

## SWCC Executive Committee

Meeting Notes

June 17, 2011

**Present:** Amber Kamps\*, Debbie Austin\*, Scott Brennan\*, Megan Birzell, Cory Davis, Gary Burnett\*

(\* indicates voting member.)

### Action Items:

- **Megan** will talk to Joe to see if he has the time to participate in the Economics Working Group that developed out of the national monitoring indicators workshop.
- **Megan** will put the Wildfire Management RCAT package topic on the agenda for the next SWCC meeting.
- **Cory** will work with Keith to find out what is involved in using the Wildfire Management RCAT package, what GIS layers are needed, how time intensive this will be, and any associated costs, and will present this to the Executive Committee at our next meeting (July 12<sup>th</sup>).
- **Megan** will work with Bruce Greco from ERI to set up a date and time for a conference call between ERI and interested members of the SWCC.
- **Megan** will send an email to SWCC voting members and Monitoring Committee members to see who is interested in participating in a call with ERI.

The purpose of this meeting was to hear an update from Amber and Cory about the national monitoring indicators workshop and identify any next steps for the SWCC.

Amber reported that the workshop focused more on upward reporting of CFLR programs to the Washington, DC, office of the Forest Service. The people who participated in the workshop identified X metrics to focus on in upward reporting.

### Metrics:

1. Collaboration – NFF has developed a survey that attempts to measure collaboration in the context of the CFLR Program. Participants in the workshop reviewed the survey and agreed that it looks good. NFF will continue taking the lead on this metric.
2. Biomass – This metric was tabled for now and will be brought up again in 6 months.
3. Ecological – This includes habitat, watershed, fire/fuels, invasives, and focal species. Two participants in the workshop will lead this effort. Cory will participate on behalf of the SW Crown – at least for now. These metrics are likely to be more focused on upward reporting and less on the effectiveness and ecological effects of treatments, but there may be some overlap with the Monitoring Committee.

4. Economics – The participants discussed using contracts and jobs as two metrics to report upward. A small group has been assigned to work with Keith Stockmann and Krista Gebert at the Northern Region Office to flesh this out. There is a placeholder for a participant from the SW Crown. It could be Joe K., Megan, or Keith.
  - a. ACTION ITEM: Megan will talk to Joe to see if this is something he can participate in.
5. Fire Costs – The participants agreed that the reduction of fire costs is the most complicated metric to measure. Keith and Krista have put together a Wildfire Management RCAT (Risk and Cost Analysis Tool) package together as a way to nationally be able to monitor changes over time in fire cost. They have put together a user guide/white paper for CFLR programs. At the workshop, concern was expressed over whether RCAT is the appropriate tool to use. A couple of CFLR programs agreed to try it on a test basis and see how it works. Amber volunteered the SWCC to at least have a discussion about whether it makes sense to try this tool on our landscape. This will require lots of up front work to gather GIS layers. Given where we are, we probably wouldn't be able to begin using this tool for the next six months.
  - a. The Executive Committee agreed that, before committing to anything, we need to better understand the necessary tasks associated with this. Then we can have a more well-informed discussion about how we might fund this up front work and who might do it.
  - b. ACTION ITEMS:
    - i. Megan will put this topic on the agenda for the next SWCC meeting.
    - ii. Cory will work with Keith to find out what is involved, what GIS layers are needed, how time intensive this will be, and any associated costs, and will present this to the Executive Committee at our next meeting (July 12<sup>th</sup>).
6. Leveraged Funds – A small group, mostly consisting of reps from the WO, is working to define match and leverage for CFLR purposes. It is expected that we will be required to report on leveraged funds.

A webinar is scheduled for June 29<sup>th</sup> (1 – 3pm) to update participants in progress made since the workshop.

#### Other Topics:

1. Possible Partnership with Ecological Restoration Institute (ERI)
  - a. Megan and Anne Carlson have had a few conversations with Bruce Greco of ERI. ERI is based in Flagstaff, and their mission is to “serve as an objective leader in research, scholarship, and education, and in collaborative efforts to plan and implement restoration treatments for frequent-fire forest and woodland landscapes of the Interior West.” They are a member organization of the 4FRI collaborative in Arizona and have

worked with 5 of the 10 CFLR programs providing various types of scientific support. They are very much interested in working with the SWCC. As a first step, they suggested convening a conference call between their Management Team and our Executive Committee.

- i. The Executive Committee is sufficiently interested in this possible partnership to support a phone conversation between the two groups but felt that the conversation shouldn't be limited to the Executive Committee.

1. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. Megan will work with Bruce to set up a date and time for a conference call.
- b. Megan will send an email to SWCC voting members and Monitoring Committee members to see who is interested in participating.