

**INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND  
SUPPORTING RESEARCH (ICMSSR)**

**COMMITTEE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH  
NEEDS (CESORN)**

**JOINT ACTION GROUP FOR THE NATIONAL WILDLAND FIRE WEATHER NEEDS  
ASSESSMENT (JAG/NWFWNA)**

**Action Items**

Meeting 2006-02  
March 1-2, 2006, Boise, ID

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Eli Jacks, NOAA/NWS, Cochair  
Dr. Allen Riebau, USDA/FS, Cochair

DOI: Mr. Herb Arnold, BLM  
Ms. Robyn Heffernan, BLM  
Mr. Rick Ochoa, BLM  
EPA: Mr. Tom Pierce  
NOAA/NWS: Mr. Chris Cuoco  
Mr. Mike Dion  
Mr. Heath Hockenberry  
NSF: Dr. Janice Coen, NCAR  
OFCM: Mr. Tony Ramirez, STC  
USDA/FS: Mr. Peter Lahm  
Ms. Kolleen Shelley

Ms. Mary M. Cairns, OFCM, Executive Secretary

**GUEST ATTENDEES**

CDF/NASF: Mr. Wayne Mitchell, Fire Environment Working Team  
DRI/UNR: Dr. Tim Brown, Program for Climate, Ecosystems, and Fire Applications  
DOI/BLM: Mr. Paul Schlobohm, Fire Environment Working Team  
New York State: Mr. Joe Kennedy, New York State Forest Rangers and Fire Environment  
Working Team  
USDA/FS: Mr. Larry Bradshaw, Fire Environment Working Team  
Mr. Wayne Cook, Fire Environment Working Team  
Mr. Colin Hardy, Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory  
Mr. Tom Wordell, Fire Environment Working Team

Draft Issued: 9 March 2006  
Final Issued: 20 March 2006

### Action Items from Meeting 06-2 (March 1-2, 2006)

#### **Action 06-2.1 Assessment Information Gathering Tool.**

- a) Ms. Cairns will discuss with the Federal Coordinator (FC) the use of a professional “survey” or “questionnaire” service in the design and carrying out the information gathering for the functional areas necessary for the assessment.
- b) Ms. Cairns, after discussion with the FC, will request the appropriate level of assistance from the JAG and the Fire Environment Working Team for gathering contacts (e.g., names, email addresses, and phone numbers) of those who might be contacted during the information gathering process.
- Action: Ms. Mary Cairns, OFCM  
Due: March 17, 2006

**Action 06-2.2 Assessment Functional Areas – Gathering Information. Part II.** JAG members are asked to complete their draft functional areas prior to the next meeting. The most complete is functional area #1: data collection, integrity, processing and archival. Other functional area teams should review the latest draft (which will be on the web site), and should use this draft as a model to complete the remaining areas. Please note that for the information dissemination and technologies functional area, Robyn Heffernan (DOI/BLM) is now the team lead. JAG members are requested to provide their draft, along with pertinent questions to ask in their area of assessment, to Ms. Cairns by Friday, April 14.

Action: All  
Due: April 14, 2006

**Action 06-2.3 Next Meeting.** The next meeting has been proposed for Thursday and Friday, April 20-21, 2006, in Silver Spring, MD. Further information will be provided to the JAG on agenda items. The agenda topics will include the completion of the functional areas, compilation of assessment questions, and other agency presentations on wildland fire weather and climate needs.

Action: Ms. Mary Cairns, OFCM

### Action Items from Meeting 06-1 (January 25-26, 2006)

**Action 06-1.1 Terms of Reference (TOR).** Review the revised terms of reference and provide the Executive Secretary and Cochairs with any additional comments or changes. Following JAG approval, the TOR will be reviewed by OFCM and signed by the ICMSSR Executive Secretary. The completed TOR will be posted to the web site in addition to being provided to the JAG members.

Action: All agencies

Due: Friday, February 24, 2006

Status: Completed. Two minor changes were added to the final draft, and the signed copy is posted to the web site.

**Action 06-1.2 1-Pager Briefing.** Draft a revised one-page briefing (from the original ICMSSR one-pager) with the new TOR wording (e.g., additional and revised focus areas), including purpose, participants (both Federal stakeholders and their constituents), focus areas, and outcome (data gathering, draft report, workshop, final report). JAG will review prior to completion.

Action: Ms. Mary Cairns, OFCM

Due: Friday, February 24, 2006

Status: Completed. Minor corrections made and final copy is posted to the web site.

**Action 06-1.3 Assessment Functional Areas – Gathering information.** The JAG has developed a template to use for the assessment process for the review of weather (including air and water quality) and climate needs/requirements, capabilities, and a framework to meet those needs, gaps, and opportunities. JAG members have been appointed to sub-teams to fill out an information template based on the functional area. The functional areas to be developed first for the assessment are listed below, with their definitions, team members and lead (in bold):

- Data collection, integrity, processing and archival (**Eli Jacks**, Kolleen Shelley, Rick Ochoa, Chris Cuoco)

Definition: Observations and data collection, processing, integrity (QA/QC) and archive for fire weather and climate support.

- Fire weather research and development (**Al Riebau**, Ruddy Mell, Alex Maranghides, Janice Coen, Larry Bradshaw)

Definition: Basic and applied atmospheric research relating to wildland fire (including fire danger, fire behavior, and fuels).

- Forecast products and services (**Heath Hockenberry**, Rick Ochoa, Phillip Bothwell, Doug Young, Wayne Mitchell, Chuck Maxwell, Peter Lahm)

Definition: Operational fire weather forecasts, products and services, supporting fire behavior, fire danger, smoke and climate.

- Modeling, prediction, and data assimilation (**Tom Pierce**, Eli Jacks/NCEP, Janice Coen, Peter Lahm, Al Riebau)

Definition: Numerical tools related to fire weather, smoke, fire danger, and fire behavior with associated techniques for data assimilation and display.

- Information dissemination and technologies (**Robyn Heffernan**, Heath Hockenberry, Kolleen Shelley, Chris Cuoco, Doug Young, Ken Barnett (OFCM))

Definition: Human and technological systems that convey forecasts and observations.

Other functional areas to be covered at a later time:

- Education, training, outreach, partnering and collaboration (**Pete Lahm**, Margaret McCalla (OFCM), Steve Marien, Larry VanBussum, Linnea Keatning)
- User response, decision support, and resulting user impacts (**Wayne Mitchell**, George Stephens, Mark Ruminski, Terry Marsha, Tom Wordell, Tony Ramirez (OFCM))
- Funding and human resource considerations (JAG and **Jim Harrison** (OFCM))
- Socioeconomic impacts (NSF/NCAR, **Mary Cairns** (OFCM))

The JAG members are assigned to review these areas (see areas above for primary agency focal point in bold) and produce an initial draft for the JAG review.

JAG agency members will resolve the primary focal points to the Cochairs and the Executive Secretary by Friday, February 10. [Note: Completed]

The first draft template, data collection, integrity, processing and archival, will be provided to the JAG by February 8. This should include a flow diagram of the data scenario. [Note: Completed by due date.]

These draft templates (the primary list) will be provided to the JAG Executive Secretary by the team lead by Thursday, February 23. The ES will distribute these to the JAG. [Note: Completed by due date and distributed.]

Status: Ongoing. Please see Action 06-2.

**Action 06-1.4 Inter-group Coordination.** JAG ES will ensure meeting notes/handouts are provided to the Chair of the Fire Environment Working Team, Mr. Paul Schlobohm, BLM.

Action: Ms. Mary Cairns, OFCM

Status: Completed. Mr. Schlobohm will be included on all distributions.

**Action 06-1.5 Next Meeting.** The next meeting has been proposed for March 1-2, in Boise, ID. The meeting will begin Wednesday morning, March 1, and join the FENWT for the afternoon. The Cochairs will brief the FENWT on JAG activities. Further information will be provided to JAG on logistics.

Action: Ms. Mary Cairns, OFCM

Status: Completed. Meeting 2006-02 held March 1-2, Boise, ID.