

## Natural Background Task Team (NBTT) Briefing

September 27, 2001  
FEJF Meeting - Park City, UT

### NBTT Briefing

- *Recommended Policy for Categorizing Fire Emissions*
  - FEJF Consensus Approval
  - FEJF Submittal to IOC & TOC
  - IOC Submittal to WRAP
- Supporting Documentation Report
- EPA's Natural Visibility Condition Guidance
- FEJF Task List

### *Recommended Policy for Categorizing Fire Emissions*

- Classification Policy
  - Classification Program Management
    - Requirements for classification to be effective and equitable.
  - Classification Criteria
    - Determine the "natural" and "anthropogenic" sources of fire that contribute to regional haze.
  - The Classification Policy statements apply to both wildland and agricultural lands regardless of ownership, cause of ignition, or purpose of the fire within the WRAP region.

### Classification Policy

#### **CLASSIFICATION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT**

- A. All fires must be managed to minimize visibility impacts.
- B. All emissions from fires classified as an "anthropogenic" source will be controlled to the maximum extent feasible subject to economic, safety, technical and environmental considerations.
- C. Emissions from all fire will be tracked.

#### **CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA**

- A. Prescribed fire is an "anthropogenic" source, except where it is utilized to maintain an ecosystem that is currently in an ecologically functional and fire resilient condition, in which case it is classified as a "natural" source.
- B. Wildfire that is suppressed by management action is a "natural" source. Wildfire, when suppression is limited for safety, economic, or resource limitations, remains a "natural" source. Wildfires managed for resource objectives are classified the same as prescribed fires.
- C. Native American cultural burning for traditional, religious, and ceremonial purposes is a "natural" source.

### FEJF Consensus Approval

- *Recommended Policy for Categorizing Fire Emissions, Draft August 14, 2001*
  - Submitted to FEJF for consensus approval
    - August 14, 2001 E-Mail distribution
    - August 17, 2001 Website posting
  - Written Comments
    - 4 FEJF Members & 4 FEJF Outer Circle Participants
    - Included in Supporting Documentation report.
  - FEJF Conference Call - August 30, 2001
    - 9 FEJF Members, 1 FEJF Member Alternate, 1 Outer Circle Participant (NBTT Co-Chair)
    - Conference call discussion notes included in Supporting Documentation report.

### FEJF Consensus Approval (cont.)

- FEJF Conference Call Discussion
  - Resolution of 1 Substantive Issue to Achieve Consensus Approval
    - Annotation for Escaped Prescribed Fire
  - A Few Substantive Issues Raised and Noted
  - FEJF Consensus Approval
  - Editorial Changes
    - Approved, Disapproved, Noted for Further Consideration
    - Addition of Executive Summary

## FEJF Submittal to IOC & TOC

- *Recommended Policy for Categorizing Fire Emissions, August 30, 2001*
  - Submitted to IOC & TOC for Review - August 30
  - IOC/TOC Meeting - September 5, 2001
    - Review & Discussion Presentation
      - Process to reach FEJF consensus approval
      - FEJF Consensus Approved *Recommended Policy*
      - Submittal to WRAP Fall of 2001
    - Discussion
      - Pete, Darla, & Carl answered questions and provided further explanation
      - Minor Editorial Changes
      - IOC formulate transmittal letter to WRAP to accompany the *Recommended Policy*

## IOC Transmittal Letter to WRAP

- Endorsement of *Recommended Policy*
- Identifies further clarification of several key *Recommended Policy* provisions and recommendations
  1. Clarify distinction between “managed” and “controlled”.
  2. Ensure state/tribal participation in local classification and land management planning.
  3. Support for App B Workgroup and consideration of additional ways to exclude visibility impacts from wildfire.
  4. Expand feasibility guidance to include cultural resources as a factor.

Note. Consideration of non-Federal Class I areas in SMPs.

  5. Annual emissions goals apply to all prescribed fire.

## IOC Submittal to WRAP

- Submit *Recommended Policy for Categorizing Fire Emissions* with the IOC Transmittal Letter - October 2001
- WRAP Review & Approve *Recommended Policy* - November 14-15, 2001 Meeting
  - Upon WRAP Approval
    - Product of the WRAP
    - *Policy for Categorizing Fire Emissions*
    - Publication and Posting on WRAP website

## Supporting Documentation report

- *Supporting Documentation for the Recommended Policy for Categorizing Fire Emissions*
  - Record of the process and documents utilized to develop the *Recommended Policy*.
    - Recommended Policy Development Process
    - 5 Appendices compiling the supporting documents
      - Senior Staff Workshop
      - Policy Maker/Opinion Leader Workshop
      - Further Policy Development
      - Recommended Policy Approval Process
      - Background Materials

## EPA's Natural Visibility Conditions Guidance

- *Guidance for Estimating Natural Visibility Conditions Under the Regional Haze Program*
  - To be posted Sept. 27 on EPA OAR website
  - Subject to public comment period
  - Several sections relevant to FEJF
    - Contemporary conditions and land use patterns not historic conditions.
    - How natural emissions from fire are taken into account.
    - Refined Estimation Approach

## How natural emissions from fire are taken into account.

- Default Approach
  - NAPAP PM estimates represent natural regional contribution by fire.
  - Adequate for developing initial progress goals.
- Categorization of Fire in a Fire Emissions Tracking System
  - Useful for achieving regional policy goals.
  - Not believed to be necessary for all states.
- Activities to enhance estimates of fire's contribution to natural visibility conditions.

### Refined Estimation Approach

- Distinguish explicitly between man-made and natural sources for significant visibility impacts from biomass smoke.
- Account for infrequent natural events (forest fires) as major influences on visibility.
  - Estimate frequency and magnitude of the natural contribution to particle concentrations during the events.
  - For species affected by the event, apply a constant or temporally varying value for all non-event periods and a different value during the event.

### FEJF Task List

- Several tasks to be addressed by the FEJF
  - Noted during the *Recommended Policy* development process.
  - FEJF consider when evaluating future work and work currently underway.
  - Tasks not evaluated or identified for relative priority.
  - Basis for task list
    - Recommended Policy
    - IOC Transmittal Letter
    - NBTT list of three processes
    - Expectation from AMRF
    - Policy Maker Workshop

### Tasks Identified in Recommended Policy

- A. Elements of a BSMP and ESMP.
- C. Recommendation for progressive implementation of policy and program management recommendations.
- D. Recommendations for managing fire emissions sources.
- E. Guidance for feasibility determinations.
- F1. Recommendations for ESMP.
- F2. Recommendations for creation of an annual emissions goal.
- G. Availability and feasibility of alternatives to burning.
- H. Recommendations for tracking fire emissions.
- I. Recommendation for the formation of a workgroup (re: effects of unwanted wildfire events).

### Tasks Identified in IOC Transmittal Letter

- J. Guidance for feasibility determinations (cultural resources)
  - also see task E
- K. Formation of a workgroup (re: effects of unwanted wildfire events) and consideration of methods besides traditional flagging
  - also see task I
- L. Consideration of impacts to non-Federal Class I areas
- M. State/tribal participation in local classification and land management planning
- N. Further define manage and control
  - also see tasks D, F, G
- O. Annual emissions goal development guidance
  - also see task F2

### FEJF Task List

- NBTT List of Three Processes
  - P. Estimation approach for fire's contribution to natural background visibility conditions
  - Q. Recommendations for tracking fire emissions
    - also see task H
- Expectation of AMRF
  - R. Fire emissions inventory supplemented by "natural" and "anthropogenic" classifications.

### Tasks Identified during Policy Maker Workshop

- S. Consider impacts versus emissions generated from fire.
- T. Annual emissions goal development guidance - consider cooperative establishment
  - also see tasks F2 & O
- U. Recommendations for tracking fire emissions - consider credits for emission reduction practices and emissions avoided
  - also see tasks H & Q
- V. Cost-benefit analyses - applicable to a variety of FEJF tasks
- W. Recommendations for tracking fire emissions - consider credits, use of alternatives, and emissions avoided
  - also see tasks H, Q, U

Decommissioning of NBTT

