# RHPWG Coordination / Glide Path Subcommittee

July 16, 2019

**Meeting Notes**

Agenda

1. Administrative
   1. Roll call:

Pat Brewer is retiring at end of month – other NPS people on the call. That will be helping in transition.

* 1. Today’s notes – Alaska (Molly/Paul)
  2. Last meeting’s notes (Pima County – Thank you, Rupesh!) – see <https://www.wrapair2.org/pdf/1.%20Natural%20Conditions%20Presentation_20180716.pdf> almost ready for posting.

1. Task Group Reporting
   1. Trend Analysis/Natural Conditions – Task 1.2 - (Brandon and Joe) – 20 min

1. Presentation Slides: <https://www.wrapair2.org/pdf/1.%20Natural%20Conditions%20Presentation_20180716.pdf>

The presentation provided an overview of emission trends and natural routine metrics that was built upon a study from 1980. Three analysis were discussed:

1) Trijonis numbers were compared to 2000-2017 data

2) Various threshold percentiles (not the fixed 95%) were used to see if there was a better way to depict natural-episodic events. The ration of carbon and dust to nitrate and sulfate was used to see how the threshold was affected.

3) future wildfire scenarios. Slides 6-9 show two contrasting sites based on different thresholds – (carbon nitrate and sulfate). As the threshold gets higher the episodic events are decreased. One of the case studies chosen SAWT1 (Sawtooth) is affected by wildfires. Data shows there is a lot of low-level carbon present and not not as much anthropogenic impact. As you increase the threshold, the episodic threshold decreases, at 80-90% the episodic contributions start to grow with threshold and natural routine increases. Episodic emissions can be explained by threshold increases - when the most-impaired days grow the events become more significant at that threshold.

For Analysis 3, all other contributions were decreased uniformly except episodic carbon. What they found is that as anthropogenic impairment decreases, the impacted days show more wildfire contribution on the impairment metric. At about 80% threshold, where natural and routine seem to play a bigger role. 2017 data was reviewed and assumed a decrease in all species except for episodic carbon. **Slide 11** – In the west, nitrate and sulfate are decreasing. Episodic carbon seems to increase over time.

*Question –* Tina asked about the surrounding land uses for Hells Canyon. Joe responded that he was unsure of what the site status is and whether or not there is growing population or infrastructure. The changes could be based on different dataset choices year-by-year (reasons for changing emissions profiles year-by-year). The selection of days could prompt perception of improvement. In choosing the episodic percent, the 95% is arbitrary and maybe 95% may be more appropriate for this site.

* + 1. Next Steps

It was expressed that they would like to run this data for all IMPROVE sites and place on the TSS. The results could be used to better understand a revised tracking metric and how that does or does not have implications for the glidepath. Brandon suggests an August webinar to go over this concept in more detail and maybe include some other sites.

***ACTION****: August webinar to review some of the concepts discussed in more detail.*

* 1. Communication Framework Documents – Task 8.2 - (Emily) – 10 min
     1. Update on new drafts and TDWG input

Update on new drafts and TDWG input

-Circulated initial draft in April and requested feedback

-ITEP comments through June cut-off to assist with tribal consultation project.

-Quick turnaround for June tribal workgroup meeting.

-Additional comments received from NPS

-Developed a more comprehensive revision to framework, July 12 version posted on subcommittee page

-Looking for review and comments on draft by **August 15**

-Key updates: Intro and background, edits are minor

Background – Ramboll got involved in the Communications Framework document for Regional Haze principles of engagement and to prepare for strategy and tribal consultation. The updated the tribal consultation section and responded to comments from the NPS. The updates are in the July 12 draft. **Comments are required by Aug. 15.** Consultation section edits includes a lot more changes. There are some local policies and departments that have their own internal policies. Additional questions were added for tribal entities to consider. NPS helped update the FLM one-page document for tribal groups to review. The updates will be sent to the WRAP board in fall. Emily will send a revised redline draft to compare with April version. Pat wants to review to make sure all updates are consistent. The most recent will be posted.

Tom M. will send to BLM partners to review. NPS shared with USFWS and USFS. It is really important that we are all talking to each other. Tom will reach out to EPA and different regions for additional comments. He expects more comment by next meeting in August. He wants a stable process confirmed before it goes to the board. Review for clarity.

***ACTION****:* Tom M. will send to BLM partners to review in addition to other federal agencies.

* 1. TSS developments – Task 7.2/7.3 - (Shawn and Ted) – 10 min
     1. New developments
     2. Upcoming improvements

Shawn said they have been busy with importing data into QA v. 1 of 2014 WRAP modeling platform and making decisions about tools and visualization products for TSS users.

After testing and refining, they will look at a suite of model performance tools that will allow users to get summaries and analysis of how the model performs in the particulate platform in the form of charts, graphs, etc. There will be an emission review tool which will summarize modeled emissions data for the 2014 platform. Both tools will become available once v.2 shakeout platform starts to become available. Monitoring data – will help to improve the tool and provide metrics with pie chart maps to show contribution for extinction components for clear, MIP days. Scott Copeland has created a white paper, posted on the TSS website for sea salt impacts. After review, the TSS data will be frozen for planning purposes.

Questions? none

* 1. TSS FAQ – Task 6.3 (Elias)
     1. Request for feedback

An update to the TSS FAQ is provided originally from Cindy and will be posted on the TSS website. **Please review and comment ASAP.** A review deadline will be established before the next phone call.

* 1. TSS Priorities – Task 7.1 - (Elias, Tina, Kristen)
     1. Need to setup call with the RTOWG to discuss their suggested edits
  2. Quarter 3 informational webinar – Task 6.3 - (Elias) – 5 min
     1. Timing
     2. Changed – the next webinar was scheduled for August but will be postponed until after modeling results are ready.
     3. Scope and list of topics – if you have more topics, let Elias know for the next webinar.
        1. “Understanding and Applying Modeling Results”

1. Action Items (by deadlines):
   1. Elias – Setup call with the RTOWG to discuss TSS priorities document edits
   2. Group – Review Communication Framework Documents by next call and send edits to Elias/Emily
   3. Group – Review TSS FAQ document by next call and send edits to Elias
2. Next meeting: **August 8, 2019**, 2:00 – 3:30pm MDT