CO-FPS Access Background

COLORADO
Department of Public Safety

How Does CO-FPS Compare to Other Experimental Products?

CO-FPS and CORA

- DFPC activities fall under the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) C.R.S. §24-702-204(2)(a)

CORA's Stance on Experiments

- (2) (a) The custodian may deny the right of inspection of the following records, unless otherwise provided by law, on the ground that disclosure to the applicant would be contrary to the public interest:

- Good claim that experimental CO-FPS products are not releasable under CORA under provisions of subsection (III):

The specific details of bona fide research projects being conducted by a state institution, including, without limitation, research projects undertaken by staff or service agencies of the general assembly or the office of the governor in connection with pending or anticipated legislation;

CORA Exception for Operational Products

- A weaker claim that operational (as opposed to experimental) CO-FPS products are not releasable under subsection (XIII):
  Records protected under the common law governmental or "deliberative process" privilege, if the material is so candid or personal that public disclosure is likely to stifle honest and frank discussion within the government, unless the privilege has been waived.

Questions for Discussion

- Is there a realistic need to control release? What potential harm do we foresee from releasing the products if requested?

- **Timing**
  - Given the release cycle, do these products pose any risk when released?

    - C.R.S. §24-702-203(3)(b) gives the government 3 days (or more, if extenuating circumstances exist) to reply to a CORA request. Do these products still pose a risk after 3 days?

CO-FPS Access Policy

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Background

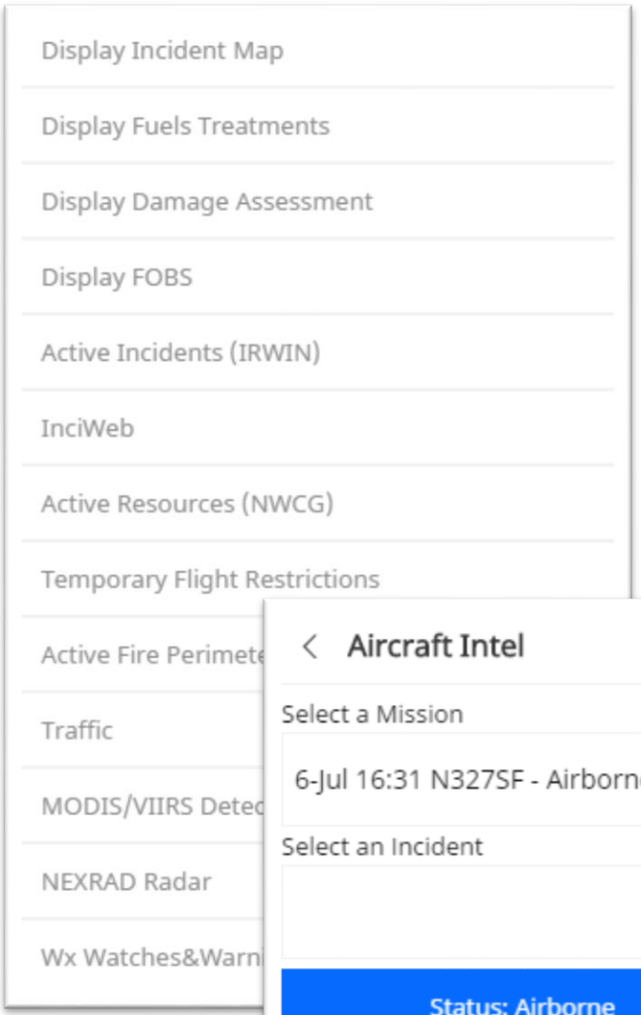
- CO-WIMS is administered by the Plans Branch of the Wildland Fire Management Section of DFPC

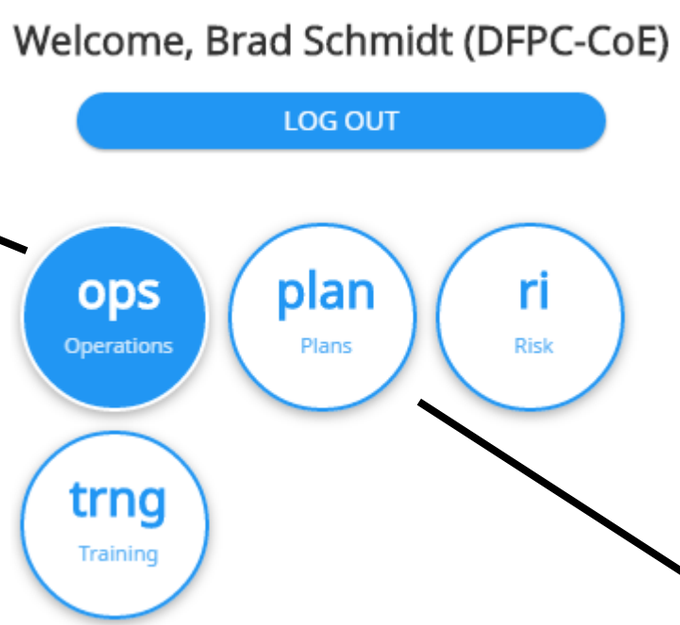
- There are over 700 registered users in CO-WIMS representing federal, state, local, and non-governmental agencies

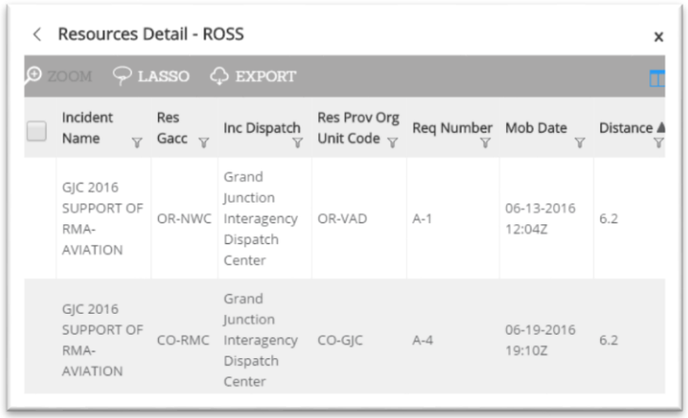
- All users of the CO-WIMS system, and by extension CO-FPS, are assigned a ‘user role’ that controls the features they can access

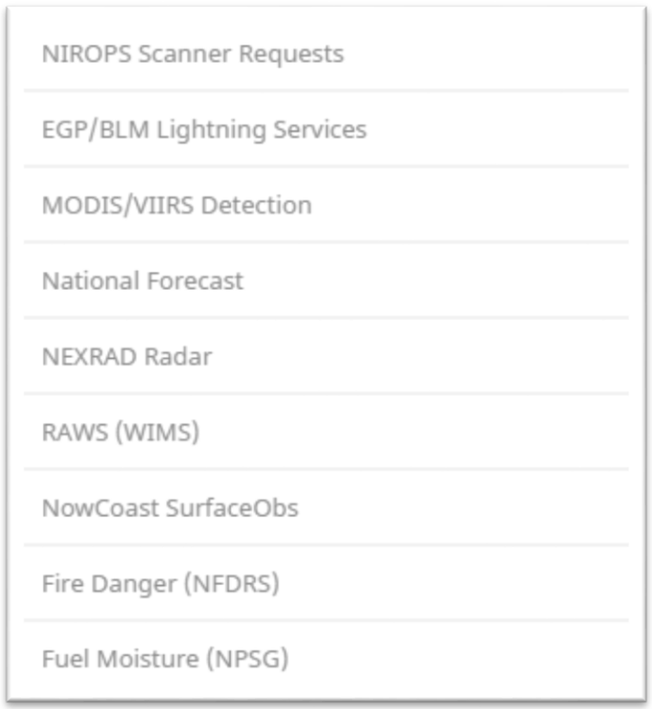
- Most users outside of DFPC can only view products in CO-WIMS, while users with an ‘operations’ role and above can add and edit certain features within CO-WIMS

CO-WIMS Layout





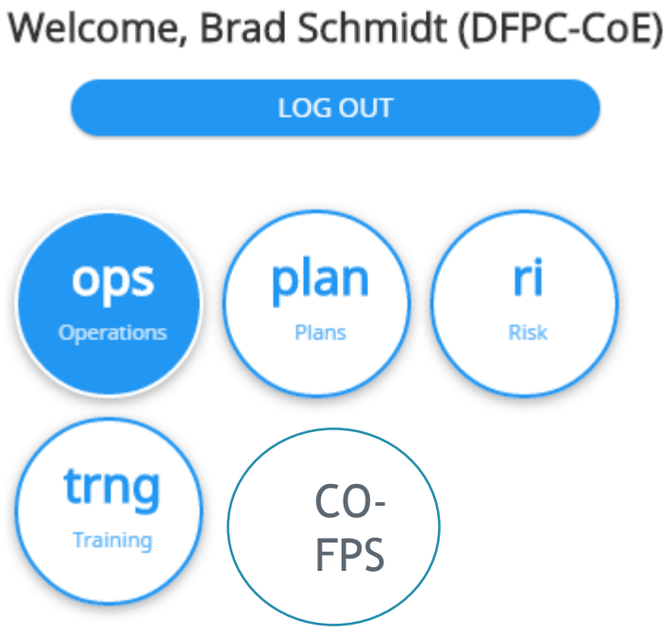




CO-FPS Layout

- At least for year one, CO-FPS will exist within its own viewstate, which basic CO-WIMS users with no affiliation to this project will not see

- Tools within the CO-FPS viewstate will allow users to initiate a fire simulation and view GIS layers containing the model products



Disclaimer

- The CO-FPS viewstate will contain GIS layers that are used operationally, such as the aircraft intel tool and satellite heat detections

- **However this viewstate is to be considered experimental while CO-FPS is in development**

IOC Access Policy

- Three levels of access to the CO-FPS system during the initial operating capability period:

1. Administrator - at NCAR and possibly the CoE will have the ability to remove simulation requests from the queue and otherwise modify the system during times of high demand

2. Operations - users will have the ability to trigger a simulation and view model products

3. View Only - Users can only view model products

- During year one CO-WIMS users without access to the CO-FPS system will not be able to view products or otherwise see the system

CO-FPS Access

- To gain operations level access to the system a user must:

1. Agree to appropriately use State computing resources to conduct *experimental* fire simulations

2. Attend a training session to learn the techniques and protocols necessary to operate CO-FPS

- Users with view-only access to simulations will consist of DFPC employees who would benefit from knowledge of CO-FPS or fire managers who have a specific need to view products

Practical Implications

- Individuals who have actively participated in the CO-FPS Stakeholder Committee and attend a training session tentatively scheduled for September 2016 will meet the requirements to gain access to the operations level

- Individuals involved in wildland fire management within Colorado, but who have not participated in the Stakeholder Committee may still receive access to initiate and/or view the model at the discretion of the CoE through one-on-one training

- A written one-page policy will be distributed to all CO-FPS users covering the terms of use

September Training

- Training in the operation of CO-FPS will take place during the September Stakeholder Committee meeting, place and time TBD

- While the training will focus on the modelling system, we will also train on the operation of the main suite of CO-WIMS features

- As a result, users attending this training will gain ‘operations’ level access to CO-WIMS (allowing you to create and edit incidents), as well as access to the modelling features of CO-FPS

What About Weather Data?

- The predictive weather data is used operationally by the National Weather Service

- While this data is still predictive in nature, it has a longer track record and has received more validation than our fire behavior model

- The main challenge to be overcome prior to deploying the weather data operationally is developing symbology that meets the needs of CO-WIMS users

- Until this symbology is finalized the predictive weather data will be placed in the CO-FPS viewstate

Work Towards a Final Policy

- CO-FPS is scheduled to be under development for 4 more years before reaching a state of operational readiness

- As confidence in the fire behavior model grows the access policy must evolve to grant users an appropriate level of access to the system

Milestones to Reevaluate Access Policy

Questions to Consider Once Verification Data is Received

- Should access to CO-FPS be expanded based on the results of early verification data?

- Can the system be used operationally at this point, or should it still be an experimental product only?

Questions to Consider During Intermediate Development Years

- Should access be expanded based on the fire qualifications / experience of potential users?

- Should access be expanded based on the fuel type or terrain encountered in a user's response area?

- Should access depend on whether a simulation is being run for operational vs experimental purposes?

Questions to Consider When System is Deemed Operational

- What types of CO-WIMS users should be able to initiate predictions?

- What types of users should be able to view predictive products?

- Should certain users be able to view some types of predictive products but not others?

- Should certain users be able to initiate a simulation without receiving the full range of output products?