



Bureau of Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of Interior

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

September, 27 2011

Attendees:

	Central Office	x	Midwest Region		Southern Plains Region
	Alaska Region	x	Navajo Region	x	Southwest Region
	Eastern Region	x	Northwest Region	x	Western Region
	Eastern Oklahoma Region	x	Pacific Region	x	ITC
x	Great Plains Region	x	Rocky Mountain Region		

BIA-NIFC

Acting Fire Director, Dave Koch

- Carlile at OIG meeting all week

Associate Director – Fire Planning, Scott Bradshaw

- 10 project RAWS stations are available for fall burning. Contact Nancy at 208.387.5558
- FPA – 2012 Guidance will be sent out through the Directors Office (Mike Black) in the near future.
- 2011 fire occurrence records must be entered into WFMI no later than **October 6th**. The data pull for FY11 GPRA reporting will be October 7th.
- The BIA-NIFC Budget Officer position (GS-12/13) description was changed to the 401 series (Natural Resource Specialist). The position should be advertised in the near future.
- BIA Position Paper on Cohesive Strategy was sent to all Regional FMOs.

Assistant Director – Operations, Dalan Romero

- Fire Activity is moderating nationally.
- **Oct. 6** - GEPR –4th quarter reporting closes.
- NIFC is preparing to update the Bluebook. Submits comments to Jacqueline.Hawley@bia.gov and CC Dalan.Romero@bia.gov.
- BIA is working with BLM to reengage with the Working Capital Fund Program. More information will be forthcoming.
- Vehicle Domiciles – New direction from OWFC will be coming out soon that will allow select fire positions the capability to take fire vehicles home to shorten fire response

times. Positions and stringent guidelines are still being worked through, but new guidance will be coming in the near future.

- These guidelines will be included in the 2012 Blue Book
- Sideboards will need to be written into new contracts.
- If there is experienced fire specialists interested in detailing to the Alaska Smokejumper Program, contact Dalan to place recommendations. The nomination process can include tribal 638 candidates. Sending units are responsible for paying for Base-8 and travel; meals, lodging and overtime is paid for by Alaska.

Myron Hotinger, National BAER Coordinator

- The deadline for the FY12 BAR/ES treatments into NFPORS to ensure all credit is given to the projects is due this week.
- **Oct. 15.-** BAR/ES Accomplishment reporting needs to be put into NFPORS
- There will not be carry-over over into 2012, which means BAR funding will be a lot more competitive than what it was last year. IBAER Coordinators will meet next week to rank projects for allocations.

Associate Director- Fire/Fuels, Mark Jackson

- EMDS and PPS scores are preparing for integration.
 - EMDS- The Interior Fuels Management Committee recommended 32 overrides for FPU's, which was approved by the Fire Directors; however, OWFC did not accept the recommendations, and requested a quick analysis (independent of IFMC and Fire Directors). Based on subjective review of information provided, OWFC recommended 3 out of the 5 FPU's BIA submitted merited overrides, and from the 32 total recommendations submitted, 19 were suggested for overrides by OWFC.
- EMDS-PPS – BIA/Tribes ranked the lowest overall of all Bureaus in the scoring process; in conjunction with the other Bureaus, BIA is working with the Fire Directors in developing Management Considerations designed for fuels project equality amongst the Bureaus post EMDS/PPS integration. Fire Directors and IFMC recognize that neither EMDS nor PPS as they exist today fairly represent Bureaus fuels project allocations.
- PPS- In the future, BIA/Tribes must create strategies for successful ranking within PPS, relative to the other bureaus.
 - Regional Fuels Specialists should be preparing to meet in mid winter with regional fuels specialists to develop a strategy for scoring better in PPS. We recognize areas where we can strengthen PPS scores. Stay tuned for meeting dates and locations.
- The Vice Gerry Barnes Position is on the street and can be found at:
http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=102577716&JobTitle=Fire+Management+Specialist+%28Data+Analyst%29&lid=17613&rad_units=miles&brd=3876&pp=25&sort=rv%2C-dtex&jbf522=0401&jbf785&vw=d&re=10&FedEmp=Y&FedPub=Y&caller=advanced.aspx&pg=1&AVSDM=2011-09-20+09%3A29%3A00
- **Nov. 1** is the Due date for the voluntary Accomplishments Reports

Deputy Director – Fire/Fuels, Sam Scranton

- **September 30** – The 2012 Critical needs spreadsheet is due back to NIFC by 9/30 to expedite the funding process.
- The 2012 Fuels Position PCAS numbers have been sent out. The Regions need to work with their admin and budget officer to update funding strings.
- NIFC is tracking obligations weekly, regions need to do their best to get as much of this years' funding obligated.

- We do not anticipate any carryover funds in FY 12

Craig Cook – Deputy Training Officer

- The Prescribed Fire mentoring Program will be holding two, 21-day sessions January 17 and Feb. 6 at Seminole, FL. Another training session is in development, which will be at Mississippi Choctaw in March. The session will be for 2-week details.
- Is the field experiencing any trouble with the Online IQCS nomination process? If so, contact Craig Cook for assistance.
- If there are any needs for IQCS training, contact Craig. Training can be put on.

Administrative Officer / Acting Budget Officer, Gini Broyles

- The Senate passed a weeklong stopgap spending bill Monday the House is expected to clear soon. Senate bill, passed by voice vote, will fund the government through Oct. 4 at the \$1.043 trillion limit set by the debt limit law (PL 112-25) enacted in August. The House is now poised to clear the measure by voice vote in a pro forma session on Thursday, Sept. 29
- On Sept 20, a \$10.million dollar transfer was provided for BIA Fire Suppression. As of Tuesday, Sept 27, there is less than \$100,000. BIA NIFC was told we would not receive additional funding for the suppression accounts.
- CPC has closed processing for 2011 OF-288s.

Fire Communication and Education Specialist, Robyn Broyles

- Mary Taber and John Philbin are working with a journalist from Cronkite News, AZ to discuss the effectiveness of the Fort Apache Fuels Treatments. The reporter is working with the AP, which will strengthen the distribution of this article.
- InciWeb is undergoing an overhaul to be more user-friendly and available to users. New instructions will be released shortly that will help interested PIOs request accounts and become superusers to manage home units. For questions, contact Robyn.Broyles@bia.gov
- New pages have been added to the www.bia.gov/nifc/ website. These include:
 - Jobs Information Page - <http://www.bia.gov/nifc/jobs/index.htm>
 - IHC Programs Page - <http://www.bia.gov/nifc/operations/IHP/index.htm>
 - Fire Information/ 2011 Large Fire Data - <http://www.bia.gov/nifc/fireinfo/index.htm>
- The DFWFM Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/BIA-Forestry-and-Wildland-Fire-Management/186942744684280>) continues to grow. On average, 378 monthly visitors look at the site, which is up 29 users in a week (last week, was up 109). In the past week, 21 users have “liked” the Page. These stats tell the Facebook Administrators users are interested in the information being posted and continue to return / use the site as a place to glean information. If any FMO needs fire or forestry information posted to the DFWFM page that highlights the work being done in your region (other articles/ local papers have printed ect), send information, comments or feedback to Robyn.Broyles@bia.gov

ITC – Jim Erickson

- None

Important Upcoming Due Dates:

- **Oct. 6** - GEPR –4th quarter reporting closes.
- **Oct. 6** - The WFMI Fire Occurrence data is due.

- **Oct. 6** - NFPORS data due
- **Oct. 15.**- ES/BAR Accomplishment Due
- **Nov. 1** Voluntary Accomplishments Reports Due

Next Fire-only Conference Call:

- **October 25.** Send agenda items to Robert.Carlile@bia.gov

Next DFWFM Conference Call Scheduled:

- **October 11.** Send agenda items to Bill.Downes@bia.gov