

Regions 8 and 9 Breakout Group¹

Land Management Planning (LMP)

Participants: Bruce Bayle, John Caffin, Donna Lamb, Cindy Huber, Chuck Sams, Andrea Stacy, Trent Wickman

LMP Breakout Notes

1) The advantages of increased Fire & Air collaboration on LMP may include greater efficiency, better decisions, and fewer legal challenges. What are other advantages? Any specific to your region?

We're doing it.

2) What common messages can Fire & Air agree to with regards to Air Quality and Fire Use in the LMP process within the region? Possible examples might include:

- *The Forest Service will **never** plan to use fire in a way that is predicted to result in a NAAQS exceedence in a community or other area where the public has reasonable access. Needs other wording*
- Will stay within the law, within the NAAQS.
- *Fire use planned for ecosystem management purposes will attempt to minimize Class I area visibility impacts but we agree that visibility impairment is acceptable, even natural, from some types of fire use.*
- It's going to burn, better to have it on our terms for fewer emissions or timed to optimize the fuel moisture and wind direction – the air quality impacts.

3) Where will/should LMP direction for fire and air quality issues originate? WO, Regions, or Forests?

WO is too high a level. Regions and Forests need to be working together. Do it by State, so if there are multiple forests in a state, they need to be working together. May be able to do the planning effort over several states, but ultimately, have to work with individual states.

4) What questions need to be answered in the LMP process? What specifically needs to be disclosed?

How do we look at the ecological acres we need to burn vs. the amount we think we can accomplish? Fire did the amount to be burned per alternative, air did emissions calculation. Looked at historical levels, projected levels and entire emissions inventory.

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.*

Emissions from wildfire, emissions from prescribed fire too show a tradeoff.

Fire uncomfortable with saying how much goes up in wildfire. Not all the acres would be prescribed burn, but would change say habitat.

Want the decision in the plan to be ecologically based. If do a regional assessment, you can figure out emissions for condition class I. Get those in the SIP. Well, for the Regional Haze SIP – long term. Have a regional target to keep below, but burn more under Condition Class II or III.

Would the LMP have the emissions for the ideal scenario or what is happening now?

5) What other partners would improve the process (e.g., State reps, other agencies, and organizations)? What is our appropriate relationship with them? What efficiencies can you identify that would result from this collaboration?

What about EPA? These regions have so many EPA Regions and states. There are big differences between the states. Perhaps collaboration when a smoke management plan needs to be developed or updated. RPOs might be important – emission budgets – when, where. Look at vegetation mapping and return interval. Then how many acres need to be burned? Communicate that to the states. It is going to burn. Emissions are by wildfire or controlled.

Need some strategic points/thresholds for States/EPA involvement in LMP.

6) What are some policy/planning/information gaps that would inhibit better LMP decisions in your region?

We have done it. But we need some guidance written down. For fire and air quality – done at the regional level.

Guidance needs to include guidance on scope of a comprehensive emissions **benchmark** – historical, present, future ecological processes, how much you can actually burn, wildfire plus prescribed fire?

****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:***

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Flipchart notes from report back:

1. Need to determine points at which to involve states...
2. Need guidance for Forests for Plan Revision – from Regional Office
3. What is our benchmark for evaluation: time period? What emissions are we supposed to calculate? For what level – ecological level or?
4. “It’s going to burn, let’s do it on our terms.”

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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?

3 have plans FL, SC, MN
AR, GA, VA working
Many can't regulate agricultural burning

How much can we do? Fire counting on Air to deal with SMP in R8. But Department of Forestry has the lead, but are abdicating. Interagency Fire Group in the states have done some work.

Develop a template for SMP and try to get the states to adopt SMPs. National Association of State Foresters – would they be a group to lead the effort. Hit them individually first, then present to the group.

Can use research consortia to do the modeling for the centers. Need to get some deliverables to forward to get more people to know what they are doing. Or need to collaboratively develop with the stakeholders locally.

Need to figure out which of the dirtiest 20% come from wildfires and prescribed fire.

Natural background – only if it is wildfire or prescribed fire burning in type 1 fuel condition. Are there other ways to do natural background.

How to strategically develop a presence on RPOs fire and air specialists involved.

Communicate with Fire leadership on escalating impacts of regulations, work needs, staffing specific to the air program. Effects of NAAQS, Regional haze. Why does it matter to you in fire?

One page briefing paper on RPOs, the staffing, and the air program to get to communicate to management – fire and forest. Effects of fire, regional haze, what we need to do what are the effects. Sum up Dennis's talk in one page.

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.

- FS fire use for ecosystem management purposes, based on an approved fire management plan, should not be regulated in the same way as industrial sources in the protection of visibility.
- Prescribed fire is a best available control measure (BACM) for wildfire emissions.

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

We need to get the RPO information out to fire. They would hire more people to attend the committee meetings. Would they be hired in fire or WFW? Wish the air people were in the fire area. Educate and get people to commit to be at the meetings.

If fire had influence, but not worked for fire, then still need more air people.

Rotate people through. Fund their travel.

Do we have people who are good at many things, or people who do AQRVs, and another do RPOs? Fatalities on roads from fires is major issue for R8. If air people can do DATARAMS, a big selling point with FMOs. Air people out on fires. Air is not providing stuff that the FMOs need.

There are technical jobs and there are policy jobs. What kind of person are we going to hire? See a career ladder, data interpretation building to specialist.

Need a protocol for DATARAMS. Chuck has done a protocol for Superior.

No emissions factors for the east. No models that work for the east. There is a fire inventory for the US FIRESTAT (Wildfires and some Rx fires).

Flipcharts:

Importance of RPO involvement. Challenges:

- Utilize industry perspective
- 4 RPOs to deal with

How can we participate meaningfully?

- Involve fire folks more... (e.g. in emissions inventory)
- Task a person to do this specifically (detail)

SMP – develop template for this – challenge: level of detail is highly variable among states.

- Upper Management: become aware of regional issues – develop one page Briefing Paper (use Haddow's presentation?)
- If we got new staff, where should they go? Fire or Air?
 - If from Fire: more visibility for them
 - If from Air: greater need on issues (AQRV)

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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?**

Most critical information needs. Where the fires are. Mine and yours.

- 2) **What information needs have been identified in your region for LMPs, SIPs, SMPs, and/or RPOs?**

- Fire activity and emissions data.
- Transfer process from WRAP.
- Consistent methodology of where fires occur and their size – one site does all. One WEB based system.
- Do it RPO by RPO
- Keep the core simple and has incentive (financial or ego). Put in all the fields, but make only a few required.
- **What is in it for me? Field FMO – get my records in once – on the web – if someone wants report, you pull it, Brings up photos and maps and fences and fields. IC, first responder. Consistency, consistent acreage determination. Pull up any time. Audit with satellite. Smoke management programs pull the data, not store and manage it. Competition to get on the web – for money, for engines, for popularity. Bypass the fire report fight. Web, digital photos, maps, trace on the screen. (SMP plans will need it in the future). Add fields in the future or locally. Automatic acre determination. View of where your smoke will go.**
- **The replacement for NFPORS and FIRESTAT. Missing wildfire, missing web base, missing where the smoke goes.**
- Few required. For those who are putting stuff in already, let it link seamlessly.
- Or just look at the east, where we have fewer systems.
- Have current data, not old data. Will have the whole range of links. NFPORS private and state puts in course data. Replace Rx databases and wildfire databases. All fire activity across the country. GEOMAC – 500-acre cutoff. Populate it in real time. FCAMMS get their data off the site. If you populate this database, you will get your forecast in x minutes.
- Technology is so accelerated that have to lay out the vision. The volume of what needs to be sent to user has been handled.
- FAST, not too many data fields (not 40 minutes) grow it later. Add on when smoke management program needs it. Make accomplishment reporting easy. Download to your own spreadsheet (that might have more records).
- EASE, ADD to.

- Where, when, emissions.
- Is it realistic to get it to whole country? We build and roll out incrementally. Rollout Feds, then state foresters, then counties, cities, etc. Already have training cadre. This would be the upgrade for NFPORS.

3) How far along is your region's FCAMMS and what can you do to help it advance? (I.e., What is needed in preparation for the FCAMMS products and what will the FCAMMS need from your region?) How will you do LMP, SIP, and SMP analyses until FCAMMS products are ready?

What is vision for Heilmans version of BlueSky? Also Achtemeier. When Can I have it? In VA need cumulative and 1500-acre blocks of fire and where it will smoke up the road (needs CMAQ). In MN need just today's fires and three days out. (doesn't need CMAQ) What about background? FCAMMS – BlueSkyRains moved into each consortium and customize it. East does not have FASTRACS. Also a tool for PSD permit review.

Identify the real needs and communicate them to Heilman and Achtemeier, and their station directors. Do we need some incentives and/or accountability to get the products ASAP? Can't wait for a couple years. Need bare bones of BlueSky without delay. While the development of the other progresses.

Flipchart notes from report back:

- We need to map fire – all sources.
- Would like national web-based tool to do this – next evolution of NFPORS
- Need barebones of BlueSky ASAP so we can begin modeling now.

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Regional Action Plan/National Priorities

Participants: Bruce Bayle, Chuck Sams, Andrea Stacy, Trent Wickman

National Priorities

Flipchart notes from report back:

Develop web-based fire activity – use Fire Management personnel to do it. (National database important to Region 8/9)

LMP: Need Regional direction. WO level too high.

Regional Action Plan

Data Plan:

- Web based/geospatial system.
- FCAMMS – Deliver BlueSkies model to the SHRMC/EAMC as soon as possible.

Land Management Planning:

- Develop Regional direction for the NFs for fire/air quality narrative/process.
 - WO is too high a level. Regions and Forests need to be working together. Do it by State, so if there are multiple forests in a state, they need to be working together. May be able to do the planning effort over several states, but ultimately, have to work with individual states.
 - ACTION PLAN – RO air and fire specialists develop a joint R8/9 LMP process. Disseminate to NFs via RF cover letter.
- Develop comprehensive emissions **benchmark** – historical, present, future ecological processes, how much you can actually burn, wildfire plus prescribed fire?
 - ACTION PLAN -

SIP NAAQS:

- Early participation with States(ozone & PM2.5) key, fire and air staff

SIP – Regional Haze/RPO Involvement:

- Early participation with RPO/States (ozone & PM2.5) key, fire and air staff.
- Prioritize finalization of emission factors, and/or publish unpublished data, fuel type classifications (?).
- Embed FS methodology (generation of PM2.5 emissions) in State SIP process.

SMP

- Early participation with States (ozone & PM2.5) key, fire and air staff.
- Embed FS methodology (generation of PM2.5 emissions) in State SIP process.