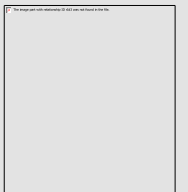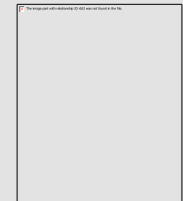# Risk Management Assistance Teams - RMAT

How does this effort support the Cohesive Strategy?

Becki Lockett Heath
Cohesive Strategy Workshop
Reno, Nevada
March 28, 2018

Life First

- In 2016, the Forest Service mounted an effort to change the conversation about safety to one that demonstrates commitment to firefighter and public safety.

- Employees identified areas where the most risk was being taken for the least benefits.

- These were Mop Up, Aviation, Driving and Communication.

WILDLAND FIRE SYSTEM

ENVIRONMENTAL
Climate
Fuel Conditions
Topography

SOCIAL
Development WUI
Public Health
Responsibility Acceptance

POLITICAL
Laws & Regulations
Expectations & Pressure
Consequences

Outcomes in the Wildland Fire Environment

FINANCIAL
Incentives
Disincentives
Capacity

CULTURAL
Policies & Procedures
Fire Service Relationships
Self View of Role

What is RMAT?

- RMAT role was to bolster the Line Officer's ability to examine alternative strategies that better consider:
  - inherent tradeoffs of exposure
  - risk to highly valued assets
  - opportunities for fire benefits

- They tested an effort to address Line Officer's needs for:
  - decision-making tools
  - enhanced analytics and alignment with response strategies
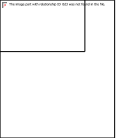
What is RMAT?

- Intent was to enhance capacity, apply decision support tools with risk expertise, and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our fire management response.

- In 2017, RMAT tested this concept on 15 fires in 4 western regions.

- Focused on National Forests fires as we were testing and learning.

- Much was learned last summer and adjustments were made in the delivery and support process.

What are RMAT Products

- Incident Timeline

- Management Direction Alignment Table

- Course of Action, Trade-off Analysis Exercise

- Aviation Use Summary

- Suppression Difficulty Index

- Potential Control Location

- Mop-up Hazard Map

- Evacuation Map and Injury Information

- Exceedance Probability Curves

RMAT Products

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RMAT Products

Mapping Retardant and Water Delivery

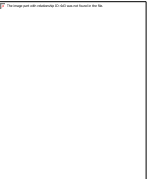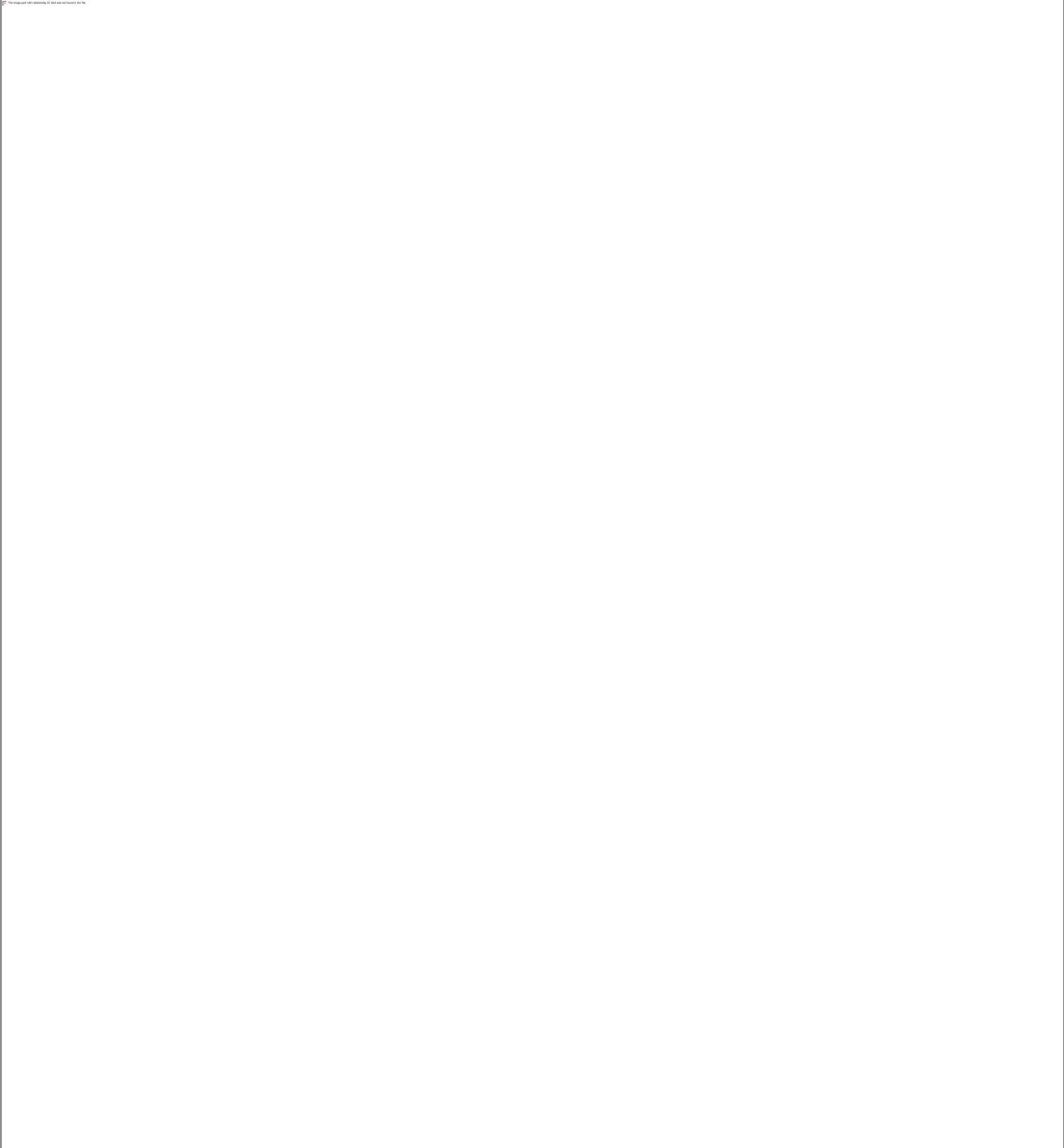# RMAT Products

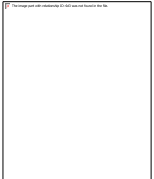## Incident Level Resource Tracking

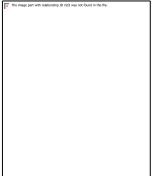# RMAT Products

Mop Up Hazard Map

RMAT Products

Exceedance Probability Curves

RMAT Products

Trade Off Analysis Exercise

RMAT in 2018

Accelerate learning for the changes needed in the Wildland Fire System.

- RMAT will be activated again this summer.

- Smaller teams - engage at key decision points.

- Team will be led by an experienced line officer, a fire operations specialist and risk manager.

- Fire analysts will support the teams on-site and virtually.

- Broader set of products to focus on Decision Quality.

- Work closely with IMTs to ensure real time information informs the trade off analysis, courses of action, etc.

RMAT in 2018

Accelerate learning for the changes needed in the Wildland Fire System.

- Provide decision support, track and ensure accountability for decisions.

- DOA from the Regional Forester to RMAT lead and AA to ensure a feedback loop.

- Include partners in all aspects. Both because there is a joint DOA and because we cannot do this alone!

- No intent for RMAT to become a permanent structure.

- AND I am on a "Spring roadshow", bringing this program to all Regions of the Forest Service, IMT meetings and Regional Leadership Team meetings.
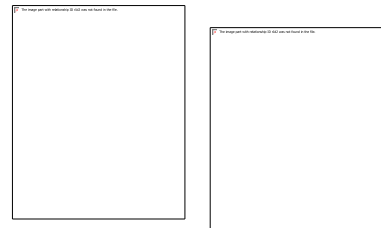
RMAT in 2018

Accelerate learning for the changes needed in the Wildland Fire System.

Questions / Comments?

To learn more about RMAT products and supporting documents,

visit the RMAT sharing site at:

https://wfmrda.nwcg.gov/RMAT.html

Small group Questions

- Who are the key Decision makers for lands frequented by fire in your community?

- Do they all have an expectation to work together in a wild fire situation?

- What are the tensions between these leaders?

- What factors work in favor of good working relationships? What works against it?