

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

Attendees:

Dave Hammond, NPS
Elise Bowne, U.S. Forest Service
John Guthrie, U.S. Geologic Survey
Mark Browning, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Skip Edel, NPS

Agenda –

- Review of MAC Exercise (May 5, 2010)
- Status of season readiness – update on written documents, hardware, software
- RMIRS – Rocky Mountain Incident Mapping System
- Updates to Dispatch Boundary and Fire Weather Zone layers
- GACC wide data layers and/or standards?
- RMCG Committee Charter Review
- Communication from Geospatial Task Group
- Review Action Items from past meetings
- Additions? – see below

- **Review of MAC Exercise (May 5, 2010)**
The geospatial portion of the exercise went well. The RMCG was using a new Decision Matrix and RMGTC representatives attended this portion to see if any opportunities existed to improve the geospatial portion of the briefings to assist with the matrix. There are some opportunities which will require either development of GACC-wide data sets, and also incorporation of other existing web services into the presentation.

- **Status of season readiness (for RMACC support) – update on written documents, hardware, software**
The GIS Instruction Guide and WebEx instruction documents were complete as of last month. These were distributed to the Committee at that time. The GIS Instruction Guide (formerly called the RMACC GIS Cookbook) was sent to the committee with a request to review. No comments were received. However, with the maturation of the RMIRS system discussed in the next bullet, there will be some needed updates and simplifications, which John has agreed to make. Software at RMACC has been updated to ArcGIS 9.3.1 and the most recent version of Google Earth on both the USGS and USFS computers in the RMACC conference room. The status of the software on the BLM computer is uncertain. Hardware is working, with a simple switch between computers to show on the monitor. Switching the WebEx presenter was also practiced at the time of the MAC Exercise.

- **Rocky Mountain Incident Reporting System (RMIRS)**
 Development is mostly complete, however some additional requirements have been added and John will need some time to incorporate those changes into the system. The changes include being able to add incidents for a day other than the current date. There is a link on RMACC's website now for RMIRS. It is tied to Geomac and pulls in any incident points or perimeters available there. RMIRS is also available as a web service for use in other ArcGIS sessions, and as a dynamic kml for use in Google Earth. Demonstration of RMIRS also presented through WebEx for those attending the meeting virtually.
- **Updates to Dispatch Boundary and Fire Weather Zone layers**
 Time ran short, and this topic was only covered very briefly. Esther Trevino-Neasloney from Wyoming BLM State Office noticed that the version of the local dispatch boundaries being used in the MAC Exercise may have some errors in Wyoming. Apparently there have been some recent changes. This needs to be verified with RMACC and corrected so the layer is correct. Also had a report that there have been changes to the National Weather Service Fire Weather Zones (South Dakota and Nebraska?). This should also be verified and a new layer incorporated into the RMACC data sets.
- **GACC wide data layers and/or standards**
 The need for these layers continues to present itself in briefings, analyses, and especially in the Wildland Fire Decision Support System. This would be a major undertaking and would need clarification of the scope of the task and would need to clear this with RMCG. It would be very helpful to have all the data, across agencies, available in one place, with a clear data plan, data flow and services. This may integrate with some national efforts or not. The thought was that if the Committee takes this on, we may need RMCG tasking and funding will definitely need to start with some relatively simple but important layers first.
- **RMCG Committee Charter Review and Update**
 The RMCG has directed all standing committees to review and update their charters to include new verbiage on voting being used to determine decisions, on membership make-up and on distribution of minutes. The revised Charters are due by 9/1/2010. This information was emailed to Committee members on 6/10/2010. Dave Hammond has agreed to review and make the initial changes to the charter.
- **Communication from Geospatial Task Group**
 John Guthrie reported on some of the issues that the Geospatial Task Group (GTG), an NWCG committee, is involved with, including data standards and the newsletter for GISS folks. Please see GTG's website. Need for closer communication between GTG and RMGTC.

- Review of Action Items from Past Meetings**

Most all of the Action Items from the past two meetings have been completed, with the exception of Elise setting up hands-on training for WFDSS for our group. The group questioned whether or not this was still necessary with the FSPro training given this spring around the GACC and with the RAVAR webinar. Issue is still open, though not a high priority at this time.
- Issues with Data in WFDSS**

There was a discussion of the data quality and quantity available in WFDSS. Apparently, as revised layers for Fire Management Units (FMUs) are being added, the old ones are not being removed with is resulting in lots of confusion. Also there are some issues with incorrect information attached to the FMUs AND the fact that the spatial FMUs are not visible in WFDSS in the mapping portion. There are also some issues with accuracy of other data sets collected and loaded into WFDSS by WFDSS employees. There is a need to include dates on the FMU spatial data, most likely as an additional attribute giving the valid date. Additionally there are strategic objectives and management requirements that are tied to the wrong spatial layer. Additionally, it was felt there needs to be a better way to access or download the spatial data added into WFDSS for an incident, especially, perimeters, ignition points, barriers and management action points, all of which would be useful for RMACC and other GACCs for decision making. Dave Hammond and Skip Edel will draft an issue paper to address these problems and the potential solutions.

**There is a good method for downloading perimeters now, with the 3.10 release of WFDSS, so only the other incident data types remain difficult to access.*

There was also some discussion of the lack of “building cluster” data in RAVAR (based on digital or electronic parcel data from counties) for most of the GACC. There may be some avenues to pursue, including involvement from Wyoming Division of Forestry to encourage the remaining counties in Wyoming to make the data available to RAVAR. Also some discussion that Jon Gottingsen (formerly the State of Colorado – GIS Coordinator) possibly having the bulk of the Colorado data available. There may be an issue paper drafted regarding this issue, but brought forward jointly between the RMGTC and the Operations Committee. This is just a head’s up, nothing firm on this issue yet.
- HP1055 Plotter in Rocky Mountain Cache for Incident Use**

The plotter is ready to go. It must be requested through ROSS, with a source of “RM Cache, no NFES number.” Still working on what the description of the item should be.
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems - USGS**

The US Geological Survey has purchased several Ravens. Mike Hutt is the contact for this project. FAA approval is needed in order to use the UAS, so plenty of lead time is necessary. The Ravens have GPS on board and the there is a video camera. The camera is a forward-looking instrument and is designed for

“looking at” the fire. USGS has been working with RMACC and the Operations Committee to find a way to use these UAS on an actual wildland fire. USGS is attempting to get “blanket” (insert real wording here) approval from FAA for use within the GACC, to shorten the task approval time to 2 or 3 days when there is an actual “task” or incident.

- **Need to ensure that RMGTC is fulfilling the Expectations of Standing Committees posted on RMCG’s portion of RMACC’s website**
There are some RMCG expectations for standing committees and it looks like we may need to do some work to more fully meet these expectations. This includes, but is not limited to distribution of our minutes, and also making a Committee recommendation to RMCG for selecting new Committee Members. Elise will start working on this and on working on getting our committee more of a presence on RMACC’s website.
- **Presence at RMA Spring Team Meetings (didn’t have time to discuss at the meeting, but here’s a quick update)**
Elise attended part of one day of the RMA Spring Team Meetings in Loveland. Just gave a quick introduction of what our group does and who we are (to the Planning Section people). She also told them about the plotter in the cache, in case they need to order it.

Action Items:

- **John and will continue developing and fine-tuning RMIRS, including incorporating Marco’s request to be able to add incidents with dates in the past.**
- **John will update the GIS Instruction Guide to include the tying in of RMIRS or at least the kml into the MAC Briefing.**
- **Elise will follow up on the plotter and advise group proper description for ordering through ROSS.**
- **Dave will update our charter to incorporate the changes mandated by RMCG, before 9/1/2010.**
- **Dave and Skip will draft an issue paper about the WFDSS data concerns and possible solutions**
- **Elise will work with RMCG and Doug Wagner to increase the RMGTC’s web presence and to ensure RMGTC is meeting RMCG’s “Expectations”.**
- **Elise will see that RMGTC follows correct procedure for adding members.**