



Bureau of Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of Interior

Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Mgt.
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DFWFM Conference Call Notes

May 10, 2011

Attendees

Offices: Central Office, BFRP & NIFC

Regions: All except, Navajo, Great Plains & Southern Plains

Central Office

Bill Downes, Chief

- June 13 – The Regional Forester’s meeting will be the first half of the first day at ITC.
- Two vacancies remain at Central office:
 1. Vice Vittello – closed and waiting on certification list.
 2. Vice Ryan – closes May 13
- Save the date: The joint National Forestry & Wildland Fire Management meeting will take place March 6-8, 2012 in San Diego, Ca. at the Catamaran Hotel. More information will be forthcoming in the fall.
- Indian Affairs PMS Quarterly report due in June. The 1st- 3rd quarter data needs to be updated. There are 4 new measures:
 1. Biomass
 2. Percent of biomass treated in plans
 3. Planning
 4. Planning
- Two data call sheets were sent out. Please provide your responses by May 13, 2011.
 1. Timber appraisal questionnaire. The data will be used to provide information to OST Appraisal Services in developing plans for land consolidation in the settlement of the Cobel Litigation.
 2. Forestry information request concerning Forest Management Deductions, direct payment of stumpage, and Tribal forestry enterprises. This data is for the Solicitor’s Office for working on the settlement of numerous tribal litigations.
- 2011 Forest Health Protection Funding – Still have not received funding for projects yet. It will be distributed when it arrives. It is important the use of this program continues in order to ensure Indian Country is able to leverage the program to the same degree it has in the past. To do this, we need to continue using local level expertise to document and develop strong proposals.

Bryan Rice, Associate Director- Resource Protection

- A new DFWFM Facebook page is beginning to take shape. The page isn’t replacing any formal communication tools; it is designed to expand our existing communication channels. The page can be found by searching under BIA Forestry.

- The State Department is forming a working group to develop international recommendations that will support and protect indigenous cultures. The BIA is assisting with this work group to voice specific concerns regarding property rights, forestry and natural resource benefits.
- The DOI published its [DOI Open Gov. Plan](#) in April, which details how it will improve transparency and integrate public participation and collaboration into its activities. As BIA and Tribal governments are already working collaboratively, it will not impact BIA as much as other DOI agencies; however, part of this initiative includes the IT Transformation group –a bureau-driven, customer-centric approach to IT service delivery, with a focus on delivering modern, agile, and cost-efficient services to department employees. This workgroup is developing tools to improve workflow and communication across DOI agencies. For more information, visit [the IT Transformation website](#) on the DOI Intranet.

BFRP

Karen DeBord, Forester

- Office staff beginning to work on A-123s.
- The USDA FS is evaluating funding levels for the [National Advanced Silviculture Program](#). To supplement classrooms work the program is starting to use webinars and local training when possible.

NIFC

Bodie Shaw, Deputy Fire Director

- The DOI AD Pay plan has not been released yet by the Department. When it is, BIA will issue the formal memo and distribute to the field as soon as it's available.
- Attended the Office of Self Governance conference last week with Sean Hart to discuss fire agreements. The Self Governance Advisory Council is creating a workgroup comprised of tribal, BIA and NIFC representatives to develop solutions to help move the issue of fire agreements forward.
- BIA-NIFC has several positions in the process of being filled. Please help us welcome employees to their new positions:
 - Gini Broyles – Administrative Officer
 - Daniel Sine – Budget Analyst
 - Interregional Coordinator – Jonathan Lee (in place June 20).
 - Asst. Director, Fire Use & Fuels – Selection made, not formal yet
 - Training Specialist – Selection made, not formal yet
 - The Deputy Fire Director announcement closed May 10.

David Koch, Associate Director- Training

- Some may have read the USDA FS letter announcing an extension of the 12 month currency period to 13 months. BIA will NOT move in a similar direction. Redcards will remain current for a 12 month period.
- The [Indian Country Fitness Challenge](#) results are due to Dave June 30. Each region's high scoring participant will receive a badge, with the top scoring regional person to receive national recognition at the DFWFM meeting in March 2012. Get your noms in!

Sam Scranton, Deputy Fire Use/ Fuels Director

- Reminder to Fuels Specialists: 2011 projects spreadsheet are due this Friday!

Dalan Romero, Associate Director- Operations

- Conditions in the southwest are heating up. Several high fire danger advisories and fire restrictions are in place. All firefighters and resources need to be heads up on fire indices and critical conditions if taking a fire assignment. For more information, visit the National Predictive Service to read the [seasonal outlooks](#).
- Regions are encouraged to submit their severity requests. Funding availability and needs assessments will determine priorities.
- Funding for the Ready Reserve and the Rural Fire Assistance Programs passed the House, but is pending approval in the Senate. Further information about the availability of these programs will be distributed sometime the week of May 16th.
- The [BIA Blue Book](#) can be printed online, but will be dropped shipped to locations. Look for them first week in June.
- The IHC certification standards have changed, however because BIA/ Tribes have more stringent signature standards already in place, thus there will be no changes this year; however, the language in the handbook will be updated next year.

Tony Beita, Fire Safety Specialist

- New [Emergency Planning Docs](#) are online at <http://www.bia.gov/nifc/safety/index.htm> . These resources include emergency notification forms and templates for emergency medical plans, Incident emergency plans, and the IRPG Emergency Medical Planning insert.
- Recently, several advisories have been sent out including a US-Mexico Alert. These advisories are a good resource to attach to resource orders or as part of briefing packets.

Myron Hotinger, National BAER Coordinator

- The National BAER meeting was rescheduled for June 6th.
- The Southwest Regional BAER Team is at the Locust Fire on the White Mountain Apache reservation. Darryl Martinez is team lead.

Joel Kerly, Aviation Program Manager

- BIA-NIFC plans to release a memo announcing the AMD electronic billing processes within the week to serve as guidance until the AMD informational bulletin is released.
 - Leadership is encouraging managers to spend time with their budget folks to ensure they are aware and understand procedures.
 - The AMD billing process does not change the agreement process. Agreements still need to be maintained.
 - For non-fire aircraft flights, regional budget folks will continue to do billing in-house, though electronically.

Scott Bradshaw, Associate Director- Planning

- FPA will have two reviews; a technical and business review of the model. These reviews should begin in June thru the Fall of this year.

- Fire Planners are providing training (via web conferencing) on producing a decision document in WFDSS. If any regions are interested in a 4-hr training, contact Nancy.Wilson@bia.gov or at 208.250.5558.
- BIA-NIFC has funded project RAWS and are now available to the field for prescribed fires. To check out a project RAWS(s), contact Nancy.Wilson@bia.gov or 208-387-5558.
- GoTo Meeting licenses have been assigned to the Central Office and BOFRP. Another license has been set aside for Regions to use. Regions must contact Paula.Landon@bia.gov 208-387-5565 (or Scott Bradshaw 208-387-5373) to schedule an online meeting. Once Paula (or Scott) start the meeting, the controls will be switched to the requester.
 - GoTo meeting max participants: 25
 - GoTo Webinar max participants: 1000 (recording capability)
- WFMI is updating their webpage on 5/17 or 5/18. When this occurs, the Data Pony will be unusable.

Gini Broyles, Administration Officer

- Gini is pleased to be on board as the new AO. She can be reached at Esther.Broyles@bia.gov or 208-387-5696

Next Fire-only Conference Call:

- May 24. Send agenda items to Robert.Carlile@bia.gov

Next DFWFM Conference Call Scheduled:

- There is no June call due to the ITC Symposium. The next call will take place **July 12**. Send agenda items to Bill.Downes@bia.gov