



Bureau of Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of Interior

Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Mgt
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DFWFM Conference Call Notes

November 8, 2011

Central Office

Bill Downes – Chief Forester

- Bryan Rice is the new Deputy Bureau Director for Trust Services. Please remove him from your email lists.
- End of Year Timber Accomplishment Report is due **Nov 30**.
- Regional Foresters Meeting is Nov. 14 in San Diego, CA
 - 3rd day of meeting will be spent making a report concerning what's happening within their region.
- 2012 Regional Targets are in the process of being established
 - DFWFM has until Nov. 22 to have targets complete.
 - Forest Management measures - Be conservative with projections for the year; however, new ones need to be set to meet a higher target.

Faline Haven, Senior Forester

- Planning for National Meeting
 - Dave Koch developed guidelines for facilitators. He will send those out next week. Attendees of the DFWFM Planning meeting need to be prepared to discuss what will occur at the panel sessions.
 - The Forester Section of the agenda will be reviewed next week at the Planning Meeting. If you have feedback regarding possible speakers from your region, send them to Faline.Haven@bia.gov
 - By Thur. of next week, all documents should be finalized. We should see a letter from Mike Black to announce the process.

Dave Koch, Acting Associate Director, Resource Protection

- Planning for the March National Meeting:
 - Looking for additional panel members to join the “Managing Wildfire” and “Workforce Recruitment, Development, and Succession Planning” Panels. These panels will be insightful, interactive and entertaining for both panel members and audience.
 - The “Managing Wildfire” panel will focus on the flexibility inherent in our Federal Fire Policy for Managing Wildfire and will highlight Indian Country fires from the 2011 fire season and our changing wildfire management perspective.
 - The “Workforce Recruitment, Development, and Succession Planning” Panel will address recruitment options, workforce development opportunities and retention strategies, and considerations for succession planning for sustaining a diverse and capable workforce well into the future.

- Contact David.Koch@bia.gov for content suggestions and panel member recommendations.

BFRP

Tim Moriarty, Branch Chief

- Most of the staff will be present at the Forestry Meeting next week.
- Week of Nov. 28, BFRP will be moving.
 - The week after Thanksgiving – cell phones will be the best way to contact BFRP personnel.
 - May not have telephone service until January. Communications may possibility continue via cell phones. A note/ listing will be posted on the Web Portal regarding future contact information.
- Dave Wilson – The spreadsheet for planning initiative is due **Wed. Nov. 15**
- Funding and Paid Position Analysis – Goal is to distribute to the field by the first of the year. Once distributed, the field has six weeks to return. It will be part of the IFMET review.
 - If Reservations have questions, now is the time to address issues and ask questions.

ITC

Don Motanic

- IFMAT –III
 - A total of 21 tribes have been contacted for site visits. IFMAT-III met with the ITC oversight committee and will submit their site visit plan in the near future.
 - IFMAT-III plans to visit the Coquille Tribe and Menominee this winter.

Jim Erickson

- ITC, BIA and Forest Service are jointly conducting a review of the Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA - PL 108-278) to determine how familiar agencies are with this act, assess successes and challenges faced with its implementation and to determine the degree of interest in expanding its use. All interested parties are strongly encouraged to participate by taking a 30 min confidential survey at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/tribal_tfpa.

NIFC

Lyle Carlile, Fire Director

- There will not be a 2012 BIA-NIFC FMO meeting due to the DFWFM Conference and restricted travel budgets.
 - If there are discussion topics that would have been needed to be discussed at the BIA-NIFC FMO meeting, separate webinars with the Regions will take place once those topics are determined.
- Rather than have a national meeting to discuss the OIG Tribal Agreements, BIA-NIFC will hold webinars to discuss the Agreements Template.
 - The Ops Committee will be working on the process to standardize the template.
- Fire and Forestry leadership held a conference call with the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination last week:
 - There is an annual update taking place to update LANDFIRE data. It is understood there are several challenges with the dataset; therefore, the call was held to discuss possible inclusion of CFI data from Indian Country into the dataset. Fort Apache and San Carlos will continue their updates and pilot efforts

to incorporate CFI data, and Forestry and Fire Management will develop briefing papers to encourage tribal participation.

Bob Roberts, Assistant Fire Director

- The week of Jan. 9, BIA-NIFC staff will conduct a program review at Pacific Region.

Gini Broyles, Budget/Admin Officer

- Moving funding documents.

Craig Cook, Associate Director, Training

- Interested in participating in the Prescribed Fire Mentoring Program at Seminole? The closing date for application is November 20. Learn more about it at the BIA-NIFC Training site: <http://www.bia.gov/nifc/training/presmentor/index.htm>
- Truman Picard Scholarship Application is due January 27. This \$2,000 scholarship, targeted at Native Americans and Alaskan Natives promotes higher education in the field of Natural Resources. Learn more and download the application at the ITC website: <http://www.itcnet.org/>

Joel Kerly, Aviation Program Manager

- Deadline for the AMD interagency agreements have passed. If any are having trouble inputting the data, call Joel for assistance.

Dalan Romero, Associate Director, Operations

- AD Use
 - How much money and effort do BIA Agencies need to invest to maintain an AD Workforce (T2, T2IA, Camp Crews ect) for the interagency fire effort?
 - Will be requesting information from Regions regarding Type 2 crews and associated costs.
- 638 and Co-Op Agreements
 - The Committee is working with Bob Roberts and Sean Hart to complete the document.
- HDPD-12
 - There is a potential that Fire personnel who need to access a government computer while on assignment may be exempt from background checks for firefighters (including AD's). A final determination has not been made yet.
- Smokejumper Detail
 - NIFC is tabling the offer this year due to the current budget environment.

Tony Beita, National Fire and Aviation Safety Specialist

- Boot Memo – A Final signed copy by Kim Thorson is not finalized yet, but it is at the DOI level. The AD's will be paid out of Suppression; BIA employees will be paid out of Preparedness, which also include militia resources. As FMO's consider Budgets, need to be cognizant these costs will be drawn from Regional budgets.
 - Firefighters who are Arduous or Moderate qualified will receive at \$100.00 Stipend and will be paid through the Casual Payment Center. PFTs will be paid through a uniform allowance.
 - When the DOI memo is final, BIA will have a cover-memo to provide further directions. .

- Wilderness First Responder Class
 - Rescheduled: Boise, Dec. 6-13. A memo will be distributed to agency and IHC for specific direction for lodging and logistics.
- Radio Agreement Memo was sent out a couple months ago – BIA has an interagency Agreement with the Radio Shop. If you need them, contact Tony. It will not be posted to SharePoint.

Myron Hotinger, National BAER Coordinator

- Receiving funding out on a priority basis.
- Monitoring funding will follow, but it is not a priority need under this continuing resolution
- Requested 2.1 million to fund Emergency Management Stabilization
- Burned Area Rehab Funds (BAR)
 - OWFC approved the funds and the money is being transferred. When complete, NIFC will be able to move the BAR funds before the CR expires.

Steve Larrabee, Fire Planner

- Reaffirmed BIA-NIFC planners will provide hands-on support for WFDSS, as requested by the Regions when their units have large fires (or the potential for them). If you need BIA-NIFC support, it's best to order through dispatch process – the planners all carry a THSP qualification in ROSS. Planners will help develop the WFDSS decision document for the emerging incident, but units still need to remain aggressive in pre-loading their strategic Fire Management Plan data in WFDSS.
- Working on draft Complexity Assessment update for Western Region. Complexity analysis/rating elements were formerly Interagency and tied to IFPM. Per Koch, we've pulled the process back under BIA and some elements were modified to better fit the range of data and conditions in Indian Country. The BIA Complexity Assessment Handbook will be updated to reflect the changes. Aside from Western Region, we're been asked to update the complexity ratings for units in Northwest, Pacific, and Eastern OK Regions. On the call, Cal Pino asked for Southwest to be added to the list.
- Australians did presentations to showcase their road-map-like spatial FMPs, which are simple, appealing, and have potential to be more useful than our current, narrative format. Probably starting in Spring 2012, Planning Shop will draft spatial FMP prototypes for 3 BIA/Tribal units to see if this will be an acceptable/improved/approved format for our strategic fire management plans.
- FPA is actively into the 2012 planning cycle, which began on November 3. All Bureaus issued the Interagency Guidance for FPA via agency-specific cover memos to launch the new cycle. The due date for submitting new FPU-level analyses will be April 1, 2012.

Sam Scranton, Associate Deputy Director, Fire Use/ Fuels Director

- Joe Kafka, new GIS specialists came on board November 7. He can be reached at: 387-5572.
- All funding for Fuels and Prevention is in place for this first round of continuing resolutions.
 - A Critical Needs spreadsheet to fuels specialists was distributed to request second quarter needs.

- The Fuels National Fuels Strategy meeting will take place the week of Nov. 23. The goal is to develop a strategy to improve PPS scoring. There is a limited conference size. Only the Reg. Fuels specialist and GIS specialists will be in attendance.

Western Region

- Held a Western Region Crew Management Board Meeting last week – The Board is placing an emphasis on improving their Type 2 Initial Attack crews. Many units within the region have been able to meet the special needs requests of the ordering unit.
- Trying to get vehicles besides buses – Board approved concept to work with rental companies to provide trucks to mobilize the hand crews, which will allow them to divide into Initial Attack Modules.
 - A Board task force will be developed to determine how it can be set up.

Next Fire-only Conference Call:

- No Fire Only Conference call for the Nov. 29 schedule.

Next DFWFM Conference Call Scheduled:

- **Dec 13** Send agenda items to Bill.Downes@bia.gov