



NWCG Meeting Notes

March 16, 2022

Executive Board: Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Frank Guzman (USFS), Tim Sexton (RD&A), Kim Van Hemelryck (DOI OWF Liaison), Jeff Arnberger (BLM), Garth Fisher (BIA), Jim Karels (NASF), Mark Koontz (NPS), Heath Hockenberry (NWS), Jim Durglo (ITC), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Shane McDonald – Chair (FWS)

NWCG Staff: Katie Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Deb Fleming (Coordinator), Tim Blake (Coordinator), Katy O’Hara (Coordinator), Jesse Bender (Publications Manager), Annie Benoit (Training Program Manager), Lori Glaeser (NWCG Training), Tiesha Street (Webmaster), Rhonda Noneman (Web Assistant), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

Guests: Dave Haston (ETC), Bill Yohn (ETC), Eric Fransted (RMC), Nick Nauslar (FENC), Jenn Croft (FDSC), Stew Richter (WFLP), Rick Gividen (WFLP) Jennifer Myslivy (BLM EA)

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>Fire Environment Committee (FENC) and Fire Danger Subcommittee Update (FDSC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FENC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Drafting succession plans, currently three-year term with vice rotation. ○ Committee members overtaxed with collateral duties. ○ Working through Predictive Services issues. More planning needed for the future. Will be presenting at the Data Summit. • FDSC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to increase Weather Information Management Systems (WIMS) refreshers. ○ WIMS Decision Support Model archival by May 31st. ○ Predictive Services should meet May 31st deadline for archival. ○ Requested NOAA support year-round for National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS). ○ Predictive Services Oversight Group (PSOG) implementing short-term plan. Working with SMEs outside of Predictive Services to gain understanding of what the field needs. Nick Nausler and Derrek Hartman taking the lead. Bi-weekly updates to PSOG to brief FMB. 	<p>Nick Nausler will update Katy O’Hara on status of Predictive Services. Katy will provide briefing to EB.</p>
<p>TM-21-003, Preparedness Guide for Firefighters and Their Families Closeout Tasking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document has been posted and receiving positive feedback. • Mental Health Subcommittee (MHSC) developing revision schedule. 	<p>APPROVAL to closeout tasking.</p>
<p>NWCG Wildfire Learning Portal Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently access to WFLP is limited to those affiliated with the NWCG member agencies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Directly or through agreement or memorandum of understanding. ○ Decision was made in 2020 to host online training material on WFLP and end previous agreement with NFA to host material. 	<p>APPROVAL to open access to WFLP for learners. Course correct if needed.</p> <p>Stew Richter to draft document if issues arise and report back to EB as needed.</p>

Additional information beyond these meeting notes (i.e., handouts, presentations, maps, etc.) will require a FOIA request to ensure proper privacy regulations are followed. Please request via FOIA Online website at <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>.



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NFA still hosts some NWCG courses online (S-190, S-130, and L-180) for the structural fire community with no direct financial support from NWCG. ○ Pre-work and exams hosted on WFLP. ○ NFA available to everyone nationally. ○ NFA has member on WFLP governance board. ● Traditionally NWCG training has been available to everyone through cache system, U.S. Fire Administration’s National Fire Academy (NFA) website and NWCG website for course training material packages (excluding exams and higher-level courses). ● Impacts of limited access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nonmember agency students have difficulties accessing WFLP. ○ Private companies (Pacific Gas and Electric) request employees to take S-110, Basic Wildland Fire Orientation which is not accessible to them through WFLP. ○ Employment seekers in wildland fire cannot access WFLP. ○ NWCG staff receives multitude of calls regarding access. ● Currently 50,000 users. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approximately 3% of users are contractors and public who do not have access. ○ Costs \$150,000 per 50,000 users. Price tiers of 10,000 users. ○ Rolling twelve-month window where casual users drop off and are no longer counted in the total. ○ Approximately 900 new users per week. ○ Opening access would increase workload for WFLP staff, which is a collateral duty. ● Relying on contractors more each year, they are required to take this training. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contractors with a contract requesting access takes one to two days. ○ Contractors without a current contract do not have access. ○ Workload to track down contracts and who to grant access to. 	
<p>NWCG FY23 Draft Budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Requesting approval of all budget requests; therefore, did not prioritize each request. ● FENC requests will be funded through Forest Service budget. ● \$100,000,000 placeholder for Systems Improvement in case Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding doesn’t come through. ● Final year of current Forest Service Web Assistant and Writer-Editor contract. ● WFLP funding may increase due to increased users. 	<p>APPROVAL of FY23 budget.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positions included are not associated with BIL funding (two training specialist and the training deputy). • No FY22 reallocation requests at this time but may request reallocation of funds for completing Fixed Wing Parking Tender (FWPT) and Medical Unit Leader (MEDL) after discussions with contractor. 	
<p>Department of Defense (DoD) as NWCG Member Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoD Wildfire Working Group consisting of Airforce and Army presented membership documents to the office of Secretary of Defense. Membership was supported at that level. • Currently working through the process of obtaining one more level of approval. • Finalizing funding and representation for EB. • No timeframe but continuing to work through the process. 	N/A
<p>National Wildland Firefighter Day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Calendar Committee approved National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) External Affairs request for National Wildland Firefighter Day, which was purchased for July 2nd, during the Week of Remembrance. • NIFC External Affairs will be creating a communication plan and toolkit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All agencies and partners will have the opportunity to contribute ideas. 	Executive Secretary will send out briefing paper to EB for distribution through agencies.
<p>Devil’s Creek SAI (Serious Accident Investigation)- NWCG Awareness and Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corrective Action Plan (CAP) items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Propose that NWCG incorporate the Devil’s Creek Factual Report and video into learning opportunities. ○ Emergency Medical Committee (EMC) review, update, and publish current burn protocols to mitigate deficiencies in the burn center referral process. Refine and ensure consistency with publications and programs. ○ Task MHSC to create informational Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)educational content. ○ Committees are already engaged. ○ Requesting continued support by monitoring and briefing EB. • Taskings from Agencies to NWCG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tasking should formally enter NWCG at EB level. ○ Consider cost when developing a tasking. ○ Screen for appropriate committees and groups. 	<p>APPROVAL for continued support and to formalize taskings.</p> <p>Business Rules for NWCG Taskings added to April agenda.</p>

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Equipment Technology Committee (ETC) Fire Shelter Advisory: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Modified Advisory to communicate technical information to support agency decision making.	APPROVAL of Fire Shelter Advisory.

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