

November 9, 2010  
Rocky Mountain Geospatial Technology Committee  
10:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Dave Hammond, National Park Service  
Natalie Dovgan, Bureau of Land Management – Colorado State Office  
Elise Bowne, U.S. Forest Service  
Susan Goodman, Bureau of Land Management – National  
Susan Guthrie, Contractor for BLM  
Esther Trevino-Neasloney, Bureau of Land Management – Wyoming State Office  
Skip Edel, National Park Service

Agenda –

- Report on Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) After Action Review (AAR) from 11/5/2010
- Report on RMCG Fall Meeting (our committee meeting only) and tasking from RMCG
  - Need for an issue paper to RMCG outlining the need for a database management plan for the GACC that also needs to be raised to the National level.
  - This may be confused with our consideration of issues around WFDSS data management plan.
- GACC wide data layers and/or standards
- GISS “Mentee” project
- RMCG Committee Charter Review – additional change
- RMIRS – Rocky Mountain Incident Mapping System - Update
- RMGTC presence on RMCG Website
- Updates to Dispatch Boundary layers
- Report on Mobile Mapping by Fern
- Review Action Items from past meetings
- Additions?
- **Report on WFDSS AAR for the Rocky Mountain Area (November 5, 2010)**

Elise attended the AAR. Forest Service Employees made up the majority of the attendees, though there was interagency representation, especially on the Service First units. Due to the relatively slow fire season, there were some units with very little use of WFDSS this season. Generally, there was appreciation of the tools available within WFDSS, specifically the fire behavior tools, but frustration with the look and feel of the application. There were many complaints of the system’s inconsistency from screen to screen, difficult navigation due to the application not being intuitive, and that the system was changing throughout the season, so it was difficult to keep up with the changes, especially when not using it every day. The

difficulty with printing and with printing maps was a major frustration. Many of these complaints are the same as those at the 2009 AAR.

Many people appeared to be using it more to document their decisions than to help make those decisions in the first place. Also, there was much confusion by the Agency Administrators as to what they were supposed to do when. The difficulty of getting Agency Administrators to attend training was mentioned too. Frustration at the creation of another “GIS” within the system, without using the tools that all five land management agencies already pay large amounts of money for licenses was also mentioned. Some folks would like more of their local data available within the system, but instead used their local GIS support to get what they needed. One unit mentioned the high amount of interest and phone calls from the Regional and Washington level as a major concern and may have felt that it was compromising their ability to manage the fire on the ground. There was no mention of the lack of Program Management, no problems mentioned with server availability, and no mention of the lack of standards, at least not using those words. Many of the issues mentioned do seem to point to those issues. The units had some difficulty figuring out when they had to use WFDSS and when they didn’t, but seemed to get through it.

- **Report on Fall RMCG meeting and tasking from RMCG**

RMCG’s Fall Meeting was held in Manhattan, Kansas, so Elise gave our committee report by conference call line. Elise also asked RMCG to let us know what they want us to work on – tasking. The committee is pleased with our progress and with our support of incidents. RMACC (per Jim Fletcher and Wendy Hall) are very happy with RMIRS. Elise told RMCG about the need for funding USGS’s continued development of the project. She reported our continued support of incidents and RMACC’s geospatial briefing needs.

For tasking from RMCG, the initial tasks received were:

- (1) Write an issue paper to RMCG outlining the need for a database management plan for the GACC that also needs to be raised to the National level.
- (2) Add a reference to the RMCG consensus model and add a link to the RMCG web page where the RMCG consensus model is.

Task 1, sparked a lot of discussion about what the RMCG was really wanting. Elise followed up with Wendy Hall (RMCG Business Manager) and it is in reference to issues with WFDSS. We had some discussion of tackling interagency data management either at the GACC or the national level. We decided to concentrate on the GACC level, as that is more within our likely sphere of influence. This task was originally assigned to Skip Edel and Dave Hammond. We need to revisit this and create a program plan for accomplishing this task.

Task 2, Elise agreed to make the requested change in the charter and get it moved through for signature.

- **RMCG Committee Charter Review – additional change**

As mentioned above, RMCG's review of our charter found it to be good, they wanted the additional change mentioned above.

- **GACC-wide data layers and standards and other discussion resulting from the discussion of the tasking from RMCG**

It was mentioned that a program lead was being hired at NIFC to manage IRWIN which should include programs such as WFMI, Firecode, WFDSS data, 209s, Wildcad, RMIRS, Southern Sierra, with the idea of enter once, use many times.

Also, Susan Goodman informed us that Sean Triplett (FS Washington Office Fire and Aviation Management GIS specialist had a contract to develop data standards. Also that BLM has developed a process for integrating their data which would be developed at the local level, and integrated first at the state level, then at the national level and then interagency. At the national layer, they would be using the state SDE layers. This is in the future.

In the reorganization of NWCG, the Data Administrator for BLM fire Kimberly (Michelle) Pederson is now the chair of the "Data Group" which was the old DAWG – or Data Administration Working Group. The old PMO is now out of the picture and we can submit comments directly.

For collecting and maintaining a GACC GIS database, we should look at putting it in the same geodatabase, host the data centrally, and look at the proposed data standards on the GTG website. The website is

<http://gis.nwcg.gov/gdbStandard.htm>

Please review from your agency's perspective.

Additionally, Susan Goodman stated that the BLM wants CWPP(Community Wildfire Protection Plan) boundaries, Fire Management Plan (FMP) boundaries and WUI. Also talked briefly about HSIP Gold as base data, and that there is a new "WUI" layer being developed, by Jim Menakis and others.

- **GISS "Mentee" project**

Skip Edel introduced this topic. One of the IC's, Todd Richardson, has asked about this. The goal is to get more people out on incidents, and to add depth to the GISS ranks within RMACC. We need to help determine some potential "mentees." This is aimed primarily at those qualified GISS folks who want or need more experience, either it has been awhile since they've been out, or they would like to be a lead GISS for one of the teams in the future. Please review the list of GISS folks emailed by Elise. Contact the GISS in your agency to see who is interested. Please send suggestions to Skip Edel for him to provide through Mike Davin to the Ops Committee.

- **RMIRS – Rocky Mountain Incident Mapping System - Update**

Feedback during the RMCG Fall Meeting about RMIRS from the RMACC personnel was that they really like the application and definitely want to keep it and continue developing it.

- **RMGTC presence on RMCG Website**

Elise provided screen shots of some of the other RMCG committee's websites as examples. It was decided that we will start simple and grow from there if needed. We would like to have a link to our Charter, links to minutes from our meetings, and a link to GTG's website. Doug Wagner (FS) is the person who posts new information or makes changes to the website. Elise checked with him and he stated we needed permission from either Jim Fletcher (RMACC Center Manager) or Glenn Bartter (Assistant Center Manager) in order to post our information. Elise agreed to contact them for permission. We will need to tell Doug what we want and to get the information posted. We still need to determine the process and turnaround times.

- **Updates to Dispatch Boundary layers**

Update provided by Elise and Dave Hammond on the question about the dispatch boundaries along the northern border of the RMACC boundary. There is confusion as to the boundary around the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. Dave provided a map of the area in question. Working with the Cody Dispatch Center to get the issue resolved. Recommendation of the group to re-involve RMACC as Cody seems to be at a standstill.

- **Report on Mobile Mapping by Fern**

Fern was not able to make the meeting, so the presentation was pushed to the January meeting.

Natalie Dovgan explained what she is doing with the Colorado BLM. BLM has a license for ArcGIS Mobile. The field about equally split between use of ArcPad and Terrasync, though many are moving away from Trimble GPS units and Terrasync because a large number of GPS units are being delivered "DOA" or dead on arrival. The field wants to do more and to have more GIS data available to them in the field, which is why the BLM is moving toward ArcGIS Mobile.

- **Review of Action Items from Past Meetings**

1. John has been working on RMIRS
2. Plotter in cache – was ordered and used several times this summer. Ordering procedures were sent out earlier this year. Unfortunately this HP 1055 does not have a postscript card. Still works, just have to use a non-postscript driver. Please look around to see if there are any excess plotters that would be suitable for cache use. Also Chad with Plotter Supplies Inc is a very good repair person.
3. WFDSS Data Management issue paper – was assigned to Skip and Dave, now that we have been tasked to work on this by RMCG, need to start working on it.

4. Website – Have identified what we are going to do and started on how.
  5. Procedures for adding members to group. Seems simple, though may need to clarify. Suggestions were to see if the State of Wyoming has someone who would be interested. They would most likely come from the Wyoming Division of Forestry. Esther will check on this. Also talked about inviting Victoria Smith to our meetings; she is now with the State of Colorado Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Emergency Management.
- **Additional Items:**  
 The Geocommunicator is being decommissioned; there is a replacement being developed.  
 With the ArcGIS 10 release by ESRI, it appears that many of the memory leaks have been fixed.  
 There are concerns about the quality of GIS candidates.  
 Discussed the schedule of meetings every other month – the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Plan is for conference calls on the alternate months at the same time/date (10 a.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month). There was general agreement that this would be easier to manage and keep involvement higher.

**Action Items:**

- As a group, need to decide how we are going to proceed with the WFDSS data management issue paper tasked by RMCG.
- Elise will make the additional change to the charter and submit through Mike Davin for signature by RMCG Chair.
- Everyone – please review the proposed data standards on the GTG website from your agency's perspective. Website is: <http://gis.nwcg.gov/gdbStandard.htm>
- Everyone – review list of GISS people from ROSS to identify any potential GISS Mentees. Contact them and send names to Skip ASAP. Also encourage them to fill out the RMA team application, due 12/1/10.
- Skip will collect list of potential GISS Mentees and work with Mike Davin and Todd Richardson to see that they get the proper attention.
- Elise will request permission from RMACC for creation of a website within the RMCG portion of RMACC's website. Ensure that the appropriate documents are posted.
- Everyone – continue to look for excess plotters that would be suitable for use in the cache.
- Esther will find out if there is interest by anyone at the Wyoming Division of Forestry to join our group and pass contact info to Elise
- Elise will invite Victoria Smith to our next meeting.
- For next meeting – continue to explore concept of standardized interagency GIS layers at the GACC level as discussed above.

- **Elise, Natalie and Fern – explore possibility of having Fern and Natalie present what they or their agency are doing currently with ArcGIS Mobile and the future direction at the next meeting – January 11<sup>th</sup>.**