

## Notes from 9-11-03 NFPORS Conference Call

Peter Bedker and Ken Cushing (WO) from Minnesota

R-1 – Betty Blocker

R-3 Susan Lee

R-4 John Kidd

R-6 Bill Fish, Mary Ann Sanford, John Orbeton

R-9 Janice Hancock Andi is Honeymooning in Sedona

WO Jeff Waalkes

End of year reporting – Janet Anderson-Tyler has said that October 31 is the drop dead date for NFPORS to be updated. Peter suggests that it be done sooner than that. On October 31, the database will be locked for general editing. This will allow users to have reproducible reports for FY 03.

Jeff suggested that all data be entered by Oct 1 or the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Peter- the last major release had the Quality Assurance (QA) portlet, but he has had very little feedback on it. The percentage numbers in the QA column mean percentage of activities that are accurate. This is different from what was sent out as an example. Peter talked about the 14 QA rules. (They can be reviewed by clicking on the QA Rules button in the QA portlet).

When you go to the Forest level QA portlet, you can drill down on the Activities, Treatments and Treatment Units and see what the errors are. The Regional overview lets you know what Forests have problem areas. We need to work on getting the QA levels better so the data is more complete. At this point, Peter expects the numbers to be in the high 90%, but Ken would like to see closer to 98%. If by having the QA portlet does not solve the problem of data missing, a “bigger stick” will be used. This “big stick” would require each data field to be entered, or you would not be able to move on. Ken stated that the Chief has access to NFPORS and is looking at the accomplishments, and will be asking the Regional Foresters about data management.

All regions reported on their use of the QA portlet. All Regions but R-6 had not spent much time on it, (we all had really good excuses!) but were planning on using it now to help get the data cleaned up by October 30. Region 6 has had their folks look at the portlets, and they have started calling about the numbers.

Jeff said he is getting daily requests for info from NFPORS.

Under the Activities and Treatments portlets, make sure the Obligation FY is entered as the year the project was funded.

Ken was learning the Business Rules in detail from Peter. Ken can pull reports. If you need reports you can call him or Peter.

Changes that are planned with the next few updates:

1. The copy button so that you can copy treatments and activities. This should help us with year end close out.
2. October 31, the database will be locked for editing. If there is a major discrepancy, there will be a few national administrators who will be able to audit these errors. For the most part...make sure everything is cleaned up before Oct 31!
3. Agency specific fund codes will be added. NFCC has been added now, and should be used for this FY projects to be funded with NFCC. There will be a default list of Fund codes we can use when we enter as FS, but we will also be able to use the whole list of over 100 fund codes. The FS codes came from approved NFC codes. Discussion over an "Other" code such as when we get money from the Elk Foundation was discussed, and will be thought about.
4. The ability to edit species of interest and communities of interest will be coming.
5. They will add a new category of user called a Complex user. These are the few people who currently have multiple accounts. There is concern about data security, including multiple account users, so this complex user should help in this arena.

There was discussion over contracts that were awarded this FY, but the work was not completed until FY 04. FS Policy states that contracted work be counted as accomplished when the contract is awarded. To report contracted activities and treatments completed in NFPORS, simply enter the planned accomplishment as actual accomplishment, an actual initiation date and an actual completion date. The actual completion date by definition for FS contracted activities and/or treatments is the award date.

FACTS was discussed, and how it relates to NFPORS. Supposedly there will be a bridge between NFPORS and FACTS. Ken has been looking at this. FACTS will be going on line in FY 04. Ken is looking into how to enter data into FACTS, and have it automatically update NFPORS. Congress has decided that we will use FACTS as a database for all trust funds. FACTS will be the national standard. NFPORS is a subset of FACTS. Ken encouraged all of us to go to the PowerPoint presentation that is on the FACTS website.

Jeff has had a request for information on FMP acres. The numbers that were pulled did not look correct, so the NFP regional coordinators will be asked to review their numbers.

The regional accomplishment portlet is based on actual dates, not Obligation FY dates. There is no report using Obligation FY dates. Peter can create an adhoc report. The next conference call will be the Thursday, October 23 at 1300. EDT not EST, and not Zulu time!