

Minutes from NFPORS Q&A Teleconference for DOI  
October 15, 2003

Present:

Russ Berry (chair), Sandy Gregory (BLM), Bruce Babb (FWS), John Segar (FWS), Bruce Krickbaum (BLM), Karen Machaud (BLM), John Segar (FWS), John Orbeton (BLM), Gary Kidd (BLM), Dan Washington (BLM), Pat Moore (BLM), Ted Tower (BIA), Bob Means (BLM), and Reta Gilinski (BLM)

This is the second Q&A conference with all DOI bureaus. The approach is to answer questions about the use of NFPORS in a round-robin style.

1. Q: Some Refuges have Projects that actually belong to other Refuges. What is the process for moving them to the other organization, considering the fact that Projects cannot be deleted?

A: Create a new Project in the correct Unit (Refuge, in this case.) Create duplicate Treatments in the new Project, using the existing Treatments (and Activities) as models. The existing Treatment Units may be used in the new Project – there is no need to recreate Treatment Units. Once all of the new Treatments (and Activities) are in place, delete the pre-existing Treatments and Activities from the old Project. You may also delete any other information from the old Project (e.g. “Objectives” “Partners” etc.) Thus the old Project is “neutered” by removing all of the data that was associated with it. Remember, Projects are persistent entities and cannot be deleted.

2. Q: How does the new Carryover Tool work?

A: Several participants reported favorable results using the new tool. Here is a re-write from last month’s Q&A Report of Meeting:

*The Treatment/Activity Carryover feature was added to allow the recording of Accomplishments over two consecutive Fiscal Years. Its primary purpose is to allow Treatments or Activities that were Actually Initiated towards the end of a Fiscal Year to be finished in the subsequent Fiscal Year.*

*For Treatments, this is accomplished simply by filling in the "FYxx Actual Accomplishment" field. For a Treatment that was planned, initiated, but not completed in FY03, for example, there would be a field for "FY03 Actual Accomplishment" and a field for "FY04 Actual Accomplishment." When the Treatment is complete, the Actual Completion Date should be entered.*

*Planning and Administration Activities are slightly different in that there is no Actual Accomplishment (i.e. acres, miles, feet, or each) recorded. There are, however, actual dates. The actual dates can also span FYs for Activities.*

*For both Activities and Treatments, the planned dates must be confined to the same fiscal year.*

3. Q: Will the Approval Toolkit be delivered next month?

A: No. It has been delayed and no delivery date is set.

4. Q: DOI data from PAC NW is missing Obligation FY information for many Treatments and Activities. This is evident from the Q&A Reports. What's going on?  
A: There may be two explanations for this: First, the capability to enter Obligation FY came in the middle of FY03. It is understandable that many Treatments and Activities may not have been retrofitted with that information. The Q&A tool is finding those cases. It may or may not be important for Users to effect repairs to old Treatments and Activities.  
Second, There may be a translation problem with Fastracs. I asked John Orbeton to check with Mary Anne Sanford to see if or how Fastracs data collects the Obligation FY information.
5. Q: I just started using NFPORS. Where can I go to get trained?  
A: Visit the NFPORS.gov website and click on the "Training Opportunities" link. I told the user that I would also place some training and orientation information on my personal ftp site.  
Ted Tower reminded everyone that BIA has an excellent NFPORS tutorial at <http://www.bianifc.org/fuels/nfpors/tutorial.html>.
6. Q: I can't get to Russ' ftp site. How can I get the information?  
A: Some users have experienced problems because of firewall limitations. If you cannot get to: 130.11.63.1 /incoming/rberry, then you may find the information at: 66.221.181.151 /pub. In both cases, use anonymous and your email address for username and password. BIA owns the second site.  
I am making an effort to have supporting information placed on a public website that is linked to nfpors.gov. This site could be modeled after FWS's site.
7. Q: Ted Tower reported an inaccuracy between what the accomplishment reports in the DCT and a query made from the dump.  
A: I have confirmed that the problem is real. It is caused by the method that is used to split the Excel dumps by year. This will be changed back to a Department split and in place by 10/24. Until then, you can intelligently merge the current Excel dumps.
- [e.g. Open 3 FY files (e.g. FY02, FY03 and FY04) filter on Actual Initiation FY, copy and paste the data from FY02 and FY04 into the FY03 file. After this you should have a pretty complete record of any FY03 data.]
8. Q: What is the status of getting spatial data (2D polygons) into NFPORS database?  
A: Unfortunately, this capability is being delayed because FS is anticipating the use of another system for tracking spatial data. I am putting a white paper on my ftp site (see #6). The paper describes the goals and recommendations of what should be done.
9. Q: Bruce reported that he is getting some unexpected results when explicitly entering latitude/longitude data for Treatment Units.

A: I asked for exact data values and will examine the problem.

10. Q: How can I get a CA dump?

A: I will make a request for one right away. The requirement to get CA dumps from the Mgt Dashboard is in and should be in place by 10/24.

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