



**National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)
Smoke Committee (SmoC)
Monthly Activity Update – December 2011**



SmoC News:

HYSPLIT Trajectories with NWS Spot Weather Forecasts – A conference call between members of SmoC, the National Weather Service (NWS), the Forest Service Smoke FARM Team, and Predictive Services was held December 14 to discuss status of work on this project. The NWS has received SmoC's request to extend the experimental phase beyond December 31, 2011 and the extension has been granted. A one-page document is close to being finalized explaining the basics of the HYSPLIT trajectories which will be made available to burners along with the NWS HYSPLIT product. A second document is in process that explains HYSPLIT trajectories and the NWS product in greater depth. Training materials are being considered, including a webinar to explain the use of the trajectory product. Subject matter experts across the country are being identified to serve as contacts for burners to assist with daily questions and issues about the product.

Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) – EPA's ozone nonattainment area (NAA) designation process is underway for the 0.075 ppm (8-hr average) standard. Pete Lahm has talked with EPA and requested GIS layers of the ozone nonattainment areas so that an analysis of acres of federal and private lands in these NAAs can be made. SmoC will be developing a briefing paper on this topic and more information can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/air/ozonepollution/>.

Communications and Messaging:

- SmoC continues to explore avenues to communicate our messages and information about smoke and air quality. If you have comments or suggestions please contact Pete Lahm (contact information below).
- The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) will be meeting in Texas the week of January 9, 2012. Pete Lahm will be presenting about smoke and air quality issues, covering topics such as: emission inventories, new ozone standards, and the outlook of fire activities and the size and scale of wildland fire smoke issues, and the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS).

SmoC Websites (NWCG Website (<http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/ppm/smoc/index.htm>), National Smoke Management Website (www.nifc.gov/smoke), two myfirecommunity sites) – SmoC continues work on updates to the NIFC smoke management web-page. Plans are to upload one-page summaries of models/tools used in smoke management that the Forest Service Smoke FARM team has compiled.

SmoC Subcommittees Activity Reports

Technical Smoke Topics Subcommittee:

- **Smoke Management Guide Revision** (Funded through DOI Fuels Management committee): Progress continues on revisions to the Smoke Management Guide (SMG).
- **Retrospective Emission Inventory Task Team:** Progress continues on this Task Team's goal to help EPA improve the 2008 EPA National Emission Inventory (NEI). EPA is looking to classify the approximately 64% of the fires in the 2008 NEI that are unclassified. Classification categories are: wildfire, prescribed fire, and agricultural fire. A call on December 20 focused on specific improvements that can be made quickly to classify fires to meet the EPA deadline of January 3, 2012. The process includes using FS FACTS database and FWS prescribed fire database, the Monitoring Trend Burn Severity (MTBS), and historical and climatological databases to assign a category to each fire in the 2008 NEI. Improved GIS layers from the National Land Cover Dataset

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For additional information on SmoC go to: <http://www.myfirecommunity.net/Neighborhood.aspx?ID=279>



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(NLCD) will be used to improve classification of agricultural/cropland fires. Identified problems with consumption will be improved for areas of the country such as Minnesota and North Carolina based on expert input. Once these short-term improvements to the 2008 NEI are made, longer-term solutions will be finalized for future NEIs.

Smoke Managers Subcommittee: A conference call is planned for the end of January 2012.

Smoke Training Subcommittee: Updates to the Smokepedia are ongoing. Plans are underway to create a training recommendations report from the IQCS report. A draft IQCS should be available soon for SmoC and NWCG concurrent review. The subcommittee is looking for new information that can be provided to RX-410 instructors. New members of the Subcommittee are Kipp Morrill (Fish and Wildlife Service) and Trent Proctor (Forest Service).

Round Robin

- Cohesive strategy phase 3 – Results of National Science and Analysis team in Salt Lake UT meeting are out. They are laying the groundwork for Phase 3 of the Cohesive Strategy. One of the subjects is Smoke. They intend to have a one-day workshop to explore values needed to analyze smoke.
- NRCS is revamping the conservation planning process and getting online tools pulled together into one system. The simple smoke training tool is being recommended to include in this process to help identify smoke sensitive receptors downwind of a planned burn.
- Alistair Smith (University of Idaho) and NRCS will be joining the Board of the Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils.

Upcoming Conferences and Meetings:

- AMS 9th Symposium on Fire and Forest Meteorology, October 18-20, 2011, Palm Springs, CA
<http://www.ametsoc.org/MEET/fainst/20119fireforest.html>
- American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting, December 5-9, 2011, San Francisco, CA
<http://sites.agu.org/fallmeeting/>
- Wildland Fire PM Emission Factor Workshop, Feb 7, 2012, Atlanta, GA
- Southwest Fire Ecology Conference, Feb 27 - Mar 1, 2012, Santa Fe, NM
<http://humboldt.edu/swfire/abstract.html>
- 3rd Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire Conference, April 17-19, 2012, Seattle, WA
www.iawfonline.org
- EPA International Emissions Inventory Conference, August 13 - 16, 2012, Hyatt Regency in Tampa, FL.