

January 20, 2010  
Rocky Mountain Geospatial Technology Committee  
Conference Call 9:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Esther Trevino-Neasloney, BLM - WY  
Elise Bowne, U.S. Forest Service  
Natalie Dovgan, BLM - CO  
Susan Goodman, Bureau of Land Management  
John Guthrie, U.S. Geologic Survey  
Rich Sterry, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Susan Guthrie, Northrop Grumman contractor

Agenda –

- Review of draft 2009 Annual Report for RMCG Meeting
- Fuels Treatment standard we worked on is still alive
- Plotter (HP1055) available for use on incidents, it will be ordered with a local NFES number
- WFDSS Training for RMGTC
- Discuss items for inclusion in Annual Work Plan
  - Possible items:
    - Update and prepare hardware, software and documentation for RMACC MAC Briefings
    - Prepare for MAC Group Briefing exercise
    - Calendar for 2010 geospatial support for MAC Briefings, Google calendar
    - WFDSS training and support
    - Development of a website to share our information with GISS types for the GACC
    - Other?
- **Review of draft 2009 Annual Report for RMCG Meeting**

We reviewed the draft which was sent out 1/19/10. Some minor changes in spelling were made. It was also suggested to add the work being done to create the RMIRS (Rocky Mountain Incident Reporting System) to the list of accomplishments even though it is still being developed. Information was added about our involvement in making hardware recommendations for RMACC for the briefings.
- **Fuels Treatments Standard update**

The Fuels Treatment standard that our group developed is apparently still alive, along with the standard proposed by the NW GACC, per emails with Kim Kelly. Susan Goodman mentioned that the BLM's database will require a crosswalk to move the data from their Invasives database into any Fuels Treatment standard

that is adopted. Elise Bowne said that the USFS FACTS database will also require a crosswalk, and there is still an on-going database redesign of FACTS and the crosswalk there is also yet to be determined. It is hoped that both proposed standards are simple enough and yet flexible enough that crosswalks can be created to eliminate need for extra work by those in the field.

- **HP1055 Plotter in Rocky Mountain Cache for Incident Use**

Elise Bowne said that we have finally acquired a used HP1055 from one of the National Forests in the GACC. It will be placed in the RM Cache for incident support and will be ordered through a local NFES number. A transport case still needs to be built or acquired, along with paper, ink, printheads/printhead cleaners. Suggestions were made about what supplies to stock and how to keep the plotter in a ready to operate condition for incidents.

*Follow up: Through FS R5 contacts, Elise has located a provider for the cases, and obtained pricing. The information, along with the supplies stocked with the plotters in R5 has been forwarded to Flint Cheney, who is orchestrating getting the plotter set up at the cache for ordering.*

- **WFDSS Training for RMGTC**

Elise Bowne advised everyone to open an account if they haven't already. It appears that all the federal land management agencies will be using the Wildland Fire Decision Support System this fire season. John Guthrie will set up a room for the February 12<sup>th</sup> WFDSS Webinar that is aimed at the GTG. We'll attend this session to become familiar. Elise will set up a more detailed training session or sessions with the USFS people providing hands on training in our area. We need to be familiar with the system and the site, in order to provide feedback and support to RMCG and to our co-workers within our own agencies, and to WFDSS design and support teams. There may also be a need for GIS support to any WFDSS support teams that go to individual units to assist them with the process.

- **Identification of possible items for the 2010 Annual Work Plan or Action Plan**

- Update and prepare hardware, software and documentation for RMACC MAC Briefings. Will need to look at any changes to hardware and software which have occurred over the past few months at RMACC. Will probably need to update the GIS software. The initial edits to the GIS Instruction Guide (formerly the "Cookbook"), especially to include documentation of the hardware and cabling at RMACC, and to include documentation of setting up and running meetings using WebEx. May want to create a script to archive the previous day's shapefiles when there is a GIS presence at RMACC. This could just be a Model Builder script. (Forgot to mention during the call, this was input from Skip Edel, prior to the call.)

- Prepare for MAC Group Briefing exercise – will include meeting with our RMACC liaison, Marco Perea, developing GIS data for the proposed scenarios, and setting up the presentation, going through a practice briefing and running the actual exercise briefing.
- Calendar for 2010 geospatial support for MAC Briefings. We'll use Google calendar again. We need to train other GIS people to be able to cover this job function, due to limited availability of RMGTC personnel during fire season.
- Complete RMIRS (Rocky Mountain Incident Reporting System) and train RMACC personnel in its use. John Guthrie has the lead on this and expects final delivery by April of 2010.
- WFDSS training and support
- Development of a website to share our information with GISS types for the GACC, discussion of where this should be hosted (possibilities include – RMACC website, GTG website, RMIRS website). Most likely will pick the easiest to update and provide links on the other sites as necessary. John Guthrie can provide guidance, but is very busy and others will need to take this on. Esther Trevino-Neasloney has some experience maintaining and updating websites and may be instrumental in this effort.
- Suggestion also to continue collecting GACC-wide geospatial datasets for use at RMACC, and around the geographic area. May want to coordinate with other data collection efforts.
- Providing input and information for Incident Management Teams, particularly at their “spring fling.”

- **Other issues**

Susan Goodman brought up the issue that there are apparently monthly LANDFIRE Refresh conference calls going on and it seems that the information from those calls is not getting out to all the people who need to know. Skip Edel (through Susan Goodman) has promised to keep our group informed about what is discussed at those conference calls.

We discussed the “Surface Management Agency” layer that WFDSS has requested. This is the former “Land Status” or “Land Ownership” layer. It appears that none of the names are very good for this layer as they all have challenges. Land ownership is incorrect when labeling land “USFS” or “NPS,” as the true owners are the American people. Surface Management Agency has problems because while some of the area is officially “owned” or managed by one agency, another may be tasked with the day-to-day management. The land then gets characterized incorrectly. Natalie Dovgan brought up the issue of BLM land being managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS? or Colorado State DOW?) showing up as not owned by the BLM.

The first draft of the data set was provided to WFDSS (by Susan Goodman and Susan Guthrie) previously. They are preparing to start round 2 and have many

issues, as to which agency's data is most current or correct. They would appreciate any suggestion on how to simplify processing of the data.

Also Bob Ader with BLM, is working with the FGDC Cadastral Survey to create a standard reference layer for the PLSS (public land survey system) for the US. This may be available in the next year or so.

BLM is doing more work pulling together data sets at the National level for WFDSS. All the Fire Management Units for BLM were pulled together and submitted as one data set.

Elise mentioned the work that the USFS and USGS (and other agencies too) are working on to see if useful, tactical or strategic information, can be pulled out of satellite imagery to support the people managing the mountain pine bark beetle incident (currently Steve Gage with a NIMO team).

**Action Items:**

- **Elise will complete the 2010 Action Plan/Work Plan and the 2009 Annual Report for submission to RMCG. She will also give the presentation at the RMCG meeting later today.**
- **Elise will finish the initial yearly updates for the GIS Instruction Guide and send out for review and suggestions.**
- **John Guthrie will set up the GTG WFDSS training Webinar in a conference room in Bldg 810 on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> and let us know where it will be and at what time.**
- **Elise will work on setting up follow-up, hands-on training for WFDSS for the group.**
- **Elise will send out a message to have people use Doodler to figure out our next meeting time.**
- I think there were more, but I don't have enough specifics to fill them in.

**Adjourned at 9:50 a.m. Next meeting – February or March – will be scheduled using Doodler again.**