

Firescope GIS Specialists Group Meeting 8/4-5/2010

Location: McClellan, CA – **Meeting Notes Draft Version 1**

Attendees: Tom Gikas (LA City), Rich Strazzo (CALFIRE), Kris Higgs (CALEMA), Lorri Peltz-Lewis (USFS FAMSAC), Joel Toland (FEMA), 2nd day Diane Vaughn (CALEMA), Mark Rosenberg (FRAP), David Passavoy (FRAP)

Documents:

All documents are stored at: <ftp://ftp2.fs.fed.us/incoming/r5/FAMSAC/Firescope/>

Confirmed: FTP is accessible to cadre even outside USFS.

Next Meetings:

Monthly meetings first Tuesday of each month – September 7th, October 5th, December 7th, January 4th

Quarterly Meetings: November 3-4 (Ventura) – Coordinator?, February 2011

Meeting Notes:

- **Charter Reviewed** – Recommendation: All Hazards effort should be added to the Charter – **Action Item** – Lorri and Tom will discuss with Tom Drayer and Jim Hollingsworth. Upon approval the charter will be modified to all “All Hazards” to the scope of work. **RECOMMENDATION:** GIS Work Group should have liaisons on all other FIRESCOPE groups to ensure connectivity of activities.
- **Plan of Work Reviewed** – Recommendations as follows. (See: *2010_0807_GIS-Plan-of-Work.doc*)
 - **NWCG GIS SOP Reviewed for Currency** – completed in Feb 2010 meeting – while there were comments on this the document was generally found in good order. **Action Item** – Tom will find the notes and share with the team. Lorri will write up the comments for documentation.
 - ◆ **All Hazard SOPs - San Diego SOP** – Tom lead discussion on the need to move toward All Hazards efforts pointing to the San Diego. This document could be used as a template for other organizations to use for All Hazards effort. Organizations are encouraged to review this and provide feedback to the team. SOP *2010_0530_County of San Diego GIS SOP May 2010 DRAFT[1].pdf*
 - **Review/create All Hazard map products & symbols** – recommendation is to break this into 2 categories as follows:
 - ◆ **Symbols – Immediate Recommendations to NWCG GSTOP** – **Action Item** – Rich Strazzo will provide documentation on updates for Firescope to submit to NWCG.
 - ◆ **Symbols – All Hazards** – **Action Item** – Dave Donely, Mike Gibbs, and Rich Strazzo are working on these. Good documentation submitted to the team. Due to Dave and Mike not being available for the meeting continuing discussion put on hold till next meeting. See documents:
 - *2010_0804-05_Symbololgy_Donley_10.1.1.95.4143.pdf*
 - *2010_0804-05_Symbololgy_Donley_An analysis of emergency map symbology_1.pdf*
 - *2010_0804-05_Symbololgy_Gibbs_4.0_Structure_Symbols.xlsx*
 - *2010_0804-05_Symbololgy_Gibbs_Control Zone Layout.pdf*
 - *2010_0804-05_Symbololgy_Gibbs_PrePlanDataModel_ver4.0.1.pdf*
 - *2010_0804-05_Symbololgy_Gibbs_Symbology Update 7-28-2010.docx*
 - ◆ **Map Products** –
 - NWCG GSTOP items covered in Feb 2010 – **Action Item** – Tom Gikas checking on notes from Feb 2010 meeting, further work needed.
 - **Review NWCG GISS Task book** – June 2009 version available on line at: http://gis.nwcg.gov/giss_position.html and <http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/taskbook/planning/pms-311-77.pdf>
 - The team reviewed a 2003 version, not the 2009 version. **Recommendation:** Create a Task Book for All Hazards. **Action Item** – Tom Gikas will locate notes regarding this discussion and see if they are valid for the 2009 task book.
 - **Review/Develop Standards for Geospatial Data/Metadata** – recommendation is to break this into 2 categories as follows:
 - ◆ **Geospatial Data Standards** – NWCG & GTG standards on NWCG website, USFS has recently release standards with comments due on Sept 30. See: *2003_FirePlanning_DataStandards_fire03s.pdf* **Action Item** – Lorri will

coordinate reviews of data standards, including the sharing of USFS standards with the team. **UPDATE** – USFS approves of standards being reviewed by groups outside of USFS as long as Lorri coordinates response. USFS standards include: Aviation Hazards, Engine Water Source, Fire History, Fire Management, Point Origin, and Wildland Urban Interface. **NOTE:** if you are aware of other geospatial standards please provide these to Lorri.

- ◆ **Geospatial Metadata** – there was discussion on this topic. **Recommendation:** use the FIMT tool to integrate incident information into metadata for the data products created on an incident. Continue to use the naming conventions in the GSTOP for mini-metadata. Further discussion on hold.
- **NIFC FTP Site** – toured the NIFC FTP (<ftp://ftp.nifc.gov/>) site see document: *2010_0804-05_NIFC_FTP_GOV FIRE SEASON 2010 UPDATE.docx* While most of the Incident Related information is consistent in setup, some are not. **Recommendation:** NIFC FTP site needs to be consistent throughout.
 - ◆ **All Hazards** – NIFC currently doesn't store these, who does? Local level? Federal Level? More research required.
- **Review Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards** – brief discussion on the need for this. **Action Item** – Tom Gikas will coordinate getting an OGC representative to talk to the team.
- **Review Remote Sensing sources...** - Rich Strazzo presenting on this later.
- **Develop GIS Interagency Forum for information sharing** – holding for next meeting
- **Develop a process for providing annual based continuing education** – discussed the scheduled GISS S-341 training to be held at McClellan Feb 1-3. Coordinator for this is Lorri Peltz-Lewis
- **Vision Paper (added from May meeting):**
 - A – Existing potential – data resources, accuracy, symbology standards,
 - Traditional GIS
 - Remote Sensing
 - Distribution of Products
 - Communications
 - B – Future potential
 - Traditional GIS
 - Remote Sensing
 - Distribution of Products – data release, file conventions, release, sub-distribution,
 - Technical
 - Implications/Decisions
 - Knowledge Management
 - Crowd sourcing
 - FOBs/Experts
 - C – Outreach to BOD/Ops/TF & IMT meeting
- **Roster** (2010_0519_Roster.doc) – team discussed the potential of bringing on other members within state. **Action Item** – all members – generate list of new members to reach out to, provide this at next conference call.
- **GISS Update** (2009_0115_FIRESCOPE GISS Update LetterHead012610 .doc) – **Action Item** - Tom Gikas will determine where this letter is within FIRESCOPE and provide report to cadre on next steps.
- **Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS)** – Lorri provided a tour of WFDSS and how it is currently being used for wildland fire activities. Discussion included the datasets used, integrative efforts, fire objectives and outcomes, modeling elements. The simplified analysis is the Basic Fire Behavior (BFB) to get a snapshot in time of fire activity. An Analyst Assisted Fire Simulator Probability (FSPro) is available upon request. Federal employees can request a login, State and Local employees can request sponsorship to access the system. Contact Lorri if you have additional questions. Also visit: http://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/WFDSS_Home.shtml
 - **Basic Fire Behavior model** - The model retrieves forecasted weather and winds for the selected time, using National Digital Forecast [Data \(NDFD\)](#) for current simulations. For past dates or times, the model uses historic weather from a nearby RAWS at similar [elevation](#). Wind speed and direction is provided, or these can replace those input values with other values. Within a short time (usually within a minute or so), fire behavior results will be ready for viewing. Note: It is important to remember that the more automated the model, the less ability you have to refine the inputs. Because WFDSS Automated BFB is highly automated

- (providing fuels, weather, and topography data, and requiring very few inputs from the user), **carefully critique the results** before using them for supporting wildland fire decision making.
- **FSPRO Request** – this modeling process can be requested through WFDSS and will be submitted to the Geographic Area Coordinator for the FSPRO cadre to respond to. More on FSPRO at: <http://firemodels.fire.org/>
 - **Rapid Assessment Values At Risk (RAVAR)** – only run on large fires, once an FSPRO run is complete, RAVAR Analyst is contacted. The analysis is a intersection process that creates a map and a report. These documents have been standardized. Training to become a qualified RAVAR Analyst is under way. Lorri is coordinating USFS staff in CA. Reviewed the data, data coordination efforts, creation of the map, analysis, and creation of the report. Process can take 2-6 hours to complete including reviews. Discussion – could this be used for All Hazards? Yes the possibility exists. The tools include ArcGIS, templates, RAVAR tools for the intersection processing, and Excel spreadsheet for calculating values at risk. **Action Item** - Lorri will provide additional documentation on how the calculations are completed.
 - **RAVAR** http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/wfdss_ravar/ additional article of interest: <http://www.wildfirelessons.net/Additional.aspx?Page=83>
 - **Housing Values** – the values at risk calculation on structures utilizes the US Census Bureau to calculate county housing average. Updated from 2007 average values using the housing price index from the Office of Housing Enterprise Oversight. This provides a broad measure of single family house prices. (<http://www.ofheo.gov/HPI.asp>)
 - **Remotely Sensing Resources** – Rich Strazzo presented a very detailed discussion of current remote sensing capabilities, use, insights on utilization of the variety of remotely sensed data (see: *2010_0804-05_RemoteSensing.pdf*) These included a review of Fixed Wing, Rotor Wing, Satellite, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle resources. This also included hand held GeoCAM (<http://www.geovista.psu.edu/GeoCAM/index.html>) capabilities. Excellent presentation – if you have questions contact Rich. **Action Item** – Lorri will get Earth Imaging Journal (Free Magazine see: <http://www.eijournal.com/>) table on new sensor capabilities.
 - **Topographic maps from The National Map** – pilot project to meet GISS needs – Lorri discussed the mini-project in progress with TNM using ImageServer to deliver products and downloads that will support emergency response efforts. Currently TNM is providing GeoPDFs for all USGS topographic map products that do not allow the GIS analyst the ability to change or drop colors off of the map. Nor are these easily integrated into the common tools GIS analysts use when on responses. TNM is scanning in all of the USGS topographic maps (no new maps) at 600 DPI, including the collars, and creating full metadata for the new product. The proposal is to provide the data in a TIFF or other acceptable format, de-collared, and allow for downloading/pre-staging large areas for use by emergency responders. Lorri has submitted a test area of 60 quads that covers part of Yosemite NP, Stanislaus NF, CDF, BLM, and private lands. Testing of the products is expected in December/January. Testers currently include Jim Schmidt and Mark Schug (Stanislaus NF) and Lorri. If you are interested in participating please contact Lorri.
 - **Elections** – Lorri has approval to become more involved in Firescope and has offered her name for consideration as chair. **Recommendations:**
 - A Vice-Chair position should be established in the group.
 - Identification of a quorum should be determined
 - Need to encourage more participation – outreach needed.
 - Elections should be held in January

Proposed Agenda Items – Nov 3-4 Ventura

- Mobile GIS Team – Kris Higgs/Diana Vaughn coordinating
- OGC presentation – Tom Gikas coordinating
- Crowdsourcing/Volunteered Geographic Information
 - Crisis Commons – <http://crisiscommons.org/>
 - Crisis Camps – Open Source
 - Situation Awareness – PDC Disaster Alerts (mobile apps) and Hazard Atlas (<http://www.pdc.org/atlas>)
- Minimum Essential Datasets (MEDS) effort in CA with San Diego Supercomputing Center – Kris/Diane/Lorri
- MyPlan – California effort – David Harris (CA Resources), Phyllis Banducci (FRAP), Diane Vaughn (CALEMA)
- Tactical Fire Remote Sensing Advisory Committee (TFRSAC) –

- NAIP updates & availability
-

Others – Firescope website – can the word files be converted to PDFs so they can be “read” on one click? Who can Lorri contact to talk to about this?

DRAFT