

May 11, 2009
Rocky Mountain Geospatial Technology Committee
Meeting 1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Skip Edel, Colorado State Forest Service
Elise Bowne, U.S. Forest Service
Susan Stitt, U.S. Geologic Survey
Susan Goodman, Bureau of Land Management
John Guthrie, U.S. Geologic Survey
Rich Sterry, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Dave Hammond, National Park Service

Agenda –

- Review of MAC Briefing
- Status of season readiness – update on written documents, hardware, software
- Scheduling for RMCC and MAC Briefing coverage for this season
- Update on WFDSS task from RMCG
- Identification of geospatial “assistants” for WFDSS teams in the field.
- Other issues?

- **Review of MAC Briefing**

The MAC Group exercise briefing on 4/30 went very smoothly. The equipment performed correctly and there were no apparent technology issues.

Elise mentioned that there is some other sort of exercise taking place on 5/27, which involves FEMA. Jim Fletcher has asked for a subset of the data used for the 4/30 briefing, but he had not decided what data he needed. More information will follow as it becomes available.

- **Status of season readiness – update on written documents, hardware, software**

We are waiting for delivery of some monitor cables to complete the hardware set-up at RMCC. When that is completed, we will document the connections and set-up more completely. We had some recent edits to the “Cookbook” by Skip Edel and Susan Stitt and need to incorporate those changes more completely.

Unfortunately, there is a certain amount of “vagueness” in the document, due to the lack of opportunity to verify the accuracy with real incidents. John Guthrie and Elise Bowne will go to RMCC on either May 20th or May 21st to complete the hardware set-up and documentation. As a back up to using the monitor cables and switch box to change between computers for displaying things with the projector, we will have WebEx open and running. The instructions for this are documented courtesy of Doug Wagner (USFS). Next version of the instructions

will be out soon and should include both WebEx and the “cookbook.” The documentation will have to be living documents as technology (both software and hardware) and procedural changes are expected and likely to be fairly frequent. There was also discussion on how to improve the specific instructions, i.e. to include information on how to update the kml files without having to completely recreate it from a shapefile.

There will be another practice session for our group and others interested in assisting with the briefings on either June 1st or 2nd. The goal is for everyone to have hands on practice starting and running the presentation.

- **Scheduling for RMCC and MAC Briefing coverage for this season**

There will be a 7 day rotation for coverage for RMCC, from Monday to Sunday. The amount of time that would be required to spend at RMCC will most likely vary according to the number of incidents and the amount of activity we are supporting. If you are covering the briefings and activity is high, there may be a need to overlap with the previous person or next person coming in. We are going to do the scheduling through Google calendar which Susan Goodman will set up. We did some preliminary scheduling at the meeting. Everyone needs a gmail.com account in order to use the calendar. ***Please send an email to Susan_Goodman@blm.gov with your gmail email address. If you don't already have an account, please get one. It only takes a few seconds and it is free.*** The address is:

https://www.google.com/accounts/ServiceLogin?service=mail&passive=true&rm=false&continue=http%3A%2F%2Fmail.google.com%2Fmail%2F%3Fhl%3Den%26utm_source%3Den-et-more%26utm_medium%3Det%26utm_campaign%3Den%26ui%3Dhtml%26zy%3DI&bsv=zpwhtygjnrz&sc=1<mpl=default<mplcache=2&hl=en, or you can just search for gmail.

Please look over your summer schedule and decide when you will be available. Please respond when Susan sends out the calendar, which should be by Friday, May 15th. The briefings take place daily at 10 a.m., though there is a chance there could be another one during the afternoon. The time commitment may depend on the level of activity. RMCC decides which incidents to cover in the MAC briefing for afternoon before, so you would need to coordinate with Marco Perea or his designee, starting around 2 p.m. either in person, or otherwise. In addition, you would need to be there before the briefing to finish getting everything ready to go.

- **Update on WFDSS task from RMCG**

Conference call was held between several committee chairs on 5/5/09 to discuss the task order from RMCG. The notes from the call are attached, with the decisions/discussion in bold. Three basic areas that our group will be involved in are: number 3, with determining the need for and configuration of a Decision Support Group for type 3 incidents and local unit planning support; and number 5,

determining the need for a Decision Support/Technology Support group to supplement our geospatial committee's support to RMCG; and number 8, developing RMA GACC interagency briefing paper on incorporating WFDSS into Wildland fire decision making process.

There was some discussion of what our role might be in WFDSS and it was pointed out that this is a phased in approach with not all agencies participating fully this year. It is recommended that committee members educate themselves on WFDSS, making use of resources including <http://wfdss.nwcg.com>, and that they request a WFDSS user account at the Viewer level.

- **Identification of geospatial “assistants” for WFDSS teams in the field.**
Discussed the need to define the role of those who would assist with the geospatial portion, both time commitment and tasks, and that the availability of people will depend on that definition and their local workload/priorities.
- **Other issues?**
Skip Edel discussed some information regarding Colorado's Wildland Fire Risk Assessment and that more information is becoming available including metadata and more process information. He also informed the group that the same contractor, Sanborne, has the contract to do a very similar assessment for the western states. The product should be available in about 2 years (?), and there may be some data requests between now and then.

There was a discussion about the availability of spatially located fire occurrence data for private lands in Colorado. It appears that while some fire departments are inputting detailed data, that data is not easily retrievable. This has been an issue for many years, and we may want to follow up on this in the future. Not sure of the status of geospatial fire occurrence for private lands in the other four Rocky Mountain Area states, Wyoming, Nebraska, South Dakota and Kansas.

Adjourned at 3 p.m. Next meeting – June – will be scheduled using Doodler again.