



# NWCG Smoke Committee

## March/April 2015 Activity Update



### Outreach and Messaging

- Diana is working on Oct/Nov Activity Updates. Pete will review submitted Updates in May.
- Web Site activity –
  - Send comments to Pete, Mike, or Josh.
  - Send news items to Mike/Josh for posting

### NWCG Business

- Wildfire Definition
  - Old version consistent with EER. Newer, shorter version came out. Pete discussing alternative version, relevant to EER and other policy issues with regulatory agencies.
  - Pete will get a compromise version to Elaine, which will be relevant when discuss EER issues and other policy issues with regulatory agencies.
- NWCG Website
  - In progress. Need subcommittee contacts for resources pages by July 1.
- Committees
  - Fire Environment Curriculum Subcommittee: Fire, Fire Danger, and Rx Fire Subunits. Deals with NWCG courses. SmoC ties in here as well.
- PMS 310
  - Out for review & due May 8<sup>th</sup>. New avenues to different positions.
  - Comments on 410 through external dialogue.
  - OWDC & Training committee merging as Ops & Training Committee. Mark Jones is chair.

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

- 2 seats still available. Anyone interested get in touch with Pete .

### Funding Opportunities – deadline for submittals is April 27.

- International Smoke Symposium Take Two.
- Training Ideas: Modules on smoke for safety officers and medical unit leaders.
- Emissions Workshop and Analysis – will need a report/information compilation.

### Ozone Briefing Paper

- Hold putting ozone page live for now – Will discuss on next call.
- BP will still be relevant, even if released later since implementation will happen.
- Other sources can send letters for posting to ozone page. Many Rx Fire Councils submitted letters to EPA.
- Pete has sent EPA letters to SmoC.
- Josh will ask Dan for a copy of WESTAR comments to EPA on Ozone NAAQS.
- Final Ozone Implementation Rule (issued 02/13/2015).

### Emissions Factor Presentation – Shawn Urbanski (SU)

- Assigning modified combustion efficiency (MCE) to a particular fire – If the EFs are contingent on MCEs, how does one assign an MCE to a fire? It will change based on the ratio of burn on ground vs. what gets into the crowns.



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- **SU** – If we can sample enough fires over long enough periods of time, we hopefully could capture a ‘fire lifecycle’.
- Do we implement the MCE, or use the flaming and smoldering combustion that Consume and FOFEM assign when generating emissions?
  - **SU** – We do predict consumption by fuel bed components, and you can generally assume components like logs will have lower MCE as opposed to grass and shrub that has higher MCE.
- When going through EF data, how did you determine which ones are credible & which aren’t?
  - **SU** – The datasets used in synthesis were drawn from recent experiments that Missoula was familiar w/or involved w/& had enough information in the methods for our review.
- Regarding the EPA’s work on the Independent Science Assessment for PM 2.5, what is the primary message of this work?
  - **SU** – The greatest advances have been in determining the quantities of non-methane organic carbons.
- What about the factor of 2 difference for primary pm 2.5 measurements?
  - **SU** – Hopefully more information from studies in the next few years will verify this.
- Blane & Josh will work on posting these. Blane can host the presentation on the Conservation Gateway, FRAMES can link to that and post the slides.

### Charter Discussion

- Uniform NWCG Charter
  - Need to add more SmoC history and diverse composition of members to meet goals.
  - Pete has emailed a draft to SmoC members. Comments due by 3/26.
  - Tracked changes approved unanimously by members.
- Member Voting
  - SmoC has traditionally operated by consensus with members from various agencies and groups. Discussions end in agreement unless divided enough to warrant votes.
  - Pete will add a statement that clearly recognizes the diversity of membership as a way to facilitate all the goals in the charter.
  - Executive director of NWCG has expressed his understanding of SmoC’s need to retain our method of running the group.
- NWCG master charter 508 – Does the language degrade the inclusiveness we have w/SmoC ?
  - Create a paragraph listing the agencies to show our membership is diverse and helps meet the objectives of our charter.
  - Need to retain some recognition potential for policy dialogue within SmoC.
- Subcommittee Charters
  - SmoC Charter document will need to identify of the subcommittee charters.
  - Need to approve the Smoke Subcommittee text.
  - Pete will send subcommittee charter language to Lisa and Brenda.
  - Subcommittee chairs will send Pete approval/changes of subcommittee charters.

### Debrief on Wildland Fire Emissions Webinar

- At least 80 phone lines available for the webinar.
- Links posted on FRAMES Smoke Portal news & events and TNC Conservation Gateway.



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- Shawn presented the information - Webinar was heavy on the technical side but informative for more technical fire personnel and well received.
- Need to consider these EFs as technology improves the measuring of smoke & its components.
  - This will increase dialogue when NEI is conducted. It is a topic to track as it progresses.
  - This will be important when the topic of fire and its emissions are discussed with the public. Also, when fire is addressed in future rule/policy making.
- Diana invited Oklahoma DEQ EI personnel and it was eye-opening for them.

### Smoke Technical Topics

- Informal Wildland Fire Emissions Meeting
  - Discussed how to work w/the EFs to address the needs.
    - Shawn is working on a White Paper summarizing new EFs.
    - Land managers need to estimate emissions.
    - Plan for an EF workshop and identify audience.
  - Emissions vs. mixing heights
    - They don't compare evenly.
    - Good mixing & transport winds can handle emissions, even if they are high.
    - From a practitioner standpoint, the weather window & ability to remove emissions from sensitive areas will be a determining factor, even if emission factors double.
- Smoke Management Guide work continuing.

### Smoke Training

- Air Quality for Land Managers – any interested parties contact Josh or Doug.
- Holding call to revise the base-camp smoke mitigation section on the Smoke Exposure Guide.
- Pete & George worked through the section. Put it in context used by NIOSH & OSHA. Focused on avoidance of hazards like smoke, leaving the use of PPE such as masks as a last resort.

### Smoke Managers

- Ron Sherron will do a webinar on the most recent Smoke Tools. Invite the ARAs to attend.
- Had a call with Rick Gillam/EPA and his manager summarizing revisions of the ozone standards.
  - EPA appreciated the cooperating on the language address ozone, air quality, and prescribed fire and its benefits.
  - PM2.5 designation has been finalized.
  - Plan to work on the Exceptional Event Rule summer/2015. No activity on the fire policy.
  - Fire activity requested by May 15<sup>th</sup> for next NEI.
- Rx Fire AQ Summit at the Jones Center in Georgia.
- Iowa is revising DNR's Rx burn policy.
- Colorado – considering program where burners design own permit and reviewed by AQ agency.
- California – Doing the CARPA workshop at the same time as the ARA Workshop.

### Round Robin Topics

- R10 EPA Smoke Meeting
  - Focused on Oregon; included Washington and Idaho. Formed work groups to address regional smoke topics. Good dialogue between the groups.



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- Nick is working with Roger on the Polyethylene on piles study. Applicable to many pile burns. Research to-date is all lab based. Project will be based on field measurements.
- Discussed expanding the UW fire weather domain in 1.33 km scale south to Oregon.
- RX 410 re-write
  - Small cadre is working on classifying units to keep, identifying new units, and the SMEs that would be good to develop those units. First phase wrap up by April 10.
  - Once these are approved by the NWCG board they will resume after fire season.
  - Set to go out as beta after all the modules are developed.
  - The group is hoping to have it completed by winter 2017.
- IAWF Wildland Fire Safety and Human Dimensions Workshop, Monday Morning Workshop on Wildland Fire Smoke Health Effects Research, Tools to Inform Public Health Policy, and Recommendations (posting of presentations plan and overview)
  - Plan on posting presentations on the FRAMES site.
  - Susan attended – discussed the visual range work.
  - Contribution of emission from wildfires grows as industrial emissions are reduced.
  - Reinforces the need for the next International Smoke Symposium
- Work on building the smoke subject material in M-580 and S-590 courses.
- NAFRE /Tucson has space for the conversion of Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program narrated PowerPoint to YouTube.
- Presentations on smoke health impacts (Joe Domitrovich and Tim Reinhardt) posted on the IAWF website.
- AAR Truckee CA, ARA was very well reviewed by ICs and Administrators. Will be getting notes and action items to build the program.
- The PM 2.5 implementation rule from EPA has been released.