

## FIRESCOPE GISS Workgroup Meeting

### Face 2 Face Notes

November 1-3, 2011

**Attendees:** Lorri Peltz-Lewis (USFS), Mark Rosenberg (CAL FIRE), Rich Strazzo (CAL FIRE) Chris Waters (CAL FIRE), Kris Higgs (CAL EMA), Tom Gikas (LA City), Marc Hafner (CAL FIRE), Dave Donnelly (CAL FIRE), Sean Triplett (NIFC USFS), Mark Grupe (NPS)

**FTP Sharing Site:** <ftp://ftp2.fs.fed.us/incoming/r5/FAMSAC/Firescope/>

**Review & Accept Previous Meeting notes** – August & September – both reviewed and accepted

**Liaison Updates** – Marc Hafner is the new liaison, Tom Drayer has retired, Ramiro Rodriguez is liaison for another specialist group. Marc introduced himself and provided a review of his background, lines of work, experience, etc. He is now our liaison to the FIRESCOPE Task Force and is an Ops member. While still learning the lines of communication he will be working with this team to address the many issues that are on the table.

**Elections** – on hold until January, team wants to ensure there is a co-chair to ensure smooth transition of chairs in the future.  
*Reschedule election for January meeting.*

**NWCG Geospatial Sub Committee** – CAL FIRE representative is Chris Waters. Chris should be at the NWCG GSC meeting in Dec.

#### Announcements:

- Japan Tsunami Debris data – Lorri working to find NOAA contact, story:  
<http://twitter.com/deepseadawn/status/129578461672124418>
- ASPRS Remote Sensing Course soon to be announced – see ASPRS for more on this: <http://www.asprs.org/>
- ASPRS Conference in Sacramento – March 19-23, 2012 - <http://www.asprs.org/>
- FEMA Emergency Management Institute is developing a GIS Managers All-Hazards course, possible spring 2012 – check here for more: <http://training.fema.gov/>
- GISS Classes S-341 @ McClellan, CA Mar 6-8, 2012 – Noms due by 11/15/2011 – more at:  
[http://www.nationalfiretraining.net/course\\_session/show/id/2210.html](http://www.nationalfiretraining.net/course_session/show/id/2210.html)
- GPS for Fire Management & ICS Class @ McClellan, CA Feb 22-24, 2012 – Noms due by 2/3/2012 – more at:  
[http://www.nationalfiretraining.net/course\\_session/show/id/2125.html](http://www.nationalfiretraining.net/course_session/show/id/2125.html)
- CalGIS 2012 in Sacramento – April 11-13, 2012 – more at: <http://www.urisa.org/calgis/info/>

**NWCG GSTOP Review Meeting** – team attended the NWCG GSTOP meeting. Rich is actively participating on many chapter updates. The FIRESCOPE Issue Paper on GSTOP Updates is being incorporated. Chapter teams are just setting up meetings. Goal is to have a finished document before fire season 2012.

#### o GAPS –

- Who in operations is reviewing the maps? NWCG ICS has curriculum for both of these. Could the instructors/cadre should be reviewing this AND including it in their training. ACTION ITEM: Lorri & Chris W. will bring this to NWCG.
- Are Situation Unit Leaders reviewing these? – NWCG ICS has curriculum for both of these. Could the instructors/cadre should be reviewing this AND including it in their training. ACTION ITEM: Lorri & Chris W. will bring this to NWCG.
- Final perimeter needs to be named clearly – GSTOP File names – in Transition and Archiving steps
- All final data needs to be stored in one location and specified in the GSTOP
- Participation – ACTION ITEM:– Lorri will reach out to the McClellan Cadre to get involvement

- GISS Lead – add a chapter or include in Chapter 1 for what the roles and responsibilities are for GISS Lead and GISS.
- Optional Maps & Other Maps – why two, should be one section.
- Aerial Operations – should be Air Operations.
- Concerned with the lack of deadlines.
- Operations Map – this is not an IAP map. It is needed to support operations. This serves several purposes – can cover the entire incident, a Branch, etc. ACTION ITEM: Rich S. working with the GSTOP team.
- Symbolology – will discuss this in the Fire Season discussion.
- Database Recommendations – chapter 4 table must be updated.
- Is there GIS Manager class to teach GISS folks what to do beyond the S-341 class? (move to S-341 training discussion)

**S-341 Training - Issue Paper – S-341 Alternatives Discussion** – the GIS Specialist Group is in consensus of accepting Alternative II and moving this document up to NWCG. Lorri will coordinate with liaisons and move this over to NWCG. FIRESCOPE GIS SG voted to send the approved of Issue Paper to NWCG. ACTION ITEM: Lorri working with Marc H. to determine who provides this to NWCG.

- S-341 ArcGIS 10 updates – Rich – course materials are being updated and a tutorial will be placed on line, improvements can be made. More recommendations may come in after the first class is taught – the McClellan class is later in the year so it will not be “working out the kinks”. NWCG GTAG is responsible for updating these materials – Lorri and Rich are working with Emmor Nile on this with a team from NWCG.
- FIMT Tutorial on line has lots of problems with it. Lorri noted all of these in 2010 when she went over this material. Comments and fixes were provided to BLM who created this, but unfortunately there is no money or time to fix this.
- Recommendation 1 – class should be increased by 4 hours – while FIRESCOPE agrees to this it is up to NWCG to accept and implement.
- Recommendation 10 – should this be a separate Issue Paper? YES S-341 ROSS Resourcing Non-Fire Staff – Proposal is to create a separate Issue Paper to identify the problems here and request assistance from the Task Force on how to proceed. ACTION ITEM: Lorri will start drafting up an Issue Paper for this.
- NWCG GTAG is discussing the creation of more virtual tutorials.
- NWCG – Question does S-341 Lead need to be fully qualified to teach the class? FIRESCOPE GIS SG feels the instructor should have a completed Task Book at minimum.

**NIROPS/TFRSAC close out report out** – Rich, Mark R. – did not address the issues with remote IR interpreters. Federal agencies having trouble with paying for remote IR staff and did not like the work ratio that remote staff had. Task book sign off for trainees is not happening. The IR pod is a highly contained group of IRINs that provide interpretation for multiple incidents – this did not happen this year due to fire activity. Due to 2 years of low fire activity there has not been opportunities to get trainees qualified.

**MyPlan, MyHazards** – Kris Higgs, Lorri Peltz-Lewis – web based maps for public (myHazards) or local planning agencies (MyPlan), MyHazards identifies risks and makes recommendations, MyPlan serves data for local hazard mitigation planning with the goal to get locals to develop a local hazard mitigation plan and use available grants to address plan elements. There is an additional effort to use this in the future (or something similar) to replace the Fire Planning tools. ACTION ITEM: Lorri will try to present this at the NWCG GSC in December

- <http://hazardmitigation.calema.ca.gov/>
- <http://myplan.calema.ca.gov/>

**Work Plan Review & Action Item List** – Lorri P-L reviewed the current Work Plan and Open Action Item log.

- All Hazards Issue Paper is not moving forward – team brainstormed some ideas. ACTION ITEM – Lorri will revisit this in light of the DWR Floods GSTOP with the intent of recommending that there be a plug-n-play architecture to support All Hazards using the existing GSTOP.
- NIFC FTP site Issue Paper – this should be simplified in light of the work that Sean is doing to create a geospatial architecture. ACTION ITEM – Lorri will simplify.

- NEW Issue Paper – Internet required on all incidents – this year many GISS’ reported limited or no internet access on incidents. This is considered a huge problem – the FIRESCOPE Task Force needs to be aware of.
- Remote Sensing sources and relationship to intelligence gathering – suggestion was made to create SOPs for these products.
- Modeling – how does modeling fit into what a GISS does? At this point this would be an off incident person, not a GISS on incident – see below.
- Roles & Responsibilities – the GISS is being assigned many more tasks than can be accomplished – the R&R should be clearly defined for GISS on incidents.
- ACTION ITEM: Lorri will revisit the Work Plan and update it.
- ACTION ITEM: Lorri will update the Open Action Item Log

**CAL FIRE Tools** – Rich S – demonstrated the new CAL FIRE tools and what they do. Some bugs are still being worked out, but overall the tools are performing well. Should have these out before fire season 2012. The team discussed possible virtual training for these. ACTION ITEM: Kris will check with Jody Travesaro to see what the status is for creating virtual training.

**Symbology Working Session** – Rich S – Discussed DHS efforts, Lorri’s attempts to be part of the Community of Interest (see August and September meeting notes), Rich went over the process that DHS is involved with. During the August meeting the FIRESCOPE GIS SG team identified issues that were key including: need to photocopy symbols, colors, symbols simple enough to draw by hand, intuitive, etc. Scale and temporal issues with symbols were parked for a future discussion. Rich walked the team through the table he is using to provide input back to DHS/FEMA. Team was concerned with the granularity of the symbols – why so many for helicopters, why make this complex, etc. The Issue paper needs an introduction pointing out the concerns with the structure (operations vs. xxx, complexity, etc.) ACTION ITEM: Rich will continue adding to this table and provide this and a rough draft of an Issue Paper for the team to review in December.

**DOI - All Hazards Discussion** - Vince Mazzier & Lisa Branum – discussed the DOI All Hazards incident qualifications written up in: [http://www.nationalfiretraining.net/userfiles/Main/doi\\_incident\\_positions\\_qualifications\\_guide\\_april\\_2011.pdf](http://www.nationalfiretraining.net/userfiles/Main/doi_incident_positions_qualifications_guide_april_2011.pdf) This was done in recognition that fire goes on all hazard assignments and the DOI needed a better understanding of the qualifications required for all Bureaus in DOI. DOI has been collaborating and working with all the Bureaus involved in fire as well as reaching out to NWCG, DHS, and FEMA. The positions will be eventually included in the Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS) where job codes will be established to support these and staff can be qualified with DOI and NIMS. In the future this may be one system. The goal is to be able to crosswalk qualifications regardless of what system is used. FEMA is developing a set of qualifications as well. Task books are being developed and will be certified by your bureau. Doing core elements first and can add specialties later.

**Fire Ignitions/ Origins/Occurrences – CFMA Exhibit – Geospatial Standards** - Kirsti Fong presented the CFMA Exhibit she has been developing identifying geospatial standards for fire ignitions for National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and California Incident Reporting System (CAIRS). CWCG requested CAL FIRE update the agreement between state and federal agencies and Kirsti is updating the language regarding fire notifications. The GIS standards are in a separate exhibit so that these can be changed as needed. Some questions that FIRESCOPE members had:

- Need to review lat/long and other standards compared to FRAP GIS standards
- Fire Origin vs perimeter – need to clarify this is point of origin
- How are complexes handled in the database
- Is FMAG identified – maybe this should be added
- Where are the fire identifies generated from

ACTION ITEM: Team – review the GIS standards specified and provide input to Kirsti.

**US National Grid** – David Watkins (ESRI) presented the ins and outs of using USNG in ArcGIS. This capability is now part of core in ArcGIS 10 – display units, XY go to, editing tools, etc. Grid templates are available, including UTM zone junctions, at scales from 1:1K to 1:500K. Works in data driven pages as a grouped layer in ArcMap. ESRI developed these from FGDC specs for grid templates. XML templates can be modified as needed locally. Dave presented additional web resources, ArcGIS Online, widget for Flex (go to: <http://help.arcgis.com/en/webapi/flex/gallery.html>), downloading USNG as layer packages, and map services for USNG

<http://www.arcgis.com/home/search.html?q=usng&t=content> search for USNG). Here are layer packages for the USNG 6x8 UTM zones, the 100,000 meter grids, the 10,000 meter grids, 1,000 meter grids for all the UTM zones in the country, and 100 meter grids for all cities with a population over 500,000. There are also some of the air force bases and the Mississippi River areas with 100 meter grids. Team discussion on what is needed to support hard drive distribution, functionality in data frame, modifying the XML for local needs, etc.

**USNG Issue Paper** – Rich S discussed the recent issue paper he put together for CAL FIRE. NAPSG and FEMA are pushing to use this. SAR and USAR are using this, but many others are not. Currently air operations are not using this. NIFC is also trying to address this. States do not have a legislative requirement to use this. Training and outreach will take time to complete and could be a huge cost, but are unknown at this time. This is not a GIS issue, but impacts GIS. ACTION ITEM: Lorri would like to use Rich’s paper to start issue paper for FIRESCOPE.

**NIFC Interra & Geospatial Architecture** – Sean Triplett presented the situational awareness command viewer available through <https://fam.nwcg.gov/fam-web/>. This was developed by Interra as an interagency product leveraging existing systems and providing spatially enabled data. The multiphase project provides numerous datasets (incidents, 209’s, GACC status, equipment, MODIS, fire perimeters, etc. though a simple refined interface. Multiple “view states” to access additional information are provided for different business areas (incidents, intelligence, resources, predictive services, fuels & planning, and aviation. Work is being done with ESRI using REST, WMS, and KML capabilities. Also includes automated flight following – need to access through FAM web following login protocols. Expected to go into full production after 2012 fire season. Data also available in Google Earth enterprise environment. Must have the enterprise installer to access – Sean can provide this. Currently only 100 logins are available for this. Full system will be put onto servers in EOS. Also leveraging USDA ArcGIS Server on premises for Wallow fire as a prototype on how to share incident data and integrate into the geospatial architecture. Essentially a one stop shop for fire and aviation. Can run the FIMT database and publish the incident. Also will load into FIMT.

**NICS (LDDRS) presentation** – Bob Toups discussion on National Incident Command System as an operations system for all hazards viewing and collaboration. Building relationships with content providers, data storage moving to supercomputer lab, the desire to get away from Google maps and use more up-to-date data. Stewardship, standards, and authority questions discussed. Uses ICS workflow and communication between field and remote staff. QA/QC processes discussed integration with GIS and GISS work efforts, metadata, capturing more information from resources on the system, etc. CAL EMA understands this may replace much of what GIS does now – managers are being briefed, but do not understand what this is and how it integrates. ACTION ITEM: team will get log in and at December meeting we’ll do a live all hands training session.

**DWR Flood GSTOP** – Christina Boggs presented the GSTOP for flood incidents that DWR has been working on. The team at DWR basically took the GISS GSTOP and redid it for flood incidents. This is currently in review within DWR, but the team would like to get input from FIRESCOPE, possibly collaborate more in light of the national GSTOP update that is going on currently. The document is a SOG and has a great start on symbology (developed locally), metadata requirements, example maps, archiving, etc. The document was written for the ICT GIS and they are looking at integration of data between state agencies. Data viewer is being developed.

**Data data data** – Mark provide an overview of the hard drive coordination efforts between USFS and CAL FIRE this year. Overall data was a huge update and has been received well. The thematic structure still could use some work – it was suggested to leave it as is for another year and then determine if there needs to be a change.

Data suggestions:

- Add bay boundaries – Lorri has
- Hydro names seemed to be missing – Lorri has in NHD standard
- Agency logos need updating – Lorri finished these
- Layer files for all data – Lorri has these
- See Lorri’s updated spreadsheet
- Need NV, OR, and AZ...
- Tools need to be included – Lorri has
- TopoQuad and PBS need to be updated
- Add CAL TRANS data

- Weather RAWs, etc – Lorri has some of these
- Contact lists – who maintains these? The ones we have are way out of date.

ACTION ITEM: Lorri and Mark will setup meetings this winter to do updates, review additions and get updated hard drives out. How will be addressed after what is needed.

#### Equipment on Incidents

- GPS Discussion – Trimble has acquired Ashtech and would like to speak to the team – more to come on this.
- Plotters – who is using what – are there new recommendations on plotters? HP1055s may not have parts made for them in the future.
- Connectivity – internet access was not on all incidents.

**Fire Season** – team reviewed all of the comments that came in from this fire season. ACTION ITEM: Lorri will write these up. See below for a list of issues being addressed.

**Interagency Dispatch Optimization Pilot Project (IDOPP)** – Lorri reviewed the project she is working on with this interagency group. Two pilots are going on. One in CA and the other in AZ/NM to look at the issues and feasibility of combining dispatch services into common locations. Data has been gathered. Lorri is doing some basic GIS analysis. Alternatives report is due in Jan 2012.

**DPA/SRA CWCG Recommendation** – Lorri presented the recommendation to reduce the overhead costs associated with maintaining 2 databases with essentially the same base data in them. The SRA (CAL FIRE) and DPA (USFS) use a common ownership base that has been manually updated every year. The proposal is to now use one ownership base and build off of that each year. The Issue Paper was presented to CWCG and generally approved of 2 weeks ago.

#### HOLDING Items –

LANDFIRE/CA Fuels – HOLDING Mark/Lorri

#### FUTURE –

Trimble – Mel Philbrook

DHS All Hazards – Joe Toland - <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-10-04/html/2011-25578.htm>

Others??

#### 2011 Meetings –

- November 29, 2011 – 1-3 PM NICS training
- December 6, 2011 - 1-3 PM

#### 2012 Meetings – (proposed)

- January 3, 2012 – 1-3 PM - Elections
- February 7, 2012 – 1-3 PM - Lorri has conflicts this and following week. Jan 31<sup>st</sup> better date... maybe combine?
- March 6, 2012 – 1-3 PM
- April 3, 2012 – 1-3 PM – or Face 2 Face – Sacramento, CA
- May 1, 2012 – 1-3 PM
- June 5, 2012 – 1-3 PM
- July 3, 2012 – 1-3 PM
- August 7, 2012 – 1-3 PM
- September 4, 2012
- October 2, 2012 – or Face 2 Face?
- November 6, 2012
- December 4, 2012

## Fire Season review

- IR Data: AMS data delivery from the Eagle incident. Working with NASA, they do not work in the fast timelines that is in Fire. Eagle, Lion – Lines of communications that are not standard. Cobra IR is not very good, no products. Fly too fast, does not a good perimeter, heat sources are hand digitized.
- IRIN data is in NAD 27. Data does not have a projection file. Convert to NAD83 or add a projection file. – perhaps forward this data to NIFC. This is “basedata” Lorri will send Tom Melon a note, comment from Elise.
- DVD vs harddrives for close out. Because multiple copies are need, the cost of a harddrive vs dvds. Length of the incident and amount of data used/generated. There is no formal central repository for either the USFS and Cal-Fire, Issue paper to create a repository for each agency. (defining the role and responsibility of the repository) Discussion on what size if no team is called in, validate fire modelers, time step perimeters needed. Capturing data from controlled fires.
- Fire retardant dataset, buffer where they cannot drop.
- Base stations – anything that is fire related, point file of stations and headquarter offices. etc.
- 9.3.1 gdb being corrupted. Is this a training element? Specific to FIMT
- Policy of posting GIS data, when teams are not ordered. (Unit Fires)
- Complex incidents do not capture individual fire names, just the complex name in FIMT
- File naming convention – put the product name first.
- Internet connectivity – issue paper, due to cost saving measures, the incident will not order it, some fires internet was available, but not accessible to the GIS group – forward to the FIRESCOPE Comm group? Does internet belong in Comm? Eagle fire (talked to fast, did get it) microwave vs satellite and the frequencies. WiFi – blocked on incidents.
- Vendor not know the GISS standards. Needs to be part of the EERA
- Training taskbooks not be signed off with OTJ training
- Non-fire GIS to be included in ROSS (DWR)
- Contained spot fire symbology need to be created, or use same symbol with the text “Contained”
- Petroleum symbol
- Layer files for the CFS – Lorri already have the layer files and will be included with the harddrive refresh.
- Putting point of ignition on the maps. (problem with type II team) are there any legal ramifications. Defer to SitL
- BAER is having difficulties sharing data. Would like something akin to NIFC ftp site. Issue is that there is a lot of sensitive data and must be secure.
- 209 updates meet the 0600 – 1800 twice daily updates, closing out of old 209s. Current policy is 10am, required by HQ or when new data is updated.
- Interagency coordination for the statewide fire map. Lorri will provide 2 page fact sheet for Kris to write up
- Posting of incident maps other than data lap maps. Consensus a request would need to be made to incident when needed.
- NIFC FTP site not standardized
- Daily fire perimeter archiving as opposed to just the final perimeter in the Fire History. People are asking for the data 3-5 years later,
- Automated lightning maos. Cannot release the data, or shapefile or XY values, but can release the maps with a specific disclaimer.
- GIS T not being called out
- Inadequate staffing the incident, if additional maps are needed, order more.
- NIROPS did great. (buddy) no action needed. (Ha Ha)
- HP1055 Plotter – is obsolete, shortly will no longer be supported by HP. What should be used to replace them? Cannon, other HP plotters. Look at what the private and other agencies are using (FEMA, National Guard)
- GPS - Garmin versus Trimble. Trimble is trying to break into the fire market. Will have someone from Trimble present December. Rich concern with the complexity of using the Trimble vs. the ease of use of the Garmins.