

CONFERENCE CALL NOTES
Southwest Area Fire Planning Committee
September 18, 2007
1000 MDT

Attendees: Ginger Brudevold-Black, John Selkirk, Kelly Castillo, Linda Kerr,
Marlena Hovorka, Cameron Tongier, Jennifer Adams, Steve Larrabee,
J.R. Epps, Hector Madrid.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The current membership was confirmed by the committee:

USFS	Ginger Brudevold-Black
USFS	Marlena Hovorka
BLM AZ	Kelly Castillo
BLM NM	John Selkirk
NPS	Linda Kerr
USFWS	Cameron Tongier
USFWS	Jennifer Adams
BIA	Steve Larrabee
AZ State Land Dept.	Kirk Rowdabaugh
NM State Forestry	Donald Griego
SWCG Liaison	Hector Madrid
Nat'l FPA Liaison	J.R. Epps

Also, an updated list of FPU leads is also being prepared by Marlena Hovorka.

COMMITTEE CHARTER

The committee charter was reviewed, and several minor points were discussed. John Selkirk will re-word two sections to bring the charter up to date, and will recommend the charter for approval by the SWCG chair. The charter will be posted on the SWA Fire Planning Committee section of the SWA web site.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

New officers were selected for the committee, to serve a two-year term:

Chair: John Selkirk
Vice-Chair: Jennifer Adams

ANTICIPATED 2008 WORKLOAD

A discussion was held regarding the workload we anticipate for ourselves and the SW Area FPU's in the coming year. A brief summary follows:

--If FPU's anticipate changing their boundaries, they should begin working on these changes as soon as possible. Coordinating these changes is expected to be time consuming, and changes need to be done prior to implementing the new version of FPA in the summer of 2008. National guidance for FPU boundary changes is scheduled to be issued September 28th, but may be delayed. Additionally, we may need to issue our own guidance to clarify our expectations and to ensure this is a coordinated effort.

--Agencies should be cleaning up their fire data this winter. At a minimum, we have two new years of fire history to use. Also, we understand that PCHA will be importing fire history directly from the agency's fire history data bases. In other words, if changes made in previous PCHA runs were not also corrected in the agency's master database, they will not carry into future PCHA runs.

--The time table for the roll-out of the new FPA products is June 2008. Training will be conducted around that time, and will be required for all participants, including those trained in the previous FPA software systems.

--Implementation of the new FPA for all FPU's will begin in the summer of 2008, with the expectation that products will be completed during the winter of 2008-2009.

LANDFIRE WORKSHOP

The upcoming Landfire workshop in Albuquerque on October 15-18th was discussed. The purpose of the workshops is to ground-truth the data developed by Landfire. Local experts with knowledge of the land as well as fuels and fire behavior are needed to participate in the workshops. Committee members are asked to encourage their agency personnel to attend. Selkirk will forward the workshop announcement to the committee, in case any members have not seen it.

PROPOSED EXEMPTION FOR LOW WORKLOAD FPU's

We discussed the possibility of conducting an abbreviated planning process for low-workload FPU's such as SW Texas. Our experience in the previous FPA effort indicated that some FPU's have low enough workloads and budgets that modeling is of minimal value. J.R. expects that we will be required to run the new model for all FPU's. An alternative might be to combine the low workload FPU's into adjacent FPU's.

CONFERENCE CALL FOR FPU LEADS

We agree that a conference call with the FPU leads is needed to bring them up to date. We have tentatively scheduled a conference call for October 9th at 0900 mountain time. Participants will include the FPU leads, and the SW Area fire planning committee.