EPA/Stakeholders Fire Emissions Summit Topics Survey Results

November 3, 2014
EPA RTP Offices

The topics survey results as of October 31st are compiled below. Last names and affiliations are identified in the Priority column.

Overview of comments:

Farren Herron-Thorpe (WA), Mark Fitch (NPS), and Darla Potter (WY) made extended remarks in the comment's column of their surveys. Those are not included here but will be in the final version of this survey results document after the Fires Summit Meeting. We will also transcribe hand-written comments given to us by one person. We would like to get additional survey responses from Summit participants who did not complete the Survey ahead of time.

Nine (9) of the 26 Topic items have three (3) or more responses identifying that item as a priority Topic:

1) Identifying in advance which EPA Fire NEI data are generated from the national defaults used by EPA methods.

2) Identifying the analytical process and assumptions used by EPA to apply Fire NEI data from #1 in base case and future projection modeling platforms.

7) What is the best way to review and update EFs? How can this be done on a regional basis?

10) What are the gaps in fuel consumption/loading models, and in emissions processing models? How can we apply these models on a regional basis? How can we better understand competing models and how they apply regionally?

12) How can "current year" fire emissions be projected into future years? What are options?

16) What are best practice methods for planned/managed Rx and agricultural burns in your area? What types of fire are addressed – are there thresholds or exemptions for planned fire activity? Does the Smoke Mgmt. Program you work with encompass all planned fire activity in your entire agency jurisdiction? Please provide links to the Smoke Management Program(s) you are involved with.

17) How can fire information be used to help identify exceptional events tied to ozone and secondary PM impacts? What are other uses of fire inventories and fire information?

18) How can we improve data sharing-- activity data, and other foundational data used to build emission inventories, as well as emission estimates themselves?

21) Do you support a standing national Fire Working Group to support air quality planning, smoke mgmt. activities, and related analyses? Would this Group be composed of regional reps from feds/states/tribes/local agencies, or supported through free-standing regional groups with similar membership? How often would calls and meetings occur, and what topics should be addressed?

Topic	Priority (X)	Comment
Data		
1. Identifying in advance which EPA Fire NEI data are generated from the national defaults used by EPA methods.	Pella (CenSARA); Bedenbaugh (SC); Tian (GA); Brewer (NPS)	
2. Identifying the analytical process and assumptions used by EPA to apply Fire NEI data from #1 in base case and future projection modeling platforms.	Hinson (OK); Fitch (NPS); Moore (WESTAR/WRAP); Brewer (NPS)	
3. What data collected by EPA partner agencies (state/tribal/local air regulatory, forestry, and other agencies) would be most important in improving emission estimates?	Fitch (NPS); Brewer (NPS)	

4. What are your uses of fire activity and/or emissions data? Are you using "permitted, proposed" or "actual, accomplished" fire activity and/or emissions data, or both?	Potter (WY)	
5. Is there a central activity and/or emissions data repository at the regional level in your area? Is a National repository needed? Would it be efficient and helpful? Is it feasible to try and spearhead such an effort?	Harren-Thorpe (WA); Mavko (WRAP FETS)	
6. What resources for the data collection / analysis capabilities in #4 are needed? Are there other "barriers" to creating and maintaining repositories?		
7. What is the best way to review and update EFs? How can this be done on a regional basis?	Mavko (WRAP FETS); Bedenbaugh (SC); Tian (GA); Moore (WESTAR/WRAP)	
8. What resources are available for increasing, improving, and maintaining current data needed to build fire inventories and how are they used?		
Emissions Inventories		
9. What are the gaps in identifying type of fire? How can we improve this? How to split agricultural fires from Rx and WFs?	Herron-Thorpe (WA)	
10. What are the gaps in fuel consumption/loading models, and in emissions processing models? How can we apply these models on a regional basis? How can we better understand competing models and how they apply regionally?	Herron-Thorpe (WA); Mavko (WRAP FETS); Bedenbaugh (SC); Fitch (NPS); Brewer (NPS)	
11. How best to translate satellite detects to area burned (activity data)---what are options?	Herron-Thorpe (WA); Potter (WY)	
12. How can "current year" fire emissions be projected into future years? What are options?	Bedenbuagh (SC); Fitch (NPS); Tian (GA); Moore (WESTAR/WRAP); Brewer (NPS)	
13. What are improvements and documentation needs associated with current methods used by EPA to estimate fire emissions?	Bedenbaugh (SC)	
14. Are there other methods for estimating emissions? If so, how different are they from methods EPA uses? What are pros and cons?	Potter (WY)	
Regulations		
15. What, when, and how are fire bans specified across the nation? How can we get such information on the methods used to develop and implement local regulations, and track the implementation?		
16. What are best practice methods for planned/managed Rx and agricultural burns in your area? What types of fire are addressed – are there thresholds or exemptions for planned fire activity? Does the Smoke Mgmt. Program you work with encompass all planned fire activity in your entire agency jurisdiction? Please provide links to the Smoke Management Program(s) you are involved with.	Pella (CenSARA); Hinson (OK); Moore (WESTAR/WRAP)	

17. How can fire information be used to help identify exceptional events tied to ozone and secondary PM impacts? What are other uses of fire inventories and fire information?	Pella (CenSARA); Hinson (OK); Brewer (NPS); Potter (WY)	
Communications		
18. How can we improve data sharing--Activity data, and other foundational data used to build emission inventories, as well as emission estimates themselves?	Pella (CenSARA); Mavko (WRAP FETS); Hinson (OK)	
19. How can the NEI process be improved to make review of data more efficient/possible and done by more state agencies?		
20. How can we move forward with an NEI process for Fires we all agree to? How can we make the process more transparent? Where do we need to focus the 2014 NEI process to achieve this?		
Resources		
21. Do you support a standing national Fire Working Group to support air quality planning, smoke mgmt. activities, and related analyses? Would this Group be composed of regional reps from feds/states/tribes/local agencies, or supported through free-standing regional groups with similar membership? How often would calls and meetings occur, and what topics should be addressed?	Mavko (WRAP FETS); Hinson (OK); Fitch (NPS); Moore (WESTAR/WRAP); Potter (WY)	
22. How could we leverage the resources available to ongoing work on developing fire emission inventories to better inform the NEI efforts? Nationally, regionally, et cetera? (EPA, DOE, USFS, States, Forestry Agencies, and other entities all have some but not enough resources available alone to develop fire emission inventories.)	Pella (CenSARA); Herron-Thorpe (WA)	
23. What is the actual availability of financial resources to inventory and manage current emissions, and plan for future fire emissions and air quality impacts in your area? Is this a core, funded activity or ad hoc? How often do you inventory fire emissions? Is your inventory "permitted, proposed" or "actual, accomplished" fire emissions? (Elaborate on #21 and #22 as needed.)		
Other topics (please provide details)		
24. How accurate is your inventory in characterizing actual emissions? 25. How can we judge accuracy of Emission Estimates? 26. Are the data gaps in emission factors by species/season/moisture/burn duration, land area burned, identification of biomass types that are burned, or atmospheric transformations that alter our near-fire emission factors?	Brian Gullett (ORD)	