

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

April 19, 2023

NWCG Executive Board: Kim Van Hemelryck (DOI OWF Liaison), Jeff Arnberger (BLM), Garth Fisher (BIA), Jim Karels (NASF), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Dave Haston (USFS), Jim Shultz (NPS), Jim Durglo (ITC), Anne Jewell (DoD), Mike Ellsworth (Acting for FWS), Aitor Bidaburu (USFA Acting NWCG Chair)

FMB: Aitor Bidaburu (USFA) Brad Koekeritz (OAS), Chuck Russel (NPS), Stephen Nelson (USFS), Sarah Fisher (USFS), Aaron Baldwin (BIA), Meagan Conry (BLM), Erin Horsburgh (OWF), Chris Wilcox – Chair (FWS)

NMAC: Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Jim Karels (NASF), Chuck Russel (NPS), Josh Simmons (BIA), Dave Haston (USFS), Jeff Arnberger – Chair (BLM)

NWCG Staff: Katie Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Katy O’Hara (Coordinator), Sarah Lee (Coordinator), Annie Benoit (Training Program Manager), Erica Lamb (Publications Manager), Jesse Bender (IWDG Coordinator), Chelsea McKinney (Acting IPTM Project Manager) Omaira Falcon (Webmaster), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

Guests: Dana Lee (NPS), Toni Suminski (BLM), Mike Haydon (IWDG), Jeph Cunningham (IWDG), Jackie Martin (BIA), Marlene Eno-Hendren (IPSC), Eric Fransted (RMC), Sean Peterson (NCSC), Derrek Hartman (PSOG), Nick Nauslar (PSOG), Cheryl Bright (PSOG), Robyn Heffernan (NWS), Larry Van Bussum (NWS)

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM) – (Systems Improvement) Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Positions Underway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Finishing up Crew Boss (CRWB). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CRWB cohort will also be testing the Next Generation position task books (Next Gen PTBs). ▪ Cohort will be providing feedback throughout the process. ○ Faller 3 (FAL3) in development stage. ○ Faller 2 (FAL2) in the process of decided the type of training that will be most effective. Leaning toward online self-study. ○ Faller 1 (FAL1) will kick off soon. ○ Fixed Wing Parking Tender (FWPT) continuing to be worked on internally. ○ Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2 (RXB2) will be certified in May. ○ Medical Unit Leader (MEDL) looking to have the draft course finished the end of May and a test course in July. • Large IPTM Contract: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Final review of quotes and interviews. ○ Awarding contract mid-May. ○ Initial position kickoff dates: 	<p>N/A</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ June 26th Helicopter Crew Member (HECM), July 10th Safety Officer Line (SOFR or SOFF), July 24th Equipment Time Recorder (EQTR) and Personal Time Recorder (PTRC), and August 7th Status/Check-In Recorder (SCKN). ○ Starting work on Basic Incident Management Team (IMT) training soon. ○ Leadership will play a huge role in the success of IPTM by supporting employees to participate as subject matter experts (SMEs). 	
<p>Incident Workforce Development Group (IWDG) Quarterly Update and Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accomplishments To-Date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications</i>, PMS 310-1, published in January with standards for the seven CIM Command and General Staff (C&G) positions, including PTBs. ○ NMAC issued correspondence on 2023 national rotation and Complex Incident Management Teams (CIMT) configuration, which takes effect in 2024. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plan to issue guidance on 2024 national rotation following fall after action review (AAR). ○ Agency Administration (AA) Subgroup established and actively engaged. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recently issued memo, Expectations for AAs in Implementation of CIM, which FMB will forward on to agency executives for dissemination. ○ Data analysis has been completed to include 2022 IMT composition and 2015 – 2023 average IMT assignment numbers. ○ All issued correspondence and data available on IWDG website (https://www.nwcg.gov/partners/iwdg) and StoryMap. • Current Taskings/ Work in Progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NMAC tasking to Coordinating Group Advisory Council (CGAC) to standardize appropriate geographic area processes and procedures, to include preparedness levels, drawdowns, and priority trainee assignments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Response due from CGAC by July 1. ○ NMAC tasking to IWDG to develop framework for virtual support and identify options for incident surge capacity, including inclusion of non-traditional agencies in fire support. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Response due from IWDG by November 1. ○ NWCG tasking to Incident Position Standards Committee (IPSC) to establish IMT Course Steering Committee and develop the basic IMT course by January 2025 and the advanced course by January 2026. ○ NMAC finalizing tasking to be issued to CGAC to provide transition plans and data points by June 15. 	<p>NMAC to gather intel from geographic areas on CIMT Coordinator position.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Plans should answer geographic-specific steps to implement CIMTs by January 2024.○ IWDG working with representative groups and others to develop IMT standards which can ensure interoperability across IMTs but also provide criteria for training and metrics for evaluations.○ Incident Business Committee (IBC) leveraging work of IWDG and NIMS Integration Committee (NIMSIC) to evaluate alternative options for hiring Administratively Determined (AD) personnel for fire support.○ Once responses are received on taskings, governance bodies will need to make timely decisions and issue correspondence to provide information to geographic areas and IMTs for 2024 implementation.● Needs and Support:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Continue consistent communication with stakeholders and affected personnel.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Emphasize value of feedback throughout the transition year to support adjustments to implementation decisions.○ Incident Command Application Program (ICAP) needs to be ready by September for use by geographic areas for 2024 IMT applications and selections.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ This will ensure a single automated source for data on IMT composition as well.○ Working with NIMSIC and representatives from FEMA to issue correspondence on CIM's applicability towards grant funding for state and local entities.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Will prompt the work on incorporating CIM into complexity guide and NIMS.▪ Anticipate providing letters of support from each charter group, along with some from individual entities/agencies.○ With full implementation one year away, awareness of timelines and decisions is important for charter groups.○ Will begin planning fall AAR soon and establish dates to avoid conflicts later.○ Review and discuss next steps with CIMT Coordinator Briefing Paper.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Will outline recommendation for all geographic areas and National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC).▪ All pieces of CIMT management at one desk, similar to the crew desk.▪ BLM is currently working through the process to create CIMT Coordinator position at NICC.▪ NMAC will discuss at next meeting.▪ Will need guidance and direction from NMAC and FMB to move forward.	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Liaisons should confer with the geographic areas to understand perspectives. ▪ Bender and Peterson will follow up with additional details on proposed position description and duties. 	
<p>Risk Management Committee (RMC) Days Off/Fatigue Update and Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RMC created a task group to review research and history on number of days off and other fatigue related policies. ○ Summary of Wildland Firefighter Fatigue https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/committee/docs/rmc-fatigue-wff-research-summary-2022.pdf ○ No research has been conducted on this topic in the United States. • Days Off Policy and Fatigue Mitigation Recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RMC’s recommends changes on agency days off policies and proposed development of fatigue mitigation measures for wildland firefighter community. ○ Conducting targeted studies that address current gaps in the research will better inform the specifics of a fatigue management framework. ○ Develop a proactive approach to fatigue management and be able to make real-time, evidence-based adjustments. ○ Findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The standard number of days off required upon return from a 14-day assignment ranges from 2 to 3 days with discretion to grant additional days off. 3 days is not enough time to recover according to available research. ▪ Current required home unit days off range from “2 in any 14” to “1 off in 21” with the same discretion to grant additional days off. ○ Recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1) RMC and IBC should develop an NWCG standard on recommended days off that are based on a sliding scale, allow for adjustments based on shift length and fatigue levels, and include recommendations for on and off unit assignments and non-suppression work. Tighten up loopholes in current policy. ▪ 2) RMC and IBC should develop an NWCG standard on fatigue management that is based on the new firefighter pay structure. ▪ 3) RMC requests assistance from Medical and Public Health Advisory Team (MPHAT) and the Joint Wildland Firefighter Health and Wellness Program to design, fund, and 	<p>Decision: Recommendations #1 and #2 must be based on scientific findings, before making any proposed policy changes.</p> <p>APPROVAL for RMC to bring recommendation #3 to FMB to task MPHAT for assistance to define and guide scope of fatigue research. NASF and IAFC request to have representation during these discussions.</p>

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<p>implement an interagency study and device/dashboard trial. Design an evidence-based system to inform the wildland fire community on proper fatigue management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Booz Allen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Military contractor for human performance. ○ Can provide incident level dashboard for fatigue levels. ○ Data to support decisions. • NWCG sets standards, but it's up to the agency to issue policy. 	
<p>NWCG IT Capabilities – Prioritization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWCG IT capability requirement statements are high-level descriptions of specific business needs developed through Wildland Fire Information and Technology (WFIT). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Process for how best to support committees' engagement with WFIT. • NWCG staff developed priority recommendations for NWCG EB approval once a quarter, the month prior to the Joint Session. • Prioritization viability criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Relevance, purview, collaboration, sustainability, feasibility, and efficiency. ○ Each capability is evaluated by applying values to rating criteria that reflect the mission of NWCG and wildland fire in relation to the proposed capability's relative importance. ○ Does the application fill a gap? ○ Only look at priorities process with new business. • 300 total applications, 150 that have a touch point with NWCG, 15 that have NWCG budget funds. • Priorities were presented to WFIT and supported. 	N/A
<p>National Predictive Services Oversight Group (PSOG) Long-Term Plan/Integrated Fire Environment Decision Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ January 2022 - Briefing to FMB and NMAC on impending issues for Fire Danger and the 7-day. ○ February 2022 – Short-Term Plan (STP) developed and implemented. ○ September 2022 - Joint presentation on the Long-Term Plan (LTP). ○ December 2022 – First draft of LTP to PSOG. ○ March 2023 – PSOG came to consensus on 14 concepts of LTP to move forward with. • Analysis and Findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Examined fire environment decision support system based on all levels, jurisdictions and needs of fire management and other stakeholders. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technology and science components lack coordination, inconsistent management, and need updates or updated standards. 	FMB supports concept.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ System has not evolved to be able to support increased demand from prescribed fire and wildfire activity, standardized products or to provide a common operating picture. ▪ Operational use is constrained by administrative boundaries and affecting prediction capability, data integrity, and reliability of decision support data and products at all levels. • Integrated Fire Environment Decision Support Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recommend supporting the concept of partnership with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and National Weather Service (NWS) for Integrated Fire Environment Decision Support Services (IFEDSS). ○ Support a proposal for the establishment of a Fire Environment Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Could support prescribed and wildland fire needs. ▪ Similar to the National Hurricane Center. • Fixing the “System”, Meeting Current and Future Needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agreement and support from interagency fire leadership to actively pursue defining requirements and the management business model necessary to ensure our current interagency fire environment provides science-based fire environment data and products in a consistent, accurate, and reliable manner at all levels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Request an Interagency Governance Board for Fire Environment Science and Technology. ▪ Utilize the best available data, science, and research into decision support products. ▪ Leverage existing research and development conduits and programs. ▪ Promote comprehensive fire environment data and product standard development. ▪ Enhanced support for the Remote Sensing Fire Weather Unit (RSFWU) and Remote Automated Weather System (RAWS) maintenance. ▪ Ensure reliable and science-based infrastructure support. ▪ Support a proof-of-concept organization of 1–3-year NTEs from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding. • Predictive Services Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PSOG is requesting from FMB additional direction on a path forward for Predictive Services with two possible pathways. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organizational structure and program management centered around NICC and GACCs with discussions of finding and a minimum standard for consistency. ▪ A National Program with direct dedicated funding to meet all needs and customers of the Predictive Services at local, geographic area, and national levels. 	
<p>Aviation Dispatch Requirements Update:</p>	<p>NCSC will update at Joint session in October.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommendations made in the National Coordination System Committee (NCSC) Memorandum 2022-05 have not been aggressively addressed by the agencies to meet the needs of Forest Service policy requirements for implementation in 2024.• Interagency dispatch centers are showing 400 vacancies nationally, including dozens of primary aircraft dispatcher positions.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ NCSC recommended that all tier three (local) dispatch centers will at minimum have two permanent full-time GS-9 Aircraft Dispatchers (ACDPs) with some dispatch centers requiring a third position.• Availability of training courses to achieve the ACDP qualification continue to be a challenge.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Multiple Interagency Aviation Training (IAT) courses have been added to the Consolidated Dispatch Applications Training (CDAT).• Decrease in overall ACDPs in the system.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Trainees are working initial attack consoles at dispatch centers.○ Cumulative fatigue is contributing to dispatcher burnout.○ Local dispatch centers do not have the staff to allow off unit assignments to work on PTBs, but also home units are reluctant to sign off PTBs without an off-unit assignment.○ Forming a task group to develop a National Dispatching Academy.	

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