

Meeting Notes

Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

Fire Use Sub-Committee Meeting

October 7th, 2007
Missoula, Montana

Attendees:

Colleen Finneman
Rogers Warren
Seth Carbonari
Mike Goicoechea
Ashley Sites
Ernie Lundberg
John Monzie
Dave Soliem
Steve Zachary
Scott Schrenk
Chuck Stanich
Erin Small
Chris Ryan
Pat Garbutt
Carol Miller
Stu Hoyt
Erin Law
Chuck Mark
Brad McBratney

● Review of April 16, 2007 Meeting Notes:

Notes were passed out. A brief run-through was conducted.

● Discussion on Committee Accomplishment Tracking:

Brad/ Rogers will look at some sort of spreadsheet for reporting and tracking action from this committee.

● **Review/Update/Finalize 2007 Action Plan:**

Action Item #1: Identify consistent language and direction from the USFS R-1 Regional Office for Appropriate Management Response (AMR) and Wildland Fire Use to be incorporated into the Forest Plan Revisions currently being completed for the west-side Forests.

Action Item stalled, possibly moving to a new one. Forests are expanding WFU based on permissive language in current plans. Need a list of those Forests with current FMP's.

Action Item #2: Need to develop an information strategy for use within the agencies and with our external publics on our fire management program. This information strategy needs to include all aspects of prescribed fire, AMR, and wildland fire use. It needs to explain that fire is fire and how we manage a particular event is dependent upon several variables. We need to explain how and why we manage fire with a modified suppression strategy. We need to include the information professionals use to help develop this message and it needs to be conveyed throughout the year, not just in active fire years when we have smoke in the air. A consist language or vocabulary needs to be developed for all types of fire.

Agreed the organization is struggling for unified theory and consistent language. We should focus on addressing several other groups such as FS Retirees and the Montana/Idaho Outfitters Association. Could George Weldon attend these conventions? Also, very effective to get the message out at the local level when the incident is occurring.

Action Item #3: Every fire should have Stage I of the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) completed for that fire if the fire is a lightning fire in an area that allows wildland fire use under their current land management plan. Build a database on why potential wildland fire use fires are being suppressed.

Send copies of Stage 1's to Colleen by December 1,2007 to compile spreadsheets.

Action Item #4: Develop a mentoring plan for Agency Administrators and fire managers to increase the knowledge and experience base of people involved in wildland fire use. Incorporate wildland fire use and appropriate management response into all levels of our fire training.

Still a need for more mentoring .Chuck Mark will take forward to Rangers Meeting.

Action Item #5: Ensure that Rogers Warren's position is an Interagency Module Coordinator. *Done – Remove from 08 Action Plan*

Action Item #6: Identify a fire use module on every unit with a wildland fire use program.

New Modules in 2007 were a success. It was decided to also include Forests that don't have a large WFU program. Those modules may be more available and would continue mentoring to a larger audience. Pat will draft a call letter for FY08 module money.

Action Item # 7: FPA does not currently support or adequately addresses wildland fire use. Need to send consolidated feedback to the National FPA group through the NRCG Operations Committee.

No Discussion.

Action Item #8: Develop a position statement to have the Northern Rockies S-580 course be recognized as an equivalent to the National S-580 course by the NRCG and NWCG. If it cannot be recognized as an equivalent course in its current configuration, then get a determination on what changes need to be made to meet this requirement.

Letter is out but still not approved. If it is approved we should look at NRTC offering it every year for increased opportunity for future folks.

Action Item #9: Provide examples of guide books for implementing wildland fire use outside of wilderness for distribution to all units that have a fire use program.

Need a regional guidebook with specific Forest appendices.

Continued Discussion:

Fire Use Workshop 07 : It was a success and exceeded expectations. There is a need to continue the workshop. How does this fit in with the Long Term Planning workshop? Decided to have the workshop every other year (2009) to trade off with Long Term Planning workshop (Feb 2008). Need a lead for the exercise. Two new steering committee members to help; Ashley Sites and Chris Ryan.

Incorporate AMR into all levels of fire training: Can augment classes with info as long as you include all course objectives. Ultimately we can only recommend to Training Committee.

DEQ Smoke Checklist: Discussion of responses to Brad about checklist. Erin will craft response to checklist on what we currently do action by action. This will be for NRCG BOD to carry forward. New Action Item for 2008.

NEXT MEETING 11:00 AM, January 28, 2008
Brad will schedule the Missouri Room again.