Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Predictive Services

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 SPRING 2012

PREDICTIVE SERVICES:

- **Sharon Alden-salden@blm.gov**
- **Heidi Strader hstrader@blm.gov**
- **Sue Christensen sue.christensen@alaska.gov**
- **Fire Weather (907) 356-5691**
- **Intel (907) 356-5671**

ON THE FLIP SIDE:

Behind the scenes on the 7-day Product

Intel Comments

Alaska 2012 Early Season Outlook

New Briefing Time (9:45) and Number

We have a new briefing time this year: **9:45**. This change allows more time after the briefing for daily staffing decisions.

The dial-in procedure has also changed. We've gone to a tele-conference system with 50 lines! This will prevent the problems that we have had in the past with too many people trying to dial in and some folks being left out in the cold.

The new number and passcode (required) are listed at right; don't forget the pound sign!

The weather briefing content will change very little this season.

Fire Weather Briefing Time:

9:45 AM

in AFS Training Rooms,

or dial in at

1-888-459-5751

Code 1595222#

AICC-Weather Webpage "New Look"

It was about time for a change in AICC's weather pages, and not just change for change's sake!

With each new idea or request that was added, the page had gotten more cluttered. (Like Sharon's desk.) So we've rearranged and organized the information and links.

On the main Fire Weather page, the big change is the reorganization of some links to drop down menus on the right hand side. Take a scan through these and familiarize yourself with your favorites! The links that folks are most likely to use every day, and/or that we produce here at AICC will be on the left hand side.

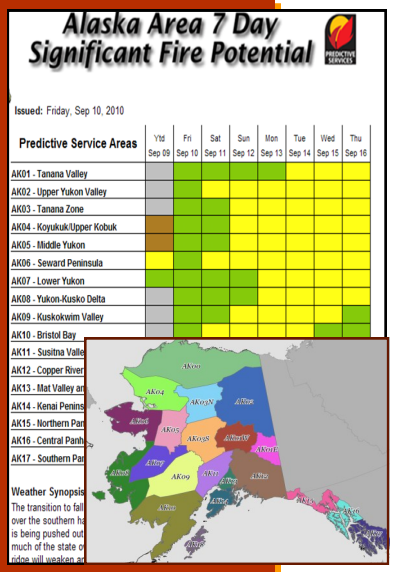
One of the more popular links is NWS Briefing images. These will continue to be produced and are available under the NWS Alaska drop down menu in the right hand column.

There were also changes made to the Fuels and Fire Behavior page. There's a plain language header with a brief statement on Alaska fuels and fire danger potential.

The Outlooks page also had some adjustments; there's a small version of the 7-day forecast map, which when clicked will bring up the 7-day forecast chart. There is an article on page 2 discussing some behind-the-scenes work on the 7-day.

We hope that after some initial adjustment, users will find these new webpages to be better organized, easier to navigate, and more timely for finding desired data.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please let us know and we'll do our best to get them incorporated.



7-Day Fire Potential Forecast-What's behind the curtain?

The 7-Day Fire Potential Forecast looks like a simple matrix of colors with some written summaries below, but what is this forecast all about?

Purpose and Development

The 7-Day product was developed in the Northwest GACC by Predictive Services Meteorologists. It is intended to forecast the likelihood of large fire activity based on past fire activity and fire danger indices. Each GACC analyzed their fire history and fire danger and determined which indices were most significant in their area. The other GACCs all use the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS), but in Alaska we use the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System (CFFDRS), and thus the Fine Fuel Moisture Code (FFMC) for the forecasts. This year we will be using the FFMC and the Energy Release Component (ERC) from NFDRS as inputs to the dryness level forecasts. This will give a better forecast!

What Goes In

Model Output Statistics (MOS) is a forecast for both the CFFDRS and NFDRS. This creates the main input for the dryness levels. These MOS forecasts depend on daily WIMS archiving and proper NFDRS parameters getting set up in WIMS.

In addition to the matrix, we include weather, fire danger, and resources summaries for value added analysis and detail on what can be expected with fire activity and resource needs over the next 7 days.

"For 2012, we anticipate a late fire start with the ample snowpack found around most of Alaska keeping fuels damp and unburnable through much of May."

Intel Comments-2012 Changes!

Program redesign is underway with the IMSR and Sit 209.

The IMSR will have a new table for non full-suppression fires, including a numerical tally of incident resources committed. This number will be taken from the resources committed section of the 209s.

The all hazard NIMS 209 will be incorporated allowing more accurate reporting of non fire incidents.

Integration with WFDSS will provide data to the 209, reducing redundant entries for those incidents that already have available WFDSS data.

The new program will meet IT security requirements and improve program functionality.

The four choices for wildfire strategies are: Full suppression, monitor, confine, and point or zone protection. Wording has changed for these definitions.

A new 209 Users Guide should be completed by the end of May.

Have all dispatchers received FAMWEB User accounts? Passwords expire every 60 days. Be sure to reactivate them if you have not already done so!

Are all crews available for 2012? Notify AICC Intel by TTY when you have crews that have been made available for the season.

2012 Fire Season Outlook for Alaska

Many factors go into our fire season forecast. These include, but of course are not limited to, the snowpack and its characteristics, temperature and precipitation forecasts, teleconnections such as the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO), climatology, convective potential, and historical data trends. For 2012, we anticipate a late start to the fire season in southern Alaska with the ample snowpack there keeping fuels damp and unburnable through much of May.

What will the summer bring?

Listen to our podcast at http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/weather/camtasia/seasonal%20outlook.html