

**Smoke Manager's Subcommittee
Conference call
1.31.2012**

Roll Call:

**Christine Paulson, Iowa/Iowa DNR AQB
Mike Broughton, Colorado/USFWS
Claudia Standish, New Mexico/BLM State Office
Josh Hall, New Mexico/USFS Santa Fe NF
Rick Gillam, Georgia/EPA
Gail Kantak, Iowa/Iowa DNR
Nick Yonker, Oregon/ Oregon Dept. of Forestry
Jim Roehl, California Tuolumne APCD
Andrea Boyer, Idaho Nez Perce Tribe/ERWM Air Quality
Carol Blocksome, Kansas/Kansas State University
Gary Arcemont, California/San Luis Obispo APCD
Jennifer Godwin, RedLake, Minnesota
Leif Paulsen, Wyoming/Air Quality Division
Brian Bohlmann, Wyoming/Air Quality Division
Ann Hobbs, California/Placer County Air District
Brandon Clifford, New York/Albany Pinebush Commission
Rick Connell, Montana/Flathead NF
Lawra Boyce, South Carolina/DHEC, Air Quality
Kim Sumner, California/Siskiyou APCD
Eldon Beck, California/Siskiyou APCD
Tim Hepola, Minnesota/US FWS
Joan Hardesty, Alaska/Division of Air Quality
Mark Fitch, Idaho/National Park Service
Dan Washington, Utah/BLM
Deidre Dether, Idaho/USFS Boise NF
Josh Waldrop, California/Shasta County APCD
Scott Reed, Arkansas Forestry Commission
Carol Golsh, California/Tehama County APCD
Richard Wilson, BLM
Gerald Barrett, California/Eastern Kern APCD
Twalee Abrahamson, WA/Spokane Tribe
Collen Campbell, Colorado/APCD
Candace Thomas, California/El Dorado APCD**

Who we are/Mike:

Smoke Manager's Sub-Committee under NWCG/SmoC.

Portion of our Charter read

Networking opportunity, Smoke Manager's USA Contact list (people who have go-no go decisions, whether burns get conducted based on Air Quality parameters;

Distribution contact list, updates; feed this list into an automatic system

MFC page to post

Ad-agenda items: Mike- Smoke & Response on the Highways in Florida

Rick Gillam

- OZONE
 - EPA is in the middle of the process of determining non-attainment areas
 - Information is posted at MyFireCommunity air quality page
 - Period for public comments to EPA ends 2.3.2012
 - States have until 2.29.2012 to officially respond to EPA's recommended boundaries
 - EPA to make final designation this spring
 - Litigation to proposed consent decree, May 30, 2012 that EPA has to make a decision IF that consent decree gets finalized
- PM2.5
 - Not as much going on right now
 - EPA working on revisions to current standards and there is litigation on that because EPA missed 5year deadline. That was supposed to be revisited in Nov 2011
 - Court doc: by June 2013
 - EPA administrator has issued a document that says they will not revise PM10, just the PM2.5
 - Next Tuesday in Atlanta a PM emission factor workshop/webinar
 - Purpose of workshop-
 - Present recent advances in research re: emissions factors (?), black carbon; sharing of technical information
 - Lots of Air Quality and emissions issues...
 - Is there a range for annual standard of PM2.5?
 - Annual standard: 11-13 microgram per cubic meter.
 - Daily standard: 30-35 microgram per cubic meter
 - Transport rule in East has been stayed on Dec. 30, 2011-EPA will continue to administer the CAIR rule; kind of thrown a wrench in things at EPA
 - Regional Haze: EPA will continue (draft consent decree because missed deadlines on issuing FIPS or SIPS) that would call for finalizing Regional Haze Sips by June and November 2012

- EER: nothing new to report; EPA's group on Rx Air Quality Policy for Emissions from Fire is working on that and looking at issues related to revising Fire Policy that was issued for review only to federal folks. EPA looking over the revisions proposed by FEDS and will be having another call in mid-Feb. Pete Lahm provided Rick and others with a document on Basic Smoke Management Practices and EPA is considering that document as part of EPA's fire policy.

COMMUNICATIONS/COORDINATION PLANS

Idaho/Montana:

They have had a strategy in place for 5 years; however, last year incorporated "unplanned ignitions," since WFU is no longer used. Idaho's main smoke flow direction goes into Montana, so it was critical to have a two-state plan. Having something in place prior to events is important, both to DEQ offices and regulators and FEDS, to facilitate communications - capitalizes on use of equipment from air regulators. Identifies methods of coordination and communications. Important part of the plan is what it is not intended to do.

Stress that agencies manage the operational end of the wildfires. The plan has varying levels of action so that the actions are commensurate with the smoke activity/impacts.

California:

The need for a Communication Protocol was the result of management of an **unplanned ignition, formerly known as "wildfire use"** (the language in the regulations did not match what the FEDS had recently revised in their policy). This led to the development of a plan.

Discussion

Ann Hobbs

- In Placer County a neighboring forest in another county had created impacts.
- Communications is not as good as it needs to be. While we have a plan in place, it is a living document and how do we talk to one another. Forest management will play a role on whether this is an issue or not

Gary Arcemont

- Important to talk to your other adjacent air districts to make sure they understand what the impacts will be.

Laura Boyce, South Carolina

- S. Carolina is crafting a Communication Plan now.
- Have good relationships with our cooperators so we put together a stakeholder group: Forestry, Air, Health, American Lung Association, landowners, state and local govt.; neighboring states
- How can we come up with one message? Fire message "fire is good" and the air quality message is that "Smoke is A Health Threat" trying to come together to develop one message. In a pre-draft phase right now. Also doing some research in seeing what other things might be out there.

Rick Gillam

- ‘One Message, Many Voices’ campaign
- **ACTION ITEM: Rick will send out links to this campaign, and Claudia will send out in notes-DONE!**

Mike brought up that in some areas the message (“Why we Burn”) is becoming old because folks already understand. Needs to be expanded towards what is done to limit smoke effects.

Nick Yonker, Oregon Dept. of Forestry

- Lakeview event (2010)
- Communication & messaging in Oregon, while scope is RX fire, some industrial land owners have concern that when FLM’s are allowed to burn under unplanned ignitions, not only does it screw up air quality but taking away resources from private land owners.
- Lots of communication and messaging but not a lot of action!
- What do you do when you have a large smoke event from a wildfire that continues to get large enough over a long duration, so that now you have serious smoke impacts? Eventually, legislators will get involved and things will be altered.
- Josh: Make smoke a “management objective” on incident reports.
- Mark: There are areas where involvement in WFDSS process is happening. Get the smoke management objective and interaction with Air Quality Bureau.
- Ann: CA. Health & Safety Code defines the type of burning that can be allowed in the state. Walking a fine line between protecting public health and allowing fire activity to take place. We need the messages to be synced up! It is critical. We do not need the public getting us cross-wired with one another. Relationships need to be built every single year. Sometimes relationships have to be re-built.
- Rick in Montana: Look at expectations. Public expects no smoke in the air. When we say we are protecting their health, they think no smoke. We have people who are adverse to smoke, and the people in the middle. How we can manage smoke when it is and is not a health hazard? We need to be clear about setting expectations.
- John, Shasta County: Educate public and keep political arena in mind as well. Board of Supervisor, CAO’s of counties and other entities.

Topics for future discussion:

- Smoke modeling of superfog & fires/fatalities on highways in Florida
- Implementation Guide for Rx Fire & Appendices on Basic Smoke Management Practices

Mike to send out a doodle poll about the next meeting