



NWCG Meeting Notes

September 21, 2022

Executive Board: Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Frank Guzman (USFS), Kim Van Hemelryck (DOI OWF Liaison), Jeff Arnberger (BLM), Garth Fisher (BIA), Jim Karels (NASF), Jim Durglo (ITC), Mark Hale (USFS-Acting), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Heath Hockenberry (NWS), Tim Sexton (USFS), 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: Roshelle Pederson (DMC), Cole Belongie (DMC), Rick Gividen (WFLP), Jesse Bender (IWDG)

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>Data Management Committee (DMC) Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides national interagency standards and practices for wildland fire data management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify, define and standardized data that is reliable and accessible for planning, decision support, reporting, and research. ○ Management of data as an enterprise asset to support Wildland Fire Information and Technology (WFIT). ○ Develop standards for wildland fire data. ○ Contribute to the standardization of information technology systems. • Membership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Members may fill more than one role as we try and focus on ensuring representation across the community. ○ Primary members: Subcommittee Chairs and Bureau /Agency Representatives. ○ Liaisons from NWCG committees. ○ Liaisons from WFIT programs. • Subcommittees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fire Reporting Subcommittee (FRSC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue work to create a single authoritative fire occurrence record and dataset with documentation. ○ Geospatial Subcommittee (GSC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Updated <i>NWCG Standards for Geospatial Operations</i>, PMS 936 and <i>NWCG GISS Workflow</i>, PMS 936-1. ▪ S-341, GIS Specialist for Incident Management is now a required course for all trainees. 	<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"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RT-341, GIS Specialist for Incident Management Annual Refresher will be required for all GISS and Trainees in 2023. ▪ Recognized at Esri conference two years in a row for Special Achievement in GIS. ○ Data Strategy Implementation Subcommittee (DSIS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Essentially Data Management Program (DMP) staff will be disbanding this committee. ○ Data Standards and Terminology Board (DSTB): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working closely with NWCG Webmaster to streamline data management for NWCG. ○ Unit Identifier Board (UIB): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Published first ever <i>NWCG Standards for Unit Identifiers</i>, PMS 931. ▪ Completing data clean up between Wildland Fire Management Information (WFMI) and OIS. 40% of 7,000 records have been modified. ▪ Combine into a single reference dataset in Enterprise Data Governance (EDG). ▪ On authoritative location for Wildfire Organizational Data. ● DMC provides standards and guidance. DMP provides implementation and governance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DMC, NWCG and WFIT connection: DMC is business stewards for IRWIN, Enterprise GeoPlatform, InFORM, and EDG. ○ DMC /DMP co-sponsored Data Summit spring and fall week-long meetings. ● Interagency Fire Data Cache: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NWCG Tasking Memorandum 16-002: IT Capability Requirements for an Interagency Data Cache Concept. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Address issue of not having a clear strategy for national interagency data management which leads to limited data accessibility, duplicative data collection, incomplete datasets, and inconsistent data, and quality standards. ○ EDG Tool: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides catalogs. ▪ Authoritative data source for some reference data. ▪ Maps relationships between policy, requirements, standards, data, applications, reports or dashboards. ○ EDG Architecture contract award: 	



Topic & Notes	Decision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop the long term, vendor agnostic blueprint to deliver Data Cache capabilities. ○ Pilot projects to start delivering specific capabilities. 	
<p>Opening Wildland Fire Learning Portal (WFLP) Update and Learning Management System (LMS) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding Request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WFLP Governance Board Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting once per month. ○ New chair of the WFLP Governance Board is Garth Fisher. ○ Working on rotation schedule and modifying charter to reflect current business needs of both NWCG and other entities that need access/use. ○ Defining processes. ○ Fedramp will be complete in November for current ATO, needs to be completed before a new Authority to Operate (ATO) can be drafted that would open the Learning Portal to the public. ○ Significant increase in new users over the course of the past year. ● WFLP Funding Request: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ WFLP does not have the capacity to sustain. ○ Requesting NWCG EB support to the National Training Officers (NTO) BIL requests for funding to increase needed WFLP and instructional support. ○ Exponential growth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use to plan, develop, and deliver training and education. ▪ Support requests for development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of courses delivered via distance learning. ▪ Opportunities to use new instructional technologies to support wildland fire program managers, course developers, faculty, and students. ▪ Growth has resulted in need for increased staffing/funding to meet support requirements from both USFS and DOI. ▪ These are training and education support requirements outside of the NWCG incident qualification courses. ▪ Over 30,000 new users over the past year. ▪ Close to 3,000 instances of help provided. ○ Funding split: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ USFS- \$650,401 and DOI- \$481,920. 	<p>More discussion needed on governance and funding.</p> <p>APPROVAL- to move funding request to Fire Management Board.</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"> ▪ Four NTE positions funded by the USFS. ▪ USFS plans to contract for services not inherently governmental in lieu of filling these positions. ○ Benefit to the larger Wildland Fire Community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased user support, developer training, platform hosting, configuration support. ▪ Competency configuration instructional design, educational assessment. ○ BIL funding needs to be obligated in five years. Need to build in funding for a long-term plan. ○ Cost avoidance with online courses instead of traditional courses. ○ Governance Board needs to become change management board under Executive Board. ○ Process and membership revisions needed. 	
<p>Incident Workforce Development Group (IWDG) Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Joint Meeting is in October. • IWDG meeting October 25th -27th in Boise. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gathering agenda items and Feedback for discussion. ○ Setting aside time to meet with all three parent groups – NWCG, Fire Management Board (FMB), and National Multi-Agency Coordination Group (NMAC). • Surveys to collect feedback on 2022 implementation steps should be out next week. • After Action Review (AAR): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ October 17th in the NICC Briefing room. ○ Agenda currently being reviewed by subgroups then will be sent to IWDG parent groups. ○ Searching for a facilitator. ○ Field Evaluation feedback has been helpful. • Coordinating Group Advisory Council (CGAC) Rotation Tasking response finalized and sent to NMAC for review and discussion. • Incident Commander’s Advisory Council (ICAC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revised charter to include all ICs (Type 1, 2 and CIIC) ○ Currently working on CIMT Configuration Tasking from NMAC. 	N/A
<p>National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC) Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Parks Service (NPS) is currently the chair. • NIAC is in support of Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) being the next chair. • Difficulty in establishing a chair rotation. 	EB members discuss this topic with respective NIAC representatives.

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"> ○ Option 1: FWS, BLM, USFS, BIA, NPS. ○ Option 2: Includes NASF. ○ Option 3: Includes NASF and USFS twice. 	Will bring forward a chair nomination in October. .
<p>Systems Improvement Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Created PowerPoint for external NWCG communication of Systems Improvement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Purpose: Initial tasking 2015 - Assessment NWCG Training System and provide recommendations for improving system effectiveness and efficiency . ○ Improvement of NWCG systems components is an ongoing effort intended to support the core mission – enabling interoperable wildland fire operations among federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial partners. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Website, Publications, Committees, Position Management, Training Materials including Position Task Books (PTBs). ○ Improvement goals met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Website: Easier access to materials. Reduce redundancy and gaps. Consolidate information. ▪ Publications: Established comprehensive catalog. Improve update capability, ensure focus on standards. ▪ Position management: Established Incident Position Descriptions (IPDs). Developed Position Pages. ▪ WFSTAR: Updated core components. Consistent module tools. ▪ Committees: Organization and process. Updated names. Creation of Position/Course Stewards. Incorporation of Steering Committees. ▪ Improvement is ongoing. ▪ Next efforts: Position management and standards, streamlined training, and PTBs. ○ NWCG Incident Position Performance and Training Modernization (new name under Systems Improvement): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effort will identify, develop, update, and maintain support products for positions in the <i>NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications</i>, PMS 310-1. ▪ Increase speed to competency by improving quality and consistency of materials, streamlining training, reducing redundancy, and increasing effectiveness of on-incident training opportunities. ▪ Traditional model of training and qualification: Course, PTB, training assignments, evaluation, and qualification. 	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">▪ New model of training and qualification (adaptive management cycle): Review Incident Position Package (IPDs, Position Standards, PTBs, essential training and support products), trainee assignment using position packages, receive on-site incident training with evaluator, evaluation, and qualification.▪ Crew Boss example: Traditional 24 hours classroom. Modernization: Scenario-base blended instruction with emphasis on-incident performance-based learning. 13.25 classroom hours.○ Current tasks:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Communication: Internal work group. Developing standard messaging and presentations. Generating list of delivery methods. Briefing Committee Chairs at October 6th Connections Call.▪ Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) engagement: Coordinating with Committee – defining roles and timelines. Investigating SME recruitment/incentive options. Estimate need of 30 SMEs in year one and ramping up in out years.▪ Contracting: BLM National Operations Center (NOC) Contracting Officer assigned. Initial meeting and introduction to the project is complete. Developing Statement of Work. Request for Proposals (RFP) process for prospective vendors. Spring timeframes for contract award are feasible.○ Contract Year 1- 2023:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Proposed 10 position initially.▪ Criteria:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Foundational○ Mix of complexity.○ Identified priority or high profile.○ Committee engagement or readiness of SMEs.○ Needed support from leadership in communicating the NWCG Incident Position Performance and Training Modernization effort and generating awareness for the field.○ Current contracting effort:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Crew Boss: Reviewing draft material. Test course planned for the WFAP January 2023.▪ Base Faller (FAL3): Still on hold pending SME validation and Forest Service training material update.▪ Intermediate Faller (FAL2) and Advanced Faller (FAL1): Funded and starting FAL1 in October 2022. FAL2 will come once Faller 1 is underway.	

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">▪ Medical Unit Leader (MEDL): Initiating effort mid-October 2022.▪ Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2 (RXB2): Conducting test courses in October and December 2022. Final package out in February/March 2023.○ Next Generation PTBs being tested.○ Need to focus on mentor/evaluator role in the field.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Need to develop resources on how to give constructive feedback.	
<p>Wildfire Commission Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two-day meeting in Salt Lake City last week.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discussed business processes.○ Ideas for topics developed with help from Wildland Fire experts.○ Working to engage more committees into work groups.• In-person meeting in June.• Four-hour meeting monthly.• Aviation report recommendations will go to congress.	N/A