



# NWCG Smoke Committee



## Activity Update February 2015

### Action Items

- Website activity – review and comment on the website:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Pvp8uUnCvkZFnJrbPzu33fOrdH9rtFM-7-w0a2B10M/edit> Send ideas for website to Pete and Josh.
- Elaine to send SmoC charter to Pete for review. Elaine sees the following differences: WFLIC, to FACT to NWCG language from the 7/29/2009 version of the charter.
- Gary will send note on comment to Tim Brown, Sim Larkin, AirNow Tech, and cc Pete.
- EBAMS data doesn't appear on AirNow. Will site be ready for 2015 fire season?
- Josh & Mike will post presentations on FRAMES site.
- Mark and Pete changing order to OWDC so RX410 is required RXb2 in the 310-1.
- Paul will provide input to update the Smoke Training for Land Managers.
- Susan will work on the outreach paragraph for the Emission Factor Presentation
- Blaine will work on WebEx hosting w/the speakers.
- Tammy will update the ozone season portion of the Ozone BP w/monitoring locations and will verify monitoring and ozone season data.
- Advise Mike, Pete, Tammy, or Mark if you have additional items to add to the Ozone BP.
- Pete will capture additional language from the Ozone BP revision.

### Outreach and Messaging

- Diana has completed June, July, and Aug 2014 Activity Updates. Pete and Mike are reviewing.
- Include SmoC charter language rewrite on agenda for next SmoC call.
- NWCG will have a higher expectation of posting minutes on official NWCG website. They will be a formatted for 508 compliance.

### Member Changes

- Introduction of new BIA rep (replaces Ed Brunson): Paul Pooler – Represents multiple Regions as a Fire Ecologist, which includes smoke management and fire effects responsibilities.
- Mike is stepping down as vice-chair of SmoC and chair of the Smoke Management subcommittee.

### NWCG Business All chairs meeting – Issues SmoC wants raised

- Dialogue on Yarnell. Discuss the fatalities and challenges we face.
- Smoke Exposure
  - AZ OSHA reports the decision making failure may have been caused by smoke exposure.
  - Rim Fire – exposure monitors turned off at night due to alarms sounding frequently.
- Susan has draft NEI BP – advising state foresters and RX councils that 2014 is an NEI year.
- The ARA training scheduled for May 5-9 in Boise. FS contributed funds. Slots are available for pre-identified personnel who will be volunteering for the ARA position this upcoming fire year.
- Transportation Safety Efforts moving forward with the Training Subcommittee.
- Due to the success of the International smoke symposium, there will be opportunities for additional events. The virtual conference increased participation, especially for state and federal agencies that lack funding for travel.



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- Committee collaboration
  - Chairs or vice chairs should periodically get together on a conference call to share what they are doing in order to collaborate on similar projects.
- All Chairs meeting topics from Gary to consider:
  - Mixing Height Methodology.
  - Fire Danger Station Standards - need to go to instrumentation capability, i.e. temperature standard shouldn't have been made more tolerant because of the critical nature of temperature in weather events.
  - Estimated Smoldering Potential.
  - EBAM/ESAMPLER Station Standards.
  - Guidance that was not accepted for the Incident Pocket Guide & Fireline Handbook concerning SmoC's efforts on Personnel Exposure and Transportation Corridor Safety.
  - ARA has a technical specialist position in ROSS.
  - For the Data Committee, what data does SmoC need to capture emissions; amendments to Situation Reports by GACCs, 209's, FORS, etc.
- Facilitating collaboration: Since all of the NWCG Committees are process driven, we should frame up some examples, such as the mixing height project. The project and committees would benefit from engaging in the various process-based issues to move the project forward.
  - Committees should collaborate during projects, rather than deal with criticism and a review burden AFTER a project is nearly complete. This could very well tie into Gary's observations on our comments for the Fireline Handbook.
- Many fire chiefs are dealing with fuels and fuel treatments on a municipal and local level, especially within the WUI. Potential direction for engaging them as an ARA.

### NWCG Business

- Uniform NWCG Charter. Comments due March 13.
  - Charter has original name, members, and agencies included as some have changed.
  - Identify SmoC operating principles and different levels of participation.
  - Committee roster should be based on the needs of the committee.
  - Committee SOP can include how SmoC operates.
- Funding opportunities submittal Deadline is April 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - Funding is looking steady at this point but decreasing.
  - Write up funding application soon if activities need NWCG funding.
- NWCG website information.
  - Rollout is April/May.
  - Each committee will have individual landing page: meeting minutes, roster, products, memos, resource page button, etc.
  - Committee pages will have a matching format. Resource page content is more flexible.
  - Mike will initial volunteer effort on this and check time commitment.
  - Activity updates can be linked from FRAMES to direct people to NWCG.
- Report from All-Chairs meeting
  - NWCG potentially to have committee-wide meeting to interact every couple of years.
  - EPA Region 10 meeting will be held in Boise/March.
  - Streamline procedures – changing 508 template for meeting minutes & NWCG website.



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- Pete will share NWCG streamlining notes next call.
- Wildland fire info and tech organization is not out of NWCG.
- Meeting to coordinate efforts to restore longleaf pine area.
  - Will discuss using fire as a tool and new ozone rule and existing EER rule.
  - Mark Melvin may brief SmoC afterward.
- RX-410 currently in revision. Smoke exposure and hazard should be earlier in training. Fits better in S-130 or S-190.
- Smoke exposure topic is feasible addition to S-130.
- Respond to the NWCG outreach notice if you have any comments on NWCG 310-1.
- Mark and Pete will work on change-order to OWDC to make RX410 a requirement for RXB-2 in the 310-1.
- Emission Factors – SmoC will need a summit on this topic as recent research indicates these will change. Will have a great effect on future emission calculations.

### Emission Factor Presentation

- The presentation is 1 ½ hours or less. Both Shawn and Susan are working on an outreach portion for the presentation.
- Community to invite: Tesh Rao & NEI folks, NOAA, Jessica, Fire councils, Fuels Management, Fire Environment Committee, Janice Peterson/Smoke FARM team, Jim Reardon, and FOFEM.
- Blaine will handle web hosting (WebEx) with the speakers. Will do a test run. ~150 line capacity.
- Blaine will send Susan the html link/call in# for the outreach materials.

### Ozone Discussion

- Smoke Coordination: The Jones center & EPA Region 4 discussions
  - How to manage increasing restoration burns in longleaf pine w/new ozone regulations.
  - Need to add to agenda for SmoC call.
- Westar/Sacramento public hearing
  - Currently working on their written comments.
  - WESTAR concerns:
    - Lack technical understanding of ozone in the west to address non-attainment areas.
    - Lack the capacity to conduct the necessary analysis.
    - EPA suggestions to help agencies are not adequate to fix problems in the west.
    - Rural transport provision of CAA and the International Transport Provision of the CAA come with a lot of requirements that have nothing to do with wildlands.
    - These regulatory mechanisms (of the CAA) to help agencies are not adequate to address wildland fire issues in the west.



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## Ozone BP – Revision/Update

- SmoC white-paper to address topic of new ozone standards and impacts on fire.
  - Draft as comment to ensure EPA is informed of SmoC's message.
  - Determine the best way to deliver – maybe through NACAA?
  - Many Smoke Managers Subcommittee members are interested in this topic.
  - Will hold a call to discuss the ozone rule on February 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Working Group: Pete, Mark, Mike, Tammy
- Emphasize on second page of BP how the new rule will affect the fire community and programs.
- Non-Attainment Map
  - The map is well-received and should be included.
  - Keep the potential ppms to 65 or 70 if than edit can be done.
  - Can share map with state regulators or retain the draft watermark until completed.
- Information, such as this BP, will help Westar in their communications with EPA.
- Proposals for the ozone seasons haven't changed.
- Tammy will update the ozone season of the BP, verify additional monitoring locations, and verify monitoring and ozone season data.
- Let Mike, Pete, Tammy, or Mark know of any additional items for the Ozone BP.
- Additional Language for Ozone BP:
  - EPA's fact sheet on the ozone standard states the vast majority of counties would come into attainment by 2025 through existing programs. BUT if this is true, what about National Parks that have ozone levels and no sources around them that are contributing?
  - There needs to be tools to identify and exclude ozone from fire where fires are a significant part of the community.
- Agenda Item For next Call – Progress report on the ozone BP.
- Federal Agency Comments on ozone NAAQS – Fed agencies probably not commenting during public comment period. Other agencies may comment but fire agencies typically do not.
- Final Ozone Implementation Rule (issued 2/13/2015) and Wildland Fire
  - Dan/WESTAR commenting tools to address exceedances are welcome, but the current tools offered from EPA are not sufficient to address those impacts.

## Other SmoC Topics

- Be aware Vice Chair, Smoke Managers subcommittee Chair, and webmaster positions will soon be vacant. Thank you Mike for all you've done for SmoC, we hope to work with you again soon!

## Large Fire Conference – SmoC presence

- Pete submitted an abstract for the conference. Can make it a SmoC abstract if in favor.
  - Multimedia messaging – 'The Voices of RX Fire' discuss Rx fire history.
- Josh submitted FRAMES/SmoC training abstract.
- Mike and Mark may attend.

## Upcoming Workshops-SmoC Participation

- AFE Fire Congress Research – November/2015
  - Pete – drafting a paper on wildfire and regulatory issues, will participate on a panel, and present a poster highlighting recent SmoC activities (including the Transportation Safety and Exposure Mitigation Guidebooks).



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- Josh – submitting a poster abstract to highlight the Frames website including SmoC Training Subcommittee work.
- SAF conference in Baton Rouge – Pete participating as a panel speaker on air quality challenges.
- IAWF Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference – April 2016
- IAWF International Smoke Symposium 2 – December 2016

### ARA Training Opportunity week of May 11 in Boise, ID

- Open call for candidates. Must be available with being deployed and being ready to go with a short training period.
- Will need to create agreement for other agencies.
- Challenging for independent people.

### Smoke and Air Quality for Land Managers

- Jenn Croft and Jamie Tripp will be doing a review to see how course can be used a pre-requisite for S590/M580. Jamie Tripp will also be reviewing this. Once comments are in, the Training subcommittee will determine what changes to make and work with Josh to implement them.

### Round Robin Topics

- FOFEM – BlueSky (Gary)
  - FOFEM – Jim Reardon is working on Organic and Duff emissions. May incorporate in BlueSky for the 2015 Fire Season.
  - Susan is working on addressing BlueSky emissions in general and will discuss connection between BlueSky and other models like FEPS & Consume.
- AIRNOW Tech and access to monitors (Gary)
  - Gary will ask Tim Brown, Sim Larkin, and AIRNOW Tech about EBAMS being on Air Now but no data available and if site will be ready for 2015 fire season.
- Update on NFDRS Changes (Gary)
  - Not clear how NFDRS changes will handle moisture of extinction and overall difference.
  - Physical interpretation and translation of new outputs into fire behavior measurements.
  - In contact w/Southern State Fire Chiefs reps. Sending PowerPoint copy to them.
  - Josh & mike will post presentations on FRAMES site.
  - Gary will discuss SmoC inquiry regarding NFDRS changes with John Deeming.
- Mixing Height Team (Gary)
  - Completed PhD review and National Weather Service Review.
  - Will submit to Mark, Dan, and Mike for peer review.
- IAWF Smoke and Health Workshop materials posted online on Frames.gov/smoke, News and Events section and in the research section.
- Susan – largest number of IMETs deployed on the AK fires.
- Diana – NACAA's January 27<sup>th</sup> Call
  - EPA is continuing to revise the ozone standard. Working on implementation and guidance at the same time.
  - EPA recognizes State and local air agencies need more resources as some areas would be non-attainment for the first time.