



NWCG Meeting Notes

August 17, 2022

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

NWCG Staff: Katie Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Tim Blake (Coordinator), Katy O’Hara (Coordinator), Sarah Lee (Coordinator), Robin Brooks (Publications Manager), Annie Benoit (Training Program Manager), Kim Ernstrom (Systems Improvement Program Manager), Omaira Falcon (Webmaster), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

Guests: Kerry Greene (CEPC), Rick Gividen (WFLP), Cheryl Bright (FDSC),

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>Communication, Education, and Prevention Committee (CEPC) Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, Tina Boehle. • Provides national leadership, support, and coordination in all areas of wildland fire education and prevention. • Three subcommittees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fire Prevention Education Subcommittee (FPETSC) ○ Wildland Fire Investigation Subcommittee (WFISC) ○ Public Information Officer Subcommittee (PIOSC) • New members are getting integrated. • Fire Restrictions Clearinghouse Website Tasking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Larger undertaking than expected. Requiring longer timeframe. ○ Looking at the feasibility of having a website that can host fire restriction information in one central location. ○ Reviewing existing restrictions websites and platforms across geographic areas. ○ Survey of stakeholders to what is currently being used. Will require OMB compliance. ○ Discussion about incorporating fire restrictions with new wildfire layer in Google. • Memo to Wildland Fire Information and Technology (WFIT) establishing business need for Wildfire Prevention Spatial Assessment and Planning Strategies (WPSAPS) application. • FPETSC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintains a digital library of developed materials and guidance documents. ○ Focused on setting expectations with host units, including the professional qualifications of incoming Fire Prevention Education Team (FPET) and establishing a point of contact. ○ 12 national FPETs have been activated this year. 	<p>N/A</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 <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>.



Topic & Notes	Decision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implemented change that requires FPET and Fire Prevention Education Team Leader (FPETL) trainees to complete P-310, Fire Prevention Education Team Member and P-410, Fire Prevention Education Team Leader before taskbooks can be recommenced for certification. ○ Implement a new standard for electronic documentation next year which will mirror the incident electronic documentation standard used by Incident Management Teams (IMTs). ○ Smokey Bear made a debut on Tik Tok to reach new audiences. ● WFISC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair, Jerry Hepler. ○ Focus on maintaining the Fire Investigation Courses. ○ Rebuilding FI-110, Wildland Fire Observations and Origin Scene Protection as an online class. ○ Interest in translating <i>Origin and Cause Determination Handbook</i>, PMS 412 into several languages. ● PIOSC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National leadership in all areas of wildland fire public information management. ○ Created a new entry level position PIO Technician. ○ Created a graphic to help describe the various PIO positions. ○ Updated language on the PIO Technician page. ○ Supported the delay to launch InciWeb application updates. Which allowed sufficient time to evaluate developer changes and ensure they are aligned with application business needs and standards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish data retention policy. ▪ 2022 incidents will move to Drupal. Previous years will be archived. ▪ Looking at how authoritative data from IRWIN can automatically populate fields in InciWeb for consistency and accuracy. ● Complex Incident Management (CIM): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fielding questions on roll-out. ○ Moving forward with PIOT, PIO3, and PIOC. ○ Based on gap in experience levels between PIO3 and PIOC looking to establish a PIO Branch Lead that would serve as middle management. 	
<p>Wildland Fire Learning Portal (WFLP) Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 30% growth in new accounts from last year. 	N/A

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 <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>.



Topic & Notes	Decision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Currently at 30,918 accounts. ○ Numerous volunteer and structural accounts. ○ Improved access request process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preapproved domain email list. ○ Increase in help requests, 2,800. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Half are request for access assistance, created job aids to streamline. ● DOI OCIO has 60-90-day delay in completing the full vulnerability review of current configuration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ October/November begin work to open access. ● Contractor is completing FedRamp authorization of new hosting environment. USDA is sponsoring. ● Garth Fisher is the new Governance Board chair. ● Challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funding and staffing. ○ Forest Service (FS) funded 5, 120-day detailers for Collaboration of Enhanced Learning Team (CELT). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assisted in WLFPS support requirements. ○ Need long term solution for staffing. ▪ More information in September about positions and requests for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding. 	
<p>Fire Danger Subcommittee (FDSC – NFDRSv4):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Revised memorandum outlines completed work and highlights items left for operations to complete. Provides recommendations on which entities to task. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EB to provide cover memo to coordinate with NMAC. ○ Include Fire Management Board (FMB) as parent of Predictive Services Oversight Group (PSOG). ○ Socialize with FMB & NMAC Chairs before memorandum is sent. ○ Agencies manage Weather Information Management Systems (WIMS). ○ Need agency memorandum to provide direction and authority. 	<p>APPROVAL of a memorandum to closeout NWCG tasks after language revision is included.</p> <p>Meeting with NMAC and FMB chairs to determine memorandum language to assure expectations from agencies is delivered from the correct group.</p>
<p>Systems Improvement Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Crew Boss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Streamlined to 12 hours, appx. 7 hours instructor led/4 hours of web-based pre-work. ● Faller 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pausing for 4 to 6 weeks due to Subject Matter Expert (SME) involvement with recent firefighter fatality. 	<p>N/A</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 <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>.



Topic & Notes	Decision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Should receive a preview of FS efforts regarding chainsaw training in November. Pause will allow review and algin efforts. ● Larger Systems Improvement Effort: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion with BLM Contracting office, options for contracting support through NOC. ○ Budget meeting with details on funding, delivery, and use. ○ Communication Team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Re-working System Improvement name. ▪ SME engagement. ▪ Educating committees on shift to new system and outlining the new process. ▪ Thinking about field perspective. ▪ Highlight time commitment and expectations for SMEs. ▪ Engage Agency leadership. ○ Currently in the acquisition planning phase, source selection December-March. ○ Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Solidify contracting office and start acquisition planning phase. ▪ Continue with SME recruitment. ▪ Hire Systems Improvement Manager. ○ SME engagement is critical. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ownership from the field. ▪ Exploring use of ADs, detailers, and contracted retirees. ▪ Incentives are lacking. ▪ Many primary firefighters are looking for secondary positions and may appreciate a formal detail into an SME position. ▪ NTEs would be ideal but very time-consuming process. ▪ Engage EB for assistance with recruitment and accountability of SMEs. Provide list of needed SMEs to EB members for recruitment. ▪ SMEs must be conduit for committees to ensure satisfaction with the final product. ▪ Prioritize timeframes around fire season if possible. ▪ Plan to be fully engaged with the contractor for collaborative effort. 	
<p>Incident Workforce Development Group (IWDG) Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Incident Position and Standards Committee (IPSC) has the lead on the CIM after action review (AAR) for this fall. 	<p>Support for Shane Greer to transition representation for Incident Command Subcommittee (ICSC) to redirect engagement.</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 <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>.



Topic & Notes	Decision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Distributing series of questions to Incident Commanders (ICs), IMTs, Coordinating Groups, and Agency Administrators to gain feedback on implementation thus far and help inform the next phase. ● Transition in IROC showing 300 responders with CIM certification as of July 25th. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Southern Area leading with total CIM responders. ○ Lowest rates are states and locals; there are recognized issues with incorporating CIM into some qualification systems, which will take time to address. ○ Highest number of positions transitioned is in Operations Section. ● Coordinating Group and Advisory Council (CGAC) Rotation Tasking is near completion with a response to the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) due September 2. ● Incident Commander Advisory Council (ICAC) CIMT Composition Tasking should be issued by NMAC next week once the charter has been revised. ● ICAP should be ready for use starting September 1st for all nominations and selections for all teams. NMAC will issue a memo requesting CGAC use for 2023. ● IWDG will meet in Boise, October 25th-27th. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plan to engage with NMAC, NWCG, and FMB along with IPSC and others as able. 	
<p>Wildfire Commission Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kick-off meeting in July. ● Commission has a tasking due to congress in 45 days, on aerial equipment needs and strategies to meet those needs through 2030. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working under intense deadlines. ○ Engaging with National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Representatives attended last NIAC meeting. ● Working through mechanics of channeling taskings to committees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Very likely to receive other requests. ○ Following process of a Serious Accident Investigation (SAI). ○ Start with EB and channel to committees. 	Standing agenda item.
<p>Annual Meeting Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identified themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Systems Improvement ○ IWDG/CIM ○ Firefighter Wellness/Mental Health ● Annual Leader’s intent: 	N/A

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 <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>.



NWCG Meeting Notes

August 17, 2022

Topic & Notes	Decision
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Highlight accomplishments from previous year and priorities for the upcoming year.○ EB meeting with Jeff Foss in December to assist in identifying priorities.○ Video could be more impactful than a standard memorandum.○ Socialize on social media and website.● Audience:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Chairs and selected subcommittee chairs who are engaged with main themes.○ Incorporate a virtual option.● Incorporate interaction time in the agenda for networking.● Have a tentative hold on the multi-purpose room in the Jack Wilson building.	

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 <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>.