

DFWFM
Forestry and Fire Conference Call
December 14, 2010

Attendees

Offices: Central Office, BFRP, NIFC, ITC

Regions: Western, AK, Eastern, NW, Navajo, Pacific, SW, Midwest, RM, SP

Central Office Updates

Chief Forester, Bill Downes

- The House has passed legislation at the 2000 Funding Level for FY11.
- 2nd CR will go through 12/18. Expect to have another CR.

Sr. Forester, Bernard Ryan

- FY11 Forest Health Protection Plans are still on hold until USDA FS can provide listing that identifies funding levels for which projects.
- Timber Reports are in except for one region. Good Job and thank you!

Bryan Rice, Asst. Director, Resource Protection

- The first meeting with the newly formed Bureau of Ocean Management and Environmental Management took place last week in San Francisco. Attended to learn about Coastal Marine Ocean Policy and how it will potentially involve several western coastal tribes.
- Dec. 16 is the Tribal Leaders Conference, which will be web casted.
- The Forestry position in Central Office is in the process to be re-advertised.

BFRP

Tim Moriarty, Branch Chief

- Tony Recker, Bruce Card and Bob Bizal are all setting sail for retirement. We wish them a warm congratulation and thanks for their many years of dedicated service to the Bureau.

Bill Yemma, Forester

- Attended Climate Change meeting which provided an opportunity to meet many counterparts in other Bureaus.
- Web Portal and other Websites in the Regions are beginning built out.
- There is a new ability to restrict permissions to access folders on Sharepoint. If need specific, restricted workspace, contact Yemma.

ITC

Don Motanic

- ITC Quarterly Board Meeting was last week. Fish and Wildlife is trying to include Tribal Lands in with Spotted Owl Recovery Plan. Several Tribes are submitting comments.
- ITC Symposium Agenda is almost final. A survey will be sent to tribes to learn what type of research needs they are interested in.
- National Science Foundation is promoting / recruiting Indian Colleges to increase participation as part of the Indian Forest Assessment Team.

Regions:

- No updates.

NIFC

Deputy Fire Directory, Bodie Shaw

Boots

- Tony Beitia and the Office of Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) is drafting a position paper for the Department expressing whether boots will be provided as a condition of hire or if it will be at the discretion of the hiring official.
- The IFEC will be addressing the issue in January.

International

- The Department of Defense order to Israel was canceled last week, however the letter of interest developed for Australia mobilization showed to have value and will be looked at for future international mobilizations.

National Regional FMO Meeting (Feb. 8-11)

- The schedule allows a full day for the Regions to discuss challenges they would like to address with the NIFC staff. All National Program Managers and their staff are expected to be present and participate in the discussion.
- Leon Ben Jr. is on point to gather topics and provide to Robyn to include in the Final Meeting agenda.
- Lyle sent directions Wednesday to provide clarification on the intent, structure and product expectations for FMO participation.

Deputy Fire Operations, Jacqueline Hawley

- When Blue Books are printed, they will be shipped directly to the regions for distribution.

Deputy Training Officer, Craig Cook

- There is a movement within DOI agencies to formalize the training requirements for IS-700 and IS-800. These classes are required of all incident responders to be NIMS compliant. IS700 is a short course required of all incident responders, IS-800 is approximately a 4-hour course required for strike team leaders, task force leaders, unit leaders and above. Both courses are online and are accessible at the FEMA web site. In the past these courses were tracked within the IQCS system but were not a hard requirement, such as arduous fitness.

To strengthen NIMS compliance the Interior agencies are looking at making these two courses a hard requirement. Please encourage employees with internet access to complete these courses.

For ADs and other temporary employees without internet access, it is possible to teach IS700 as part of the annual fire safety refresher, RT130. Instruction time for IS-700 should not exceed 2 hours.

- Annually the Wildland Fire Leadership committee accepts applications for the “Paul Gleason Lead by Example Award.” The intent of the award is to recognize individuals who have demonstrated superior leadership qualities. If you know someone who exhibits leadership qualities in Indian country please take the time to fill out an application and submit it to the committee for consideration. Information about this award is at the www.fireleadership.gov.

Nomination due date is December 31,2010. If you can't make the deadline this year please take a moment to visit the web site to build familiarity for the upcoming years.

Budget Officer, Maggie Moran

- Fuels and Prevention Funding documents are complete and were sent out Tue.

Fire Comm/Ed. Specialist, Robyn Broyles

- The announcement of the BIA-NIFC Website will be sent out January 3 when all agency and partner agencies return from holiday break. Please visit www.bia.gov/nifc/ and submit comments, suggestions etc. to Robyn_Broyles@blm.gov

Indian Affairs Web Council

- Monthly Web Council meeting took place Dec. 15 to discuss the Position Description for Web Content Managers. The PD will serve as a supplement to current PD for individuals responsible for managing web content. The PD is an important step towards establishing the permanent management of web content throughout the regions. If interested in participating, contact Robyn.
- Reviewed and approved a new header banner format for the front page of the bia.gov website. The banners will no longer rotate and additional icons to make national news releases more accessible for public viewing will be added.
- Social Media will remain a major discussion item as IA moves forward with identifying possible uses and applications within Indian Country. Currently, IA follows the Departments guidelines, which permits applications such as Twitter, Facebook and Flickr. OCIO and IA Public Affairs Office will begin to work towards drafting agency specific SM policy guidance in 2011.

Deputy Fire Use and Fuels, Sam Scranton

- January Technical Writing Class is full.

Upcoming Regional FMO Meeting Schedule:

- Feb. 1-3 - Midwest Regional Meeting, Hinckley, M
- Feb.1-3 - Northwest Region
- Feb 8-10 - National Fire Mgt Officer Meeting, Boise, ID
- March 8-10 – Great Plains RFMO Meeting, Oacoma SD

Next Fire-only Conference Call:

- There will not be a Fire-Only Call in December.

Next DFWFM Conference Call Scheduled:

- January 11, 2010. Send agenda items to Bill.Downes@bia.gov and CC Bernard.Ryan@bia.gov