

Notes from Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP), Fire Emissions Joint Forum meeting - Reno, Nevada July 29-31, 1998

Day One, Wed. July 29, 1:00-5:00 PM

Pete Lahm and Keith Jones, Forum Co-Chairs, made opening, welcoming remarks.

Forum Members, IOC/TOC (Initiatives and Technical Oversight committees) liaisons and 'outer circle' participants introduced themselves (written ½ page biographies are requested of all Forum members).

Shawn Kendall, TOC Co-Chair, presented overview of final Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission (GCVTC) recommendations. Also discussed GCVTC emissions inventory, transport modeling/complexities, and Public Advisory Committee process.

Margie Perkins, IOC liaison to the Forum, and John Leary, Western Governors' Assn. rep., gave overview of WRAP, including structure, charter, budget, committees and forums, communications and roles.

Day Two, Thurs. July 30, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Pete introduced day's activities, designed to provide Forum members with overview of various ongoing planning, policy and program efforts related to fire management and air quality.

Pete made presentation on the Fire Emissions Project of the GCVTC.

Tony VanCuren, California Air Resources Board, made presentation of analysis of fire/smoke impacts on receptors within GCVTC region. Showed projections of emissions impacts based on various burning scenarios and anticipated increases in wildland prescribed and natural fire in future.

Tom Zimmerman, National Park Service, made presentation on federal wildland fire management policies/programs, including the Joint Fire Science Program. One outcome was that fire management on federal lands needs to duly consider air quality/visibility impacts and that the FEJF needs to help define methods for such.

Sam Sandberg, USFS Pacific Northwest Experiment Station, made presentation on work of "EXPRESS Team" and report/conclusions.

Ken Woodard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, made presentation on 'EPA Interim Air Quality Policy on Wildland and Prescribed Fires' and pending 'Regional Haze Rule.' Discussion among Forum as to how these will be incorporated into work of Forum.'

Keith gave overview of tribal environmental program development and tribal interest in air quality management. Keith and Dave Randall, Forum member, described 'Tribal Authority Rule, with opportunities for tribes and legal challenges.

Shelly Nolde, Western Governors' Assn., described WGA Prescribed Fire Forum, its possible role in prescribed fire assessment work, liability issues, etc. Introduced 'Enlibra,' a developing environmental doctrine from WGA. Proposed dual roles of Fire Emissions Joint Forum and WGA Prescribed Fire Forum.

Day 3, Friday July 31, 8:00 AM - Noon

Dr. Robert Quinn, Eastern Washington Univ. and USDA Agricultural Air Quality Task Force (AAQTF), made presentation on AAQTF purpose and direction. Sparked significant discussion on agricultural burning and coordination with other burning/smoke management efforts (primarily silvicultural).

Pete facilitated discussion of Forum Charter and highlighted deliverables.

Suggestion was made to start compendium of existing plans, program information, policies, etc.; Pete will initiate.

Ran out of time for discussing Forum consensus process and for detailed discussion of work plan(s) to address deliverables.

John L. suggested developing graphic(s) as an aid in giving Forum context within WRAP, for Forum member use and others and for aid in moving forward with work plan development. Interim work group of Diane Riley, Dave R., John Kennedy, Pete and Keith formed to develop explanatory graphics/charts prior to next WRAP/Forum meeting in Albuquerque Sept. 16-17.