PODs Community of Practice
April 22, 2021
Data to Knowledge

• Tech transfer is not enough
• Learning is more than information and cognitive function

We learn by doing (practices), watching (vicarious), talking, listening, and thinking in combination.
Complexities

• Collaboration with a dizzying array of partners
  • Preparing prefire planning
  • Execution on the ground

• Dynamic environment

• Complex Tools and Processes
  • Integrate the human and technological processes
How do we structure this process?

Finding the Sweet Spot between Chaos and Control

John Henry Clippinger, 1999
How do we structure this process?

Dangers to avoid:
Top Down
Command and Control

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Communities of Practice (CoPs)

Share a concern, a set of problems, or a passion about a topic, who deepen their knowledge and expertise in this area by interacting on an ongoing basis (Wenger, McDermott, & Snyder, 2002, p. 4).

Cannot create, only **Cultivate** CoPs

- Engage
- Navigate the CoP
- Producing shared knowledge (not just tech transfer)
Building A Community of Practice

• CoP Cultivation -- A true, integrated CoP takes time to develop
  • Cultivation requires creating initial value and interaction for members
  • Separate from upward reporting in order to develop candid interchanges

• Opportunities – Fits what you are already doing
  • Already have connections
  • Strategically coordinate and share ideas or hearing them can build knowledge and connections.

• Watch outs – Concern for scrutinizing decisions and comments post-hoc internally and externally. Others?
PODS Community of Practice

Specific groups have CoP opportunities
Significant crossover
Structure role of organizations to facilitate the CoPs
Cultivate the Specialized CoPs

Collaborators:
Community and Resource Values (Why)
Fire & Fuels (How)

Research
Leadership
Data Analysts

Strategic Fire Planning

Specialized Communities of Practice

Discipline
Geographic
PODs Community of Practice

Going Forward

Two Channel Approach:
1. Communicating PODs developments across disciplines/geography/organizations
2. CoP interconnecting, sharing, and learning

How do we engage in the discussion of suppression and response planning?
Consider means of connecting informally for members only where information is not attached to names before reported out

Content – What are your key practices?
Where do you go next?

Resources – What do you need?
What do you have that others may need?

Connecting – How do we communicate?
How do we engage in knowing and doing the work as a community?

Most of the work will happen through building these networks that happen beyond the meetings.

What can we do to facilitate that?
How do we engage in knowing and doing the work as a community?