

**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)**

Draft Action Items

Meeting 2006-03
April 20-21, 2006, Silver Spring, MD

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

DOC/NIST: Dr. Alex Maranghides
Dr. Ruddy Mell
DOI: Ms. Robyn Heffernan, BLM
Mr. Rich McCrea, BIA
Mr. Rick Ochoa, BLM
EPA: Mr. Tom Pierce
HHS: Dr. Paul Garbe
NASA: Mr. Stephen Ambrose
NOAA/NESDIS: Mr. John Simko
Mr. George Stephens
Mr. Mark Ruminski
NOAA/NWS: Dr. Phillip Bothwell
Dr. Douglas Hilderbrand
Mr. Heath Hockenberry
NSF: Dr. Janice Coen, NCAR
USDA/FS: Mr. Peter Lahm
Ms. Kolleen Shelley
OFCM: Mr. Robert Dumont
Mr. James Harrison
Mr. Tony Ramirez, STC

Ms. Mary M. Cairns, OFCM, Executive Secretary

GUEST ATTENDEES

CDF/NASF: Mr. Wayne Mitchell, Fire Environment Working Team
DOI/BLM: Mr. Paul Schlobohm, Fire Environment Working Team
USDA/FS: Mr. Wayne Cook, Fire Environment Working Team

Draft Issued: 10 May 2006
Final Issued:

Action Items from Meeting 06-3 (April 20-21, 2006)

Action 06-3.1 Workshop for Stakeholders' Review.

Ms. Cairns will discuss ideas, format, and venues for a workshop for the JAG/NWFWNA. This workshop(s) is intended to present preliminary findings and provide an opportunity for feedback to the JAG from stakeholders and constituents. Several suggestions were provided, including a fall workshop with the 3th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress (IFEMC), or in conjunction with an OFCM-sponsored urban meteorology workshop. Mr. Wayne Cook, will make contact with the organizers of the IFEMC to discuss a possible venue opportunity.

[Executive Secretary's note: Contact has been made with IFEMC, and OFCM is working with IFEMC Coordinators on the workshop issue.]

Action: Ms. Cairns, OFCM and Mr. Cook, USDA/FS

Due: May 15, 2006

Action 06-3.2 Clarification of Job Categories for Assessment Information Gathering.

Individuals from selected job positions will be contacted for input into the assessment. In order to clarify the general categories in the first draft listing (within the functional area documents), an ad hoc team was formed to review the contact list. This will ensure the correct target positions/people are contacted. The subgroup consists of Paul Schlobohm, Rick Ochoa, Pete Lahm, Heath Hockenberry, and Tom Pierce. Mr. Ramirez will organize a teleconference with the group to discuss and clarify the categories. A listing of clarified positions/titles are due back to OFCM for the assessment work.

Action: Mr. Ramirez, OFCM, and ad hoc group (P. Schlobohm, lead)

Due: May 12, 2006 [Done]

Action 06-3.3 Assessment Information Gathering Tool (amendment to 06-2.1).

OFCM will review the functional area documents and produce a draft of the "survey" or "questionnaire." This tool will incorporate the changes provided at the meeting, along with the clarification of positions from Action 06-3.2. [Executive Secretary's note: The nature of the survey is under review and discussion with the Federal Coordinator.]

Action: OFCM

Due: May 30, 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. [In-progress, waiting for first draft; amended by Action 06-3.3]

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 [Done]

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

Status: Socioeconomic Impacts section is incomplete; functional areas 1-8 have been completed. Ms. Cairns to provide draft input by May 30, 2006.

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

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 06-2.2.