



NWCG Smoke Committee January 2013 Activity Update



Communication and Messaging

- November/December Activity Updates and PM NAAQS Briefing Paper all available on website.
- Pete committed to a one pager on all the SmoC projects and recent products.
 - Good for All Chairs Mtg. Also helpful w/other committees. Co-chairs take on their sections.
- Poster session in Raleigh at the IAWF Fuels Conference during week of February 18th

Update on Websites

- MyFireCommunity website issues have been corrected.
- NEPA guidance documents posted to the NWCG portal?
- Smoke FARM team one-pagers on smoke tools located on MFC websites.

PM NAAQS BP - Final Review

- Includes PM_{2.5} non-attainment areas map to be aware of areas at risk and new breakpoints for AQI.
- Conformity - when burns are performed using state set basic smoke mgmt practices, a conformity determination is not required the same as if done under an approved smoke management program.

NWCG Business

- Tom Harbour/FS, Jim Carrols/FL State Forestry and Kim Throsen/DOI discuss 5-year plans - NWCG All-Chairs Meeting.
- SmoC 5-year outlook – comments on 5-yr outlook & developing partnership with new groups.
- SmoC/NWCG meeting April 17 in Boise. Possible SmoC Meeting - video conferencing available.
- Coordination efforts with RMC, FMC and OWDC
 - FMC collaboration is good. RMC collaboration difficult - SmoC is perceived as overstepping on Personnel Exposure training.
 - Incident Response Pocket Guide comments being considered & reviewing for suitability.
 - Pete coordinating w/OWDC on Fireline Handbook – possible re-insertion of SmoC comments.
 - FS SE Region possibly requesting ARA for GACC in Atlanta, 3wk rotation through March.
- Added Greg Johnson (head of national atmospheric efforts-NRCS) to email list as alternate for Doug Whisenhunt who replaced Susan O'Neill.
- 2013 SmoC Budget - \$29K through NPS for phase 2-Smoke Guide rewrite holding back \$21K right now. \$13.9K from FS is available for the Smoke Symposium.
- 2014 Budget - deadline for proposals May 30th to go to board.
- Rx Fire Implementation Guide - Working on comments. Need BSMP Tech sheet and personnel exposure language.
- Wildland Fire RD&A Line Officer Decision Making Guide - SmoC has submitted comments.

Committee Call Presentations

1330 Status of the 2011 Fire NEI and 2000-2012 data collection effort - Tesh Rao/EPA, Sim Larkin/FS, and Sean Raffuse/Sonoma Technology

- Discussed details: Data not limited to state and locals - Collecting data from all sources. Still taking data of any form on a case-by-case basis.
- Improved emission processing from wildland fire utilizing SMARTFIRE2 for comparison and avoidance of double counting.
- Agricultural Fire Emissions and States not submitting data will use emissions determined using Jessica McCarty's method.
- Version one of 2011 NEI is planned for July 1.



NWCG Smoke Committee January 2013 Activity Update



Agricultural Burning– NEI Fire Emissions, Jessica McCarty/Michigan Tech Research Institute

- *Quantifying Cropland Burning and Related Emission in the Contiguous U.S.*
- Extensive recent field work dealing with emissions from rangeland and cropland burns
- Jessica prepared a white paper comparing NOAA Hazard Mapping system, MODIS, SMARTFIRE 2, and collected data, evaluating burned area and emissions.
- NEI 2008 PM2.5: emissions much higher than any of the estimates from remote sensing products.
- Need to improve maps of cropland areas/types and increase ground truth data from Rx burning.
- Improve emission factors & fuel load mapping (using FCCS & crop data), and set validation stds.

2013 International Smoke Symposium

- Mikel Robinson put together a save-the-date flyer distributed to all participants in Fuels Conference in Raleigh, NC.

Comments on Guidance Docs

- IRPG, Rx Fire Implementation Guide, Guide to Line Officers from Wildland Fire RD&D, in that order.
- Ed Brunson and Stu Hoyt to send comments on the Rx implementation guidance.

ARA Training

- Applications closed in December. 27 applicants total with a class of 15 March 19th-21st.
- Need to determine best way to let WFOs know about wildfire AQ response efforts & NRAs.
- Discuss NOAA IMET participation & NOAA response with ARAs.

Subcommittee Report-Outs

Technical Smoke Topics Subcommittee

- Susan has accepted the Co-chair position in the subcommittee.
- NOAA will continue making HYSPLIT available. Over 400 requests for product since offered.
- Still waiting for an support letter to Robin Heffernan on the NOAA HYSPLIT tool.(Pete)
 - Want more flexibility for choosing mixing heights - Due end of February.
 - Robin has data on offices using the spot forecast data tool. Pete presented map to SmoC.
- Language for technical chapters of Smoke Management Guide is moving forward.
- EPA has written a chapter on health effects for the Smoke Managers Guide.

Training Subcommittee

- Smoke exposure module making progress on script development - call w/Roger Ottmar 2/7 which provided good validation of approach and material.
- Transportation safety module script is still in progress - Gary is addressing comments.
- Collaboration with other committees on exposure and safety modules and other outreach efforts worthwhile.
- Monitoring module working group forming: Anthony Matthews/Janice Peterson/Brenda Wilmore. Funding is available.
- Pete spoke with Bob Houseman on air resources advisor effort who validated SmoC training subcommittee's efforts, especially role of Air Resources Advisor - makes efforts to mitigate smoke impact more successful.
- Extended invitation to RMC - beneficial for RMC to join on Exposure and Transportation Safety and wildland fire decision support training calls.



NWCG Smoke Committee January 2013 Activity Update



Smoke Managers Subcommittee

- Jan 30th call. Well attended - 32 people from the west, mid-west, plains, and SE.
- Very short summary on 2010 wildfire smoke, longer segment on 2013 smoke planning.
- Rick Gillam/EPA gave update on PM NAAQS. Efforting to get EER guidance document out late 2013. Revision of AQ policy for fires - internal discussions ongoing. Possible update in April.
- OR is working on a wildfire response protocol.
- Gary Curcio gave presentation on point weather forecasts.
- KS model for smoke dispersion greatly improved by use of KSFIRE.org, Use March or April only.
- Want to alert people to the 2013 smoke symposium and next call scheduled tentatively for the last week in March.
- Claudia to work with PIO group on SmoC webinar.

Round Robin

- Classes at NAFRI: Fire and Ecosystem Mgt (M580). Anthony Matthews provided a case study on FL smoke; Ron Sherron presented an overview of smoke management for line officers. Susan O'Neill gave instruction on Advanced Fire Effects, (RX-510).
- Mixing height methodology discussion still ongoing. Needs further consideration by fire weather and fire danger subcommittees.
- Gary suggested SmoC develop a smoke pocket guide.
- At some point we need to discuss RX-410, and if we see a role in improving this course.
- Mike and Mark on AAR call for ID fires. Discussed how their assistance to public health agencies helped these agencies realize the value of fire personnel & their capabilities. Shows that public health agencies can aid in communications.
- March 18th is effective date for new PM NAAQS.
- Fire weather point matrix for super fog - Eglin AFB has requested this to their WFO.
- Generalities by media on black carbon seen - reduction of forest fires to reduce black carbon.
- Trent Wickman presenting info on 2 fires to emissions personnel in MN. Duff fuel produced large emissions. Recommends use of Boreal forest FCCS layers - better than western fuel layers.
- Development of an Interagency Smoke Pocket Guide - Comments:
 - Gives SmoC editing opportunity - makes SmoC's message available to committees not yet contacted.
 - Competing with pocket guides already available - maybe insert info into those guides.
 - Are existing guides used? Need to determine guidebook use during incidents.

Upcoming Conferences

4th fire Behavior and Fuels Conference, February 18-22, 2013, Raleigh, NC

<http://www.iawfonline.org/2013FuelsConference/index.php>