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## DFWFM Conference Call Notes

Date: August 14, 2012

### Central Office

#### **Bill Downes – Chief Forester**

- 2012 Appropriations – An eye needs to be kept on Regional unobligated balances. We will have a reduced budget in FY13, but as of yet, not sure what the reductions will be. Anticipating more pressure from front office as eyes turn to those balances.
- Received a cert Aug. 10 for the Branch Chief Position at BOFRP. A panel will be used to help make a selection.
- IFMAT – Making site visits this summer and will conclude in the fall. Don Motanic has more information.
- Tribal Forest Protection Act Analysis continues. NW Region received a visit. Appreciation was expressed towards those who are facilitating the team visits.

### BOFRP

#### **Bill Yemma, Acting Branch Chief**

- Inventories continue and working with partners in Western Region to share data.
- Tenure as Acting Chief ends Aug. 31

#### **Karen DeBord, Forester**

- NASP – The Regional Offices should have received the official memo encouraging BIA and Tribal forester to apply to NASP7; please distribute to the field. A list of past participants is available willing to discuss the program with prospective applicants.

#### **Dave Wilson, Forester**

- Funding position analysis is taking time to work through. Will be sending info to field for check.

### ITC

#### **Don Motanic**

- IFMAT has completed 21 site visits. Hoopa valley visit was deleted and San Carlos visit was added. Dates for future visit are TBD.
- ITC streaming videos of the ITC presentations are complete and posted to the ITC website.

### Regions

#### **Sean Hart, Midwest Region**

- Fire staff continues to support national incidents. The Forestry staff is working on forest plans. Six plans are complete; however, the Region is waiting on tribal approval to finalize them.

- **Dale Sebastian, Northwest Region**
  - NW Forestry put up a SharePoint site to post forestry related info.
- **Caleb Cain, Rocky Mountain Region**
  - A Regional BAER Team completed an assessment of the Ash Creek Fire last week and is currently assessing other fires in the region.

## **NIFC**

### ***Bob Roberts, Assistant Fire Director***

- Budget Info- Passing suppression funds down to the region in preparation for FBMS. It's a cumbersome process and other DOI agencies are not yet doing it. Because of the problems with projecting suppression costs, NIFC submitted talking points to DC to retain suppression funds at National level the same as BIA-NIFC does now.
- If you have 921 money to kick back to BIA-NIFC, please do so.

### ***Dalan Romero, Associate Director, Operations***

- Nationally, for the week of August 6 – 13, there have been 130 fires that have burned 2,551 acres of Trust land. Year to date, BIA has had 4,001 fires that have burned 503,826 acres of trust land.
- BIA is seeing an increase in injuries this year. Need to be aware of crew limitations, fatigue levels and adjust as necessary. Additionally, there is significant Initial Attack activity taking place nationally. IA resources have been going long and hard all year. With the prolonged activity, fire managers need to be extra cautious in monitoring fatigue levels as crews take fire assignments.
- Fire Codes- Over the past several years, Operations has taken on an added workload to open severity and suppression expenses from past years. There is an existing memo that outlines the process for opening FireCodes, which will be sent out again to reflect the needed Documentation necessary to open a FireCode.
- The Second Draft of the Interior Assessment is due COB Aug. 14. Comments were not requested outside the Associate Directors because there was less than 36 hours provided for a response.

### ***David Peters, Budget Officer***

- In the process of developing a Budget Board to help standardize budget process. When issues arise, regions will be able to learn from other regions about how to resolve issues as they come up and more consistently and frequently share information.

### ***Robyn Broyles, Fire Comm/Ed Specialist***

- Sent the DFWFM New Release template out again Aug. 13. Please ensure field receives the template and guidelines if putting out fire information. Also, if those authoring the Release can cc me, it helps to expedite fire info where we can share through other sources and avenues.
- The DFWFM Facebook page surpassed 1,000 followers Aug.13. While an informal mechanism, the Page is proving to be a source our public is looking to for a pulse on activities taking place in Indian Country. When we share successes, the Divisions stories can be brought to the attention of a broader audience in a timely manner. If a unit wishes to have a Page, I can work with the Unit and Indian Affairs to get one established. There is needed oversight, monitoring and branding standards the Division must follow, but once established, there is a support system in place that helps the unit maintain and monitor information.

### ***Mark Jackson, Associate Director – Fuels***

- NIFC has set a 0.5% carryover target for the Fuels program in FY12, currently we are at 78% obligated or spent. This is not acceptable for HFPAS standards. Regional Fuels Specialists have known of the carryover target since the National Fuels meeting in February 2012. The need to expend these allocations is known by Regional Fuels personnel, yet cannot be emphasized enough. Discussions have taken place with regions that are of highest concern to ensure targets are met.
  - Regions not meeting the carry over target will be subject to reduced budgets in FY13.
- HFPAS - Interior Fuels Management Committee developed a draft of the process to prioritize fuels projects for FY13 in lieu of a complete HFPAS run. That draft will be presented to the Fire Directors August 20, with the intent of having a Preliminary Program of Work completed by September 30, 2012.

### ***Joel Kerley, Aviation Manager***

- Regions are doing a great job releasing and sharing key employees to fill resource gaps. All aviation requests are filled.
- If any needs arise, give Joel a call and he will help mobilize resources.

## **Regions**

- **Forest Blackbear, Eastern OK Region**
  - Still experiencing moderate IA . With the additional resources, crews have been able to catch fires while they are small.
  - The Lagoon Creek Fire and Calumet fires are both expected to be wrapped up August 15. The Batone 3 fire was 100 percent contained August 14.
- **Tom Remus, Midwest Region**
  - Currently supporting other regions.
- **Cory Winnie, Northwest Region**
  - Ordered teams on the Flathead and Warm Springs Reservations for the Western Garsean and Waterfall fires.
- **Ron Recker, Pacific Region**
  - Thanks to the other regions for the assist on their large fires.
- **Cal Pino, Southwest Region**
  - The Geographic Preparedness Level remains at 2. Getting moisture off and on. Most resources are supporting other fires.
  - Preparing for tribal consultation meeting that will occur next week.
- **John Philbin, Western Region**
  - Fire season in the SW is not dead, Large fires continue. Four large fires are currently burning. In Northern Nevada, Duck Valley is hosting a team.
  - BAER specialists are assessing the Chimney fire and are now looking at Duck Valley for their next assignment.

**Next Fire-only Conference Call: Aug. 28**

**Send agenda items to [Robert.Carlile@bia.gov](mailto:Robert.Carlile@bia.gov)**

**Next DFWFM Conference Call Scheduled: September 11.**

**Send agenda items to [Bill.Downes@bia.gov](mailto:Bill.Downes@bia.gov)**