



Notes for internal group discussion only. Do not distribute
NWCG Smoke Committee
DRAFT August Activity Update



Membership

- Welcome Mike Zupco – WFLC Executive Director - Liaison between SmoC and WFLC.
Mike Zupco is the executive manager of the Wildland Fire Leadership Council to help move issues and opportunities forward at the executive level. The Council membership consists of: The Undersecretary of Agriculture, Assistant Secretary of Interior, Deputy Undersecretary of Agriculture, 5 DOI Bureau Directors, Chief of the Forest Service, US Fire Administrator, 2 sitting governors, an elected city official, and elected county official, a state forester, a local fire chief, and a representative of Intertribal Timber Council.
The Council provides strategic oversight to ensure policy coordination, accountability, and effective implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and related long-term strategies to address wildfire preparedness and suppression, hazardous fuels reduction, landscape restoration and rehabilitation of the Nation's wildlands, and assistance to communities. The Council has developed how smoke management impacts land managers' ability to use prescribed fire as a tool on the landscape.
- Welcome – Peter Teensma - DOI Office of Wildland Fire
Science coordinator, previously policy advisor, fire ecologist, fuels planner, smoke management, Ph.D. in climatology and fire.
- Lisa Bye/BLM has resigned from SmoC & the Training Subcommittee creating a leadership gap. Dave Mueller/BLM will serve temporarily until a permanent member can be recruited.

Outreach and Messaging

- Status of Activity Updates – Working on March.
- Web Site activity – No news here.
- Pete still interested in presenting in a NACAA Ag committee call.
 - Diana – NACAA Ag & Criteria Pollutants want presentation after ozone standard is released on October 1st.
 - Tammy – AAPCA also interested. She will send Pete the contact info.
- NWCG has launched the website. Pete requested all check it out for new ideas for SmoC page.
- JFSP is hiring a new Public Info Officer. Need a call with Tim Swedberg, Ed Brunson, & Cindy to coordinate info, distribute proposed rules, and discuss informing public.
- Mark – Need to consider role of JFSP in function regarding the International Smoke Symposium. Need a conference call to open dialogue for ideas.
- Doug & Cindy to participate in Oct meeting w/leadership team in the fireside exchange network. Will plan a call after Cindy talks to Ed.
- Need to complete ozone info on website – what the new standard will mean to all entities.
- Tammy will work on monitoring section.
- Pete no longer has access to FMI group – Challenge to update the ozone impacts map.
- Melanie to discuss this idea and status of Redbook review.
- Excess Emissions Rule will come out after the ozone standard. SmoC to draft BP for agencies.

NWCG Business

- NWCG won't meet in September due to wildfires.
- Redbook review comments due by 9/1 – Will be a challenge due to work assignments.
- Elaine will email Pete for new NWCG products. Working on the Smoke Management Guide.
- NFDRS, the old and new systems will be running concurrently for the first two years.
- Elaine will check for NWCG funds for SmoC projects.

Product revision Schedule:



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1. Wildland Fire Incident Management Field Guide (Red Book) (PMS 210), January 2014. In review with Mark Fitch and Bill Jackson.
2. Incident Response Pocket Guide (PMS 461), January 2014 –Replace old content needs with new.
3. Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations, January 2015

Red Book comments due by 9/1/2015 – Anyone wishing to make comments, contact Pete.

Wildfire and Smoke Activity

- Pete heading west to meet with ARAs in ID, WA, & OR. Several ARAs in WA – longer in AK.
- Very busy season so far, will be doing ARA training in 2016.
- 13 ARAs & 12-14 monitors in Oregon, 25 between air pollution & emergency deployment.
- 50 emergency monitors out due to smoke impacts in western US. Pete will learn more during ARB & monitoring meetings.
- Pete drafted a paper to address smoke issues. Smoke is a topic of national interest – news agencies interviewing ARAs for info. Many groups instrumental in handling fires – wouldn't be able to handle all smoke/fire without everyone's coordinated efforts.
- Leadership command is an informational donut. Areas surrounding fires handled by WA DNR. Smoke has gotten worse – significant impacts on downwind areas.
- 32,000 firefighters deployed including the US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.
- Some good rain in the forecast. WA still has many wildfires and will see little relief. Wetting rain in northern CA increasing to the south. Still high winds but also increasing humidity. Winds should help clear some areas of smoke.
- CA Rocky fire should be a topic to discuss with Fire Committee.
- Safety Officer Command is aware of fire personnel exposure issues. Funding went in for module. Efforts should be taken by the Training Subcommittee after fire season and coordinate with other subcommittees recommended by the NWCG.
- The Smoke video is influencing exposure issues. Training module needs to happen soon.

Upcoming Workshops-SmoC Participation

- AFE Fire Congress (November 2015) – Poster presentations.
- IAWF Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference (April 2016) – Panels and Presentations.
- IAWF International Smoke Symposium 2 (December 2016) – Working with Mikel to get a budget and organize, likely to be in CA. Set up committee soon.
- Others...AGU?, Canada Wildfire...
- Smoke will participate in the poster session of the Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) conference.
 - Pete will present there but requesting help to draft abstract – due August 30th.
 - Susan will modify an old abstract and send to Pete for review.

Smoke and Air Quality for Land Managers – Status, Review, revise and plans

- Not much to update. Josh is consolidating comments. Modifying material 580/590 potential for module material. Jenn stepped up to be instructor.

Subcommittee Report-outs:

Smoke Technical Topics

- SMG work will continue, slowed during fire season.
- EPA EI group had a call, Sim Larkin participated.
- Tesh Roa congratulating people on call a few weeks ago.



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- Setting up a working group for emission factors
 - Robert Durham: Clean Air Act Services committee has an emission factor working group.
 - Would be great to share EF white paper with Cindy & JFSP, so they can take EFs into account. JFSP is looking at possibly funding a topic for 2016,

Smoke Training

- Call in early September; discuss comments on Air Quality and Smoke Management course, as well as Smoke Exposure Mitigation Guide. Draft has gone out to ARAs being deployed, and shared in CA.
- ADD WFSTAR Smoke Video to FRAMES and also one of the AFE posters.
- Pete will be meeting with EPA Region 9. Will solicit EPA for membership in Subcommittee.

Smoke Managers

- RX burns in CA are primary topic for next call.
- Pete noticing interaction of ARAs w/athletics/sports. Need brochure of information for all states/regions. Information is not consistent between states.
- Need a permanent resource page for outside activities.
- Claudia agrees Smoke Managers can take on task of smoke & sports info. There is some research by a grad student regarding challenges in communicating about smoke. May have interest in helping with this. Susan seconds idea for a research project.
 - What types of brochures are available? What masks/filters should public buy?
 - Pete attended pub meeting and brochures/handouts would be a valuable tool.

Round Robin Topics

- Claudia/NM—smoke is impacting NM from fires in Pacific NW. Have been “bumps” in the monitors where these levels are unusual. She sent ARA info to AQ bureau and BLM.
- Diana/OK—Same thing in OK. PM concentrations have been moderate several times now.
- WESTAR getting a new executive director in 2016, Dan Johnson is retiring this year, but he will be at the Fall Meeting.
- Diana Report out: NACAA Criteria Pollutants call – update on Exceptional Events Rule, pushing date back to end of Fall/early winter for proposal. Final rule summer of next year.