



Communication and Messaging

- Call reminders are helpful.
- Elaine to discuss a briefing paper on smoke training to the NWCG board.

Wildfire Response

- Wildfires have receded in eastern Oregon & Rx burning has begun.
- Albuquerque had smoke issues from Rx burning in Jemez Mt. Wilderness - inversion conditions.

Air Resource Advisor Training

- Training announcement sent by Brian Potter at PNW.
- Pete received an inquiry to determine how non-fed ARAs might be compensated. State personnel could be covered by the Interagency Master Agreement.

NWCG Business

- Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide out for review- SmoC will submit comments. Pete, Claudia, Ed, Stu and Lisa making comments.
- Mark attended an NWCG eShare—SmoC received \$29K of \$50K for training. May get more in 2013 depending on funding and \$13.9 for the IAWF-SmoC International Smoke Symposium.
- All Chairs meeting in February to discuss budgets and future of NWCG direction.
- Next year's budget requests all due by May 30, 2013.
- Wayne and Allen Deitz (NWCG) want a list of potential guides that will be revised in FY13 by February. Don't print anymore first editions—affects their inventory.
- eShare on data standards have been pushed to a later TBD date instead of November.
- All Committee Webinar presentation is in the training assessment folder
- Elaine/Executive Board Meeting refined 2013 emphasis areas—6 NWCG Standards.
- SmoC's portion of NWCG Portal has been published and available at <http://www.nwcg.gov/var/sections/policy-planning-and-management/smoke-committee>. Expanding to include subcommittees, so waiting to advertise availability. Mike defined Lisa's role to be review site and make organizational suggestions.
- Risk management committee (RMC) call - Ed, Pete, Gary, and Stu had a call with Tony Beitia (Risk Mgt), Tim Blake and Elaine Waterbury - Concerned about our smoke exposure efforts
 - Concerns that SmoC was out of scope. They are trying to figure out what is our scope.
 - Committed to do a presentation of the webinar material for RMC.
 - RMC meeting with Pete and Stu on the 13th
 - There are sensitivities here, we are working in a lot of different domains, need to build confidence of the other committees through communication.
 - Also bringing this up in the All-Chairs meeting in Feb.
- Elaine will ask for SmoC updates next week to give to the board
- Mark and Pete presented to the ETC led by Leslie Anderson(FS). Discussed monitoring issues & responses to support 2012 NWCG memo re: personnel exposure-cross committee discussions needed: Risk, Smoke, Equipment committees on future call.
- Elaine to find out if SmoC's Forest Service NEPA information was transferred to the NWCG site

2013 International Smoke Symposium

- Tentatively scheduled for October 21, 2013.
- Mark, Pete, and Susan discussed either George Mason U or U-MD as hosting location.



November 2012 Activity Update



- U-MD site visit-can broadcast sessions online, free WiFi, and shuttle from Metro.
- Working with Mikel to get Steering committees together for discussion tracks.
- Those interested in planning or commenting should contact Mark, Susan, and Pete.
- JFSP Workshop planned for Monday before Symposium.
- Fair amount of interest from WESTAR and state regulators.

HYSPLIT product in Spot Forecasts

- Nearing the end of the 2012 experimental period for the spot weather forecast.
- Proposal for SmoC letter recommending continuation
- Would like to see two additional option height levels of dispersion for users.
- Also need to increase the number of allowable release times.
- Robyn Heffernan received limited but only positive comments from users & looking for more.

Update on websites

- MyFireCommunity - Mike & Lisa are reformatting to make headings & reorganizing the website.
- NWCG portal – The rest of the monthly updates have been posted to the portal (added key words to the files). There are mandatory key words we have to use for SmoC documents that are on the portal.

Upcoming meetings:

- Nov 5 - SmoC Training Webinar - SmoC Training Presentation
- Nov 6 - Smoke Managers Subcommittee meeting - Pete can be there for the first hour of the call
- Doodle Poll - HYSPLIT weather task team
 - The period of testing the NWS HYSPLIT feature will end with this year, so this working group is dialoging with them
- Pete and Gary are talking about a smoke presentation at the February NC meeting, Cindy Huber asked about this.
 - AirFire is going to be doing some training.
 - Also a special section on RX Cadre that will cover some smoke

Retiring Soon

- Gordon Andersson planning to retire toward the end of January—Diana Hinson is willing to be official NACAA rep. Tom Gross possible replacement from KS -attendis Smoke Managers calls.
- Anthony Matthews retiring at the end of December - will be doing some FS contract work.



Subcommittee Report-Outs

Technical Smoke Topics Subcommittee

- Making recommendations for HYSPLIT letter. Beta version of Spot Weather Forecast web page out in spring. Doodle poll from Pete to HYSPLIT Task Team for an update call.
- SMARTFIRE group to calculate 2011 NEI emissions. More information for western states contact Mark Fitch (to get into contact with Tom Moore).
- SMARTFIRE webinar & other EI presentations are available online. FS will take any formatted info (nationwide). Any available fire occurrence data was requested from TNC.
- HYSPLIT trajectory calls to continue with Robin Heffernan (NWS), Heath Hockenberry (NWS), and Ed Delgado (NPSG). Spot weather forecast HYSPLIT runs will be retained. Beta phase next year will include website and ordering process. Need to draft comment letter to NOAA.
- Assessing options for the monitoring cache in 2013. Ensure devices ready when deployed & 24-hr tech support. A summary report is planned-Pete.
- Smoke Mgt. Guide work continuing. Currently having frequent calls.

Training Subcommittee

- Webinar presentation on 11/5—18 attendees.
- Don Wagner reiterated states more interested in building on existing training instead of additional training.
- Continuing smaller calls on the Personnel Smoke Exposure module and Transportation Safety (Gary Curcio, Anthony Matthews and Jim Brenner). A lot of interest, but not enough time to get into the WFSTAR Fire Refresher program this year.
- Anticipate preparations for a monitoring module.
- Adopting a 2-step process with the basic module for everyone and more advanced material made available separately.

Smoke Managers Subcommittee

- October Teleconference had good national representation—31 attendees—14 states, 2 tribes, 3 federal programs present.
- EPA update—Rick Gillam—several meetings on pollutant standards, should see movement soon.
- Exceptional event info from Flint Hills on KS AQ website.
- Mary Anderson gave positive comments regarding Halstead Fire (ARA assigned: Mark Fitch, Mike Broughton and Erin Law) and reported info void on remaining fires leaving Idaho struggling when Area Command and MAC shut down—validates need for smoke support efforts.
- Reduction in Rx fires among private burners may be about litigation as well as AQ issues.
- Draft meeting minutes have been sent out to the attendees of the recent call - Doodle poll for next meeting will be sent shortly.
- Mike has received emails from people interested in the March Air Resource Advisor training.
- Next meeting scheduled 3rd or 4th week in January.

Round Robin

- Pete attended governing board of the Coalition of Rx fire councils and LongLeaf Alliance.
 - Objective—develop Rx fire council in states that don't have them.
 - Deliver message on use and value of Rx fire including air quality and coordination among various groups.
 - Need to improve NWCG training—make available online, funding and recognition for experience is obstacle.



November 2012 Activity Update



- Council working to get grants for funding, (need a subcommittee) and recruit an executive director.
- Letters of support from SmoC. Does this need to go through NWCG Executive Board?
- ARA program received good response—WESTAR to organize ARA contacts and create fire planning group. Presentations on WESTAR.org.
- Susan has been working on submitting AQI/VR/PM2.5 JFSP Efforts for publication. JFSP can provide basis for this topic for the Symposium. Dialogue with Al, Doug, and Cindy. Susan will share draft of visibility conference paper she submitted to journal.
- Eglin AFB/Rx Cadre burns—15 EBAMs and a couple E-Samplers. Al working with researchers to monitor night smoke following daytime permit issuances. Burns went very well.
- Jessica McCarty—visit the northern counties in MN that border ND and counties in eastern ND and look at fuel types/loads and fire activity in efforts to develop better emission factors for rangeland and cropland burns. Conflicting data in MN area indicating her research is needed. Potential to use her data in NEI 2011 and present analysis to SmoC.
- Gordon following up with NACAA concerning ARA and wildfire response presentation offer.
- Gary provided link for a CA video—Protect Yourself from Wildfire Smoke
http://www.arb.ca.gov/videos/impacts_of_smoke.htm.
- Nick—Oregon DEQ working on wildfire response plan identifying roles/responsibilities of state, federal, and local agencies during major/sever WFs—public outreach, health advisory issues, air monitoring equipment deployment, AQ smoke modeling, evacuations. Brian Finneran is contact.
- Gary—Raleigh WFO changed way to calculate mixing heights—reducing number of allowable burn days and causing county line issues. Plan to set up conference calls to discuss issues.
- Cindy—Smoke Science Communication plan released
- Bill Harnett with EPA told NACAA they are wrapping up on discussions on the fire policy and thinking about how to engage other stakeholders. Leaning toward the same route they took with SO₂ - Regional meetings across the United States (S.E., Midwest, CA, and PNW). Earliest would be Jan/Feb, latest March/April.
 - About half of NACAA wants a joint stakeholder meeting, the other half would like to have just the regulators in the discussions.
- Phil Lorang (EPA) - Goal is to complete exceptional events guidance and decide if they are going to do formal rule making sometime next month.
 - There is about 8 different things in the wind event guidance that will apply to wildfire
- Trent Wickman has been working on the Juneberry and Pagami Creek fire emissions and has found serious overestimates on the 2011 NEI. Problem with the emission factors for one of the fuel types. He will present this and should be forwarding this info on to Sim Larkin and EPA. -

Upcoming Conferences

5th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress: Uniting Research, Education and Management, The Association for Fire Ecology, December 3-7, 2012, Portland, OR <http://afefirecongress.org/>

American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, December 3-7, 2012, San Francisco, CA
<http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2012/>

4th fire Behavior and Fuels Conference, February 18-22, 2013, Raleigh, NC
<http://www.iawfonline.org/2013FuelsConference/index.php>