



NWCG Smoke Committee

Activity Update May 2015



Outreach and Messaging

- Status of Activity Updates – Diana is working to bring the activity updates to date. Will use the 508 compliant format going forward.
- Web Site activity
 - <https://www.frames.gov/partner-sites/emissions-and-smoke/smoke-portal-home/>
 - Check the site and give comments, suggestions, etc. to Mike and Josh. Goal is to use website as an informational resource for outside inquiries.
- NWCG Website Questions & Coordination prior to rollout – NWCG contact Mike Re: content and structure of the Smoke Committee page at the NWCG website, what do people want to see?
 - Obligation to have minutes, roster, contacts, and primary products such as briefing papers. Link back to the FRAMES site for the rest.
 - Mike will follow up with NWCG regarding expectations for the NWCG webpage.

NWCG Business

- Wildfire Definition status – Different definitions (at least 7) in use by different agencies and NWCG. Topic discussion continues.
- Funding submittals, in order of funding priority:
 - Emissions Workshop & Analysis (organizing, report writing, & data analysis). Discuss w/Cindy, JFSP, Mark, Pete, & Susan. Submitted under Technical Topics subcommittee.
 - Training subcommittee – Safety Officer & Medical Unit Leader Smoke Training Video Modules.
 - 2016 International Smoke Symposium Take Two.
- Membership Changes on Smoke Training Subcommittee – Brenda Wilmore is taking Stu Hoyts seat on the Fire Use subcommittee, Jamie Tripp (USFS R5) will take over Brenda's role.
- Ozone NAAQS BP and website – For Internal SmoC Review ONLY
<https://www.frames.gov/index.php?cID=2364>
- 2014 ozone map: Reduced number of ozone exceedances means non-attainment acres *may* not be as severe as expected.

ARA Training Opportunity week of May 11 Boise, ID

- Video created from the training will be available.
- Jennifer Jones will be one of the instructors.

Subcommittee Report-outs:

New Co-chair for SmoC Training Subcommittee: Jamie Tripp (FS R 5). Interest in Smoke & air quality. Current region 5 fuels specialist – Air is important in CA. Rx fire is one of the primary responsibilities.

Smoke Technical Topics

- EPA holding emissions call to look at the NEI. Mark and Susan will report out on the next smoke call re: what info they can find from the EPA NEI call from 5/21.
- Emission Factor white paper – Roger Ottmar and Susan Prichard have comments – Have not discussed with Susan yet. Cindy & Shawn Urbanski are interested in feedback and comments.
- Organizing a workshop to discuss latest research on emission factors and use in combustion models. Timeline model updates have slowed. Goal to have the models update at once.



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- Changes will bring a lot of training material.
- Smoke Management Guide near completion. Technical editor reviewing SmoC chapters. Goes to NWCG to review. Next, SmoC will review these comments & submit for publication.

Smoke Training

- AQ/Land Mgrs - Doug Whisenhunt gave comment on course/topics for communication section.
- Anticipate changes based on the next ARA workshop.
- Smoke Exposure Mitigation Guidebook – Pete will review and give comments to subcommittee. Can provide additional information to make more robust.
- Joe Domitrovich – Gave slides to Pete at ARA workshop. Probably not captured highest smoke exposure levels currently in the west. May need to be written into our outreach materials.

Smoke Managers

- Ron Sherron will be giving a presentation – SmoC is invited.
- Opportunity for open dialogue and engage as a group. May revive the ‘Smoke Challenges Smoke Solutions’ national reports people used to share.

Round Robin Topics

- Polyethylene Piles Field Study – Shawn Urbanski, Roger Ottmar, OR state agencies, & Weisse.
 - Looking for funding – Need ~\$100,000.
 - Study will evaluate the impact of burning piles with plastic sheeting.
 - Expect field tests in early October of this year.
 - Applicable to other states wanting to burn plastic covered piles.
- Forest Service National Air Program Meeting
 - Not much active engagement from FS air personnel or Smoke FARM team right now.
 - Pete looking for someone to facilitate air issues topics and author briefing papers.
 - Many groups discuss/share info but don't follow up w/a white paper or briefing paper to spread the benefits of the communication beyond the immediate group.
 - Anticipate an increase of monitoring & concerns of level of effort people are required to dedicate to wildfire response efforts.
 - Programs struggle w/resources needed to do their work. The FS air & fire programs haven't spent much time training people (PIOs) to talk about smoke effectively.
 - Communities need to know AQ during fire.
 - Important for Rx fire operations as well.
- EPA Exceptional Events Rule and Interim Fire Policy
 - The EER is in internal review. Not gone to OMB yet – planning a 90 day review.
 - Rule proposal – fall 2015. Final rule – summer 2016.
 - Working on an ozone/fire guidance document concurrently.
 - Planning on 1 public hearing (probably a call) and having webinars for stakeholders.
 - Proposal will have a 45 day comment period.
 - Diana emailed notes out to the group 5/21.
- 2015 Smoke Science Project Funding
 - Announcements on JFSP website under Research Projects.
- Last big funding year for Smoke Science Plan Projects. Projects of interest to SmoC:
 - (A) Nancy French/Reg Smoke Mgmt and EI Tools – improve fuel mapping.
 - (B & C) projects address smoke hazard warning system.



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- Sim Larkin, Joseph Long – Prototype takes into account recent research improving smoke hazard warning system.
- (D) Interagency project (similar to RX Cadre) Roger Ottmar, Tim Brown, & Sim Larkin
 - Model measures ground & atmosphere on large scale burns to evaluate fire behavior & smoke.
- JFSP will be looking at the application of the science in the smoke science plan.
 - This phase is probably a year out at least.
- Need items SmoC wants included as application for smoke science.
- CDC working on home/shelter smoke safety guidance and working w/a lot of states to get info on wildland fire exposures and emissions. JFSP may be interested in these efforts.
- ARA Training – Presentations from course have been recorded. Plan to make these available.
 - Course has advanced. Topics will benefit broader smoke mgmt & fuels community.
 - Future training/webinar opportunities upcoming regarding ARA tasks.
- Forest Service YouTube Video on Prescribed Fire Smoke Management:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RSHhFgqIxc&list=PLNsZX2SBTIVnYQ1OKnrDqpZAZfqEiWO-k>
 - Includes a good segment of smoke management practices.
 - Working to combine these.
- Posting IAWF Smoke & Health Workshop materials
 - Pete working w/Susan Stone & Anna Rappold. Have most materials presented plus an overview document.
 - Pete will finalize IAWF Smoke Health overview document & work w/Josh on posting.
- EPA's PM_{2.5} Implementation Rule
 - Comments close May 29.