

**FEJF - NBTT Boise, Idaho Meeting**  
**9/5/00**

**Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Carl Gossard, BLM NIFC; Darla Potter, WDEQ; Pete Lahm, USDA/FS; Bill Leenhouts, USDI FWS; Jim Russell, USDA/FS R6; Mike Ziolko, OR ODF; Robert Wilkosz, ID DEQ; Bob Palzer, Sierra Club; Rose Lee, Yakama Nation Environmental Program; Kevin McKernan, Yurak Tribe; Mark Fitch, AZ DEQ; Dave Sandberg, USDA/FS Research; Rebecca Reynolds, Facilitator.

**NBTT Management Team**

The NBTT Management Team is comprised of Darla Potter, Carl Gossard, Shelley Nolde, Jim Russell, Mike Ziolko and facilitator, Rebecca Reynolds. This group's charge is to keep things moving between NBTT meetings. The group decided that notes from conference calls will be emailed to all NBTT members in Microsoft Word 97, with a standard email subject: NBTT Mngmt. Team Conf Call Notes, and not posted on the FEJF website. Any comments will be sent to Potter. The Mngmt. Team conference calls will continue on a monthly basis between NBTT meetings to facilitate the work of NBTT.

**NBTT Charge**

Discussion re: NBTT's overall charge as it relates to the three tasks outlined by the group at the Portland meeting (as follows):

1. Develop methodology to classify smoke emissions into broad categories.
2. Develop optional approaches for describing the contribution of smoke to natural background visibility conditions.
3. Establish methodology for tracking and apportionment of smoke emissions and progress toward the goal.

Group agreed that it had been assigned tasks 1 and 3 from WRAP-AMRF, and had taken on task 2 itself as an important part of the process. Group re-emphasized the importance of task 2, but had some question as to whether or not there was enough time and NBTT resources to adequately address task 2, especially in the April 2001 timeframe. The group decided that they needed to get into the specifics of task 1 to better discuss the question of whether or not to continue to address task 2 in their work, and if so, how.

**Task 1: Review the Two Approaches (Matrix & Tier)**

**Two-Dimensional Matrix**

Group spent substantial time working through the Matrix approach, exploring what the two dimensions represented (ignition source and purpose of fire), if that information was enough to then classify the smoke emissions (time of burn, land use, etc. were also considered), and if the cells of the matrix when filled in made sense. In this process the group refined the matrix (see attachment).

Disagreement surfaced as to the entries in some of the cells, which the group noted could also be expected to occur at the workshops. NBTT also needs to refine its classification

terms. The group used “natural”, “anthropogenic” and “anthropogenic offset” to fill in the matrix cells, but felt these terms still needed work. (see assignment below)

Pros: This approach conveyed the information in a neutral way and a fairly simple way.

Cons: Two dimensions did not appear to give enough detail to handle the many possible variations, and therefore many of the cells had several entries (it could be one or the other) that would need to be handled in explanatory notes.

### Tier

Group then reviewed the tiered approach, which represented essentially the same material as the matrix, but did so on a continuum array rather than a matrix.

Pros: This method seemed simpler overall to read and to understand.

Cons: The continuum did not seem neutral as it positions fire/smoke emissions at one end of a spectrum or another. Also, it was not considered a flexible format in that the spectrum does not allow for variable positions.

### Approach 3: Decision Tree

Out of this discussion, a third option was brought forward by Kevin McKernan. This approach would use a decision tree format to present the variables. An example of the decision tree is attached.

Pros: This method was also neutral (not dependent on a particular set of values) and extremely flexible in that each fire/smoke emission could be classified with as few or as many variables as needed. Also, that this approach would give the group the ability to arrive, in each instance, at a single classification, rather than a multiple choice option.

Cons: This approach might allow for too much detail and could become unwieldy, and then difficult to track/model from.

Group decided that the content team should go back and flesh out the decision tree approach for the NBTT to review at the October meeting. (See Assignments below)

### **NBTT Charge Revisited**

The group then returned to the question of its charge and scope. As part of this discussion, Marc Pitchford’s (WRAP-AMRF co-chair) email responding to Pete Lahm’s briefing re: NBTT’s plan of action was reviewed. Pitchford again makes clear that what is expected of NBTT is Task 1 and 3. The amount of time it is taking the group to address Task 1 is an indication of how much more it will take to also address Task 2. Additionally, Lahm mentioned that task 2 is the crux of the work of EPA’s Natural Condition Guidance group led by Lara Autry. Additionally, this group is approaching it from a science vantage point, and is being confronted with the policy questions. Lahm pointed out that NBTT’s work on the policy side might be of use to this group in their deliberations and that might be NBTT’s role with Task 2. NBTT will explore whether coordination with EPA’s group is possible and to what extent.

The group then looked at whether or not a workshop (or workshops) is still needed if Task 1 and 3 is the total of the NBTT charge. Lahm felt the workshops were imperative

for gaining input if not consensus for the various stakeholders in an inclusive process on the classification, that would then have an impact of Task 2.

In light of all of this, the group agreed that the current effort would be confined to Task 1 & 3, and these would be the subject of the senior staffer workshop, and the policy maker workshop following.

The group tasked the NBTT co-chairs to bring this decision to the FEJF on 9/6.

### **Workshop Invitees**

The group reviewed and discussed the current roster of invitees assembled from NBTT responses to-date. Results of this will be forwarded to Darla Potter. This subject will also be discussed by the FEJF on 9/6. Darla will compile a new list to be distributed to NBTT prior to sending the placeholder.

The group also decided that all NBTT member should plan on attending the workshops if possible.

### **Next NBTT Meeting**

The group approved the October 24-25 meeting be held for two full days in Denver, at the Holiday Inn Denver Southeast.

### **Assignments**

#### **1. Draft Agenda: Staffer Workshop**

Rebecca, Jim and Co-Chairs to be emailed to NBTT by 10/1.

#### **2. Decision-Tree**

Jim Russell, Mike Ziolko, and Sam Sandberg flesh out a first draft of the decision tree, as well as reviewing and recommending classification terminology. Russell will then send the drafts by **September 19** to: Elvis Graves, Kevin McKernan, Mark Fitch, Bob Palzer, Brian Finneran, Tim Rogers, and Robert Wilkosz who will then review, make comments and send it back to the first group by **September 26**. First group will integrate comments for final draft and get to the Management Team by **October 6**. The Management Team will review and will add to the pre-work to be sent out by **October 10** for the NBTT **October 24/25** meeting in Denver.

Jim Russell: [jrussell01@fs.fed.us](mailto:jrussell01@fs.fed.us)

Robert Wilkosz: [rwilkosz@deq.state.id.us](mailto:rwilkosz@deq.state.id.us)

Mike Ziolko: [mziolko@odf.state.or.us](mailto:mziolko@odf.state.or.us)

Tim Rogers: [tim.rogers@state.sd.us](mailto:tim.rogers@state.sd.us)

Sam Sandberg: [dsandberg@fs.fed.us](mailto:dsandberg@fs.fed.us)

Kevin McKernan: [kevinmck@pcweb.net](mailto:kevinmck@pcweb.net)

Elvis Graves: [graves.elvis@epa.gov](mailto:graves.elvis@epa.gov)

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Brian Finneran: [finneran.brian@deq.state.or.us](mailto:finneran.brian@deq.state.or.us)

#### **3. Invitee List Feedback**

**All NBTT members email feedback to Potter ASAP.**

# MATRIX

## 2 Dimensional

	Lightning Earthquake (WildFire+)	Illegal/ Unpermitted	Other Wildfire Ignition	Cultural Burning	Prescribed Fire	Escaped P.F.
Malicious Act	N/A	A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Commodity	N/A	A	N/A	*	A/AO	N/A
Ecosystem Maintenance	N/A	N/A	N/A	*	A/AO	N/A
Culture Preservation	N/A	A	N/A	*	N/A (**)	N/A
Recreation	N/A	A	N/A	*	A	N/A
Wildlife/T&E Species	N/A	A	N/A	*	A/AO	N/A
Aesthetic	N/A	A	N/A	*	A	N/A
Fire Prevention	N/A	A	N/A	*	A/AO	N/A
No Purpose	N	A	AO	*	N/A	A/AO

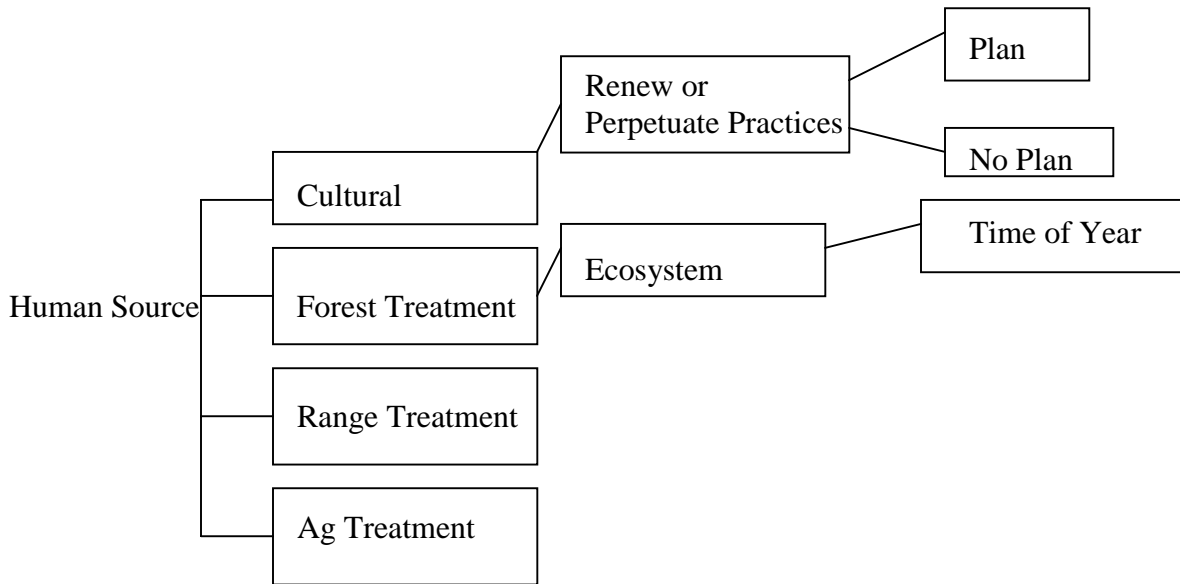
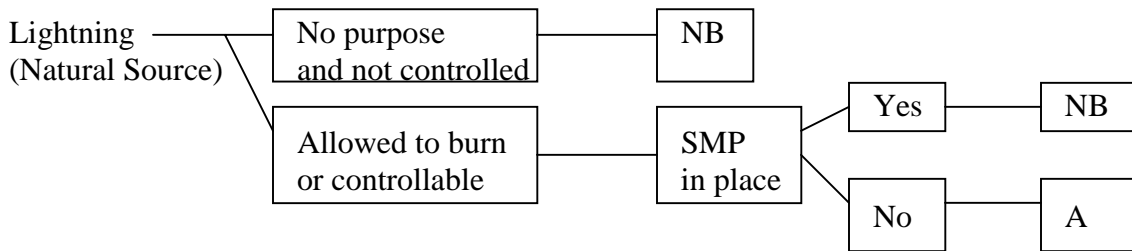
N = Natural; A = Anthropogenic; AO = Anthropogenic Offset

\*These were not discussed by the group

(\*\*) See Cultural Burning column

+Wildfire that is managed for resource benefits is included in the Prescribed Fire column

# Decision Tree



AND SO ON →

**FEJF Boise, Idaho Meeting  
NBTT 9/6 & 7/00 Breakout Notes (Draft)**

**NOTES 9/6/00 BREAKOUT (1 Hour)**

Pat Murdo – Communications Committee

Pat Murdo of the Communications Committee joined the breakout session. She was updated on the work of the NBTT and the anticipated workshops. She was asked if the Communications Committee has a mailing list that the NBTT could turn to to “fill in the gaps” in the invitee list. She responded that the Communications Committee relies on the WGA mailing list when necessary and that they have not compiled their own mailing list.

Based on the update on the work of the NBTT Pat suggested capitalizing on this year’s fire activity by putting together an abed piece. The abed piece could be made broad and general discussing specific examples or alternatives and released to area industry magazines as well as the area wall street journal.

Policy Maker Workshop discussion

The policy maker “card” should be used sparingly.

The GCVTC has already made the social decision to accept increases in emissions from fire

The Regional Haze Rule section 309 is a complete package not a pick and choose option (i.e., enhanced smoke management programs are part of the package).

The workshop most likely cannot be “added” at a later date but can be “cancelled” if it is decided as work progresses that it is no longer necessary.

Pete Lahm’s contacts with WRAP level people have indicated that the task of the NBTT is a significant enough issue to warrant Policy Maker review.

The workshop process is a more inclusive process than the WRAP process and it engenders other stakeholder groups before it goes to the WRAP. Bob Raisch, TOC Liaison to the FEJF and member of the Northern Air Managers Committee from Montana, helped sell the NBTT workshop idea to NAMC for funding based on the idea that the workshops are a more inclusive process than just going to the WRAP.

Hopefully the more inclusive process will preclude an “end-run” by any stakeholder group at the end of the process.

**DECISION: Keep the Policy Maker Workshop and proceed with planning keeping in mind that it can be cancelled if it is decided as work progresses that it is no longer necessary.**

Update to WRAP

An update to the WRAP is necessary at the September 2000 meeting to help gain support for the NBTT task and associated workshops.

**FLIP CHART NOTES 9/7/00 BREAKOUT (1 Hour)**

“Brother Carl’s Sermon”

“The NBTT needs to stay focused on the tasks at hand and stay inside the box.” (See box below)

1. AGREE ON WHAT WE ARE HERE TO ACCOMPLISH

- maximize clean air
- maximize ecosystem function/health
- compromise
- political reality – clean air is protected by regulation and is “in” with the general public
- physical reality – fire will happen one way or the other

2. NEED TO GET PEOPLE THINKING BEYOND THEIR BIAS (CORE BELIEFS)

((as they can))

Recognize the bias/core beliefs exist

Find areas of agreement

Talk about trust (or lack of trust)

Understand and acknowledge each other’s mission

3. IF NBTT DOESN’T DO THE CLASSIFICATIONS WHO WILL?

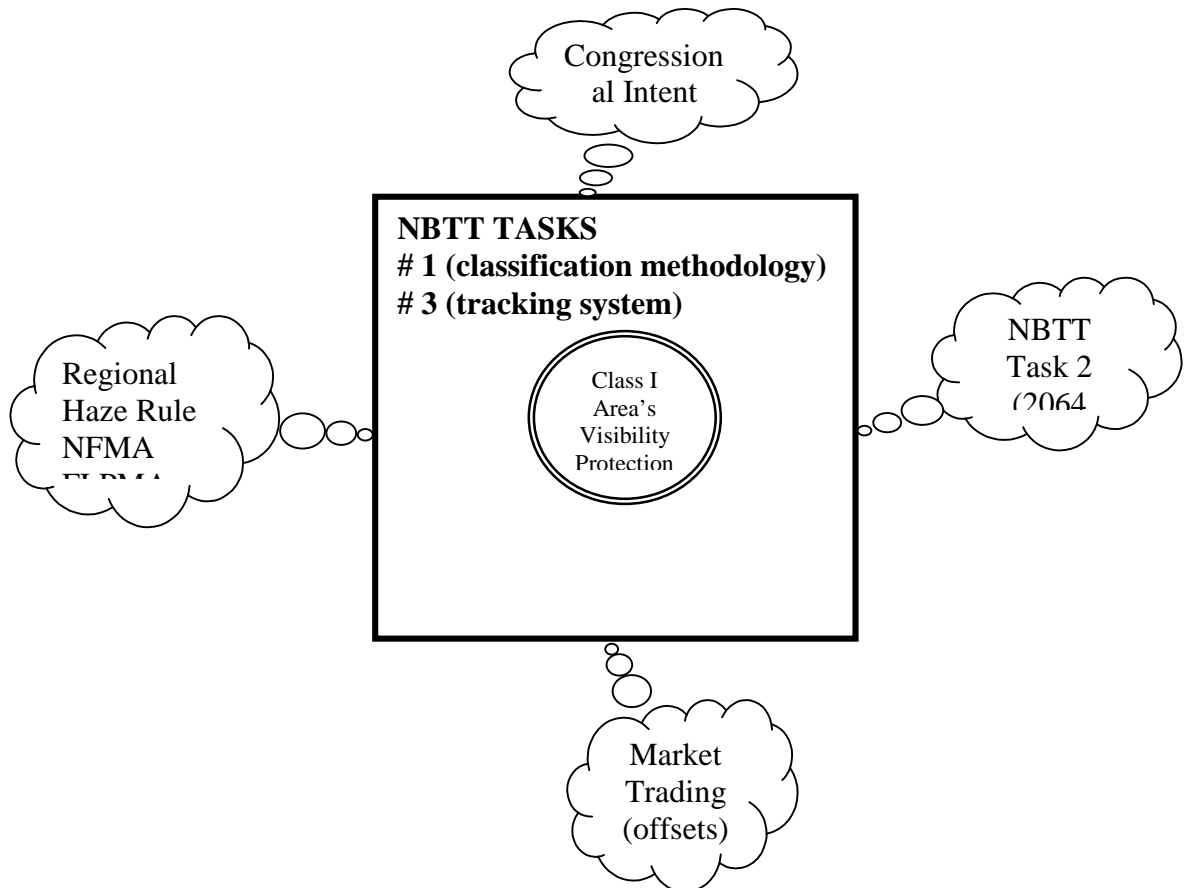
WRAP – AMRF (Marc Pitchford)

EPA

Congress

Courts

“End of Sermon”



Basic conclusion of the sermon above ----

**NBTT NEEDS TO TAKE SOME FOUNDATIONS FORWARD TO FUTURE NBTT MEETINGS AND THE WORKSHOPS.**

Various viewpoint/arguments can be presented at workshops but should not allow the preparatory work of the NBTT to bog down the process. The workshops is where the debates should occur and so the viewpoints/arguments that arise in NBTT meetings will be placed in a “parking lot” to be taken to the workshops.

Word Smithing of Tasks 1 and 3 and resulting ideas/notes

**NBTT TASK 1**

Develop and utilize a methodology to classify fire into visibility impairment classifications (i.e. “natural” or “anthropogenic”). *Note that the words natural and anthropogenic are subject to change depending upon classification terminology discussion results.*

**NBTT TASK 3**

Develop guidelines for tracking each fire’s visibility impairment classification in conjunction with the tracking of each fire’s emissions.

IDEA – PowerPoint presentation at sr staff mtg addressing Class I areas, visibility, types of fire, magnitude of problem, other source contributions -- Communications Committee has a canned presentation that covers some of the above and could be utilized. The NBTT should look at the presentation in preparation for October meeting regarding the sr staffer workshop agenda.

IDEA – for sr staffer workshop use this years fires (with photos) as an example of fire impacts and then ask “should this fall under the natural visibility impairment classification” – need other examples as well (different types of fire (i.e. ag/cultural/prescribed) as well as other visibility conditions (i.e. clean/dirty))

NOTE – the guidelines for tracking will be a deliverable to the Emissions Task Team of the FEJF to guide their work on the tracking system

*These are the notes from the Workshop Outcomes Discussion that Carl/Jim/Darla had Thursday Sept. 7., 2000.*

These are workshop outcomes that are for NBTT consumption only - not for workshop attendees.

#### SR STAFFER

- \*\* note \*\* send completed methodology and classifications to workshop participants ahead of time without holes\*\*
- \* review and add to (if pieces are missing) classification methodology
- \* agree on classifications assigned by NBTT (those that NBTT agreed on) [Jim's idea to show pictures of the various types of fire on the screen as we discuss the classifications]
- \* review and come to agreement on classifications not assigned by NBTT (those that NBTT could not agree on) [give the workshop attendees the NBTT members arguments for each opposing classification for a place to start discussion]
- \* forward classifications still in disagreement to the policy maker's workshop with the associated arguments

#### POLICY MAKERS

- \* review sr staffer recommendations (methodology & classifications)
- \* identify additional policy implications of recommended classifications
- \* finalize the agreement on the NBTT/sr staff classifications recommended by NBTT/sr staff
- \* review and come to agreement on classifications not assigned by NBTT & sr staffers (those that NBTT & sr staffers could not agree on) [give the workshop attendees the NBTT and sr staffer arguments for each opposing classification for a place to start discussion]
- \* forward classifications still in disagreement to the NBTT & FEJF with the associated arguments

Prepared by Darla J. Potter - 9/15/00

## **NBTT Management Team Assignments**

From the Boise session

9/13/00

1) Assumptions/Definitions: revise based on new input and email updated version for input from NBTT. Considerations: add Bob Pfalzer's assumption re: use of alternatives to fire for ecosystem management (?), add definitions of NBTT terms, e.g. "natural", "anthropogenic", and any other terms NBTT utilizes in the workshops.

**Assignment: Darla (work with Rebecca) – due asap.**

2) Senior Staffers Agenda: Develop draft for review by Management Team, and begin to determine what context/background the workshop attendees will need.

**Assignment: Jim & Rebecca – due 9/10**

3) Placeholder: develop copy and design for the workshop placeholder.

**Assignment: Carl & Shelley – due 9/19**

4) Shelley Nolde Briefing: Contact Shelley and update her on Boise meeting progress on Tasks and Decision Tree. Check in with her on status of meeting logistics (Oct. mtg in Denver, January mtg in Denver, March mtg in Phoenix).

**Assignment: Carl – due 9/15**

5) Keynotes: Initiate contact with Governor Levitt of Utah (Pete) and Governor Kitzhaber of Oregon (Mike) to decide on a keynote presenter for the Policy Maker Workshop in March (Phoenix). Contact Lyle Laverty (Pete) about being the keynote for the Staffer workshop in January.

Assignment: Pete & Mike coordinate – due 9/15; Darla follow-up as necessary with Pete & Mike.

6) FEJF Website update: email Pete the June Denver mtg notes (Rebecca's) to replace the ones John Graves did that are currently posted. Also, get Pete the latest NBTT mngt team conf call & Boise mtg notes for posting.

**Assignment: Darla – due 9/15**

7) Workshop Supplementary Facilitators: develop list of potential facilitators; from workshop agendas determine number needed in Jan. (Denver) and in Mar. (Phoenix); begin lining up facilitators as needed.

Assignment: Rebecca & Carl review list Rebecca has so far; Carl add to it (especially for Phoenix) and discuss strategy for soliciting them with Darla & Mngt Team as necessary – due 9/15

### **8) Other Workshop Content Team Tasks:**

- 1) **Work on task 3 (Jim R. had some ideas on this when team is ready to begin)**
- 2) **Prewrite Prep (Rebecca & Jim have started to discuss – see Staffer Agenda draft with accompanying email for more on this)**

## **NBTT Mngmt Team Meeting Assignments**

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9) NBTT Call/Mtg. Schedule

**Assignment: Rebecca revise and keep up to date and distribute as needed to NBTT – due 9/29**

10) Scope of Work

Assignment: Carl make revisions based on FEJF input; coordinate with Rich H. at WGA to get to Rebecca for her proposal – due asap

11) NBTT Co-Chair Mtg

Assignment: Carl, Darla & Rebecca will meet in Denver on 9/28 to continue to move things forward.

### **12) Invitee List**

Assignment: Darla will Collect and collate all suggestions. She & Carl will review results and take necessary steps to complete list by 9/21 for end of September placeholder mailing.

### **13) NBTT Member Contact List**

Assignment: Darla will update via email by 9/15.