

Branch of Wildland Fire
National Interagency Fire Center
Forestry and Fire Conference Call
March 23, 2010

Attendees:

National Staff: Bill Downes, DC, Jim Erickson, ITC, NIFC Staff

Regions: Eastern/NW/SW/Eastern OK/ Pacific/ Navajo/Western/Ok. City/ RM

Regional Updates:

RM: As of March 14th, Bob Roberts is RM new Regional FMO.

Eastern: Concluding another successful mentoring program season.

National Updates:

Director – Lyle Carlile

- FOIA Request: Targeted at regions that have IHCs: Navajo, Pacific, RM, SW, NW and Western.
 - Data call for all IHC crew *rosters* for crews that went out on fire from 2007-2009.
 - Respond to Dalan_Romero@nifc.gov by Tue. 3/30.
 - CC: Lyle Carlile and Bodie Shaw with data.
- FPA
 - A whitepaper will be coming next week from OWFC making formal announcement 2010 data will not be used in current year runs. Data will only be used for learning processes only.
- Mike VanDermyden, AS-IA, OCIO Director for Special Program is working in partnership with NIFC and NW region to pilot new project to determine national radio communication needs.
 - Pilot project will look at Regional GIS data to determine where coverage already exists and find blank spots. Once determined, will prioritize communication equipment to get coverage in needed areas.
 - Conference call with NIFC, Regions and VanDermyden is TBD.
- Jobs Bill Data Call – NIFC staff appreciates your timely response. Kudos!
 - Any Questions, talk with Dalan Romero
 - Understand if funding does come, there is a concern funding will not arrive in time for distribution. Do not expect to have additional \$\$\$. Further info to come.

Deputy Fire Director – Bodie Shaw

- Youth Initiative – DOI is developing guidance for qualifying youth between 18-25 years old. If allowed to use AD's, the Branch will exceed 100 participants. NIFC requests regions to continue to capture the number of youth participants in the fire and fuels programs for future documentation.
- To provide better briefing papers and data to congressional inquiries, NIFC requests regions to provide Regional Fire Program statistics and a narrative on Fire program for FY09. **Bodie will provide a reporting template to the regions. Please plan on this being an annual request during the first quarter of each FY reporting out on previous FY.**

Fire and Aviation Safety – Tony Beitia

- Medical Standards Program Rollout scheduled for 4/12. Interim program current until contract is final.
- Look for agency guidance next week on how to pay for Emergency Medical Techs and Work Capacity Staff during work capacity testing.
- Annual Fire Refresher video is available and will be mailed by end of week (3/26)

Operations – Dalan Romero

- Blue Book is at the printers and will be out shortly.
 - Email Dalan_Romero@nifc.gov to request # of copies needed at the region.
 - BlueBook is delayed on getting posted online. Will notify the field when it is available.
- Interagency committee is accepting nominations to serve on committee to revise taskbooks. Dalan is recruiting nominations from Indian Country. Contact Dalan Romero for further information.
- Jacqueline Hawley is on maternity leave and will have detailers filling in for her for the next 8 weeks. If you have questions, continue to call her office or Dalan as backup. Scheduled detailers are as follows:
 1. Dennis Zentz 3/15 – 3/26
 2. Chet Gladstone 3/29 – 4/9
 3. Carlos Noise Jr. 4/12-4/23
 4. Elivs Handboy 4/26-5/7

BAER – Myron Hotinger

- National DOI BEAR Team meeting to take place in Temecula, Ca. April 12-16.

Admin – Nancy Hunt

- New Casual Payment Official list is posted.
- USDA FS released their AD pay plan – *separate from DOI, which is NOT released yet*. There is a 1.7% increase across the lower 48 states, with the exception of AK and Hawaii, which will reflect a decrease. A 5-year plan in place to reduce AK and Hawaii rates to sync with lower 48 states.

Fuels - Sam Scranton, Deputy Fuels Director

- Program of work deadline is set for 4/16. Call Sam with any questions.

Training – Craig Cook, Deputy Training Officer

- Look in IQCS for their IFPM records to make sure qualifications are accurately reflected.
- Craig will provide help on accessing useful reports for auditing the quality IQCS data.

Planning – Scott Bradshaw

- Look for fire occurrence data from Steve Larrabee to send out data on fire occurrence data this week to assist with GPRA purposes.
- DataPoney 1.03 is available on <http://www.myfirecommunity.net/>. This is the permanent location to find the most current version of DataPoney, which will have updates periodically. **Scott requests field units to download the most recent version from MyFire Community first before calling with questions.**
 - 1.04 will be available next week
- April WFDSS training class in ABQ is full. If you know of anyone who plans to cancel out of the class, please advise Scott who will fill with alternate.

Communications

- If you have feedback on these notes, email Robyn_Broyles@blm.gov
- Last week Returned from Herndon, VA after training on new Web Oracle Spaces Pilot Test. Further info to be released in Smoke Signals.

ITC – Jim Erickson

- WFLC meeting last week in DC discussed developing a Cohesive strategy between federal and non-federal partners.
- ITC is doing a cost comparison of preparedness funding between USDA FS and the Tribes. ITC will be sample 12 reservations for their research.
- ITC Symposium is coming up. If you haven't gotten your tickets, register at:
http://www.itcnet.org/issues_projects/projects/symposium.html