (USGS) – Robert Doyle (for Chip Groat)
National Association of State Foresters (NASF) – Jeff Jahnke
National Association of Counties (NACo) - Gary Gilbert
USDA – Dave Tenny
Forest Service (FS) - Pete Roussopoulos (for Dale Bosworth)
Department of the Interior (DOI) – Nina Rose Hatfield
DOI – Chad Culvert (for Rebecca Watson)
Western Governors Association (WGA) – Jim Caswell
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) – Bill Hartwig
Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – Larry Hamilton (for Kathleen Clarke)
National Park Service (NPS) – Karen Taylor-Goodrich (for Fran Mainella)
Intertribal Timber Council – Jim Erickson
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) – Bill Downes (for Arch Wells)

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

- (1) WGA Forest Health Advisory Committee (FHAC)
- (2) Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group

WFLC CHAIR POSITION:

Mark Rey (USDA) announced that his term as Chair of WFLC would end following this meeting. Rebecca Watson (DOI) will be the new Chair of WFLC.

2005 WILDLAND FIRE SEASON OUTLOOK (T. Harbour, FS; L. Hamilton, DOI)

Because of low snowpack, the largest area of concern is the Northwest. The federal land management agencies are prepared for the 2005 fire season.

2005 HAZARDOUS FUELS PROGRAM (A. Fitzsimmons, DOI)

Status of the fuels treatment program to date in FY2005 for federal land management agencies.

FUELS REPORTING: The DOI Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC) and the National Fire Plan (NFP) staffs will add change in condition class to WFLC fuels briefings, and will evaluate whether condition class change should be added to the monthly Healthy Forests Report.

10-YEAR NFP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE (C. Newman, FS; J. Hubbard, DOI; P. Orbuch, WGA)

P. Orbuch discussed the background on the 10-Year Implementation Plan Update; C. Newman and J. Hubbard reported that six task groups will put together the update to the 10-Year Implementation Plan. A matrix has been developed that contains all the recommendations that were presented, assigns each recommendation to one of the working teams, and tracks progress on those items.

COST CONTAINMENT REPORT UPDATE (B. Powell, FS; N. Hatfield, DOI)

B. Powell discussed the status of the implementation of the Cost Panel's recommendations. He also discussed the *Strategic Issues Panel on Large Fire Costs Implementation Action Plan*. The matrix includes recommendations, decisions on how to move forward, actions that will be taken, expected due dates, and the status of the recommendations.

MONITORING (MODULE 4) (B. Powell, FS; P. Orbuch, WGA)

B. Powell discussed the status of the four National Fire Plan/Healthy Forests Monitoring modules. Drafted and proposed by the WGA FHAC, Module 4 is the social and collaborative characteristics monitoring module.

IDAHO STATE FIRE PLAN WORKING GROUP (W. Wiggins, Idaho Dept. of Lands)

Idaho initially struggled with making the NFP viable in the state. In winter 2001 and spring 2002, the two FS Regional Foresters (Region 1 and Region 4), along with the Governor's Office and the State Forester, held seven meetings around the state to assess what people thought of the National Fire Plan; they concluded that collaboration and coordination could be improved. After the review, the partners developed a statewide implementation strategy focused on the county level. The statewide implementation group, led by Peggy Polichio, assists and guides and provides support. The group also has statewide risk assessments to determine locations at greatest risk.

[FIELD TRIP HOSTED BY IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS]

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2005

MONITORING FRAMEWORK (B. Powell, FS; A. Fitzsimmons, DOI)

B. Powell presented three Monitoring decisions to the Council:

- (1) Module 2.1 (Fire Severity) – Two options relative to a previous WFLC decision to use LANDSAT photos to measure burned area severity trends
- (2) Module 3 (Environmental monitoring of fuels treatment) – Estimated costs of implementation are under development
- (3) Module 4 (Collaboration) – The six questions presented yesterday by the FHAC

Module 2.1 – A. Fitzsimmons proposed purchasing LANDSAT data with a 29-year trend rather than 11 years of data; this will cover 95 percent of the fires that have burned across the landscape since 1982. He also presented a model output map of past fires. These maps would allow users to see what burned at high, medium, and low severity levels using a stoplight format (red, yellow,

and green). The LANDSAT data also provides the ability to link fire severity with fire effects on different vegetation types.

DECISION ITEM: ADOPT IMPLEMENTATION OF MODULE 2.1, OPTION #2 (29-year data) – BURN SEVERITY MAPPING.

ACTION ITEM: DEVELOP PROPOSAL – NFP and OWFC staffs will develop a proposal for rolling out LANDSAT to higher priority area(s) first, and present that to WFLC.

Modules 3.1 and 3.2 – A. Fitzsimmons noted the need for a decision on the methodology of Module 3 (questions 3.1 and 3.2) to pursue multi-party monitoring.

DECISION ITEM: APPROVE MODULES 3.1 AND 3.2 - SAMPLING PROCESS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS MONITORING.

ACTION ITEM: COST ESTIMATES FOR MODULES 3.1 AND 3.2

B. Powell, A. Fitzsimmons, and T. Quigley will price the implementation of Modules 3.1 and 3.2, and present analysis on a WFLC conference call.

ACTION ITEM: EVALUATE SOCIAL SYSTEMS PORTION OF MODULE 3.2

B. Powell will report back to WFLC on the background of the social systems portion of 3.2, and recommend by the next WFLC conference call whether it should remain as a part of the module.

Module 4 (B. Powell, FS)

DECISION ITEM: ADOPT MODULES 4.1 THROUGH 4.4 WITH EDITS

ACTION ITEM: PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON 4.5 and 4.6

B. Powell and H. Croft will consolidate edits and document concerns related to Modules 4.5 and 4.6 and provide a written response to WGA by the next WFLC conference call.

LANDFIRE (H. Bastian, FS)

Two LANDFIRE zones have been completed and the LANDFIRE website has been updated. Rapid Assessment workshops across the nation have been completed, and the work product will be available in the fall. Also noted the tie-in between the burned severity data in LANDSAT and obtaining accurate data for LANDFIRE. Given good LANDFIRE data, we will be able to better model fire behavior (provided example with LANDFIRE map).

ACTION ITEM: RAPID ASSESSMENT WORKSHOPS REPORT

H. Bastian will provide the results of the rapid assessment workshops by autumn 2005.

10-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE (C. Newman, J. Hubbard, P. Orbuch)

DECISION ITEM: ACCEPT PROPOSED STRUCTURE FOR THE 10-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE REVIEW – FORM SIX TEAMS.

DECISION ITEM: DRAFT WORK PRODUCT WILL BE READY BY THE OCTOBER WFLC MEETING.

COST CONTAINMENT REPORT ACTION PLAN (B. Powell)

DECISION ITEM: ADOPT THE COST CONTAINMENT ACTION PLAN AND CREATE AN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO INCLUDE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM NASF.

ACTION ITEM: REPORT TO WFLC ON COST CONTAINMENT ACTION PLAN PROGRESS. Cost Containment Oversight Committee will periodically update WFLC on progress made in implementing the action items for cost containment.

NATIONAL INTERAGENCY COMPLEX INCIDENT MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION STUDY (NIMO)

ACTION ITEM: PROVIDE A STATUS UPDATE TO WFLC ON NIMO RECOMMENDATIONS. National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) will provide an update to WFLC on the NIMO Implementation Plan (including assignments and dates) at the fall WFLC meeting.

NATIONAL FIRE PLAN OPERATING AND REPORTING SYSTEM (NFPORS)

ACTION ITEM: ESRI DATA ISSUE WITH NFPORS. J. Hubbard and OWFC staff will look into ESRI's request and report status.

ACTION ITEM: REVIEW POLICY ON PUBLIC ACCESS TO NFPORS DATA. NFP and OWFC staffs will provide a report on possibilities for public access to NFPORS by the fall WFLC meeting.

FALL WFLC MEETING:

B. Powell will coordinate, determining the location and date of the next WFLC meeting. Details will be shared on the next WFLC call.