Fire EI for RH planning report

 Matt: Would like to give folks time to read this report. Highlighting one section however: Table 12, Future fire scenarios. A few states have impressive projected increases in RX fire, driven by agency predictions, USFS in particular.

On the wildfire side of the table, 5-year averages scaled up for each western ecoregion based on research. Kept location and timing of future events the same as rep. baseline (RB), to keep current and future as similar as possible. (Metadata from RB was assigned to future fire scenarios). Rank-ordering process done at the ecoregion level, when divided out by state, some unusual things happened, such as decreases in emissions in some states.

Sara: Maybe we should summarize changes in wildfires broken out by ecoregion in addition to by state.

Matt: We can do that

Tom: We’re also not including change in biomass over time? Matt: Right Tom: That might be an important qualifier. Matt: talked about in the introduction- other aspects such as changes in fuel loading are not considered.

Matt: There are a lot of summary graphics also to review. If people want a chance to provide feedback, let’s make a deadline for that and then finish this up.

Sara: Say a week before our next call? Action item: read Matt’s report

Matt: Let’s stick with PDF format, call me if you want the word version.

Tom: These are sensitivity runs, We have a couple more iterations before we start “changing” fire

Sara: Awesome job, we weren’t late with this.

FETS Transition action plan - Progress on review draft

Matt: I’ve had a couple convos with Tom about how to turn this memo into concrete recommendations. Not finished yet. Don’t have additional discussion items on this now

Sara: I’ve been trying to tell people about this. Sent one to the NW air consortium. Explained that for things to occur we need signs of support from data contributors or users. So far, state of Idaho is willing to share all of MT/ID groups rx data. Ferron from WA went ahead and sent us a bunch of data as well.

Matt: THinking about the products in the IDW, it sounds like an active system that sees a lot of use. Right now, for fire emissions, they’re using FIN. If you could still call it FETS for convenience, maybe we could provide annual or semi annual data products in the IDW that would ship out with the IDW modeling products. The fire that’s included now, doesn’t have the level of detail that is often desired for certain analyses, ex: Wf vs Rx.

Sara: Would that be through an API?

Matt: Incorporated through the IDW, but the FETS wouldn’t be a standalone website. Ultimately the data products would be incorporated into the existing tools that the IDW has.

Tom: IDW is well organized with solid metadata, so it’s a good fit from that respect. THe folks at CIRA are shipping things out on a daily/weekly basis.

Sara: So you’ll incorporate that new info in the FETS action plan?

Matt: Yes

Summary of 2019 fire activity and emissions

Mark: Got preliminary reports from NICC upstairs on 2019. Coarse dataset, not a lot of QA/QC. I don’t think these are posted yet on the NICC webpage. 2019 total wildfire acres 4.6 M acres, 2.5 M of that was in AK. AZ was highest in lower 48, 384k acres, ID then CA next, etc.

Rx fire was over 6M acres, 1.4M higher than WF. However bulk of that that 6M came from southeast- Florida and Georgia. With AL and SC next.

Sara: I use these reports for EE demonstrations

Mark: They’ve been used for EI checks and other things as well over the years. Remember there’s a lot of unburned within some of these fire perimeters.

Review tasks on WRAP work plan

Sara: Us co-chairs have been assigned to dust off the workplan and figure out that we have left to do. “Wildfire coordination between states and tribes” got shuffled to the end. We should probably talk to Tom on what else we’ll do

Tom: Since there will be wildfires going forwards, it seems like the FSWG could still get together even after completing deliverables. If we got together occasionally we can point to that fact and meet goal 5. We should find out if the other workgroups plan to continue to meet. Wildfire coordination especially should be ongoing. Not seeing a deliverable.

Bob: I could see this dovetailing with regional discussions of EEs, esp wildfire caused EEs

Tom: Sure, no boundaries around what could be discussed. I expect other workgroups to meet quarterly or something like that. Maybe some feedback on smoke management would come out of the RH planning process at state levels. Every three months or so.

Mark: Another topic is the proliferation of air sensors that people are putting out during wildfire, both by public and agency, and the quality of the data and how it’s being used is a topic. I support quarterly calls.

Sara: I think it’s a good idea too.

Mark: did you start a regional EE analysis group?

Sara: yes, and it was good, there was a flurry of work , and a lot of EEs, we coordinated some, then the events died out in terms of how pressing things were, and also people gained more facility with using the new rule.

Bob: Having the calls quarterly would provide a good regular venue for things as they come up.

Mark: I support this idea.This is a great avenue for Fed and state to have discussions about smoke mgt issues. EPA has R10 annual smoke meeting, this would be another good forum.

Tom: Let’s just put some bullets together to summarize this self assessment, and say we plan to meet every four months, and keep it at that level of detail. Really expect the purpose to be info sharing, rather than a group with task list.

Sara: Does anybody want to take a stab at bullet points?

Paul: I’ll do that since I have the call notes already.

Sara: We’ve got to the end, we have a couple of action items,

● Read Matt’s report

● Figure out when to do the next call - looking at April 6

● Build bullet list for future of workgroup

Tom: Pitch this next call as the final monthly call? More folks might join, and things will be tied up for the spring meeting of the WRAP, Apr 21-23

Sara: Great idea.

Continuing quarterly calls with Fire and Smoke Workgroup

Provide a venue to:

1. Discuss documentation of exceptional events that result from a wildfire or rx

2. Maintain a link between regional haze planning and fire and smoke folks

3. Discuss emissions inventory approaches, remote sensing, and other technical issues involving AQ and fire/smoke