



**For internal group discussion only. Do not distribute  
NWCG Smoke Committee January Activity Update**



### **Membership Issues**

- Vacancy Issues: Vice SmoC Chair, Training Subcomm. Co-Chair, Smoke Managers Subcomm. Chair, and FWS Fire Program.
- Dave Mueller selected for the air & smoke management position with the BLM.

### **Outreach and Messaging**

Activity updates are continuing. Diana has completed through September 2015.

Web Site activity – Ozone page active, Briefing update still needed;

- Pete is working on the Map of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NAA, & Federal Lands request.
- Ozone page active. Briefing update still needed.

### **NWCG Business**

#### **Next week NWCG All-Chairs Meeting-5 minutes on Challenges and Successes**

- Challenges:
  - Committee vacancies
  - Inter-committee communication and coordination
  - Funding – procuring funding for projects
  - Getting comments on important documents recognized (i.e. the Redbook items)
  - Failure in getting RX-410 established as a requirement for all agency RXB2 positions within NWCG PMS-310-1
  - Estimated Smoldering Potential implementation in operations
  - Engaging about transportation safety
- Successes in
  - Maintained membership and engagement
  - Guidance documents (Smoke Management Guide, Smoke Exposure Guide, and Smoke online training)
  - Guidance on technical issues (mixing height)
  - Dialogue on changing policies (ozone NAAQS, proposed EER changes, and Regional Haze Rule)
  - Second International Smoke Symposium
  - Addition of Mike Zupco and WFLC involvement
  - Work with San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District regarding large prescribed fires in that district

### **Redbook strategy for SmoC comments**

- SmoC Comments were made but not incorporated.
- IRPG will not be open for comments until next year.
- Dan Chan will be attending the All-chairs meeting at first of February.

### **Exceptional Event Rule NPRM Released-BP Posting, Other Info Sharing**

- Comments for the rule close early February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Pete wrapped up the one pager on the EER rule.
- Susan O'Neill provided Pete some comments on the EER that will be shared.
- WESTAR and NACAA are working on comments on the proposed EER revision.
- Blaine will send the EER comments TNC made to the committee membership.



### **Upcoming Workshops-SmoC Participation**

- IAWF International Smoke Symposium 2 (November 14-19, 2016, Long Beach, CA) - Status Report
  - Jessica McCarty/Mich. Tech, Joe Domitrovich/USFS working with Pete and Mark Fitch on developing committees to organize this event. FS, NPS, EPA, have all committed funding. JFSP will be committing funds, hoping BLM will too. Working to make symposiums available virtually. Looking for more funding support to cover the \$60K bill for virtual capability.
  - WFLC Western Regional Coordinating Group on Cohesive Strategy Sr leadership team will have a concurrent meeting in the same location and time as the Smoke Symposium.
- American Geophysical Union, San Francisco, CA, December 14-18, 2015
- IAWF Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference (April 11-15, 2016)-special tracks/workshops
  - Three 2-hour sessions on JFSP smoke-related projects will be presented. Two sessions are associated with the emissions track from the Tech. Smoke Topics. 24 other papers on smoke will be presented throughout this conference.
- Ecologic and Public Health Tradeoffs Between Prescribed and Wildfire-Public Forum, Vancouver, BC, Canada April 18, 2016
  - Sarah Henderson is trying to address these issues; Pete has been invited to speak at this event. Sim Larkin (or Susan in his place) and Anna Rappold are also potential speakers. First day is open, second day is by invitation.
- Canadian Smoke Forum - Emergency Management and Health Responses, Kelowna, Canada, October 28, 2016
  - Open forum, one day session.
- Annual EPA Region 10 Smoke Management Meeting March 14-15 in Spokane WA
  - Mark Fitch, Janice Peterson, and others are assembling the agenda for this, and emissions will be a key topic. This will be followed directly by a meeting of the Washington Rx Fire Council.
  - Mark will forward Region 10 EPA meeting program to SmoC when available.
- Pacific Northwest Weather Workshop March 4-5 Seattle WA. Will have a fire and smoke focus this year. Susan O'Neill is putting together abstracts for this.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Central Oregon Fire Science Symposium will meet in central Oregon.
- National Association for Clean Air Agencies in mid-March will hold a workshop on public outreach and air quality in Chicago IL. Pete and Susan Stone plan to attend.
- Susan Stone will be participating in a workshop on indoor air quality (Don't have name) and wants to bring up the topic of smoke to see if anyone is addressing indoor air quality in regards to smoke.

### **WFLC Meeting 1/26/16 Report on Smoke and Air Quality Discussions – Mike Zupko**

- WFLC held a tour (first day) and meeting (second day) to discuss smoke and air quality issues. They toured a 3000 acre USFS Rx fire. Representatives from several groups were in attendance, including a couple EPA regions. Bill Harnett joined the day after the tour. Described the pre-planning & smoke management considerations that go into Rx fire.
- Discussed on a national level the topics of smoke policy (EER and smoke-related policy) as well as research. John Cissel described current and emerging research projects involving smoke. Other research-related topics included the need for air quality data, the



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tools needed to acquire it, and the implementation of research (i.e. how to get research implanted at the operational level once it has been published, and how best to keep research-based operational tools up to date with the latest information).

- Would like to dialogue with EPA and management leadership to identify gaps in smoke management.
- Discussed regional-level issues and some success stories there, including Region 4's successful collaboration between the state air agencies and state land management. Another topic that came up from state and tribe viewpoints was the role and potential of biomass utilization.
- Also discussed how other regional resources relate back to Rx fire, (i.e. water quality and forest health, and the trade-offs between smoke/air and healthy forests).

**Subcommittee Report-outs:**

Smoke Technical Topics

- Smoke Management Guide – Draft release next week to NWCG for two month review.
- Emissions Factor Track at IAWF Portland.

Smoke Training

- Smoke and Air Quality for Land Managers – Discussing comments and revision plans.
- Personnel Exposure Guidebook-Status: Joe Domitrovich got comments back from the Risk Management Committee (Shane (last name?) and Shelby Gails). Roger Ottmar and Tim Reinhardt are also reviewing. Planning on having a FS version of this.

Smoke Managers

- Still trying to get a chair for this subcommittee.

**Round Robin Topics**

- USFS Missoula Technology and Development Center has collected a lot of data on correlation of CO dosimeter readings and CO/Hb blood work. They have enough data to publish information on the correlation between the two in the near future.
- Susan got in touch with researchers from AGU on smoke. They were not able to attend the conference, no major topics.
- AirFire has a graduate student that is working on the GOES Satellite topic.
- Gary published research on the mixing heights and smoke management. Susan will send the PDF out to the members.