



Northern Rockies Fire Prevention & Education Committee

Spring Meeting

March 10, 2021

In attendance: Andi Colson, Anna Bateson, Anna Henderson, Chiara Cipriano, Chris “CJ” Johnson, Jen Russell, Jennifer Vafiades, Kristin Mortenson, Lesley William-Gomez, Amanda Maki, Mike Solheim, Neal Beetch, Rita Chandler, Shannon Bonney, Terina Goicoechea, Nick Schreiner, Naaman Horn, Ali Ulwelling, Catherine McRae, John Kohn, Isaac Wald, Chris Barth

Agenda

Review of Action Items from [Fall 2019 Meeting \(virtual\)](#)

1. Continued coordination for geographic area-wide prevention efforts.
 - a. Develop task group to combine independent/FPET efforts
 - b. Develop new campaign and related materials
 - c. Anna will coordinate and schedule.
 - d. Chris will share the SW Zone Fire Prevention Team report with the FPEC
2. Develop cloud-based platform for FPEC
 - a. Continue using google drive, expand/organize resources
 - b. Look at FPEC Teams environment (created by Aubrey) or develop a new Team through FireNet
 - c. SW Fire Prevention Team look at organizing, centralizing existing materials during the 2021 Fire Year.
3. Develop list of risk assessment best practices
 - a. CJ will put together a white paper for a proposal
4. Report on human-caused fire causes across the geographic area
 - a. Breakdowns by NR, states, zones, agency, etc.
 - b. Determine whether the need is to increase prevention efforts for those causes that restrictions address or explore social science as a way to address other causes that are not covered by fire restrictions.
 - c. Rita will look at 2020 compared to 5- and 10-year info from spring 2020
5. Need to identify a Zone Representative from Central Montana Zone.
 - a. Possibility - David Marx - Central Land Office Assistance Fire Management Officer (DNRC)
 - b. Possibility - Nick Schreiner - HLCNF Rx Fire and Fuels Specialist - Runs the Great Falls and Helena Area Restrictions Calls (will be changing)
 - c. Chris will talk with suggested individuals/work with FPEC liaison to NRCG Board
6. Need to identify and Agency Representative for State Fire Wardens.
7. Chris/Naaman will coordinate a spring call with Restriction and Media Coordinators

Old Business

- Continued coordination for geographic area-wide prevention efforts.
 - Anna Henderson gave update on their efforts. New theme and graphics. Organizing files in Google Drive.
- Develop cloud-based platform for FPEC
 - See above. SW Fire Prevention Team look at organizing, centralizing existing materials during the 2021 Fire Year.
 - Will be housed in the NR Fire Prevention google drive.
 - Terina - After the last meeting we had, she emailed the FireNet administrators and inquired about using the FireNet Teams. It appears that this is happening with the national representation level with FPET – a Team was set up for National FPET and one for the existing/historical Team for the R2 FPET. Perhaps the SW Zone FPET can set up a channel under the National FPET Team?
 - **Action Item:** Ask Anna and or Zach if SW Zone FPET can set up a channel under National FPET Team for files storage/sharing
 - **UPDATE:** Channel for NR has been set up under the National FPET in Teams. This can be the place for NR prevention products, assignments, etc. FPET members have been added, as have program administrators. Can add FPEC members as “guests.”
 - **Action Item:** Need to transfer ownership of the google drive before Rita retires.
- Develop list of risk assessment best practices
 - **Action Item:** CJ will resend a white paper looking at the use of [Situation Analyst Montana \(SAM\)](#) for NR IMTs during structure triage.
 - CJ shared with the group the value of having IMTs use SAM while doing NIFC structure triage. He also provided an introduction to new members about SAM.
 - SAM Long Form:
 - **Action Item:** Chris, CJ, and Ali will set up separate meeting to do some virtual training on risk assessments. Look at assessments done with homeowner, from the curb/windshield, virtual assessments, etc.
- Report on human-caused fire causes across the geographic area
 - **Action Item:** Rita will have some information put together in time for the spring NRCG Board meeting (by 3/23 for Chris to include in the FPEC report to the NRCG Board). **DONE** – Report will be sent to FPEC members with notes.
 - CJ received a library of information about past restrictions from the prior website administrator - knows when people go in to and out of restrictions.
 - CJ shared data from FireRestrictions.us.
 - Anna Henderson did start WPSAPS assessment for NR.
- Need to identify a Zone Representative from Central Montana Zone.
 - Following the spring FPEC meeting, Central Montana Zone members initiated the conversation on who will be available as a Zone Rep.
 - **Action Item:** Combined vacancies (and need for assistance from the NRCG Board) will be shared in the FPEC report to the NRCG Board.
- Chris/Naaman will coordinate a spring call with Restriction and Media Coordinators
 - **Action Item:** schedule once the working group has a plan defined

New Business

- Fire Restrictions (website) Working Group
 - Small group working on finding a solution to firerestriction.us replacement. Primarily focused on MT. Dakotas independent. ID has additional challenges with multiple GAs. Worked with SW GA as they are facing the same issue. SW is moving forward with posting fire restrictions to their respective states version of (state)fireinfo.com/gov/org. They are a little further along than NR. NR (MT) looking at doing something very similar. DNRC to take the lead – need to confirm they have the resources/time to do it. We would get a new domain (MTFireInfo.org). Basic info for 2021 and build out in the future. Create something that will be lasting. Some barriers are DNRC time. Should know in a week or two if they are available to do this.
 - Discussion for whole group – what should the name be?
 - Launched poll to get pulse check – 80% fire info, 20% with fire adapted in it
 - Jen (IDL) – in R1 and R4/GB and NR. Idahoinformation.com will continue to be the place. All have access to that. Right now, that works for them. Go into restrictions so rarely.
 - **Action Item:** Chris will include Fire Restriction Website Working Group March Update with the spring FPEC notes. **DONE**
- 2021 Fire Prevention Campaign (Anna)
 - SW Fire Prevention Team shared examples of graphics they are working on with the “Treasure Our State” tagline and with a direct message below it. Example Debris Burning.
 - They would like approval from the prevention committee before they start making and preparing in full for the summer campaign.
 - They are going to work in the NRCG fire prevention Google account and start getting things organized, it’s going to take time with the items in there already. But the idea is that all we prepare will be available to all.
 - Jen and Anna will work together for ID fuel TV info. ID buying \$25k for fuel station TV ads.
 - **Action Item:** Chris will get info to Jen about BLM ID detail and info about Maverick buy. **DONE**
- Wildfire Prevention Spatial Assessment Planning Strategies (WPSAPS)
 - There are some upcoming training dates for new users.
 - March 22-25. Contact: Jeff.Moyer@bia.gov
 - April 26-30. Contact: Kenny. Jaramillo@bia.gov
 - Anna gave a presentation to the group of what WPSAPS is about.
 - Showing all human caused fires for 25 years (through 2014).
 - Karen Short data will be loaded soon (2015-current). Will also be added in the new causes.
 - Information allows you to come up with a strategic plan.
 - Anna helping out with 4/22 training. Any questions reach out to her.
 - Kristin just took the WPSAPS training. Was helpful learning how to use it by taking the course. Lots of data input. Garbage in/garbage out – so need good data entry. It is what you make it. Can use it as an assessment or a full-blown program management.

Zone Reports

- **Central Montana:** **Need to identify a new zone rep.**
 - Chiara – DNRC got a grant to create three short videos to show mitigation (in/around Helena)
- **Eastern Montana** (Shannon): Fire education day delayed until September. Restriction plan is being updated.

- **North Dakota:** **Need to identify a new zone rep.** **DONE:** Beth Hill, NDFS
- **North & Central ID (Jen):** similar to previous years. Daily posts in May for Wildfire Awareness Month. Started working with ID DOT to help get messaging out. While people are driving – check their vehicles. Getting two surplus reader boards (FEPP) to help with messaging. Still partnering with ID FireWise. Trying to become Smokey Bear licensee. Together 4 ID (?) campaign again this year. **Need to confirm with Jennifer V that she is the new zone rep.** **DONE:** Jen Vafiades is the new Zone rep.
- **Northwest Montana (Ali):** more sharing and communication between Zones. Thanks to SW Team. Happy to support them to build capacity and brainstorming. Fire Adapted Montana LN – overlap between this group and FAM LN – Podio is a place for sharing. If you are not a part of the FAM LN – encourage folks to reach out to Julia to get involved. Grateful for broadening context. Fire Adapted Kootenai. FireSafe Flathead. Working on county level groups as one stop shops for information. Share all your social media info. Monthly webinar series ideas. Is there an opportunity to host a monthly webinar (working with FAM LN). Lots of growth in the WUI. Huge opportunity/challenge for us to do more/better.
 - **Action Item:** have reps share their social media platforms with each other.
 - **Action Item:** Consider a monthly webinar series.
- **South Central Montana (Forrest):** **no report**
- **Southwest Montana (CJ):** broad update, but Kristin, Anna, and Anna doing the lion's share. Missoula County has a team (led by Max). Wildfire Partners Missoula (<https://www.wildfirepartnersmissoula.org/>). link to community preparedness structure assessments. Will be opening the door for parcel risk assessments. Big push for Wildfire Awareness Month in May. Plan to stand up SW Zone Prevention Team. Anna H is organizing some team building for prevention teams. Planning to continue model of using prevention team over restrictions. Have ten individuals dedicated to prevention in the zone. Want to support other zones if needed/wanted. Anna Bateson (Fire in the Root). Thank all the zone people for all their work. CJ has been focused on training.
 - Kristin: Fire in the Root (Ravalli County) is expanding from a campaign to a formal wildfire council with the goal of including wide-range of local interest groups (Board of Realtors, Builders Assoc, insurance, residents, etc.); we do have county support. FireInTheRoot.org website has a page on the council that includes a google form link to submit interest. Waiting to hear about funding through MFAP but are moving forward regardless and networking now to secure membership. Planning an informative meeting (virtual) in early April followed by a formal initial council meeting (working on the format for that one, suggestions welcome). Aside from the Council, we are working with the Ravalli County Sheriff's Office on a debris burning outreach program, and have designed and created magnets with burn permit information to support renewal and guidance. We also are printing informational bookmarks with safe burning tips to provide at logical places for dissemination.
 - Anna: The SW MT Zone Prevention Team's AAR from last fall determined the need in having the opportunity to learn and build skills to be a more rounded prevention team and employee. There are 4 mini lessons available to all who wish to attend, most are 60 minutes long. You do not need to be a prevention team member to attend and this will not commit you to a prevention team. It is to build personal skills and knowledge. Contact anna.m.henderson@usda.gov for the Team Links. Share for those that may have interest.

- Monday March 22nd 0900 mountain time: Lisa Keibler, Flathead NF, presenting Videography and the Use of Electronics.
- Monday April 12th 0900 mountain time: Naaman Horn, NPS, presenting Graphic Design
- Monday April 19th 0900 mountain time: Anna Bateson, Bitterroot NF, presenting Facebook Coordination/Social Media
- Monday May 3rd 0900 mountain time: Kate Jerman, Lolo NF, presenting How to Write a PSA and How To Do an Interview (90mintues)
- Andi – reader boards: vermac has a GSA contract. Is a higher quality reader board. Less problems with maintenance. Anyone has questions can contact Andi.

Agency Reports

- **Bureau of Indian Affairs:** no report, but is contact for upcoming WPSAPS training (*see above*)
- **BLM (Chris):** WPSAPS is not required but looking at incorporating it more into District Prevention Plans. Will continue with planning daily social media posts for Wildfire Awareness Month and eager to work with partners on prevention campaigns throughout the year where feasible and high ROI. As an example - participating in annual fire prevention messages in MT Hunting Guides. Working on an upcoming fire training for the media and looking forward to discussing option to participate in statewide fire briefings. Planning a FI-210 (INVF) for the fall. Presenting social science work in an upcoming FAM LN webinar.
- **MT Disaster and Emergency Services:** no report
- **US Fish & Wildlife Service:** no report
- **USDA Forest Service (Rita):** WPSAPS is not required but push to have it become a standard in the future. Suggests folks get involved and learn about WPSAPS. Additional trainings mentioned in the USDA FS P-M post shared by Rita and forwarded by Chris. FS units will provide financial support to things that are regional in nature. Next fiscal year, Rita's intent is to have that stuff in place at the Regional level (hold back funding at the Regional level) to be more strategic and take burden off the units to coordinate. National Wildfire Prevention Strategies at the WO level. Draft reviewed – to Chief's desk for release. Intent is for folks at the unit level to have something to tier to. FS-centric now but could be interagency. Another change – trying to get more positions at the unit level. Rita retiring at the end of May. Trying to get someone hired before she leaves for a seamless transition.
- **MT Fire Chiefs Association:** no report
- **MT Sheriffs & Peace Officers Assoc:** no report
- **NPS (Naaman):** reached out to park FMOs. Nothing specific to report. But they are excited to work with others on prevention messaging. NPS messaging is a bit different – will tweak a bit but keep in line with broad shared messaging.
- **State Fire Wardens:** no report
- **State of Idaho (Jen):** May wildfire awareness month- daily social media posts across state platform/ Governor's declaration. Working with IDOT to partner messages around vehicle caused fires. 2 Reader boards from FLP program to support Red Flag and roadside safety. GSTV gas station video buy- 25k with estimated 1M individual contacts. Partnering with Idaho Firewise to introduce legislation for Smokey Bear License plate for Idaho. #Together4Idaho will be continuing efforts to work across the state collectively and building on last year's campaign.
- **Montana DNRC (Kristin):** Kristen S has taken another position (currently she is on maternity leave, but when she comes back she will be in her new job). Julia B and Page C are covering

Kristen's responsibilities. Kristin M speaking with Kristen S in about a week to get more info about what is happening.

- **State of North Dakota:** **Need to identify a new agency rep.** **DONE:** Beth Hill, NDFS

Action Items Moving Forward

The following are items that require further action:

1. Chris/Anna - see if SW Zone FPET can set up a channel under National FPET TEAMS for files storage/sharing **DONE:** Channel for NR has been set up under the National FPET in Teams. This can be the place for NR prevention products, assignments, etc. FPET members have been added, as have program administrators. Can add FPEC members as "guests."
2. Need to transfer ownership of the fire prevention google drive before Rita retires.
3. CJ/Anna will try to get FireRestrictions.US data into a form that we can use to compare human-caused fires during Area restrictions
4. CJ will draft a white paper/proposal to instruct IMTs in Northern Rockies to do structure assessments in SAM alongside Collector.
5. Chris, CJ, and Ali will set up separate meeting to do some virtual training on risk assessments.
6. Rita will have some information put together of fire causes in time for the spring NRCG Board meeting. **DONE:** Report will be sent to FPEC members with notes.
7. Need to fill Zone and Agency representative vacancies (Zone - Central Montana and North Dakota. Agency - North Dakota Forest Service and State Fire Wardens). Clarify representative for Northern ID. **In Progress:** Beth Hill (NDFS) is new rep for NDFS Agency and ND Zone and Jen Vafiades is the new North & Central ID Zone rep. *Still need Central MT Zone and State Fire Wardens Agency.*
8. Chris/Naaman will schedule a spring Restriction and Media Coordinators call once the fire restrictions website issue has been resolved.
9. Chris will include Fire Restriction Website Working Group March Update with the spring FPEC notes. **DONE**
10. Action Item: Chris will get info to Jen about BLM ID detail and info about Maverick buy. **DONE**
11. NRCG FPEC members share their social media platforms with each other to promote others' messaging.
12. Consider a monthly webinar series – work with FAM LN to coordinate.

Bin Items

- N/A

FPEC Report for Fall NRCG Meeting **(DUE MARCH 23)**

- Accomplishments
 - SW Fire Prevention Team is cataloging previous fire prevention campaign materials and organizing for FPEC members to use.
 - SW Fire Prevention Team shared examples of new graphics and messages for 2021 Fire Year.
 - Several members have completed the WPSAPS training and an additional training is being offered in the NR.
- Current Project Status
 - Fire Restrictions Website Working Group is making progress on a sustainable solution to a new website for posting fire restriction info for MT.
- Status of Taskings

- Working at comparing review of fire causes from 2019 to 2020 in preparation for Fire Year 2021 prevention campaign messaging.
 - Questions or Concerns to be discussed with the Board
 - Continued need to identify new Zone and Agency representatives. Beth Hill (NDFS) is new rep for NDFS Agency and ND Zone and Jen Vafiades is new North & Central ID Zone rep. Still need Central MT Zone and State Fire Wardens Agency. FPEC could use help from the Board with the State Fire Wardens Agency representative.
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Next Meeting:

- Fall 2021 (Date TBA)