



**Bureau of Indian Affairs**  
U.S. Department of Interior

**Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Mgt.**  
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## DFWFM Conference Call Notes

Date January 10, 2012

### Central Office

#### *Bill Downes – Chief Forester*

- Dave Wilson is the Acting Chief of BFRP
- [Fire Resource Protection Job Vacancy](#) (GS-401 Fire Management Specialist 13/14) is available.
- The decision to hold the DFWFM Meeting in San Diego is still on hold. It has been approved by Indian Affairs and is currently, waiting Department approval.
- FY12 Funding (N3E), minor reduction in the funds compared to FY11. \$375K reduction. Notifications will be sent to the regions for Forest Development, Woodlands Funding and Timber Harvest Initiative. Will need to know which funds will be going to Self Governance tribes and for what amounts.
- Performance Management Data – Bill read regional corrections, which need to be corrected and certified by the Regional Director by 1/11/12.

#### *Faline Haven, Senior Forester*

- Waiver for Forest Management Deductions – waiting to receive the draft opinion that will clarify what will separate the self governance tribes and PL 638. Ruling will be determined by mid to end Feb.

### BFRP

#### *Dave Wilson, Acting Chief*

- Still do not have phones. Email them or call cell phones. May be three weeks before they are online.
- BFRP's New Address:

Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management  
**BRANCH OF FOREST RESOURCES PLANNING**  
13922 Denver West Parkway, Suite 350  
Lakewood, Colorado 80401
- FMIP funding – once the dollars are known, will distribute.
- Regional Foresters Meeting is in SD – will be sending the Biomass FAQs to clarify answers.

### ITC

#### *Jim Erickson*

- ITC Symposium will be May 14-17 at Warm Springs this year. The agenda is being finalized and will be sent out shortly.

### Regions

- SW- New Forester for Zuni arrives
- Eastern – New FMO in place – Reese Kerbow, coming from Southern Pueblos' agency.

## **NIFC**

### ***Joel Kerley, Acting Fire Director and Aviation Fire Director***

- Staff at NIFC is conducting the Pacific Review this week. Most staff is out.
- Budget – best case scenario – NIFC will see the budget in late Feb. At this time, we won't be seeing any \$ until late Feb. probably march.
- Fire activity on the Blackfeet Reservation caught media attention this past week. Great Plains is also experiencing fire activity.
- The IHC meeting will be canceled if the DFWFM meeting is canceled, but will be rescheduled at a later date if that is the case.

### ***Aviation***

- Discussed adding a First Responder Course at the end of the aviation meeting. Trainees will include helicopter managers and their assistants.

### ***Dave Koch, Associate Director, Training***

- Working at Central Office on a 1-month detail through January.
- Attended OWF meeting Monday. There is a renewed effort by Department to emphasize hiring of vets coming back from service in Iraq and Afghanistan et al. Each of the Bureaus were asked that if given new money, how many veterans could each Bureau employ throughout BIA and Tribal programs. A commitment of \$4 Million over a 3-year period, if this funding became available was suggested. However, it is important leadership doesn't reprioritize existing dollars for hiring vets in a way that would decrease tribal employment.
- Working on a standard agreement with individual tribes to release data to the LANDFIRE program. This program informs the EMDS side of the NFMAS model, and as such, is important to for fuels budget formulation. Prior to the release of data, Tribes need to be consulted. Fort Apache is a model so far, but there is a need for one standard template. Once the template is approved, the Regions will drive the process to consult the tribes to get approval to release the data. The LANDFIRE data is also important to the National Cohesive Strategy.
- Seeking Solicitors opinion on off-reservation fire assignment by tribal employees under 638 contracts. OIG Report on BIA Wildland Fire Suppression completed July, 2011. Also working on standard agreement templates.
- A concept paper was sent out to discuss the inclusion of a faller and sawyer position within the 310-1. Please provide feedback to Dave by Feb 3.

### ***Myron Hotinger, BAER Coordinator***

- Still sending ES funding letters to applicable regions.

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

- Part of developing a communication strategy is identifying effective communication methods which reach diverse audiences and needs. The [DFWFM Facebook page](#) is becoming the central location to share quick bits of information and resources from several wildland fire entities, including the Lessons Learn Center, the USDA and DOI agencies, Indian Country Today, Wildfire Today and Joint Fire Sciences (to name a few). In turn, DFWFM is sharing info to a broader audience.

This year, I am working to improve the distribution of regional and local information. I am interested in learning how many Regional FMO's have Facebook pages and who

would be willing to be administrators for the DFWFM page in order to share relevant content more immediately about their program activities.

- Over the past week, the DFWFM Facebook page has grown by over 20 people. Last year, this was the average number of people per *month* joining. This growth is attributed to three factors 1. Over 2,000 people follow the NIFC page and now NIFC is sharing BIA information more frequently. 2. Indian Affairs is sharing to their audiences (over 600 followers), and lastly, more “friends” are sharing and talking about the DFWFM - adding overall exposure and exponentially growing the visibility. It is the Division’s goal to have over 1,000 followers by the end of 2012. At this rate, we will meet that!
- December 9, 2011 - NIFC Public Affairs conducted a [crisis communications net meeting](#) to provide public information officers and line officers with lessons learned and tools to help other incident information officers prepare and deal with crisis situations. Specialists from BIA, BLM and FS gave presentations which can be downloaded from the [NIFC PIO Bulletin Board](#).
- There are several new web pages developed to provide information about Indian Country Fire Management programs:
  - [BIA Job Information Page](#) is a helpful resource for new recruits looking for employment and hiring information. It also contains the BIA Standard Fire Position Descriptions and the BIA Fire Management Job Announcement Listing, which is updated as changes are made to the spreadsheet provided from HR. There are also several toolboxes to help managers understand IFPM Qualifications and Standard, Retirement Training, accessing Electronic Official Personnel Folders.
  - [Interagency Hotshot Program](#) also has a new page, listing the contact information for the IHCs and a history of each of the crews. When possible, additional links and information pertinent to the crews are provided.
  - The **Library** has a new [Articles Page](#) that is growing. There are 17 articles posted so far. If others have material beneficial for our publics to read– please send them to Robyn.

#### **Next Fire-only Conference Call: Jan. 24**

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

#### **Next DFWFM Conference Call Scheduled: Feb. 14**

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