

SOUTHWEST AREA FIRE PLANNING COMMITTEE  
CONFERENCE CALL NOTES  
CALL DATE AND TIME: February 20, 2008 @1000 MST  
Notes by: John Selkirk

Attendees:

Jesse Duhnkrack  
Marlena Hovorka  
Cameron Tongier  
Jennifer Adams  
Steve Larabee  
Mike Aoi  
Marcia Andre  
John Selkirk  
John Barborinas

SW AREA SPRING FPA WORKSHOP

The National ICG will conduct Geographic Area workshops this spring. Two or three ICG members will provide an introduction, overview, and demonstration of the next phase of FPA, with lots of time for questions and answers. This is expected to require 8-12 hours, and could be followed by a hands-on session for users to work with the programs. However, the length and content of the workshops is to be determined by the Geographic Areas. The target audience is the FPU people who will work on the next FPA run, but of course, includes our committee.

While we will have to schedule around workshops already scheduled by other Geographic Areas, our preferred dates, in ranked order, are the weeks of:

- (1) May 5
- (2) May 12
- (3) April 21
- (4) May 21

The consensus is that earlier dates will not allow us to see a well-developed FPA product, and later dates will conflict with the peak of the SW fire season. Also, we will work with the ICG to explore the possibilities of a ‘virtual meeting’ or a ‘webinar,’ since we think this will increase participation and would obviously reduce the costs and time involved in the workshop. We believe this workshop should not include hands-on work, but we should instead plan a hands-on session later in the summer/fall, when the software is completed.

Selkirk will work with the ICG to establish dates and workshop format, and will forward that information to the committee and FPU chairs as soon as possible.

## “ADOPT-A-FPU” LIASIONS

We finalized the list of which committee member will be our liaison to each FPU. Selkirk will distribute this list with these conference call notes, and will post the list on our committee web page.

## DUE DATES AND TIME TABLE

### --Weather Stations for Large Fire Module (due February 29<sup>th</sup>)

Selkirk asked the committee members to work with their FPUs to complete the selection of the weather stations. Selkirk will need to report this back to the national level. Chuck Maxwell has provided his opinion as to which is the best weather station for each FPU, which should help with the decision.

### --Fuels Treatment Prescriptions for Large Fire Module (due March 7<sup>th</sup>)

Selkirk asked the committee members to work with the FPUs to get this information to the national level. Directions for completing this work and the format for the information are included in the FPA paper that was issued 1/22/2008. An additional paper is expected to be issued soon that will clarify the need for the prescriptions and how they will be used. Some FPUs are waiting for the clarification that this second paper should provide.

Important points that we need to stress to the FPUs are:

- give this project our best shot, but to keep it simple and do not expend an inordinate amount of time and effort. No more than 3-4 hours should be required.

- We must stay within the parameters of the white paper, and not provide additional prescriptive criteria: We are limited to fuels models and canopy attributes. However, it is recommended that we don't use the canopy attributes for prescriptions unless that information is readily available, and the canopy change is essential for success of the treatment.. The fuels models alone will normally suffice.

- Treatments that do not change fuel models (such as desert grassland burns which change species composition but not fuel loading) should not be included in this data call.

### --FPU Boundary Changes (due April 1<sup>st</sup>)

Several boundary adjustments in southwest Texas are being finalized, which will place the non-federal lands in Texas in the two FPUs in Texas. Some final decisions need to be made around Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Also, the proposal to combine the

Southern New Mexico Mountains FPU with the Pecos Plains FPU is still being discussed. No other boundary changes are being considered at this time, but there are a few minor mapping discrepancies that need to be resolved. John Selkirk, Steve Larrabee and Cameron Tongier will work on finalizing the map changes, and a final map will be provided to the committee for review and approval.

#### STRATEGY TO ENSURE WE MEET DEADLINES

The consensus is that the most effective way to ensure that deadlines are met will be to rely heavily on our committee members to function as liaisons to their “adopted” FPU’s for exchanging critical information with the FPU’s and to follow-up on deadlines.

#### FUTURE CONFERENCE CALLS

We discussed the need for a Geographic Area conference call with the FPU leads. The committee members will discuss this with their FPU leads, and provide some feedback as to whether a call is needed. Meanwhile, Selkirk will be sending an e-mail to the leads regarding the spring FPA workshop.

The next Fire Planning Committee conference call is scheduled for Thursday, March 13, 2008, at 1400 mountain time.