



From the Peaks to the Prairies

Meeting Notes
October 18-19, 2016

Location: Red Lion, 209 Ridgewater Drive, Polson, MT 59860

Time: Tuesday 12:00-5:00pm and Wednesday 8:00am – 12:00pm

Fire Prevention and Education Committee (FPE)

Attendees: Shannon Bonney, BLM; Jordan Koppen, MT DNRC; Crystal Beckman, MT DNRC; Ali Ulwelling, MT DNRC; Lisa Osborn, FS; Marianne Baumberger, FS; Courtney Couch, FS; Karen Lamb, IDL; Bruce Suenram, MT DNRC; Jeff Moyer, BIA; Chris Johnson, FS; Terina Goicoechea, BLM; Ken Schmidt, BLM; and Rita Chandler; FS

Restrictions and closures – mini AAR of last fire season

- NW Zone – No restrictions; need to find the input from last season
- Central Zone – No restrictions, increased fire prevention efforts
- S Central Zone – Park County went into restrictions, more as a fire prevention effort rather than the need for restrictions. Absorakee Beartooth NF went into stage I. Extensive prevention patrols kept the west zone of CGNF out of restrictions.
- NE Zone – No restrictions.
- Eastern MT Zone – 3 counties went into restrictions with BLM and USFS.
- Regional Restriction Plan – may require edits due to retirements
- Training – There is a need for training program to be tailored to Counties & Local Government; BLM, USFS, IDL, & DNRC. There is a start on the website.

ACTION - Bruce will take the lead on the first draft of the PowerPoint. Bruce and CJ will lead the committee on restrictions trainings

Western MT prevention team provided a recap of August 2016 efforts. Additional training or support in graphic design was mentioned as something of interest and a need from the team. The SW Zone was very pleased with the interagency prevention team. We are going to employ its use in the future. Specifically, it allows us to target a specific fire prevention message and medium and, since it has an interagency make-up, an interagency platform. It was a success.

ACTION – FPE committee finds great value in local and regional prevention teams. Zone Reps will work to identify local people in their zones who are interested in prevention and willing to be a local resource.

Great Basin workshop, virtual site – meeting was canceled due to not enough participants registered. Live streaming may be a better option instead of a virtual site.

P-310, fire prevention team member training - overall class was good, participating via video conference was challenging, committee feels that mini-series trainings of P310 would be valuable regionally ex. graphic design training.

IMT Spring Meetings – PIO and IC received prevention team information at 2016 spring meeting, group felt

this was helpful and involvement in the future is supported.

Zone & Agency Representative Updates

- NW MT - Utilized OLS and held a spring workshop in Libby
- SW MT – Radio ads, home assessments, WUI fires provided as good examples
- IDL – Debris burning and firebug posters, conducted weekly calls with forest industry partners during fire season, working with U of IL on www.securetheshelter.com
- SC MT – Bozeman fire expo, edu programs in the schools
- E MT – Equipment and ag are the major fire starts, hosted fire edu day in Lewistown, Miles City had several edu events, over 3,000 contacts
- Central MT – OLS, social media, edu programs in the schools
- MT – Hunting ad with partners, still moving forward with www.samontana.org to conduct online home assessments, KMG art contest information is out
- BIA – Debris burning, arson and youth are the leading human-caused fire starts, in 2016 had a fire investigation team work parallel with a prevention team in an area and it proved to be effective, need to continue to work with fuels crews so they start to see they have a role in prevention, the fuels crews could conduct home assessments and education homeowners on Ready, Set, Go
- BLM – Will be advertising for a Mitigation/Education Program Lead. The duties of this position include prevention and restrictions. We are hopeful to advertise the position in the next month or so. The position will be open to all sources. The position will be located in Billings. This person will be expected to be an active member of the Prevention and Education Committee. Ken will send the announcement out to this group when it opens up. The BLM has been a strong partner with this interagency group and we will continue to do so in the future. Although our budgets are reduced for 2017 we will continue to partner on advertising messages next summer.

What approach does this committee want to take to fulfill our mission? Committee supported the concept that this will change from year to year. It will depend on what group identifies as priorities and projects for that year as to how we will fulfill our mission.

Sharing files is still a priority for this committee. Due to various agencies IT restrictions on file sharing one specific cloud sharing system could not be identified. Utilizing Keep MT Green and FireSafe MT's website for resources was identified as valuable and useful. Rita mentioned that at the national level file sharing across agencies is being explored and a pilot project is being tested. Rita will keep committee informed on what comes out of it.

ACTION: Crystal will ask the NRCG board if they have any recommendations and if the new website has file sharing capabilities. Ali Ulwelling will continue to keep an eye out for a program that meets this committee's needs. Lisa will look into Share Point with Microsoft a bit more.

FPE Charter – suggestions were provided and group supported moving forward with submitting it to NRCG board or approval

Five Year Plan – Charter serves as the plan

FPE Committee Update at Fall NRCG Board Meeting Nov 15

ACTION – Crystal will provide update and handouts to board at their fall meeting. Marianne will compile zone updates and create handout. Info for zone updates is due to Marianne by Friday, Oct. 28th

NRCG Board Questions:

1. File sharing options, space on new website?
2. Prev team breakout session at spring IMT meetings?
3. CMAT info

Community mitigation assistance teams (CMAT):

- We find value in the concept, but has drawbacks, such as reactive and efforts such as these should be done in off season, important to build from the bottom up
- We think that the concepts can be done locally, by local or regional fire prevention teams.
- Concerned with these teams damaging relationships established by local prevention personnel.
- Concerned about the FS centric approach.
- Major concern with an out of GACC IMT utilizing these teams and damaging relationships in the local areas.

ACTION – Crystal will share above thoughts with board and ask if they would like us to gather more information or develop a NR CMAT.

Standardized evacuation language for MT was discussed and supported. The MT Peace Officer and Sheriffs Assoc. plans to sit down with a group of Sheriffs and see if there is interest. It was noted that it might be helpful to have a IMT and DES reps participate too.

ACTION – Crystal will keep committee informed on what comes out of these discussions so committee can provide input

Share Roaring Lion Fire vegetation and structure assessments after the fire

ACTION – Crystal will share two reports from Byron Bonney and Jack Cohen when they are completed.

Tracking form and spreadsheet – FPE committee will still use this form and tracking method.

ACTION – Everyone needs to input data into the form and review the data on the excel sheet. Data inputted prior to Oct. 28th will be shared with NRCG Board. January 1 is the next due date for all 2016 efforts to be inputted. Crystal will email out links.

2017 priorities, campaigns, themes, strategies

- Overall the committee choose to focus on restrictions training for 2017
- A workshop is an interest but not in 2017
- Zone Priorities
 - E MT Zone – OLS, community hall meetings and highline school edu program
 - SC MT Zone – expo, restrictions, and edu to local departments about protecting the scene of a wildfire to help identify cause



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- NW MT Zone – OLS, FireSafe Councils (Libby and Flathead) projects, fire adapted communities, fire ecology, RSG, community college session and community edu/HOA efforts
- SW MT Zone – RSG, OLS and fire ecology
- ID – RSG, Firewise, mega fires film, fire ecology, work with fire coop
- BIA – risk assessment mgmt. strategy
- MT – SA Montana structure risk portal, veg resistant plants publication, evac language, OLS

Next meeting – February 6-7, 2017 in Great Falls