

Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

Fire Prevention & Interface Committee Meeting

Lewistown, Montana

Wednesday, November 12, 2008: 1400-1700

Attendance: Marianne Baumberger, Janette Turk, David Peters, Mike Dannenberg, Cathy Scofield, _____, Sandy Groth, Jeremy Olsen, Tim Crosmer, Pat Cross, Heather O'Hanlon, Pat McKelvey, Karly Krausz, Cindy Super, Alison Kolbe, Terina Mullen, Tracy Weaver (conference call)

Welcome & Introductions

- Marianne opened up the meeting and welcomed everyone
- Karly gave the house-keeping information
- Stan Benes, BLM – Lewistown Field Office Field Manager – Welcome Message
- Around-the-Room introductions

Review of minutes from last meeting

- Accepted as read
- Email Distribution List (compiled by Lisa Osborne) – if there are more people to add, send names and email addresses to Janette Turk
- Mike brought up/asked why our prevention efforts are not making a “huge” impact in the big scheme of things. He also suggested that the group does an AAR of the prevention efforts in the Northern Rockies.

Review Charter

- Please see revised charter for complete changes
- Mike suggested adding a campaign toward fire departments to report fires, talked about adding a campaign to get contacts and fire information, hiring an intern – to break into the statistics
 - Two points
 - How are we going to collect the data on human-caused fires that were prevented on a red flag day
 - What do we do to collect this information
- Mike offered to work with Jeremy and Dave to look into this issue and make a report for next spring. They will work on a strategy. Will let zones know what they need to complete project.

Zone Reports

- Central Montana: restrictions when well – no restrictions, red flag system went well this year, Smokey Bear Day didn't go well
- North Idaho: slow year, had many unattended campfires; prevention techs issue
- Southwest: no fall meeting, no fire restrictions: unattended campfires were a big problem this year; Smokey Balloon Event; some feedback from zone regarding training, new Firewise community in Seeley Lake, Missoula Osprey bobblehead giveaway
- South Central Zone: campfires unattended; busy otherwise; Greater Yellowstone Area grant – role of fire in the ecosystem education event (4-8th graders), Fire Fridays, Teton Science Class; looking at branching out to other FS in the GYA. Tracy Weaver – Activity Book for Fire in our Ecosystem grant, Gallatin County finally got CWPP signed; Coffee Sleeves worked great.
- Northwest: fairly busy, no restrictions; coming together as a zone – trying to work together more; no meeting this fall; zone would like to see common campaign on billboards; promoting fire co-op calendar campaign; USB drives with goodies on it – from Great Basin Workshop in Jackson, WY; down on prevention tech numbers
- Eastern Zone: Lewistown & Billings Area did the Smokey Bear Day; Restrictions worked well in the Lewistown and Billings Area; Campfires were an issue; Valley Co. CWPP, Pat Mullaney – Radio Stations doing a equipment-caused fires. Babete Anderson hit the home shows

- North Dakota: spring fire season was very active; summer and fall fire seasons – no human-caused fires; fire prevention tips before fishing show; website information and news campaign; biggest headache – legislature gave counties full control of fire restrictions – starts August 1, 2009; signed up to be at all ag shows and home shows – volunteer fire departments will help with this. Simple questionnaires will be handed out; Fire safety curriculum in all the ag schools.

Smokey Bear Hot-Air Balloon AAR

- Kalispell, Missoula, Helena, Lewistown, Billings
- Weather could have been better for that week
- Pat Cross probably wouldn't suggest doing this in the spring again
- Local organization and weather! was the key to making the events a success
- Overall, we need to know what our message and audience, then decide on a hook (similar to the balloon) to draw folks into our message. A cool-air display might be an option.
- Several folks thought that the Balloon Crew was not as cooperative as they could have been.

Thursday, November 13, 2008: 0800-1400

Attendance: Marianne Baumberger, Janette Turk, David Peters, Mike Dannenberg, Cathy Scofield, Sandy Groth, Jeremy Olsen, Tim Crosmer, Pat Cross, Heather O'Hanlon, Pat McKelvey, Karly Krausz, Cindy Super, Alison Kolbe, Terina Mullen, Tracy Weaver (conference call), Crystal Hagaman

Agency Reports

- BLM (Mike Dannenberg) – fairly slow season; need to look into the future. Working under continuing resolution. Pat Mullaney's Prevention Effort. BLM is a big supporter of the FireSafe MT
- Forest Service (Cathy Scofield) – Budgets are down 12%, barely enough to cover salary until March 6. May not be able to give out grants this year. Changes in the Federal Fire Policy – will be able to manage fires in more than one management action, will be able to manage appropriately. The Prevention/Interface Committee needs to look at aligning our group with these new changes. Two prevention courses being offered (P-410 (February 23-27) and P-301(April 20-24)) in Redmond, OR.
- NPS (Tracy Weaver) – With new fire plan, need to craft our messages so that we are sending the same message out to the public. National talking points will be compiled at a December 8th Meeting.
- MT State (Pat Cross) – Montana is going into another legislative session. "The cost of fire" document came out a few months ago. 55 new fire bills are being proposed. Currently revising the guidelines for urban development – final draft should be done by the first of the year. Federal budget effects what the state can do.
- BIA (David Peters) – Has been getting out to his folks and is encouraging them to reach across the lines and work with cooperators and tie into local efforts. Mid-May – Firewise Home Assessment Training offered by Bruce Running Crane from the Blackfeet Agency. Could possibly work this into our fire prevention workshop. Looking for folks to help out with this. Looking at ways to recognize the Firewise Activities. Pat Cross suggested the Keep Montana Green/FireSafe MT Firewise Award is available in Montana. Any contact information could be sent to David at david.peters@bia.gov
- MT – DNRC – Training (Tim Crosmer) – looked at making a few changes

FireSafe Montana

- Board will meet November 21, 2008
- Looking at hiring a full-time administrative position
- Farmer's Union Insurance has joined the group
- Partnerships are going to be very critical to make this effort work, need to figure out how to get across the mental side of joining
- Formed sub-committees, looking at putting out an informational video letting folks know what FireSafe MT is

- One sub-committee is working on editing the “Living with Fire” publication – will hopefully be out by late spring, early summer
- This is a grass-roots organization formed by/for citizens with the help from agencies
- FireSafe South Dakota is just getting started, Idaho is looking at starting an organization like this.
- Each zone should look into helping their communities form a Firewise organization
- Week of 21st of December – Bressnan will air information on FireSafe Montana

Fire Prevention Teams

- We need to decide if we want to train and promote members of the group to form a geographic area team
- Each zone needs to make a list of folks who would be interested in going to the team member training or who have the training and can commit to the prevention team dates.

Fire Restrictions

- Had an AAR at the end of October
- Changes to Restrictions wording for 2008
 - We have cleaned up the language of what a campfire is defined as
 - Language about LPG devices included a clearance requirement
 - Use of generators were made into an exception with a clearance requirement
 - Patrol was redefined
- Also launched a new web site, needs some enhancements and a few changes
- The AAR did not require the prevention committee to address anything at our meeting
- Coordinators should be talking to neighboring zones to coordinate restrictions
- Hotsaw fires were a problem this past summer

National Fire Prevention Convention Update – Reno, NV – March 22-26, 2009

- Mike passed out information and schedule
 - Registration: \$300, plus additional charge for Home Assessment Zone (\$100) – Registration Packet is online at www.iafc.org/associations/4685/files/conf/WUI09/CONF/
 - Mike will be sending out more information to the group
 - Pre-conference Session:
 - Sun. March 22-23 – Firewise Training: Assessing Wildfire Hazards in the Ignitions Zone
 - Conference Workshops:
 - Tues. March 24 – Prevention, Education & Mitigation Workshop
 - There will be a show-and-tell session at this training, if anyone has any products or ideas, they would like to show others and can’t make the workshop, Terina will present. Contact Terina for more information.
 - Tues. March 24 – Starting a FireSafe Council – The Who, What, Where, and Why of starting a FireSafe Council
 - Wed. March 25 – 101: Leadership in Fire Prevention
 - Wed. March 25 – 201: Partners in Fire Education: Research on Public Attitudes Toward Fire with Advance Communications
 - Wed. March 25 – 301: Case Studies of Successful Implementation of CWPP’s
 - Thurs. March 26 – 401: Fire Safe Councils: Benefits & Compatibility with Firewise Communities USA
 - Thurs. March 26 – 501: MEGA Fires – The Case for Mitigation

NRCG 2009 Fire Prevention Campaign

- Coffee Sleeves – Terina gave a report
 - Mike suggested using a different message
 - Other suggestions
 - Maybe creating a set of messages that could rotate through.

- Include a letter and talking points, possibly a poster to hand out at shops
- Re-useable Grocery Bags with message (Janette)
- Chapstick with message (Janette)
- Bug spray bottles with message (Janette)
- Hunting License Pouches (Marianne)
- How about a cold one – can coolies (Marianne)
- ❖ Sub-committee to come up with ideas and strategies for PR – Alison, Heather, Cindy, Janette
- ❖ Will report back by February 2, 2009

R1/R4 Fire Prevention and Education Workshop/Training

- Zone Needs/Requests
 - FI-210 – State will be putting it on this spring – 2nd or 3rd week in June, will know for sure in January –
 - BLM will host an FI-210 workshop in the East Zone
 - FI-110
 - Home Assessment Training
 - P-101
 - P-301
 - P-310 - Prevention Team Member Training
 - S-203
 - S-403
 - ICC – International Code Council
- Spring Training – April 27-May 1, 2009 – Billings, MT
 - P-101 and other little things (Sharing Activities, FI Kit Class, FireSafe Councils,
 - Trainers: Terina, Marianne, Sandy, Karly, Heather,
 - ICS System
 - Mike – IC
 - Deputies – Alison, Cindy, Karly, Heather, Dave

WUI Talking Points

- Terina will head this up and collect different perspectives from various areas
- Compilation will be presented to the NRCG board
- Rose Davis is NRCG's part-time media coordinator

Other

- Fireworks Training – Feb. 20-21 – Fire Lab in Missoula, MT
- Project Learning Tree is coming back around
- Spring Meeting – Meeting Date TBD – check your email!
- Janette Turk took over as Committee Chair; Vice-chair – Karly Krausz