

**Branch of Wildland Fire  
National Interagency Fire Center  
Forestry and Fire Conference Call  
August 10, 2010**

## **Attendees**

**National Staff:** Bill Downes, Bernie Ryan, ITC, BFRP, NIFC

**Regions:** All except Navajo, Eastern & Ok. City

## **Central Office Updates**

### **Chief Forester, Bill Downes**

- The Indian Affairs Performance Management System (IA-PMS) is out for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter.
  - Aug. 16 the IA-PMS opens for 4th Quarter estimated data entry. The system closes Sept. 10 for Agencies and on September 20 for the Regions. The Central Office/Regions conference calls will occur September 21 - 23.
  - Oct. 5-7 - IA-PMS system reopens for Agencies to enter final 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter data.
  - Oct. 12 – Regional deadline to have final data entered.
  - Oct. 13 - 15 The Central Office/Regions conference calls will occur.
  - Oct. 19 – Central Office deadline to finalize data
  - Bill will send out 2011 Performance Management Data reporting schedule.
- Next Regional Foresters Meeting is the week of Nov. 15-19 in downtown Nashville, TN. Bill assures there are no flooding issues. He will send out agenda when final.
- The DOI International Technical Assistance Program selected Bryan Rice as the first BIA employ to participate in this program. He will spend 3 weeks in Tanzania developing resource management plans and other capacity building projects. The program is open to DOI employees, tribal members and retirees. For more information, visit: [DOI – ITAP](#).

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

- July 19<sup>th</sup> – The TAMS training sponsored 3 people to attend TAMS training. The individuals worked with contracting officials et. al to work through modules. A recommendation is being followed up on to develop forestry specific TAMS training. New classes are under development to target Line Officers and Foresters. In the future, training classes will be broken into three modular classes to meet target audience needs.
- Using AARA funds, the tribes participated in feasibility testing to assess their facilities to see if they can convert to facilities that can process woody biomass. Three projects were funded in the Northwest.

## **BFRP**

### **Sr. Forest Inventory Specialist, Karen DeBoard**

- Central office will be funding 6 scholarships for the National Advanced Silviculture Training Programs. Currently waiting to find out if USDA FS will provide two positions. If not, Central Office will fund 4 scholarships.
- Working on the Forest Management Planning Handbook. Draft is due out in Oct. for review.

### **Forester, Bill Yemma - Absent**

- Moving content from Inside Indian Affairs onto the new Content Management server. IA-OCIO is looking at using Sharepoint V.3 when the server transitions. The process is expected to be complete in September.

## ITC

### Technical Specialist, Don Motanic

- Jim Erickson is looking for volunteers to review the 2010 Cohesive Strategy. Contact [jim.erickson@couleedam.net](mailto:jim.erickson@couleedam.net) for information.

## NIFC

### Fire Director, Lyle Carlile

- Attended a Self Governance meeting in DC for tribes with a wildland fire program. Several tribes were in attendance to discuss a proposed a draft addendum for the multi-year funding agreement. The BIA Solicitor raised an issue with this approach regarding a tribe's ability to respond to fires off-reservation.
  - The Solicitor's opinion is that a cooperative agreement is the correct instrument to cover the suppression program.
  - BIA has recently received a Notice of Potential Finding and Recommendation from the Office of Inspector General that concurs with the solicitor's opinion.
  - Efforts will continue to develop a template, most likely a cooperative agreement, for use with compact wildland fire programs.
- Two individuals (1 from USDA FS and one from AFS) have been sent to Russia to act as advisors during their fire season. The Russians report at least 50 deaths and over 1.7 million acres burned thus far. The State Department may be looking to NIFC to provide support in the form of supplies. For additional background information on what is occurring in Russia, visit [America.gov](http://America.gov)

### Deputy Fire Director, Bodie Shaw - *Absent*

- The 2010 suppression funding is depleted. Bodie is taking action to determine why funds have disappeared when fire activity is slow this year. The Operations, Budget and Admin leads are investigating.

### Assistant Director, Operations, Dalan Romero

- Investigating suppression spending history for 2010. Regions may receive follow-up calls. As a reminder, when generating FireCodes, justification for cost expenditure need to be logical and well reasoned.
- The process for performing risk assessments are being re-evaluated. Contact [Dalan.Romero@bia.gov](mailto:Dalan.Romero@bia.gov) if you have feedback.
- Crow Agency, MT. has a new large fire called the Gyp Creek burning in timber, brush and grass. As of Aug. 12, it was 569 ac. and 75 % contained.

### Wildland Fire Safety Specialist, Tony Beitia

- Medical Standards Program rollout to Eastern Region is set for September 15 in preparation of their fire season.
- MDI will be sending emails regarding their Med-X program. All users need to have their profile email addresses updated to receive the email.
- The Safety section is updating their 2011 section of the Bluebook. Send feedback and comments to [Juan.Beitia@bia.gov](mailto:Juan.Beitia@bia.gov)

### National BAER Coordinator, Myron Hotinger

- Avi 2 Fire submitted funding for BAR funding. It is in the approval process.
- Early reminder to begin inputting FY11 ES and R treatment data into NFPORS. A memo will be released shortly.

### **Assistant Director, Planning, Scott Bradshaw**

- Represented Bodie Shaw at the EOG meeting on July 29, 2010. A few items discussed were;
  - The intent of FPA. It is not clear across most levels of the organization. Leadership has requested clarification and leaders intent be made known. It was stated FPA will be used as an allocation tool down to the Unit level. Clear leaders intent will be developed in the next month by Kirk Rowdabaugh (DOI) and John Phipps (USFS).
  - The field will disengage from performing any FPA analysis in 2011. Instead, this year will be used to “fix” the FPA program, perform sensitivity analysis, and add spatial analysis capabilities for the large fire module of the program. Between February and April 2011, a decision will be made whether to re-engage the field to perform a 2012 FPA analysis based upon whether the software is “rock-solid” or not.
- WFMI upgrade:
  - Users can reset WFMI password, but to do so the system email address needs to match your password address. Users may need to update user profiles.

### **Assistant Director, Training, Dave Koch**

- Working with HR folks to look at employees who do not meet IFPM qualifications. They are finding many employees are meeting qualification, but have not updated IQCS. As soon as folks meet qualifications, remember to update IQCS to reflect accurate situation.
- There is no opinion yet from the solicitor’s office regarding the tribes needing to meet IFPM qualifications. This is a slow process. In the meantime, advice is to look at wording in the funding agreements and tribal HR job announcements.
- IMT Succession Planning Project will meet with NWCG Aug. 19 to look at IMT1/2 team configuration options. Once available, will look for feedback from the field.

### **Associate Director, Aviation, Joel Kerley**

- In regards to the use of retardant, there has been *no* decision to stop the use of aerially delivered retardants by the court as of yet. “Ops normal.”
- There are no open orders for aircraft in Indian Country. All orders for aircraft have been filled. If the regions are in need of aircraft, contact Joel before looking at call when needed ships.
- New BIA Standard Position Descriptions (PDs) for all aviation positions are available. These PDs match DOI agency standards.
- [Melissa.Basso@bia.gov](mailto:Melissa.Basso@bia.gov) is the point of contact for AMS. If participating and have questions, contact her.

### **IT Supervisor, Luther Arizana - Absent**

- The Sho-Pai building continues the migration of BIA NIFC personnel's laptops from NIFC NPS's network to BIA's Trustnet. After Aug. 13, only 3 personnel in the Sho-Pai building will be left to migrate.
- IT is working on a VLAN approval with BIA's Configuration Management for BIA NIFC personnel located in the Jack Wilson (7 personnel) and Old Admin (2 personnel) buildings.

### **Administrative Officer, Nancy Hunt**

- The Incident Business group is preparing to rewrite the 2012 Yellow Book and will be soliciting info. Submit comments to [Nancy.Hunt@bia.gov](mailto:Nancy.Hunt@bia.gov)
- If there are any edits/ request for clarification for the 2012 Admin portion of the Bluebook, submit edits to [Nancy.Hunt@bia.gov](mailto:Nancy.Hunt@bia.gov)
- Use of the I-9 to determine statistics for the Youth Initiative may not be possible according to HR. A new form may need to be distributed to collect information. Additional info will be forthcoming.

- Reviewing DataMart reports to look at AD use throughout programs as part of request from Bodie.
- The Cert for the GS-9/11 Admin Assistant is out. A selection will be made shortly.

### **Mary Taber, BIA Fire Ecologist**

- Spoke about the Strategic Operational Planner Position (SOPL) in order to raise field awareness of the position.
  - The SOPL position is the bridge that connects land management objectives with modern fire science tools to help Line Officers and Fire Management Officers reach their land management goals when a wildfire occurs.
  - Currently, only one person in Indian Country qualifies as a SOPL. In order to raise awareness and recruit new trainees, an effort is being made to encourage the widespread and consistent use of the position on *any* wildfire expected to last three or more days. Managers are encouraged to look to partner agencies to provide assistance and to help train new SOPLs for Indian Country.
  - S-482 is the only required training class for the SOPL position. The class will be offered in the spring of 2011. A briefing paper, notes and additional information will be released in the near future.

### **Fire Comm/Edu. Specialist, Robyn Broyles**

- Continues to work with IA- OCIO to complete the BIA-NIFC website. We are in the stages of performing usability testing. 26 participants completed a Card Sort that will help determine the website structure. A [survey](#) to assess user needs and interests is also being solicited, which will close the end of August. An interview questionnaire was also distributed, which 5 people completed. Contact [Robyn](#) to add feedback for the BIA Fire Management website.

### **Vacancy Announcements:**

- 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.
- Fort Apache FMO and AFMO Positions remain vacant. Contact [Leon.Ben@bia.gov](mailto:Leon.Ben@bia.gov) for information.

### **Next DFWFM Conference Call Scheduled:**

- September 14 at 1030 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)
- Call in number: (605) 475-4333      Access Code: 979297

### **Next Fire-only Conference Call:**

August 24 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)