

Minutes from NFPORS Q&A Teleconference for BLM  
June 24, 2003

Present:

Russ Berry, Sandy Gregory (NV), Pat Moore (BLM), Karen Michaud (NM), Bruce Krickbaum (CO), Sharon Paris ESR (ID), Kelly Hawk, Roger Zordman (UT)

This is the second of a series of such conferences. The approach is to answer questions about the use of NFPORS in a round-robin style.

1. Pat Moore reported that she has heard of additional biomass performance measures that may be required and wondered about their report-ability in NFPORS. She said that the new PMs may include a measure of board feet, volume, the kind of product (fuel wood chips, saw logs), and the dollar values.

Russ said that he had not heard about the new requirement but that he would contact Tim or Allan Fitzsimmons about it.

2. When will BLM-OR and WA users move to NFPORS?

There is no schedule yet, but there is an agreement in principle to the concept of integrating Fastracs with NFPORS. The plans are being developed, but the idea is that Fastracs would be changed so that it would provide a module for smoke management to NFPORS. One name that has been raised for this module is "Smoketracs."

3. Recently someone was reviewing NFPORS' Smoke Mgt and GIS capabilities. They want to get the kind of information that Project Blue Sky provides. These things include polygon data for completed treatments. Susan Goodman (USGS) was named as the expert on the issue.

Russ said that he could contact Susan Goodman at USGS and find out what information was being obtained from 1202 and how the spatial data was being integrated.

4. A question arose about Treatments, PDC and Work Agent. Russ asked participants to bring up the NFPORS training mirror site (<http://nfporstraining.net>), log in and follow a demonstration of the new capability to assign PDC values to different Work Agents.

5. Someone asked what process BLM should follow for distributing VFA money when the individual State is "responsible" for distributing the money.

For Russ, this was a new concept. After the conference call, Russ called Al Murphy for guidance. Al says that UT has a state law that makes it illegal for the federal government to distribute funds directly. In that case, the BLM has arranged to have all of the State information entered through one field office. Al said that he would call Susan Marzac to follow up on this issue.

6. There was a discussion on the required precision for placing centroids and use of UTM data.

Russ made two points: First, NFPORS requires lat-long (geographics) for centroid locations (for both Projects and Treatment Units). There is no tool in NFPORS for converting other coordinate systems to lat-long. There are many tools available for making the conversion. This is the one that Russ recommends:

[http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/utm\\_getgp.prl](http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/utm_getgp.prl)

Second, the precision of the centroid should be in keeping with appropriate display scale for viewing location data. Specifically, maps produced with current NFPORS data (using 0-dimensional centroids) should be national, state and perhaps regional representations of the data. Site scale presentations of the spatial data are not reasonable.

7. Rod Bloms FWS wants a RFA business rule... for entering a RFD –

I am sorry, but my notes are too cryptic to remember what the question was... any help?

8. How does one delete Projects? Can it be done?

No. You may however delete all of the Treatments and Activities associated with a Project. (Remember to delete or move the associated Treatment Units first!)

9. The recommendation was made to add “University” to the list of Work Agents.

After some discussion, Russ recommended that the appropriate Work Agent for college/university students engaged in research (or field experience) and who are not being paid is “volunteer.”

10. Someone observed that “Use Map” (the web-based mapping tool that is used in NFPORS) is “not state of the art.”

Russ conducted an on-line demonstration of some of the subtle capabilities in the tool and there was a degree of satisfaction.

11. Someone asked if “Use Map” could include an additional layer to show the geographic grid.

Russ said that the change was already on the list of things to do for “Use Map” and demonstrated its capability to report lat-lon by hovering over the map and observing the reported geographic location.

12. There was a repeated question about NFPORS incorporation of “contributed” funds and non-NFP biomass utilization.

After the call, Russ spoke to Tim Hartzell about this issue. A change request will be added that expands the scope of NFPORS to collect this information. There will be discussion with the CCB on this capability.