



NWCG Meeting Notes

August 15, 2023

Executive Board: Kim Van Hemelryck (DOI OWF Liaison), Jeff Aramberger (BLM), Jim Karels (NASF), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Dave Haston (USFS), Jim Shultz (NPS), Russ Babiak (NPS), Jim Durglo (ITC), Heath Hockenberry (NOAA), Anne Jewell (DoD), Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Shane McDonald (FWS-Chair)

NWCG Staff: Katie Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Katy O’Hara (Coordinator), Sarah Lee (Coordinator), Carmen Thomason (Acting Coordinator), Toni Suminski (IPTM Project Manager), Omaira Falcon (Webmaster), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

Guests: Eric Fransted (RMC), Kara Stringer (NCSC), Tim Person (NCSC), Steve Griffin (NIMSIC), Amanda Mahaffey (Forest Stewards Guild), Esme Cadiente (Forest Stewards Guild)

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>Proposed decision on Prescribed Fire Practitioner (PFP) request for change submitted to Fuels Management Committee (FMC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefed in February regarding alternate pathways. Memorandum in the binder documents FMC’s official response to the Request for Change (RFC) 2023-01. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of additional complexity levels ranging from very low to very high, was not deemed necessary at this time. The adoption of an alternative PFP pathway was considered impractical to apply across all NWCG member agencies/organizations due to conflicts with existing policies. FMC recommends that interested agencies/organizations develop supplemental agency-specific policy and standards for the Prescribed Fire Practitioner (RXP) positions. Providing an alternative pathway would increase under-utilized partners. Some agencies felt as though this request was not well vetted. Commission report may direct an alternative pathway. NWCG establishes standards and it is up to each agency to adopt through policy. Noted that FMC representation was lacking for some agencies, like DoD and IAFC. 	<p>Executive Board (EB) will reach out to FMC committee members.</p> <p>McDonald, Jewell, Karels, and Bidaburu will attend the next FMC meeting to discuss PFP and give Leader’s Intent. Would like FMC to articulate conflicts, offer pathways or solutions, and improve the needs assessment.</p> <p>Department of Defense (DoD) and International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) would like to place a representative on FMC.</p> <p>Coordinators will provide a list of each agencies representatives on committees to make connects and identify gaps twice a year.</p>
<p>Discussed Risk Management Committee’s (RMC) progress on the potential firefighter fatigue study, to include coordination and development with the Wildland Firefighter Public Health Advisory Team (MPHAT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RMC does not have the expertise in this field to move forward with this study. 	<p>Fransted will socialize request with JFSP, Kelly King, and others.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMC requested a joint tasking of MPHAT to develop a wildland firefighter fatigue research project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ May need to expand groups involved to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) ▪ National Training and Development Program (NTDP) ▪ Forest Service Human Performance ▪ States/IAFC ▪ Whoop Band Team ○ Another option that may be more feasible at this time is to request a university to scope the study. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to define what we are trying to solve. • Senate currently has two million dollars set aside for wildland firefighter health and wellness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Could allocate some funds towards a scoping contract. • Policy changes are under Fire Management Board (FMB) purview. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conduct research to inform decisions regarding policy. ○ Align bullets in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Redbook) to create consistency. 	<p>Fransted will draft a joint tasking for RMC and MPHAT following the FMB discussion on this topic. To coordinate with proposed research groups.</p> <p>EB members will connect with FMB members prior to the August FMB meeting.</p>
<p>National Coordination System Committee (NCSC) business need request – Operational Acceptance Testing (OAT) Environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business need was drafted and identifies gaps for Wildland Fire information and Technology (WFIT). • The intent of this project request is to create a replica of the IRWIN production environment along with connected applications to allow end-to-end users to practice/train on the wildland fire applications. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This system would allow incident lifecycle workflow during normal day-to-day operations. ○ Currently training is completed in the production site which creates issues with the public interfacing in production. • Phase 1- IRWIN practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repurpose OAT interface for IRWIN Practice. ○ Replicate data from production on a regular schedule. ○ Develop support requirements and sources for IRWIN and integrated applications that have additional needs/costs. • Phase 2 – IRWIN training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Create a new IRWIN Environment for training. ○ Identify funding requirements and source for IRWIN and integrated applications. 	<p>APPROVAL to move business need to WFIT program board.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with systems that already have training environments to create standards for use, scheduling, and data reset. ○ Develop support requirements/standards. • Creation of IRWIN practice and training environments is essential to allow the users of IRWIN integrated applications to create and maintain their proficiencies. • Without users will not have the skills required to leverage the increases in efficiencies the integration creates. 	
<p>Discuss and determine NWCG Executive Boards Leaders intent for the NWCG Annual Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Incident Management System Integration Committee (NIMSIC) offered to host 2024 NWCG Annual Meeting. • Overall positive feedback from 2023 Annual Meeting. • Most attendees were aware of EB priorities. • NWCG committee chairs perspectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Allows for connections with EB. ○ Offsite meeting could bolster interactions with EB. ○ Aligns committee work with priorities. ○ Chair to chair connections increased during the meeting. 	<p>Per the Executive Boards request, the Annual Meeting will be held in-person with a virtual option. Attendees will be EB, NWCG staff, committee, and subcommittee chairs. Aitor will serve as the liaison to NIMSIC to assist with the planning and preparation. This will also be an outstanding agenda item until the meeting date.</p>
<p>NWCG Wildland Fire Staff Ride Guide, PMS 470:</p>	<p>APPROVAL of PMS 470</p>
<p>NWCG Executive Board Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EB representative needs to be appointed. • In line with third NWCG EB priority of supporting committees. • Recognition is important. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acknowledgement on the website and in EB Annual Letter. • IAFC would be able to fund \$300, maybe more, for awards each year. • Staff could collect nominations and EB can review. • One or multiple awards per year for any category. 	<p>APPROVAL of NWCG Awards criteria. Jim Shultz appointed as EB representative to oversee the process.</p> <p>Criteria will be added to NWCG EB standard operating procedures (SOPs). Plan to present the award at the NWCG Annual Meeting. In preparation, a one-hour topic on the December EB agenda will be added to discuss nominations. Staff and Executive Board members will bring forward verbal nominations for a vote.</p>
<p>Criteria to join NWCG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edits proposed: 	<p>APPROVAL of criteria with proposed edits.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Addition of administrative impacts. ○ Addition to coordinate with parent groups regarding requests. ○ Addition of all signatory agencies. ○ Addition of the option to have liaisons/advisors to specific committees/subgroups without full membership. ● Request for consideration to join NWCG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What the organization needs from NWCG? ○ Use agreement. ○ Funding ○ Scope of involvement ○ Implementation plan ○ Assigning representatives to committees/subcommittees ○ Understanding of NWCG core mission. ○ Organizations should present to EB once request for consideration is completed. 	<p>Add criteria to join NWCG to SOPs.</p> <p>Lee will draft a Request for Consideration form.</p>
<p>FIREScope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FIREScope charter lists NWCG as a partner agency. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No expectations from FIREScope on roles NWCG needs to play. ○ Not a request to join the FIREScope board. ○ Partner agencies are invited to meetings to exchange information. ● FIREScope has eight representatives on NWCG Committees. ● Bidaburu and Litzenberg attend FIREScope meetings. 	<p>APPROVAL for NWCG to be partner agency.</p> <p>McDonald will draft a response letter and send out to EB for comments.</p>
<p>NWCG Futuring Webinar with Forest Guild Facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leader's intent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Task- What is to be done? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitate the NWCG EB in strategic planning discussions around a future vision and operational approach. ○ Purpose- Why is it to be done? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff and EB have the desire to reimagine how NWCG approaches its important work. ○ End state- How should it look when done? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clarify strategic priorities, produce adaptable tools for achieving desired impact, and create a dynamic implementation plan. ● Definitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Futuring- using a systematic process for thinking, picturing, and planning for the future. 	<p>EB members and staff were requested to add input to the homework provided by Forest Guild.</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Impact map- one-page, visual tool that connects a desired future impact to enabling conditions, activities, and resources.○ Strategic vision- a coherent and straightforward statement that outlines in broad terms what the organization wants to accomplish.○ Strategic priorities- objectives an organization hopes to achieve first of a longer list.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Critical priority- an objective that must be successfully accomplished within a specified amount of time.▪ Important priority- effort that can have a significant positive impact on performance.▪ Desirable priority- an effort with a desired outcome but that the organization cannot commit specific resources over a specifiable time.○ Implementation plan- a document capturing the steps needed to accomplish the objectives.● Futuring outcomes and outputs:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Outcomes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Identify what NWCG wants to accomplish.▪ Forward thinking approach to meeting changing wildland fire environment.○ Outputs:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Impact map▪ Clear articulation of NWCG’s strategic priorities.▪ Draft plan for implementing objectives, resources, and timing.● Futuring process:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ September 19-20, 2023: in-person meeting focused on future visioning.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Determine strategic vision/desired impact.▪ Build impact map.▪ Align on strategic priorities.▪ Identify objectives, resources, and timing for strategic priorities.○ October/November: utilize outputs from September to frame proposed operational approach.○ December 12-13, 2023: in-person meeting focused on operational approach.○ December/January: process outputs, share summary materials.○ 2024+: implement the plan.● Last year’s visioning will feed into an adaptable impact map and dynamic implementation plan.● Exercise and homework:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ What impact do you want NWCG to have in the next five years?○ What must be true in order to achieve this impact?	

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