

DFWFM
Forestry and Fire Conference Call
January 11, 2010

Attendees

Offices: Central Office, BFRP, NIFC, ITC

Regions: All

Central Office Updates

Chief Forester, Bill Downes

- The CR will go through March 4.
- Forestry Project Funds have been distributed. Amount is approximately 41.9% of 2010 levels.
- All but one region has completed GPRA data entries for Forestry performance measures in IAPMS.
- **Feb 9 & 10** – TAAMS Forestry meeting in ABQ. Request all regions provide a name of who will be the primary point of contact and who will attend the meeting. If Forestry POC cannot go, recommend assigning someone who can go in their place.
- BOFRP will be moving June 1 to new location in Lakewood, CO. It's new address is:

13922 Denver West Parkway
Lakewood, CO 80401

ITC

Jim Erickson

- Tribal Fire Fighter workman's compensation insurance: A Warm Spring's fire fighter was injured this past summer and the Department of Labor ruled that he was not covered under the federal OWCP. This serious issue places PL 93-638 tribes in jeopardy of not qualifying for federal coverage during suppression activities. BIA NIFC and ITC are working to address this issue in a timely fashion. Regional FMOs are encouraged to work with tribes to review contracts/agreements to determine where the liability currently is for their firefighters. Cal Pino provided solicitors report to Dalan Romero for further follow-up.
- National Wildland Fire Cohesive Strategy Update: The CSOS is preparing to stand up three regional strategy committees (Northeast, Southeast, and West) to provide administrative oversight for Phase 2 of the strategy (regional risk assessments). There are 3 Regional committees. Jim Erickson is coordinating the identification of tribal and BIA representation on these teams. Recommendations include:
 - West – BIA-John Philbin; Tribal-Tony Hardwood
 - Northeast: BIA-Tom Remus; Tribal-pending?
 - Southeast: BIA-Ed Brunson; Tribal-Tom Lowery
- Market and Branding Workshop: This workshop is tentatively set for **March 1-2 in Seattle**. Information will be posted on the ITC website.
- ITC Annual Timber Symposium: The symposium is scheduled for **June 12-16, 2011** in Carlton, Minnesota and is hosted by the Fond du Lac tribe. There will be two workshops focusing on fire issues; Wildland Fire Prevention and another called "Your Federal Fire Policy" that explores the history of federal fire policy, compares it to traditional native uses of fire, and describes where

federal fire policy is headed. This workshop is targeted for tribal and BIA fire managers and their young developing staff.

- Next ITC Board meeting will be **Feb. 8-11 in Phoenix**. The fire sub-committee will address two key topics; 1) workman's compensation; and 2) the Forest Service Fire Retardant EIS. Everyone is welcome to attend.

BFRP

Chad Wallace, Forest Inventory Specialist

- The Silviculture Handbook is out and ready for review. Please submit comments to Karen.DeBord@bia.gov

Regions:

- Mescalero Forest Products are starting up again. Contact Tim Martin for further info.

NIFC

BIA Fire Director, Lyle Carlile

- The BIA – NIFC Regional Fire Management Meeting is **Feb 8-11**. There will be two days of conventional presentations. Wed, Feb. 9 will be an all day special session devoted to the Regional FMO's to present issues and have time for discussion. The announcement letter and agenda was distributed January 12 from NIFC. There are two Regional Directors who will be in attendance. Please extend an invite to your respective RDs.
- The DOI Hazardous Fuels program, in years past, have had a joint agreement with the FWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service to support expedited biological evaluations and Section 7 consultation. This agreement has been funded off the top and came about after the National Fire Plan. This agreement and service has been used very little in recent years and has therefore been dropped. It will now be a local level responsibility to work directly with these agencies and develop any required agreement for service.

Nancy Hunt, Administrative Officer

- The AD Pay Plan has lots of moving parts at the moment.
 - The annual pay rates will not increase for 2011 for the 48 contiguous states. Alaska and Hawaii will receive a *decrease* due to COLA transitions.
 - 26 New All-Hazard positions will be included in the Position Matrix this year. Work groups are working towards having the FS and DOI pay plans mirror each other, as has occurred in years past.

Budget Officer, Maggie Moran

- The 3rd and 4th CR funding was merged by the department, which will carry funding through March 3. The 2nd distribution of funding is in DC and will be sent as soon as it's processed. The Budget shop is working on the 3rd distribution.

Fire Comm/Ed. Specialist, Robyn Broyles

- The BIA-NIFC website (www.bia.gov/nifc/) was officially announced Jan. 11. There are several tribes that are unable to access it due to their network settings. IA OCIO and NIFC will work together to try and determine appropriate network settings.
- NIFC Public Affairs office is hosting the second annual **webinar Feb 24 @ 1000** to announce the 2011 season outlook, and the national themes. The agenda this year features Bob Roper, Chief of the Ventura County FD, who will talk about the "Ready, Set, Go" program; sharing social

media success stories; and several other speakers and presentations we think will be helpful as we gear up for more activity. Target audiences are Operations folks, Fire Management Officers and Public Information Officers and support staff.

- The Wildland Fire Foundation is developing a short, interagency movie to highlight what a wildland firefighter is. It is intended to broaden awareness and image of the wildland firefighter beyond the operation-type folks. Robyn is looking for two volunteers from Indian Country who will be in attendance at the BIA-NIFC Regional FM meeting to do a 5 min interview with the Foundation to represent Indian Country.

Myron Hotinger, BAER Coordinator

- BAR funding and ES approvals are out. Please submit critical needs to Myron for 2nd round of BAR funding.
- Feb. 14 - National BAR team applications due back to Myron.
- Coming in April – next BAER team meeting, occurring in Lakewood Colorado. Myron will send information when available.
- Darryl Martinez is on the committee to look at the criteria used to prioritize BAR funding. There are changes taking place that will affect Indian Country. Please provide input to Darryl.Martinez@bia.gov no later than **Jan. 21**

Nancy Lee Wilson, Fire Planner

- WFDSS has several upgrades.
 - No longer can enter duplicate entries.
 - Are now able to upload shapefiles (Unit and Incident shapes) from local GIS shop
 - Still having difficulties with the process to develop reliable decision document.
 - Chapter 12 of the 2011 Bluebook will outline the new changes
- There will be a Fire Planning data workshop in **Phoenix March 22- 24**. The NW still will host a second workshop to be determined. There are no dates as of yet.
- Fire Reporting Changes, Effective 1/1/2011
 - Rx Fires (formerly Type 48) are no longer to be reported in WFMI
 - Fires will not be reported as “WFU” (Formerly 49) in WFMI. Report Multiple objective fires as Type 1 (or perhaps type 14 for fires with limited suppression action.)
 - Chapter 3 of the Bluebook outline the new fire reporting changes taking place.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- [BIA – NIFC Calendar](#)

Next Fire-only Conference Call:

- January 25, 2011. Send agenda items to Robert.Carlile@bia.gov or Bodie.Shaw@bia.gov

Next DFWFM Conference Call Scheduled:

- February 8, 2011. Is to be determined amongst the Regional Foresters. Regional FMOs will be in attendance at the BIA-NIFC Regional Fire Management Meeting.

Send agenda items to Bill.Downes@bia.gov and CC Bernard.Ryan@bia.gov