

GTG Meeting Summary

April 15 – 17; Denver

Attending:

BLM – Susan Goodman, Katy Madrid, Janice Reimers

NPS – Brian Sorbel, Doug Stephen, Dave Hammond

USFS – Joe Frost, Dorothy Albright, Steve Gregonis

BIA – Luther Arizana

USFWS – Ken Bottle, Andrea Olson

USGS – Liz Lile

Eastern States – Sue McLellan (Florida)

Western States – Skip Edel (Colorado)

Interagency Data Standards: Daily Fire Perimeter and Fire History

The GTG will attempt to develop interagency Fire GIS data standards where appropriate. The GTG is currently in the process of submitting a proposed standard for Daily Fire Perimeters to the Data Acquisition Working Group (DAWG). Several themes were identified as potential candidates for future development of interagency standards including:

- Fire History (point and polygon)

- Condition Class

- Fire Regime

- Fuel Model

- Fire Management Zones / Fire Management Units

- Dispatch Zones

- GACC Zones

- Operational themes (fire station locations, lookout towers, etc.)

- Aerial hazards

Along with the Daily Fire Perimeter standard, the GTG will next develop an interagency Fire History standard. Several fields were identified for inclusion in an interagency fire history standard including:

- Unit ID

- Fire name

- Fire number

- Fire type

- General Cause

- Specific Cause

- Agency/Owner

- Start date

- Control date

- Acres

- Collection method

- Collection date

- Collection scale

A subgroup comprised of Joe Frost (USFS), Brian Sorbel (NPS), Janice Reimers (BLM) and Sue McClellan (Eastern States) will develop item definitions for each field in the proposed interagency standard by July.

The GTG will also be proposing a data standard for Latitude and Longitude data items.

Interagency Standards, the Data Acquisition Working Group (DAWG) and the GTG

The DAWG coordinates the standardization process for NWCG data standards. The DAWG defines a data standard as a “specification for a data item that has been established by authority or general consent.” According to the DAWG any data standard has three parts:

- 1) Meta-data Definition – description of the length and format of the data item
- 2) Standardized Data – list of valid data values; domain
- 3) Change Management Procedures

The DAWG doesn’t look at a fire history GIS standard as one standard. They see each attribute or field name within the fire history layer as a separate standard. So, in a sense, an interagency fire history GIS standard is just a collection of 8-10 standards for the individual items.

The GTG can only sponsor and maintain data standards for items that are exclusively geospatial (Latitude, Longitude, Collection Method, Map Scale, etc). Other groups have responsibility for many of the items that we think of as being a part of a fire history standard: fire name, fire number, etc. The DAWG is currently working on standards for Agency, Fire Name, and Fire Number data items. They have already adopted a standard for Unit ID. The GTG can submit recommendations for non-geospatial fields like General Cause and Specific Cause as part of a fire history standard. However, the final standard for General Cause and Specific Cause data items (and their appearance in an interagency fire history standard) could look different based on what the DAWG and the groups responsible for those items finally agree on. This has the potential to slow things down in the short term but will likely payoff in the end as the data items definitions in fire history layers will be the same as those in other fire applications.

GIST

The GTG will submit a proposal for a GIST ICS position to the Operations Working Team at their fall meeting. This proposal will include a task book as well as other documents required for ICS position proposals. A draft version of the proposal should be in place by July. Contact your agency’s GTG representative if you have strong opinions about what should or should not be in the taskbook for an ICS GIST position as well as your opinions on training and equipment (Do they need a laptop?) requirements.

FTP Site and Data Ordering for Incident Support

Things are still on track to have an FTP site and data ordering process for fire season in the 11 western states. The BLM will maintain an FTP site for incidents. This FTP site will also have a number of datasets including DRGs, DEMs, Forest Visitor

maps, Fuels/veg, Geographic names, indexes, ownership, RAWs, roads, Special Management Areas and Streams/lakes for 11 western states. This data will be organized by state and will be in the specified BLM datum/projection for that state. The data will only be accessible via download from the FTP site. You can take a look at it at: <ftp://ftp.fire.blm.gov>. A username and password will be required to upload incident data but is not required to download base data.

The USGS will be supporting an on-line data ordering process. Users draw a box to identify an area of interest. Data is then delivered via ftp or mail-cd. I believe that the USGS will be offering much of the same data as what will be available on the BLM ftp site. Users can specify datum/projection using the USGS site. Users can also request updated DRGs (buildings and roads are updated using DOQQs) though this will take a bit longer. More details on both options will be available soon.

2nd International Wildland Fire Ecology and Fire Management Congress

This conference will be held the week of November 16, 2003 in Orlando, FL. Details on the conference can be found at:

<http://www.ametsoc.org/AMS/meet/FAINST/5fire2fireeco.html>.

There will be three-day tracts on Fire and Forest Meteorology, Fire Ecology and History, Fire and ecosystem restoration, Fire and Ecosystem Management, Wildfire Management and Suppression, Social and Economic Aspects of Fire and Fire Technology and Fire Behavior Modeling. The GTG will be organizing the Fire Technology and Fire Behavior Modeling tract. This is starting to look like a fairly major event that you will likely hear much more about in the coming months.

OAS Aviation standard datum proposal

The GTG is in favor of the OAS proposal to set WGS84 as the standard datum for aviation GPS.

Next GTG Meeting: July 29-31; Anchorage, AK