

## Meeting Notes

### Tuesday:

#### **Welcome and introductions (attendees) – Shannon Bonney, Eastern MT Zone Rep.**

Shannon Bonney, Eastern MT Zone; Ali Ulwelling, Northwest MT Zone; Rita Chandler, FS Agency Rep; Mark Elliot, ID Rep; Crystal Beckman, MT Agency Rep; Jordan Koppen, Southwest MT Zone Rep filling in for Chris Johnson; Michael Odell, ND Agency Rep; Larry Elder, Billings area BLM; Mike DeGrosky, NRCG Board Liaison; Lesley Williams-Gomez, Bridger Teton National Forest; Courtney Couch, North & Central ID Zone Rep; Kathy Bushnell, Helena area USFS; and Ivy Dickenson, Idaho Firewise

#### **Discuss committee's goals, purpose and roles – Rita Chandler, Forest Service Agency Rep.**

Group reviewed charter, asked questions and discussed the purpose of this committee, restriction areas versus zones and our roles.

#### **Review action items from spring meeting notes - Crystal Beckman, MT DNRC Agency Rep.**

The only item not completed from our spring meeting was for CJ and Bruce will create plan and create training for local government restrictions.

#### **NRCG Board update – Mike DeGrosky, Committee Liaison**

Mike provided an overview of what the board has been working on this past year. Mike explained how NRCG is very fire operations focused and it is a priority of his to bring other components of wildfire i.e prevention and education, up to the same priority/level as operations, therefore he is committed to being the Board Liaison to this committee. Mike mentioned that our new charter is good and what NRCG committees need is to get things done. Take a results approach with firm goals versus an activity approach.

#### **NRCG's restrictions review task – Mike DeGrosky, Committee Liaison**

NRCG Board has tasked the Prev and Edu Committee to conduct a "restrictions review" – given what we know and the impacts of implementing restrictions and the public's understanding

- are restrictions working?
- do fire restrictions prevent fires?
- are we restricting the right thing at the right time?

Currently Chris Barth is lead, Marianne B., Ali U. and Jordan K. are on the review group, **others are welcome to be a part of the working group**

At the Nov 14th NRCG Board meeting the restrictions review group will need to provide a strategy plan and timeline for this task.

#### **Brainstorm and identify 2018 priorities, projects, campaigns, events (i.e. what do we want to do as a committee this year) – Ali Ulwelling, Northwest MT Zone (highlighted items were selected for 2018)**

1. Restrictions review
2. Platform for committee to share documents, videos, graphics, etc.
3. 5-year strategy
4. Committee momentum

**ACTION ITEM:** Jordan Koppen will create a Facebook FPEC private group so we can try sharing items this way

**Review fire prevention social media videos made this year and learn how and what is needed – Jordan Koppen, Southwest MT Zone Rep., MT DNRC**

Presentation by Jordan was excellent and group discussed how more hands-on training with this topic would be helpful.

**Home Risk Assessment Situation Analyst Montana – Crystal Beckman**

Crystal went through the steps and options available for a wildfire risk assessment to be requested by a landowner and what options are available for a fire professional to use.

- [http://www.samontana.org/?page\\_id=14](http://www.samontana.org/?page_id=14)
- <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/fire-and-aviation/fire-prevention-and-preparedness/home-fire-risk>
- <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/fire-and-aviation/fire-prevention-and-preparedness/home-fire-risk/AssessorShortFormFINAL6.21.17.pdf>

Wednesday:

**Updates**

SW MT Zone – Jordan

- Fire prevention kid programs
- Created fire prevention social media videos
- Ordered One Less Spark fidget spinners and ultimate frisbees
- Tried out a scavenger hunt on campus with give-away for college people to learn about the restrictions in place

Helena - Kathy

- Kids program, fire ecology
- Work with Tri-County and FireSafe MT on Era of Megafires (EOM)
- Fire restrictions

NW MT Zone - Ali

- Community presentations
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) update for Flathead currently happening
- Utilizing media outlets to share communities story
- Hosting a wildfire discussion at local brewery “science on tap”
- Signed up at a Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) learning network
- Hosting a 4 part lecture series at the end of February at local community college (fire history, policy, what you can do)

#### Idaho – Courtney and Ivy

- 5th grade classroom program
- Week long youth camp
- Work with co-op
- EOM
- Wildfire Awareness Month
- Eclipse – big media push for fire prevention “act responsibly”
- Work with nurseries, maintenance, Firewise landscape gardens
- Youth fuels reduction crew with edu component

#### North Dakota – Michael

- Fire danger rating signs
- Equipment fires are ND’s leading human cause fire
- Work with fire departments and emergency managers
- Outreach – Respect the Flame <https://respecttheflame.com/>
- DES does a lot of kids programs ND Forest Service Information and Edu Coord. is Glenda Fauske, [glenda.fauske@ndsu.edu](mailto:glenda.fauske@ndsu.edu)
- Currently working on standing up a Prev/Edu Committee within the ND Fire Council (ND Zone)
- Will be first year participating in Wildfire Awareness Month/multi-state governors proclamation

#### Idaho - Mark

- Prevention material and signs
- Support state districts
- Fire investigations
- Track causes
- Great Basin is looking to host a 2018 conference

#### USFS – Rita

- Restrictions
- Severity funding by zone
- Prevention messages
- Utilized the 2016 newsletter heavily when working with other GAC and in DC
- Wrote a story for Fire Mgmt. Today, it may be published in the winter issue
- Need to identify what fire prevention training needs are

#### MT DNRC – Crystal

- Increasing focus for 2018 to homeowner and community risk reduction efforts (i.e. home ignition zone, structure assessments, Situation Analyst Montana, #FireAdaptedMontana) and less on preventing human-caused fires.
- Looking for partners to work on Wildfire Awareness Month
- Keep MT Green art contest information is out <http://www.keepgreen.org/art-contest.html>
- Fire prevention resources can be found at <http://www.keepgreen.org/resources.html>

- Google Drive: All NRCG FPEC documents, prev team, MT Evac language, MT Structure Risk Assessment forms and instructions, Roaring Lion reports (Cohen and Bonney) and other items are available on Google Drive.
  - Login: [nrcg.fireprevention@gmail.com](mailto:nrcg.fireprevention@gmail.com) Password: wildfiremt

#### Montana DES – Naden Wadsworth

- Pre-Disaster Mitigation 2017 applications are due to FEMA on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November. DES is in full planning mode for the State Hazard Mitigation Plan update. The Wildfire planning meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2017. For more information contact Nadene Wadsworth at [nwadsworth@mt.gov](mailto:nwadsworth@mt.gov).

#### **Prevention team 2017 lessons learned**

- Having regional/local team members is proving to be most successful
- If a team is orderd and formed with local team members it needs to focus on one Zone/Area, trying to assist an entire GAC does not work
- Need to have one agency rep be the point of contact to the team lead, all other agency reps work through that point of contact and provide what direction they would like to see done by the team

#### **PSA's Northern Ag Network**

The northern ag network provided fire prevention equipment fire messages across MT and portions of ND and WY, the FS, BLM and MT DNRC all participated and adjusted messages as the season went on, this was a success

#### **Dept. of Transportation reader boards**

Deana Harms worked with DOT in the spring to prepare wildfire prevention messages for the fire season that could be displayed on the hwy and interstate reader boards. This was a success because it raised public awareness and was viewed by many. One challenge was DOT did not always use the message that Deana created, instead they used their own and these were not always accurate of the actual conditions in that specific area of the state. More work needs to be done to adjust the signs so they do not all say extreme fire danger across the state when the whole state is not in that status.

#### **FPE committee tracking form – Rita Chandler**

Group agreed that it is useful and we should use it. More discussion needs to take place on how we all can be motivated to use it and take time to make it a priority, one challenge is people may have other ways they have to track their efforts and no time to track efforts twice.

This can be used by federal, county, and local partners. Feel free to share if you would like to encourage others to use it.

Use this link to fill out

form: <https://onedrive.live.com/redirect?page=survey&resid=81393E1646A950A2!116&authkey=!AMQDxR2aabdspTs&ithint=file%2cxlsx>

Use this link to view the data that has been submitted:

<https://onedrive.live.com/redirect?resid=81393E1646A950A2!116&authkey=!AKUSnPXKzbPGYhI&ithint=file%2cxlsx>

By tracking this information, we can demonstrate the importance of education, prevention, outreach and community preparedness which equates to building and maintaining program capacity, funding and staffing

#### **NRCG website**

Items have been sent to Kelly to create the Prevention Committee page on the new NRCG website. Kelly is working on this.

#### **Smokey Bear's 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

If you have plans for 2019 please let Rita know

#### **Winter action items**

1. Restrictions review
2. Platform to committee to share documents, videos, graphics, etc.

#### **Spring meeting date**

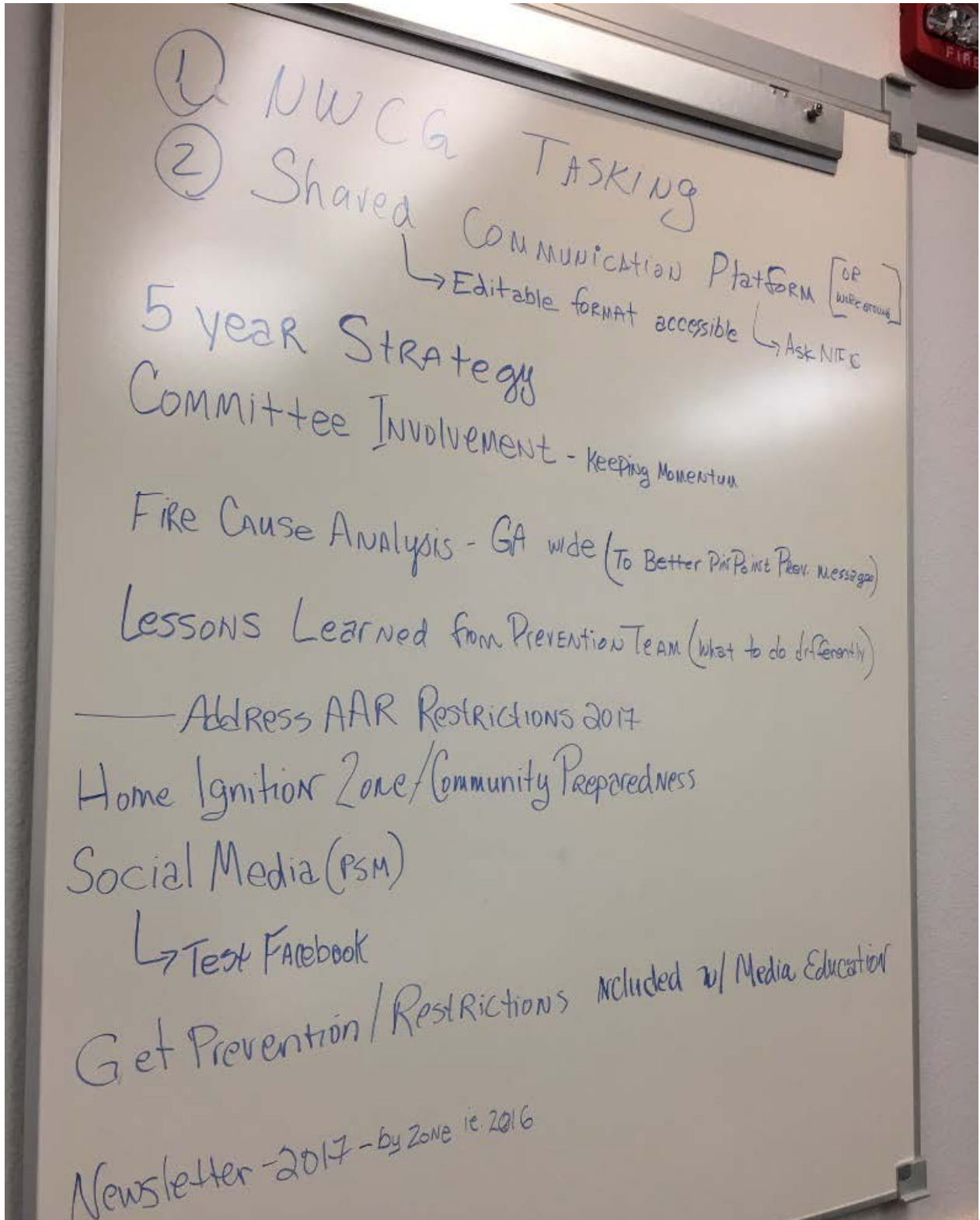
<https://doodle.com/poll/aweseqqvqsgp9n4m>

one day meeting 8am-5pm

location – Bozeman, MT

#### **NRCG Board meeting Nov. 14-16, plan for committee update**

Crystal will put together an update and present it to board on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Chris Barth will provide the Board with the Restrictions Review update. Rita Chandler will also be in present.





Restrictions Review Working Group

ID	
ND	
NWMT	Ali V. (DNRC)
E MT	
SW MT	Jordan (DNRC)
C MT	
SC MT	Marianne B. (FS)
*Local Rep Agencies	Chris B. (HLM) LEAD