



## NWCG Smoke Committee February 2013 Activity Update



### Outreach and Messaging

- IAWF Fuels and Fire Behavior Conference, Raleigh, NC
  - SmoC Poster content: AQ visual range, membership, SmoC task teams, AQ & wildfire, PM NAAQS, and training efforts.
  - Prescribed Fire Councils Poster
  - SmoC training flyer
  - Advertised and outreach for 2013 International Smoke Symposium (Save-the-Date flyer in all registrants packets)
- 2013 International Smoke Symposium
  - Pete has recruited a few new people to help with this effort
  - Good dialogue with FS Northern Station regarding GTR publishing of the symposium
  - Need to create a Symposium Program/Planning Committee
  - EPA is also interested in the smoke symposium
- JFSP smoke surveys sent to subcommittee chairs for distribution
- Interagency 2013 wildfire season messaging drafting is in process (smoke content opportunity)

### Membership Issues

- Ensure SmoC literature is up to date on membership
- Pete's discussion with Amy Royden-Bloom/NACAA:
  - NACAA endorses SmoC doing more wildfire engagement.
  - Diana Hinson is NACAA's official representative
  - Interested in gaining a member from upper Midwest and southeast regions to fill vacancy from Gordon Anderson's retirement and withdrawal of FL from NACAA

### NWCG Business

- Blaine Heumann is replacing Laura McCarthy as our TNC rep on the SmoC Committee. Blaine works as the director of fire management for TNC, operates out of Arlington VA, and works in a field location south of Missouri. TNC mostly does Rx fire with staff in ~30 states in the US and half a dozen other countries. Blaine's role is risk mgt, safety, and program oversight.
- Pete: Status of SmoC comments in Fireline Handbook - 5% of comments were accepted
- All-Chairs Meeting
  - 3-day session with USFS, DOI and State Forestry lead speakers
  - NWCG is part of the standards development process but not necessarily the policy driver
  - Groups should be acutely aware of FACA
  - Dan Smith/NASF happy with SmoC's work and collaboration efforts
  - Pete providing summary of SmoC work/projects from Subcommittees and presented projects in communication and integration collaboration categories
  - Fire Environment Fire Weather Subcommittee - Gary's work on a fire point matrix, mixing heights, and air stagnation advisory
  - SmoC 5-year outlook
  - Presentations from meeting included:
    - Cohesive strategy: Identify barriers including how to address/mitigate smoke barrier
    - Information framework - define business needs in the info tech structure (data, data quality, modeling and tracking mechanisms). These needs are not federal-centric
    - The Wildland Fire Institute
    - Incident management developments-5 levels of IC currently in the field. 3-tier approach (complex and long duration incidents, and primary/initial attack level) being considered.



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- Frustration with slow process of document approval within NWCG. Quarterly calls to discuss cross committee issues e.g. five committees discussing risk and assessment currently.
- NWCG turning some courses over to FEMA resulting in examples becoming more general - not specifically fire issues
- SmoC should set up a conference call with IT Framework effort to discuss status of their efforts and how smoke/air quality business needs can be developed short and long-term.

### Subcommittee Report-outs

#### Smoke Technical Topics

- Updated chapter of the Smoke Management Guide from EPA. Still reviewing/amending chapters within the group.
- Working with Robyn Heffernan on HYSPLIT feedback
- 2011 NEI window is still open. Greenhouse gas EI info needs to go out to retrospective EI group.
- IMET sounding kits - equipped w/radio & decoder. Possible software upgrade—better data analysis tools.
- DEASCO3 ozone project call - modeling done soon. Online ozone planning tool discussion.

#### Smoke Training

- Mark Koontz of NPS and on OWDC has joined calls.
- Close to final for Smoke Exposure Module. Call with Roger Ottmar/Smoke exposure.
- Draft script for transportation safety is out. Gary Curcio and Jim Brenner will work on the student guide.
- George Broyles and Joe Domitrovich are working on the Smoke Exposure training.
- EPA has a video on EBAM monitoring - may have some video production capability.

#### Smoke Managers

- In between the January and April meetings - no update

### Round Robin

- AirNow (<http://airnow.gov/>) is going to change the methodology they display real time information from a 24-hour average to a 3-hour average. Pete is working with AirNow to increase support of emergency smoke monitors and separating that data from the permanently located monitors.
- EPA has engaged on small personal sensors for CO, PM, etc. They are working with those manufacturers to manage and understand that tech and what impact it may have on their program. Pete is going to try to engage in that topic to see how this may affect our fire activities.
- Black Carbon Meetings, Wash DC - BC identified as 2<sup>nd</sup> most significant constituent to greenhouse effects
- Oklahoma certified their Smoke Management Plan on February 28, 2013
- Josh Weiss-NWS, Scott Goodrick-USFS, Gary Achtemeier-USFS working together on whiteout/Superfog tools development.
- Highway crash in GA - 3 fatalities. Rx burn day prior and wildfire in the area, very foggy. Investigating if smoke was a factor. Agency burning unknown at this time.
- Cindy Huber and the Smoke Science Team increasing communications work with Tim Swedberg. Working w/JFSP - preparing fact sheets and multimedia. Will keep SmoC up to date w/progress.
- Pete will ask EPA to sponsor the 2013 Smoke Symposium