

CONFERENCE CALL NOTES

Date: October 9, 2007, 0900 MDT

Attendees: SW Area Fire Planning Committee and SW Area Fire Planning Unit Chairs

Notes by: John Selkirk

Purpose: To revitalize the fire planning effort in the SW Area, and to prepare for the anticipated workload associated with FPA in the next 12 to 18 months.

Who's Who in SWA Fire Planning

John Selkirk (BLM New Mexico) has been selected to be the Chair of the SWA Fire Planning Committee, and Jennifer Adams (USFWS) was selected as the new Vice-Chair. Both will serve for the next two years

The current members of the SWA Fire Planning Committee are:

Ginger Brudevold-Black	USFS
Marlena Hovorka	USFS (ad hoc member)
John Selkirk	BLM-NM
Kelly Castillo	BLM-AZ
Linda Kerr	NPS
Cameron Tongier	USFWS
Jennifer Adams	USFWS
Steve Larrabee	BIA
Ron Melcher	AZ State Land Department
Donald Griego	NM State Forestry
Marcia Andre	SWCG Liaison to Committee
J.R. Epps	National FPA Liaison to Committee

The Chairs for the SWA Fire Planning Units were identified. Some FPU's have vacant chair positions and some Chairs are in transition. The FPU's will need to establish their Chairs and working teams soon, as we gear up for the next round of FPA.

The time-line for FPA

A time line for events and deadlines related to the next generation of FPA is evolving. Key dates and time frames were discussed:

April 1, 2008: FPU boundary changes must be finalized

June 2008: The new FPA software and process should be completed by the prototypes and ready for use by all FPUs.

Summer/Fall 2008: Training will be available on the new FPA software and process.

Fall 2008: Geographic Area workshops may be scheduled.

September 2008-February 2009: All FPUs will implement the new FPA process.

February 2009: FPA runs will be finalized and submitted to National level.

March 2009: National level analysis will be completed, with results available to “inform” the FY-2011 federal budget process.

Upcoming workloads/things to do

--As necessary, reorganize the committees/teams in the FPUs.

--FPUs need to review their boundaries and coordinate any changes that will be made prior to the April 1 deadline for these changes.

--Data clean-up of fire history should be initiated as soon as possible. The 10-year database will be 1998-2007, so two new years of fire history will be used (2006 and 2007). Also, it was noted that the next generation of FPA will draw historical data from the agency’s fire occurrence database (i.e. WFMI). Mistakes that were discovered during the last round of FPA, but were only corrected in PCHA will need to be corrected in the fire occurrence databases.

--Anticipate the need for everyone to receive training on the new software in the summer/fall of 2008.

Help and Support

--We plan to fully utilize the SW Area Fire Planning Committee page on the SW Coordination web site to post information regarding the Committee’s activities. These notes and lists of Committee members and FPU chairs will be maintained on the web page.

--Everyone is urged to peruse the national web site, www.fpa.nifc.gov. A recent addition is the “Desk Reference Guide,” which was prepared for the newly established Management Advisory Team. This guide consolidates a variety of information pertaining to FPA, and is a good review for line managers and a refresher for the rest of us.

--The SWA Fire Planning Committee stands ready to help the FPU teams whenever needed. In particular, we are available to assist FPUs that are considering boundary changes this winter.