

FEJF Conference Call Notes
Tuesday, July 26, 2005
10 am Mountain (9 am Pacific)

PHONE NUMBER 312.461.9324

ACCESS CODE 915601

Conference Call Participants:

Darla Potter, WDEQ-AQD, FEJF Co-Chair; Mark Fitch, USDA-FS, FEJF Co-Chair; Andrea Boyer, Nez Perce Tribe; Paul Schlobohm, BLM NIFC; Tom Webb, USEPA R9; Jim Russell, FS / BLM; Suraj Ahuja, USDA-FS; Lisa Bye, BLM/FWS/NPS; Thomas Dzomba, USFS; Kara Paintner, NPS; Coleen Campbell, CO APCD; Joan Hardesty, AK DEC; Mike Ziolko, OR DOF; Ken Cronin, NTEC, Tribal Caucus Coordinator; Dan Redline, ID DEQ; Cheryl Glass, CARB

This was the first monthly conference call to check on the status of the active FEJF tasks. The concept is for these calls to last 1 hour and focus on brief (no more than 10 minutes per task) status updates for ongoing tasks.

Mike Ziolko status update

- Mike is now back at work after being unexpectedly hospitalized for an extended period of time.
- Mike expressed his thanks for all of the cards and well wishes he received from FEJF participants during his recovery.

Fire Emissions Tradeoff Model Report (Darla)

- Comments on the draft final report were sent to Mark Schaaf on June 29, 2005.
- On July 25, 2005 the final report was received via e-mail from Mark Schaaf.
- The final report has been forwarded on for posting on the WRAP FEJF website. As soon as the final report is posted a notice will be sent out regarding its availability.

Please note that the task was to review the applicability of the Wildland Fire Emissions Tradeoff Model (FETM) for use in applying existing WRAP policies and guidance pertaining to smoke management of fire. As there has been confusion on the scope of this task before, we wanted to make it clear that the FEJF does not have any tasks in the Workplan beyond this review in terms of application of FETM.

Jim Russell reported that FETM is being used on Wenatchee portion of the Okanogan/Wenatchee National Forest in Washington State for a feasibility study being conducted by Mark Schaaf, Air Sciences. Results of that feasibility study can be made available to anyone who is interested when it is completed. Jim does not believe that FETM is something that a State, Tribe, or FLM unit could run on their own, a contract would most likely be necessary.

Natural/Anthropogenic Guidance (Darla)

See June 2005 FEJF meeting notes for additional information.

- Ken Cronin provided the proposed changes by the Tribal Caucus to Darla.
- Bob Habeck has been gathering input to prepare a 1-2 page whitepaper on the ramifications in actual implementation and practicability for the classification of escaped prescribed fire. Bob sent that whitepaper to Darla on July 14. Darla has not yet looked at it due to travel/WDEQ obligations.
- Darla and Bob will work together to prepare a proposed final version to circulate for FEJF stakeholder review and feedback.
- Both the proposed final version of the guidance as well as the escaped prescribed fire whitepaper would be circulated for FEJF stakeholder review and feedback. Hopefully this will occur within the next couple weeks.

Emission Reduction Technique Task (Mark)

- Refinements were made to the ERT presentation and spreadsheet during the breakout session at the June FEJF meeting.
- Further refinements were made by Mark and Dave to prepare an ERT look-up table and technical memorandum to circulate for expert review.
- On June 30 the technical memorandum and ERT look-up table were circulated via e-mail to experts (Colin Hardy, Roger Ottmar, Sam Sandberg, Janice Peterson, Brian Jenkins) for their review.
 - Feedback has not yet been received from the experts.
- A conference call with the experts is scheduled for July 27 at 10 am Mountain.
 - If the task team does not hear back from the experts. The task team will proceed forward and will finalize as a first draft in mid to late August.
 - Arizona has been using a preliminary draft of the ERT look-up table and very little feedback has been received.
- The ERT TT is anticipating a conference call on August 10 at 10 am Pacific to discuss expert reviewed ERT package.

Fire Tracking System Task (Mark / Darla)

- Based on the discussions during the breakout session at the June FEJF meeting, and other relevant documents, Ron King prepared a draft scope of work for the design and implementation of a fire tracking system. The draft scope of work was circulated to the task team on June 30, 2005.
- The FTS TT had a conference call on July 11. Three main topics were discussed:
 - Paul invited Tom Wordell to participate in the conference call with the objectives to share information in a discovery sort of way that could be beneficial to either effort (FTS and FORS) and to identify any opportunities or dilemmas they may present to us. The notes from that discussion follow.
 - Fire Occurrence Reporting System (FORS) was originally to be chartered under the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). However, the National Fire and Aviation Executive Board (NFAEB) has decided to charter the project instead.
 - There has been a shift in the overall scope from a business requirement study to an evaluation of six existing fire occurrence reporting systems. The first step will be to determine common data elements among the

following systems: Wildland Fire Management Information (WFMI, including data for BLM, BIA, NPS), FWS, National Interagency Fire Management Integrated Database (NIFMID, including data for the US Forest Service (USFS)), National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS, including data for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)), state of TX data warehouse, including data for several surrounding states, and state of FL. The limiting factor will be the common data elements among all six systems (10-15 simple data elements like location, date, size, cause code, etc.), which will lead to being limited to wildland fire activities. The second step will be to determine whether or not data standards can be recommended for these core data. The third step is to figure out if one of these six systems could serve as an common archive for this core data.

- The development of one overall large fire occurrence reporting system is hindered by a lack of funding as well as timing considerations. The evaluation of the existing systems may lead to the development on one system as a next step.
 - The charter is in the final stage of wordsmithing and is planned to be finalized on July 19, 2005. They will then get the subject matter experts together and work with an internal business analyst. In addition to focusing on the common data elements, a broad overview of each system will also be prepared. It will take six to twelve months to finalize the work.
 - Now that there has been a shift in the overall scope there is not as much overlap between FTS and FORS as originally anticipated. However, we will still share information on both efforts as they move forward.
 - It appears that there may be several parallel efforts with some similarities moving forward. Collaboration is important so that dueling systems are not being developed. Other efforts that may be of interest to the FTS TT: the Cost Accounting Tracking System (CATS) effort lead by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) to enhance data archival and retrieval as part of the federal initiative to reduce large fire costs; The Fire Program Analysis (FPA) project, which is the new interagency process to assess unit-level workload and determine 5-year budget projections.
- Scope of Work
 - Send comments, concerns, questions to Ron King by COB on July 26.
 - Fire Tracking Systems analysis
 - Thoughts on conducting a fire tracking systems analysis (existing systems: data elements, system, etc.) are to be sent to Darla Potter by COB on July 26.
- Next task team conference call first week of August. Reply to Darla with availability.

What will be done for wildfire in the FTS?

The objective at this point in time is to limit the FTS focus to prescribed fire (wildland, agriculture, rangeland) to start. Once FTS for prescribed fire is operational, look at wildfire and wildland fire use inclusion perhaps via an annual data population schedule. We will rely on

existing wildland fire and wildland fire use systems and continue to coordinate with the evaluation and possible development of a universal Federal Land Manager tracking system for wildland fire and wildland fire use.

Suggested methodology for the task team to consider - may be as simple as including information as to the availability of data sets recorded by the FLMs on an annual basis. E.g., ability to download the fire occurrence data from a variety of different systems with various scripts written for each system.

Regional Coordination Task (Darla)

- Refinements were made to version 3 of the guidance during the breakout session at the June FEJF meeting.
- Those with examples of regional coordination within smoke management programs submitted information to Deb for inclusion as a brief description/overview.
- Deb incorporated all of the changes discussed as well as the new information including examples and send it back out to the task team for review on July 8, 2005.
- There are a number of placeholders in that document. If you committed to send Deb something, please do so so that this task can keep moving forward.

Have the meteorological needs for regional coordination been addressed? Does it need to be? Is it possible to marry the AoH process with regional coordination to a certain extent. Jim Russell would like to work on this task team.

Phase II Emissions Inventory (Darla)

- Some end user (Regional Modeling Center and Pechan) issues had arisen with the emissions inventory files, which delayed the finalization of this task.
- The FEJF approved a contract modification for Air Sciences to resolve these issues.
- The final emissions inventory files were provided via e-mail on July 6 and are uploaded on the WRAP FEJF website.
- The final report was provided via e-mail on July 22. The final report has been forwarded on for posting on the WRAP FEJF website. As soon as the final report is posted a notice will be sent out regarding its availability.

Inter RPO Wildfire Emissions Inventory & Additional Tasks (Darla)

- The FEJF approved a contract modification for Air Sciences to add three value-added tasks.
- These additional tasks are at the request of the WRAP to increase the usefulness of the Inter-RPO National Wildfire Emissions Inventory for the WRAP.
 - Apply FCCS fuel model instead of NFDRS
 - Add fire characteristics (e.g., 10-hour fuel moisture) to facilitate plume models
 - Enhance analysis section of final documentation
 - Numerical effects of new/revised technical methods
 - Recommendations to RPOs on appropriate use of emissions inventory

Phase III/IV Emissions Inventories (Darla)

- A draft work plan was circulated to the task team on July 13.
- A conference call was held on July 21. The conference call discussion focused on the following: to 1) review the schedule and deliverables (including discussion of the logistics for the mid-August technical workshop), 2) check the progress on the project, 3) provide/review comments on the draft workplan, 4) make a plan for regular monthly project calls.
- The folks on the call decided to allow written (email) comments on the Workplan through COB July 27 (next Wednesday). Please email any written comments to Dave Randall (drandall@airsci.com).
- We have scheduled a conference call for WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3 11A MOUNTAIN. The call will be to discuss any written comments received on the Workplan and to discuss any topics necessary to prepare for the 1-1/2 day technical workshop to take place on August 10. More on that in a subsequent email.
- We have scheduled a regular monthly conference call to discuss progress on the Phase 3/4 project. The regularly scheduled calls will take place the FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10A MOUNTAIN. Please mark your calendars for September (7th), October (5th), and November (2nd).

Plume Rise Task (Darla for Tom)

- Discussed at the June FEJF meeting
- Work will occur on this task in August

Sensitivity Analysis Task (Darla for Tom)

- Discussed at the June FEJF meeting
- Work will occur on this task in August

AoH (Mark / Darla)

- Mark has participated in the AoH workgroup as a representative of the FEJF. With Mark's new job he is not going to have time to actively participate. Therefore, we are looking for someone to participant as a representative of the FEJF
- AoH work mostly involves conference calls and a few meetings
- AoH participants include a wide mix of people from industry, states, etc. all with a technical emphasis

Jim Russell suggested that Thomas Dzomba be asked to participate

Next Monthly Conference Call

Was this first monthly conference call to check on the status of the active FEJF tasks useful? Yes. Hopefully on future calls, those persons/contractors leading the tasks will be able to provide the updates to that Darla isn't the only voice you hear for the entire hour.

The monthly conference calls will be held the 4th Tuesday of the month at 10 am MTN.

The next call will be August 23, 2005. Phone number 312.461.9324 access code 915601.