

**DFWFM**  
**Forestry and Fire Conference Call**  
July 13, 2010

## **Attendees**

**National Staff:** Bernie Ryan, ITC, BFORP, NIFC

**Regions:** All

## **Central Office Updates**

### **Sr. Forester, Bernard Ryan**

- The A – 123 questionnaires are complete for the year. Bernie reviewed the correct process to improve reporting and accuracy for next year.
- Next Regional Foresters Meeting is the week of Nov. 15-19. Location is still tentatively set in Nashville, TN.
- The “Foresters of the Month” Program continues.
  - This is a training/developmental opportunity targeted at BIA and Agency Regional Foresters to become familiar with Central Office. Leadership is advertising a 30-day detail with special experience in timber sales related projects. Central Office covers Per Diem costs.
  - Contact [Bill.Downes@bia.gov](mailto:Bill.Downes@bia.gov) for information.

## **BFRP**

### **Sr. Forester Bill Yemma**

- BFRP staff is working on inventory analysis.
- Web Portal Migration will take place in mid August after the migration onto [bia.gov](http://bia.gov) is complete at NIFC.

## **Regions**

### **Midwest**

- Archiving TFI data sheets.
- There is a need to update the electronic filing plan. Current schedule does not identify where to store electronic records in a safe place for archiving.

### **Northwest**

- The Draft Corrective Action Review is complete and will be out by the end of the week. They appreciate those that contributed to the review and provided assistance.
- BIA Spokane Agency has a new large fire called Line, currently 600 ac. burning near the wildland urban Interface in timber, brush and grass. Residences are threatened. A Type 2 team (Lentz) is in place. As of 7/14, a line was around 50% of the fire.

### **Pacific**

- It is unknown at this time if the LANFIRE contract held with the FS has yet to be renewed.
- IRPM Program is at Central Office for review. The Program will be an agenda item to discuss at the next Regional Forester’s meeting.

### **Western**

- Expects to complete 6 forest management plans by next quarter.
- FMO position at Fort Apache will be vacant next week.

## Southwest

- Working on Forest Management Plans
- The Laguna Forester position was filled.

## Navajo

- August 9-13, Navajo will host a training class to cover IAM-53 handbooks 2-4 & 7. The class will be at the ABQ Training Center. There are 100 spots available. Contact [Andy.Quam@bia.gov](mailto:Andy.Quam@bia.gov) for additional information.

## Southern Plains

- Draft Forest Management Plan for Anadarko are complete.

## Eastern Oklahoma

- Inventory Analysis for Choctaw Nation and forest development projects are in progress.

## Rocky Mountain

- The GIS Specialist at the Regional office is retiring. A new vacancy announcement will out in the near future.
- Some positions at Crow Agency are starting to fill.

## Great Plains

- Avery Thompson is the new Regional Fuels Specialist.

## Eastern

- An advertisement for the Catawba Tribe's forest inventory is out and they are receiving bids from forestry consulting firms for the project.
- The field work for the Coshatta Tribe's (Louisiana) forest inventory is complete.

## ITC

- The contract with ITC expires 9/30. Central Office will work on reviewing and updating the contract.
- ITC is updating their website. They are working on a proposal to develop a new "brand" to help market the website more effectively.

## NIFC

### Assistant Director, Training, Dave Koch

- Leadership received the IFPM master report. The report did not include tribal employees because an opinion from the Solicitors Office is still pending. The report includes a ranking of employees that expect to qualify by the Oct. 1 deadline. Ranking follows a High, Moderate, Low format. High = most likely to become qualified in time. Low = not likely.
- Dave is working with the supervisors of those with Low Probability rankings to determine how they will manage impacted employees.
  - Summary:
    - BIA
      - 32 employees are not currently qualified
        - 7 people are ranked as "Low Probability"
    - Tribal Employees:
      - 14 employees are not qualified
        - 4 are ranked as "Low Probability"

- Deborah Abeita is the new NIFC Fire HR specialist. Her position will remain in ABQ. She will not be doing classifications.

### Assistant Director, Operations, Dalan Romero

- National Fire Activity:
  - The fire activity in the SW and NW areas is moderating, but Western, NW, Rocky Mountain and Pacific regions are starting to dry out and fire activity is picking up.
- RFA funding is in. Dalan expects to approve documents by 7/14 in order to provide funding to the field immediately.
- Medical Standards Program:
  - New contract is in place. Eastern Region will begin testing the program by Sept. 15. Once approved, program will be operational by FY11.
- Model 52 Program:
  - The Model 52 committee is starting to collect information for the next round of Model 52 standardizations. It is important the field continue provide feedback and information to technicians in order to improve the standard type 6 engine. Please send recommendations to your Regional Model 52 Center Manager: [Dennis\\_Zentz@nifc.gov](mailto:Dennis_Zentz@nifc.gov), [Elvis.Handboy@bia.gov](mailto:Elvis.Handboy@bia.gov), or [Chester\\_Gladstone@nifc.gov](mailto:Chester_Gladstone@nifc.gov).
- **Please update Dalan's email address:** [Dalan.Romero@bia.gov](mailto:Dalan.Romero@bia.gov)

### Budget Officer – Maggie Moran

- Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Agreement:
  - At the request of USDO, Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), BIA Budget Officer is developing a Reimbursable Support Agreement (RSA) between the FWS-NIFC and the BIA-NIFC. The agreement will provide reimbursement to the BIA-NIFC for all costs associated with any BIA personnel assisting in the Oil Spill response and cleanup effort. FWS has requested and received similar agreements from the other DOI agencies as well. Interested AD must sign with the FWS.
- Funding cutoff date for NIFC managers is end of July.
- Dawn Eagle Star is returning to Mt. for a new position. Her position will be flown end of July as a GS-7/9/11.
- Budget Handbook is in final revision stages. The budget staff is working on outstanding Indirect Costs, RFA, Ready Reserve and UDO cleanup.

### Vacancy Announcements:

- Fort Apache FMO Position will be vacant 7/18.
- San Carlos has a vacant Tribal Forester position open.
- Southern Plains has a GS-11 GIS/ NEPA position open at the Regional Office. Contact [Mark.Sahmaunt@bia.gov](mailto:Mark.Sahmaunt@bia.gov) for information.
- Eagle Butte Admin. Asst. will be vacant at the end of July. Contact [Elvis.Handboy@bia.gov](mailto:Elvis.Handboy@bia.gov), for further info.
- NIFC Budget will have a 7/9/11 position open end of July. Contact [Magdalene.Moran@bia.gov](mailto:Magdalene.Moran@bia.gov) for information.
- NIFC Admin Officer is flying a GS-11 Administrative Assistant. Contact [Nancy\\_Hunt@nifc.gov](mailto:Nancy_Hunt@nifc.gov) for information.

### Next DFWFM Conference Call Scheduled:

August 10 at 1000 MDT. Send agenda items to [Bill.Downes@bia.gov](mailto:Bill.Downes@bia.gov) and CC [Bernard.Ryan@bia.gov](mailto:Bernard.Ryan@bia.gov)

**Next Fire-only Conference Call:**

July 27 at 1100 MDT. Send Agenda items to [Lyle\\_Carlile@nifc.gov](mailto:Lyle_Carlile@nifc.gov) or [Bodie\\_Shaw@nifc.gov](mailto:Bodie_Shaw@nifc.gov)