

NWCG Executive Board/Fire Management Board (FMB)/National Multi-Agency Coordination Group (NMAC)
 Joint Session Meeting Notes

October 19, 2022

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Guests: Jim Shultz (IPSC), Emmy Harbo (DSTB), Andrew Dixon (Ignis), Matthew Thompson (USFS), Chris Buzo (DOI IOS), Tara Taylor (DOI IOS), Nick Heller (DOI IOS), Dan Jimenez (FBSC)

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>Rocky Mountain Research Station and Missoula Fire Lab – Wildland Fire Collaborative Research and Development Agreement (WF CRADA) – Mobile Application to Connect Data and Wildland Firefighters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking to increase the coordination with IT and be able to have input on products early in the development process. • Great opportunities to collectively create solutions. • Overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Invite NWCG, FMB, and NMAC to join the existing WF CRADA. • Intent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve firefighter situational awareness and provide a unified, common operating picture. ○ Generate meaningful and usable data for business, operations, and research use. ○ No-risk, no-cost solution that enables the Federal government to partner with industry to drive meaningful innovation. • Existing CRADA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The USDA Rocky Mountain Research Station and Missoula Fire Lab entered the WF CRADA with Ignis Technologies on December 1, 2021. The goal the current WF CRADA is to meet the needs of wildland firefighter and federal research by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaboratively developing a mobile and web application that improves firefighter situational awareness and provides a common operating picture. 	<p>O’Hara to follow up with Research Station.</p> <p>Sexton will arrange conversation with Short and legal.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creating an improved incident dataset that will enable researchers to better study wildland fire performance measurement and suppression effectiveness. ▪ A CRADA is an agreement under which the federal government may contribute personnel, services, facilities, equipment, or other resources – but not funding – toward specified research or development efforts. • Technical Overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ External systems (NOAA and FAA) and wildland fire government systems (EGP, IROC, IRWIN, IQCS, and ArcGIS Online (AGOL)) data comes together in the cloud to create a mobile application and web application. ○ Mobile application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fire perimeters, suppression strategies, suppression effectiveness, geospatial field intel, multimedia files, location data, weather, and fire reports. ○ Web application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New incidents, incident action plans, incoming resource packets, resource allocation, and financial codes. ○ Creating enhanced situational awareness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incident dashboards, dynamic maps, critical alerts, live data, and collection. • Meaningful and usable data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Platform enables the generation of a novel dataset to drive new business, operation, and research insights. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ability to capture granular, time-series dataset of suppression activities on fire incidents down to dismounted resource level. ▪ Novel combination of new and existing data on fire incidents, aggregated from multiple sources, all in one place. ○ Structured, normalized, and optimized for business, operations, and research usage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Designed from the beginning around federal data structure needs and security requirements. ▪ Integrated with existing data infrastructures. ▪ Easily accessible and query-able for numerous use-cases. • Benefits across multiple stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Firefighters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved situational awareness, improved common operating picture, and aggregated information and intelligence from multiple disparate sources. ○ Business: 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved large fire review reporting to Congress, identify factors driving suppression costs, and identify more direct lineage between incident decision-making, firefighting resource use, and suppression costs. ○ Incident Command System (ICS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved incident – level situational awareness, enhanced firefighter reach, and shared multi-agency supplication. ○ Research: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved datasets to perform current and future research objectives, new types of data and information, and direct input into new data types and data structure. • Why now? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current and upcoming generation of wildland firefighters will continue to increase their use and reliance on these technologies and will expect the information and tools they need to be delivered through mobile platforms. ○ Dingell Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) mandate technological innovation within wildland fire with funding to support these requirements. ○ Major recent advancement in software and hardware enables further access to data in the backcountry. • Ask: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Join existing WF CRADA to enable greater level of collaboration. ○ Creation of TIGER Team composed of subject matter experts (SMEs). ○ Feedback throughout development effort. ○ Input on the technical, user, expertise, and existing data sources. ○ Support implementing a pilot test in 2024. ○ Not asking for funding, immediate software purchase, large amounts of time, or replacing existing technology systems. • Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No-cost and ability to directly influence the development of technology around your needs, requirements, and constraints. • Limiting factor is cell service and WIFI. • Project is ongoing, WF CRADA allows for feedback on the front end of the development. 	
<p>FireNet Standards and Pre-Season Memorandum(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting in 2018 NMAC issued a letter to the field requesting the use of FireNet. • NWCG standards applied to FireNet. • Whole teams are not using FireNet for incidents which is creating a major security risk. 	<p>Draft memorandum for January joint meeting to be distributed from NWCG EB, FMB, and NMAC to include</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCIOs have ultimate authority on usage of FireNet. • Data in FireNet can be maintained by anyone added to a team in FireNet. • No issues with adding state and local participants. • Possibility of adding a block with usage of FireNet on the Incident Management Team (IMT) performance appraisal. 	<p>direction to use FireNet in the National Mobilization Guide updates in December.</p>
<p>Development of the Science Around Safety Zones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work has been evolving. • Adding research to publications and training courses. • Having been waiting on peer review before sharing the research. • New guideline is based on research that accounts for slope, wind speed, burning conditions, and both convection, and radiation for flames. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provides landscape assessment of safety zones. ○ Realized long ago that the initial guidelines for safety zones were an incomplete assessment. ○ Difficult to model given the dynamic environment. ○ The goal has always been to continue to improve the guideline. ○ Difficult to collect data to create the model. • Want to move forward to release this information to the field the right way. • Goal for new guideline to be incorporated into next <i>NWCG Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG)</i>, PMS 461, in 2024. • Fire Behavior Subcommittee (FBSC) is working on a Fire Behavior Field Assessment document with this guideline incorporated. 	<p>Change to a standard must go through Incident Position and Standards Committee (IPSC).</p>
<p>Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM) (Systems Improvement) Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIL funding is place and National Operations Center (NOC) contracting officer engaged. • Key vacancies; two Instructional Designers, System Improvement Program Manager, and Deputy Training Program Manager. • Lee and Blake developing plan for recruitment and retainment of SMEs. • O’Hara developing communication standard messaging plan. • 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. 	<p>N/A</p>

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<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.▪ 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.	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 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 positions. 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 Wildland Firefighter Apprenticeship Program (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. ▪ 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. ● Remining 75 positions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Multi-year phased contract. ○ Foundational up positions. ○ Mix of complexity. ○ Identified as high priority. ○ Committee engagement. ○ Diversify functional areas. ● Gain efficacies and hopefully speed to produce will increase. ● Once the source list goes out, we will have a better understanding to inform the statement of work. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May awarding of contract is realistic. • Need SME engagement to be successful. • Existing IPDs will be the baseline. 	
<p>Incident Workforce Development Group (IWDG) Quarterly Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IWDG has a working meeting next week in Boise and scheduled time with all three parent groups for dialogue, questions, and leaders' intent. • Complex Incident Management (CIM) AAR yielded lots of good discussion. Notes will be available soon on the IWDG webpage. • In September, FMB approved creation of an Agency Administrator's (AAs) Subgroup composed from multiple agencies and is drafting a charter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focuses will include increased communications, development of expectations for Complex Incident Management Teams (CIMTs), and identification of ways to increase employee participation in CIMTs and large fire support. • Over 600 CIM-qualified personnel are now in Incident Resource Ordering Capability (IROC). • NMAC issued a revised charter for the Incident Command Advisory Council (ICAC) to broaden membership to include Type 2 and Complex Incident Commanders. • NMAC Letter 2022-14 tasked ICAC with recommending a standard CIMT configuration and appropriate length of assignment. • Coordinating Group Advisory Council (CGAC) provided a written response to NMAC Letter 2022-09 to recommend a national rotation process. NMAC is discussing what can be initiated in 2023, prior to full implementation in 2024. • Incident Command Application Program (ICAP) is not ready for full use in 2023 as previously reported. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Northern Rockies will test the program this year in anticipation that ICAP will be available and required for use for 2024 nomination periods. • IPSC has open tasking from NWCG Executive Board (EB) with various dates approaching for deliverables, including the January update of the <i>NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications</i>, PMS 310-1. • To increase communications with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Bender will travel to Washington D.C. to meet with representatives and continue discussions on national CIM integration and where it fits within National Interagency Incident Management Systems (NIMS). • Needed actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NMAC issue tasking for CGAC to develop standardized geographic area prioritization procedures, to aid in equitable and appropriate assignment of resources. 	<p>N/A</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Continued communication throughout agency channels, including FMB issuance of 2023 expectations and overall update.○ Generate tasking to ICAC and AA Subgroup to develop CIMT standards and expectations.○ IWDG update CIM: Action Plan for Implementation, to include accomplishments, revised timelines, and new tasks.○ Schedule November working session with FMB, NWCG, NMAC, and IWDG.	

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