

Region 5 Breakout Group¹

Land Management Planning (LMP)

Participants: Suraj Ahuja, Ricardo Cisneros, Patti Hiram, Ray Hermit, Mike McCorison, Jon Payne, Beth Plymale, Trent Procter

LMP Breakout Notes

R5 concentrated almost exclusively on working on the LMP matrix*, assigning a number for each Role category, to better acknowledge hierarchy & relationships.

R5 Revised Role Terms:

- 1) Lead: Responsibility to initiate, bring together participants, complete, and implement the task.
- 2) Partner: Responsibility to fully participate with the Lead toward development and implementation of the task.
- 3) Involved: Responsibility to participate in certain components of development and implementation of the task, although not at full Partner status.
- 4) Aware: Responsibility to have an appropriate working knowledge of the task, but likely to have little or no involvement in its development or daily implementation.
- 5) NA: Not applicable in our area.

We also added another layer to the matrix: “Forest Service Research”

*see matrix below

Concerns:

- Air Program has not been lead due to staffing. Need more Air Staff - fuels people filling gap[s]
- AQ not at table initially to bring out issues – bring in Air sooner
- What are important components of affected environment, especially in DOEs
- Need for other partners [ARB, Agriculture group]

¹ *These notes have been slightly edited for style but remain largely as originally received from the breakout group reporters. Discussion questions that were provided to the groups, but that were not addressed, have been removed. The original list of questions can be found in a separate document entitled “Breakout Handout” on the Fire & Air Workshop web page.*

Land Use Planning – Fire Effects on Air Fire and Air Quality Issues and Tasks	Current State			Optimal State				Forest Service Research
	Fire Prog.	Air Prog.		Other	Fire Prog.	Air Prog.	Other	
ID team lead for issue.	1	3		1 NEPA Coord.	2	2	3	3
Description of Affected Environment (general meteorology, sensitive areas, current air quality, etc.). <i>[concerned shortened doc. may leave out fundamental parts of affected environ.]</i>					3	1	3	5
Alternative Description (fuel treatment options, justify use of fire, timing of any proposed burning, mitigation measures, etc.	1	3		5	2	2	3	2
Environmental Consequences (quantify emissions; describe potential short and long term effects on health, nuisance, and/or visibility; worst-case analysis; dispersion modeling, etc.).	1	3		5	3	1	3	3
Describe requirements and effectiveness of state smoke management plans and/or visibility SIPs.	1	3		5	3	1	3	3
Monitoring	1	3		5	2	2	3	3

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State Implementation Plan (SIP) and Smoke Management Plan (SMP)

SIP/SMP Breakout Notes

1) Increased Fire and Air collaboration on RPO/SIP/SMP maximizes our ability to meet FS objectives. What other advantages are there?

Ex. of 3 different AQ standards in Tahoe area – compared with example of state of Oregon’s uniform SMP = the coordination to resolve/overlay regional complexity.

2) What common messages can Fire and Air take on Air Quality & Fire Use in the RPO/SIP/SMP process within your region?

- Unlike exceedances of the NAAQS, visibility impairment from fire use for ecosystem management purposes are acceptable in Forest Service managed Class I Wilderness areas.
- Prescribed fire is a best available control measure (BACM) for wildfire emissions.
- **Fuel treatments – “no free lunch”**

Others -

- Emissions Inventory - Paramount. Pivotal. Need to garner agency comprehensive support for this difficult and complex issue; creates integrity, credibility, & confidence in information. Internal education necessary to gain support. Optimal for modeling = key for solving many of the other issues.
- Public Education – funding well worth.

3) How can we best interact with States/what are our opportunities to do so? (E.g., RPO involvement, etc.)

Interaction – mechanism to inform air pollution districts.

4) Who are the other stakeholders (i.e., vis-à-vis SIP, SMP, etc.) and what are their issues/questions?

Agriculture. Health & Environmental advocacy groups. Municipalities – fire safe councils. Recreation organizations [?] – off road groups... TRPA

- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency; Federal direction @regional level. QLG – Quincy Library Group – pilot program legislated by Congress Tahoe, Plumas and Lassen NF

5) What are the unique roles for Fire & Air in the RPO/SIP/SMP process in your region?

Again, public education is paramount.

6) What are the leadership and/or organizational changes at the WO, Research and/or RO level that would encourage increased Fire and Air collaboration?

Need: Restructuring Air Program in R5 – opportunity, especially because of Gerry Gause retirement. Prioritize, initiate increased support of Fire Program within R5 Air Program. Fire feedback in this process vital.

7) What are some policy/planning/information gaps that would inhibit more effective RPO, SIP and/or SMP participation by your region?

Value of emissions planning vis-à-vis research – what is gained from prescribed burning relative to the cost of such treatment[s]. Create a PSW business model for the role & value of research – needs to be coalesced with other entities within Fire & Air.

***Identify the top 3-5 highlights from this breakout session and write them below. Be prepared to report these back to the workshop. Record highlights here:**

1. Emissions Inventory - Paramount. Pivotal. Need to garner agency comprehensive support for this difficult and complex issue; creates integrity, credibility, & confidence in information. Internal education necessary to gain support. Optimal for modeling = key for solving many of the other issues.
2. Value of emissions planning vis-à-vis research – what is gained from prescribed burning relative to the cost of such treatment[s]. Create a PSW business model for the role & value of research – needs to be coalesced with other entities within Fire & Air.
3. Public Education – funding well worth.

Flipchart notes from report back:

The way Fire interfaces with Air – Ecosystem Management – bring Air group into Fire group?? Politically challenging...

Discussion of desire for more uniformity in processes between different areas.

Touch choices to be made: need to understand consequences of each.

Emissions Inventory: paramount. Creates credibility. Invest here. Data is key.

Public Education on fuels and air quality – still need more work here. Stakeholders: Ag, health groups, etc. (see their notes)

Connection with Research: need for increased support – air quality side

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Data Needs/Strategies

Data Needs Breakout Notes

1) **What are some information and/or data gaps in your region that limit your ability to estimate emissions for fire tracking, emissions estimation, and emissions inventory?**

PFIRS – needs to be made operational, refined – over reporting problem example.

Customer orientation – relevant data per user. AG utility example...

For EI, needs wildfire utility – i.e. consumption

Has everything but moisture...

Phase 2 needs to be “more robust”- components

FCAMMS/ PFIRS interface? Or other national database tie ins... national design should dictate or ground up – status quo - to meet local needs? .

Pilot project/study to define agenda for Phase 2. Identify needs...

Duration not in PFIRS...Phase 2 should include

Defaults?

Ferguson/group comments, Q & A – EPM/FOFEM models fuel condition type - vegetation classes crude models to derive fuel load by class types. FCC will render fuel load by size class – most emissions from ground cover shrubs. Essential criteria needed: location, date, time, size, project type. Feds burn 80%, thus FASTRACS optimal in NW - easy, centralized, and more accommodating. Rains function of BlueSky has most utility, accuracy, and simplicity for different users. Dispersion modeling still needs refinement in BlueSky. PFIRS should be easy enough to use every day and needs to be backed up if necessary – i.e. to accommodate allocation system[s] or other contingencies. Should also support model verifications. Fixed time for accomplishment verification is essential to test modeling – optimal: same day, otherwise, airshed can look like it's filling up faster than it really is. MM5 & RAMM only monitoring products that accommodate terrain. CALPUFF, for example, can be used in BlueSky framework – example of utility and accommodation of unique needs. Blowing dust – post fire wind-blown ash questions – experts are part of BlueSky = possible dispersion modeling tool. Pesticides? MM5 products could create dispersion modeling also. PFIRS/BlueSky could be interfaced – FASTRACS example from NW. Sue Ferguson consult for Phase 2 PFIRS would be good. Sue's closing advice - “Value in taking/showing what is available now, and then what you could do if you had better information in the future.” FASTRACS has best utility – and wider acceptance, i.e. NPS. Idea: FASTRACS could be R5's primary input, transpose to PFIRS to satisfy PFIRS agreement, on the Federal side.

Flipchart notes from report back:

None

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Regional Action Plan/National Priorities

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National Priorities

- National assistance to establish data information needs – i.e., national data/perimeter data: how to tie in?
- Training
- Direction & deadlines necessary for FASTRAC implementation & integration with PFIRS. Establish players in this area.
- Establish national task teams to help resolve regional issues – to fulfill specialty knowledge gaps – example: Trent Wickman’s regulatory background could really benefit R5 in certain instances.
- National assistance in developing Pilot FETM
- National participation for the development of smoke monitoring protocols related to RH planning - involve research.
- National methodology for budgeting BFES

Flipcharts notes from report back:

- Assistance establishing data information needs – what do we need? Consistency.
- Training
- National Task Team to help solve regional issues (made up of regional experts)
- National development of smoke monitoring protocols for RPOs (need to involve Research)
- National methodology for budgeting BFES.
- Direction for FASTRACS.

Regional Action Plan

- Continue to continue this process back in Region 5 to Regional Management Team to make a presentation to the Directors of Fire, Air & Ecosystem – this is already requested
- Review Air Program - and especially it's relationship to fuels – Organization: Roles & responsibilities & tools. Goals & objectives. Who should attend these meetings? – Identify & create continuity of participants.
- Briefing paper – adapt some of LMP matrix, work load analysis of fuels & air – what technical expertise necessary to integrate, risks – i.e. conformity analysis.
- Meet with Barb Bonefeld [sp?] - FASTRACS vs. PFIRS – explore feasibility of populating FASTRACS first, then develop PIFIRS template and/or means of interface of 2 systems? Or should they be kept separate for respective needs and requirements? Determine economic efficiency of options...careful deliberation of this delicate issue. CANSAC & BlueSky access & utility considered.
- Severity analysis - from Salt Lake City, Klaus Barber regional analysis modeling – to compare/contrast emissions for Forest Plan revision
- Formalize the interagency agreement for wildfire monitoring
- Emissions Inventory - Paramount. Pivotal. Need to garner agency comprehensive support for this difficult and complex issue; creates integrity, credibility, & confidence in information. Internal education necessary to gain support. Optimal for modeling = key for solving many of the other issues.
- Public Education – funding well worth.
- Pilot project to look at current technologies and to access current needs & criteria