

Wildland Fire Leadership Council

Conference Call

June 12, 2015

1500 - 1600

Council Members (or alternates)

Kris Sarri (DOI), Robert Bonnie (USDA), Joe Freeland (BLM), George Geissler (NGA), David Applegate (USGS), Ernie Mitchell (FEMA/USFA), Jim Karels (NASF), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Jon Jarvis (NPS), Steve Guertin (FWS), Dan Shoun (NACo), Vicki Christiansen (USFS), Mike Zupko (Executive Manager)

National Strategic Committee Members and Support Staff

Pete Anderson (NASF), Brian Fennessy (IAFC), Robert Cope (NACo), Bob Roper (NASF/IAFC), Patti Blankenship (USFA/FEMA), Jim Douglas (DOI), Tom Harbour (USFS), Katie Lighthall (WRSC), Chris Marklund (NACo), Dan Olsen (USFS), Ray Rasker (Headwaters Economics), Mike Haydon (FWS), Kathleen Rutherford (KCG), Caitlin Doughty (KCG), John O'Connor (ODF), Larry Mastic (NERSC), Tom Quigley (NSAT), Brad Washa (BLM), Bill Kaage (NPS), Dan Gibbs (Summit Co. CO)

Call Objectives

- Facilitate a discussion around the current working WFLC Priorities draft as presented by the National Strategic Committee (NSC)
- Offer executive insight to proposed objectives and/or course direction for the ongoing work around the WFLC Priorities

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome and Call Intent

Kris Sarri welcomed everyone to the call. She discussed the intent of the call is to hear from the NSC on the current construction of objectives and tasks around the WFLC priorities and to provide NSC guidance for the next couple months leading up to the July 28 and 29 WFLC meeting in Ashland OR.

NSC Activity and Overview of Tasking

Mike Zupko reiterated what is being presented is a starting point and NSC is still soliciting input from the RSCs as well as WFLC member agencies, organizations and partner groups. The NSC only focused on WFLC level objectives and tasks and that NSC challenged themselves with thinking what could be done short-term and longer-term to build “bigger, better and faster” impacts across the country.

Development of Objectives and NSC Direction

Patti Blankenship introduced the previously distributed attachment (ATTACHMENT A) and reviewed the structure NSC has established in building out from the WFLC selected priorities. She discussed some of the challenges associated with the aggressive timeline and the fact the NSC is building the process while still formulating their own NSC committee. Each of the priorities was discussed individually and requested input from WFLC.

- Priority #1 – Landscape scale land management – Mike Haydon discussed the existing situation and interpretation of intent from the NSC perspective on this priority around how to collectively address the landscape long-term to have a positive impact. He discussed the intent is to reach larger landscapes and that fuels management must be broadened to include all types of vegetation management. Restoration of landscapes is the ultimate goal and all types of management must be used, including natural fire, managed fire and prescribed fire. Haydon then reviewed the list of proposed objectives contained in the attachment.

- FEEDBACK

- The question was raised if any of the proposed objectives or tasks need to be “lifted up” to a higher, policy level, and to use that filter when evaluating the appropriateness of all tasks.
- Use of fire is important as is pre-treatment to reduce wildfire impacts.
- Performance measures to show how we are doing will be important.

- Priority #2/3 – Fire Adapted Communities and Reducing Risk to Communities – Patti Blankenship began by discussing NSC’s recommendation to merge the current #2 and #3 priorities. She discussed that they are very similar and as the NSC discussed objectives and potential tasks of the two, they merged together. She went on to discuss many of the current tasks are probably too focused and need to be lifted up to more of a policy/executive level. She also discussed the need to ramp up communications efforts to coordinate many of the FAC efforts from a national level. Blankenship reviewed each of the currently proposed objectives and tasks.

- FEEDBACK

- There was interest in the discussion on communications and finding innovative ways to further the good work already occurring around FAC.
- It was mentioned the FAC Learning Network is a good place to start along with the CS Communications Framework.
- Discussed was the challenge with communications in CS/WFLC and the lack of dedicated communications staff.
- Further, it was mentioned the need to specifically highlight fire prevention and reduction of human caused ignitions as an opportunity in the proposals.
- The opportunity for WFLC is to help evaluate and facilitate the coordination at local level and help to facilitate through stumbling blocks.

- Priority #4 – Wildland Fire Response Resources – Pete Anderson reviewed the situation overview and presented the proposed objectives and tasks. He discussed the intent for the short-term items are more directed toward wildfire response, while the longer-term items attempt to address the confluence of response, landscapes and community preparedness.

- FEEDBACK

- There was interest around forming best practices from current business practices to leverage successes across agencies and organizations.
 - There was also discussion around how risk is considered within the scope of landscapes, and how that risk is measured. This may need to be addressed within all 3 of the priorities and evaluate the differences contained in each (and how to address).
- Overarching Objectives – Both Zupko and Blankenship discussed the current status contains joint items around communications and data activities. Most likely the overarching items will expand as similar items (or complimentary items) from each of the other priorities are identified.

Overall, there was only time for minor discussion on each of the priorities. Zupko and the NSC members will be reaching out individually to the WFLC members to facilitate more thorough input and understanding of the current proposal and any concerns or opportunities for enhancing the current proposal. The intent is for the NSC to continue to request feedback from multiple partners over the next month or so, then work to develop a final working draft for WFLC consideration at the July 28 and 29 meeting in Ashland OR.

Upcoming WFLC Meetings

Zupko discussed the upcoming meeting and plans for future meetings.

- July 28 and 29, Ashland OR
 - Lodging info should be distributed to WFLC members Monday next week, and to support staff and others shortly thereafter.
 - The plan is to hold the field tour on Tuesday, July 28 followed by discussions on how what was seen in the field translates to what executives can do to enhance similar opportunities in other geographies. Wednesday, July 29 will continue discussions on executive level opportunities as well as digging into the priorities that will be presented in final draft form to WFLC by NSC.
- There will most likely be an interim call between the July meeting and the October meeting. Date and time TBD.
- October 5, location is still TBD. Over the next few weeks the location will be determined. Please hold the dates for this meeting during the October 5 week.

Wrap- Up

Robert Bonnie summarized the call by stating he was impressed with the work of the NSC and appreciated the comments from those on the call today. He continues to see the WFLC role as taking feedback from the NSC and removing obstacles at the national level to further allow implementation.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned promptly at 1600.