



# NWCG Smoke Committee

November – December Activity Update



## Outreach and Messaging

- Status of Activity Updates – May is in progress.
- Web Site activity – No updates at this time.

## Discussion on new emission factors

- Pete to discuss current events with Executive board. Ozone map coming out 12/1.
- Schedule this toward the end of January 1/29.
- It would be good to bring Bob Yokelson in on the conversation as well.

## NWCG Business

- Funding Opportunities – no update
- Pete still on as chair with Mike as Vice chair
  - Call Pete or Mike w/new ideas or perspectives on SmoC and smoke issues.
- Remove JR from mailing list. Lisa will be filling JRs role with BLM.

## Ozone and Fire

- Eversion of EPA proposed rule & associated fact sheets are available on EPA's website, along with the regulatory impacts assessment. <http://www.epa.gov/groundlevelozone/actions.html>
- There will be a 90 day public comment period once posted on the Federal Register.
- AQI will also change when this takes effect. Will increase frequency of 'moderate' air quality days. The public will perceive as worsening of AQ. May pose a future communication challenge.
- Segments & language added to the proposal associated with wildfire (impacts and attainment) through interaction with climate and natural background levels.
- SmoC should develop a briefing paper on this rule no later than the 60 day public comment period to give people a month to read it & form comments putting the due date in February.

## Subcommittee Report-outs:

### Smoke Technical Topics

- Smoke management guide is continuing. Met in Boise a couple weeks ago. Nearly complete.
- EPA fire emission inventory group – No word from EPA on this.

### Smoke Training

- Smoke Exposure Guidebook is currently being revised. Send review comments to Josh Hyde.

### Smoke Managers

- Will have a call on Tuesday, Ron Sherron will be presenting on the call and has offered to join the subcommittee as an officer to fill Claudia's place when she retires.
- People showing concern regarding EPA's extension of ozone season & how this will affect prescribed fire. Exceptional Event Rule (EER) should be used burns if they cause a violation.

## Round Robin Topics

- Mike participated in RX Educational Burn in the southwest. Members of the public invited to attend. Annual event since 2008. Well received from the public. FWS is looking to expand it.



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- Agricultural Air Quality Task Force meeting in CO - EPA presented schedules for rule implementation – EER draft expected Mid 2015. Final EER is scheduled for ~2016 and will include ozone and wildfire guidance.
- 200 people attended Central Sierra Rx fire workshop this week. Pete discussed the latest implication of the new ozone rule.
- Interstate N. Rockies Rx fire council encompassing parts of ID and MT in development.
- Call for abstracts for 6<sup>th</sup> international wildfire conference to be held in Korea, 2015.
- NEI discussion held in NC, hosted by Tesh Roa. Well attended by state (forestry and air regulatory agencies) as well as federal agency participation.
  - Will send the link to materials when it is available.
  - Developed a workgroup to look at fire emissions and the 2014 effort.
  - Expanding state forestry, Ag, and regulatory agency participation in the fire EI, covering wild, Rx, and Ag fires. There were requests for participation in that group. Tom Moore, Sim Larkin, Pete Lahm, Tesh Roa will be members of this group. Mike Broughton and Mark Fitch are interested in participating in this group as well as Nick Yonker (OR Forestry), Dan Chan (GA State Forestry), Greg Johnson (NRCS).
  - Susan is working on updating emission factors for the BlueSky Framework to aid in the Emission Inventory efforts.
  - Focus on location, actual area burned, any surface/soil consumption, etc. reported out at the start of the process. Get quality data from a large participating group from the start.
- Abstracts for Int. Emission Factor Conference are Due in two weeks - 11/28
- SW Smoke Management Workshop
  - Topics covered: fire ecology, Air Quality tools, health effects of smoke. Broke into small working sessions to discuss smoke issues.
  - Rx410 students were included & provided the opportunity to engage with SMEs on the dialogue surrounding smoke management issues. Added level of inquisitiveness that may not have been there otherwise.
  - Could have been more private citizens engaged, BUT the citizen speakers & members attending provided perspective, both on what the public faces re: smoke impacts, and what the fire community does to plan, manage, and try to minimize impacts.
  - Thanks Pete, Miriam, Greg Johnson, Susan, Josh & Lynn Wells, great support efforts.
- OK/KS Flint Hills Smoke Management meeting. Discussed types of burns, smoke management in the area and future collaboration. Attended by KDHE, EPA, ODEQ, K-state, and ranchers.
- Mark F- ESRI is working with a hazards team to use ArcGIS Online Tools to track, record, and share data on hazards, including fire. Good topic for a presentation to SmoC. ARAs can use to pass information on as one leaves and their replacement arrives.
- Workshop in Ft Collins – primarily smoke and AQ researchers to look at the JFSP Smoke Science Plan and assess progress. Identify areas where more progress is needed, & identify follow up.
  - Ed thought information was useful in provided more detail from the researchers perspective – there is a continuing need for research
  - The review for this should be available soon.
- Still have peer review opportunities form JFSP. Reviewing closes a week from tomorrow. Talk to Ed Brunson, John Cissel, Rob Griffith If interested in reviewing.