

NRCG Prevention Committee
Meeting Notes – April 29, 2005
Bozeman, MT

Attendee	Agency
Jamie Rosdahl, Chair	DNRC – SWLO
Pat Cross	DNRC
Dena Lang	BLM – MFO
Lisa Osborn	FS – Custer NF
Terina Mullen	BLM – BFO
Marianne Baumberger	FS – Gallatin NF
Tim Sayles	Missoula RFD
Cathy Scofield	FS – R1

Committee Vision

There was a discussion regarding what the committee should be doing to fulfill our mission. Items mentioned include the following:

- Committee should produce to provide for NR area prevention folks.
- Coordinate with restrictions.
- Look at components of the vision and charter and accomplish them.
- Need to focus tactically.
- Make sure we understand we support the entire Northern Region.
- Pick one item and accomplish it and get it out to the people.
- Establish committee identity.
- Market the committee to the zone working groups.
- Have our vision at every meeting and follow its guidelines. Re-evaluate viability.
- Keep projects small in non-workshop years. Go for quality.
- Continue to include the education component.
- Consider dealing with the P-classes, as they relate to requirements for personnel (i.e. IFPM).
- Complete membership for those areas without a representative.
- Items mentioned during the NR group break-out session at the workshop in Bozeman (committee report to NRCG, communication with NRCG board, packaged media training that includes standards and expectations, definition of the role and guidance with prevention teams, list of fire prevention and education resources for new personnel, how to “sell” the FPE program and market what we do, NR FPE personnel directory book, strategy for involving RFD/VFD personnel in prevention planning process, reworking the newspaper insert).

Review of Action Items from October meeting

All workshop duties were completed. Mike and Cathy looked at the NR mob guide and verified the information for the prevention and education teams. The sub-committee working on the special fire prevention campaign is still working on the specifics; they are looking at having the materials complete by May 20th.

Prevention Classes

Pat mentioned a possible training that would include P200 and P200 together; it would be available to all agencies and entities. We would just need to put on the class. Do we want to use a “train-the-trainer” format? Should it be a traveling show? Swap sides of the state in alternate years? The class must meet the needs of the people on the ground. This is an opportunity for the committee to be involved in getting the class out to the public. Colorado has a fire academy that teaches a fire prevention block; we could look at theirs and do something similar. There are also basic and advanced fire mitigation courses out there that we could utilize. This is being worked on nationally, but we need to fill the gap locally now.

Committee Membership Gaps

Northwest and Central zones do not have current representation on the committee. **Chair Rosdahl will contact the zone chairs and ask for their appointed representatives.** The letter will also give the zone chairs an update of the committee and our recent workshop and what we will be working on in the near future. We will try to identify the “typical” commitments for those representatives.

Committee Charter

The group looked at the charter. We were unclear as to whether the Board has signed it. **Item was tabled so the entire committee has a chance to look at the document and review it prior to discussion.**

Wildfire Awareness Week

Individual committee members discussed what they are doing in their areas (field trips, school programs, activity days, etc.). The committee would like to sponsor some sort of region-wide activity. **We will discuss more at our next meeting to decide how we would like to be involved.**

State Farm Coordination

State Farm has made contact with a couple members of the committee. **Pat Cross from DNRC has already been working with them and will continue to be the main contact.** He noted that the company has sent out what they call “18-month letters” to homeowners in some Montana counties.

Regional Prevention Teams

Ordering of national prevention teams will occur through ROSS this year. We will still have the flexibility to manage regional teams (usually occurs through email systems). If you took the national team member training, you must supply proof to your red card person to get the qualification into the system. A task book is coming out; everyone will need to complete the task book, just as we do for all other fire qualifications.

Northern Rockies FPE Directory

A regional directory has been brought up several times. **Lisa will develop a spreadsheet and email out to everybody.**

Restrictions & Closure

The R&C process is managed through the agency administrators geographically. This committee does not have that specific responsibility. The agency administrators wanted a single point of contact; it would be unfair to have this committee in that role. This led to the development of the geographic restrictions coordinator position. There is no need for the committee to do anything at this point, but we still need to work with our coordinators within the areas and forward any issues and concerns.

MACo Presentations

Pat talked about the upcoming meetings, where restrictions coordinators will give presentations to the counties regarding the restrictions process. The new director for DNRC wanted someone to discuss restrictions at the spring MACo meetings. All meetings will take place in the next couple of weeks. Presenters will talk about the process itself as well as the issues with enforcement.

Next meeting: November 8–9 in eastern Montana