

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

October 17, 2023

NWCG Executive Board: Kim Van Hemelryck (DOI OWF Liaison), Jeff Arnberger (BLM), Garth Fisher (BIA), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Joe Sean Kennedy (Acting USFS), Jim Shultz (NPS), Jim Durglo (ITC), Anne Jewell (DoD), Shane McDonald – Chair (FWS)

FMB: Brad Koekeritz (OAS), Jason Fallon (NPS), Aaron Baldwin (BIA), Reeve Armstrong (BIA), Erin Horsburgh (OWF), Meagan Conry – Acting Chair (BLM)

NMAC: Jason Fallon (NPS), Josh Simmons (BIA), Dave Haston (USFS), Jeff Arnberger – Chair (BLM)

NWCG Staff: Katie Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Sarah Lee (NWCG Deputy Program Manager), Toni Suminski (IPTM Project Manager), Katy O’Hara (Coordinator), Erica Lamb (Publications Manager), Eric Coulter (Communications Lead), Omaira Falcon (Webmaster), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

Guests: Eric Fransted (RMC), Kaili McCray (MPHAT)

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>NWCG/FMB Fatigue Research Tasking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Background:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Risk Management Committee (RMC) has been reviewing fatigue research and associated mitigation standards for over a year.○ Given this complicated subject, scientific research is needed before changes can be proposed.○ RMC briefed FMB, NMAC, and the NWCG Executive Board (EB) during the April Joint Session and all three parent bodies agreed on the need to conduct further research on wildland firefighter fatigue.○ FMB also discussed this topic last week.• Purpose:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ To task RMC and Wildland Fire Medical and Public Health Advisory Team (MPHAT) with developing a wildland firefighter fatigue research plan and facilitating research plan execution as approved.○ Research results are intended to better inform potential beneficial changes to current fatigue and work/rest related policies.• Need to ensure States and locals representatives are included.• An interdisciplinary team will need to be created.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Engage science experts to develop the projects.• Current deliverables are very broad.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ During the initial tasking MPHAT and RMC will scope the project and then a decision will be made on how to proceed.○ A project plan will be a deliverable from this tasking.	<p>FMB will task MPHAT as the lead and include in the tasking to work closely with RMC, JFSP, State and local government to develop a Wildland Firefighter Fatigue Research Project.</p> <p>Updates will be presented at Joint Sessions.</p> <p>Initial deliverables will include: who is designated to be a part of the team recommendations on next steps.</p> <p>RMC will incorporate new research into previous RMC literature review and share with MPHAT.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Define the need from the field. ● MPHAT and RMC will coordinate with Firefighter Health and Wellness Team. ● Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conducted a survey for literature review. ○ Funds allocated for firefighter wellness. 	
<p>Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM) Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On track to complete analysis phase on all ten positions started this year. ○ Faller 1,2,3 – planning and development phase. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Faller 3 test course will be conducted next week. ○ Fixed Wing Parking Tender – development phase. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Starting work on Unit 6. ○ Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2 – sent to Fuels Management Committee to review. ○ Crew Boss – finalizing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Needs to be certified by the committee. ▪ Will be presented for EB approval soon. ○ Medical Unit Leader – second test course to be held in December. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conducting a “Train the Trainer” prior to delivering the course. ○ Safety Officer, Field – reviewing analysis phase deliverables. ○ Personnel Time Recorder/Equipment Time Recorder/Status Check-in – awaiting analysis phase deliverables. ○ Firing Boss – analysis phase October 23. ○ Felling Boss – analysis phase November 6. ○ Aircraft Base Radio Operator – virtual analysis phase November 6 using HECM SMEs who have previously participated in the in-person analysis phase process. ○ Expanded Dispatch Recorder/Expanded Dispatch Support Dispatcher – analysis phase November 27. ○ Incident Management Team (IMT) course – analysis October 23. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funded using non-BIL funds, through the IPTM blanket purchase agreement (BPA). ▪ Call order #2. ○ S-130, Firefighter Training – call order #3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awarded before end of 2023. ▪ Will support the Firefighter Type 2 position. ▪ Partially funded by Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). ▪ Awarded to start December 2024. 	<p>When possible, highlight course time saved per position. Identify a contingency plan for funding.</p> <p>McDonald requests that EB members actively make IPTM a priority for the next five years.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Achievements:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Fully staffed soon.○ Coulter onboarded as Communications Lead.○ Dunn onboarded as Subject Matter Expert (SME) Specialist.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Will be reaching out to EB members regarding SME funding.○ Great support from Kelly Houghton, our Contracting Officer.○ Positive feedback from SMEs.○ Order #1 modification and order #3 awarded.○ Detailed four Writer/Editors have created quicker turn arounds.○ Using BPA as a vehicle to support other critical NWCG work.○ Gaining efficiencies.○ After action review following each phase.○ Combining similar positions is saving time.• Challenges:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ After finding the efficiencies then pivoting as needed.○ Travel and salary support for SMEs.○ Communications strategy.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Increase conversations with the field, from all levels.○ Committee availability/health.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Effective leadership, agency representation, and availability○ Project schedule.○ Planning for unknowns.○ Competing priorities.○ Burnout of staff and committees.• Next steps:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Schedule committee review/approval of analysis recommendations.○ SME recruitment for future positions.○ Training of newly onboarded NWCG staff.○ Continuing process improvement.○ Continuing to socialize and inform the field on IPTM effort.○ Planning for future year performance packages and just-in-time projects.○ IMT kick-off meeting with contractor October 17.• Funding:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ BPA is the overarching guiding performance work order.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Call orders allow for obligation of funds against the overarching BPA	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BIL funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funded – \$4,525,000 ▪ Obligated – \$3,292,000 ○ Call order #1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First ten positions ▪ Status – phase 1 ▪ Funded – #3,066,373 ▪ Spent – 285,013 ▪ Phase’s 2,3,4 require the bulk of the funds ▪ Extending call order to November of 2024 ○ Call order #2 IMT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funded – \$784,579 ▪ Not funded under BIL ▪ Funded under overarching BPA ○ Call order #3 S-130: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funded – \$369,792 ▪ BIL funding – \$69,762 ▪ Funded under overarching BPA ○ Futuring 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$5.6 million to \$8.4 million ▪ 20 to 30 positions ○ Without the current level of funding proposed timelines are not attainable. ● Timeline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initiation and planning – 100 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initial steward briefing ▪ Detailed steward briefing ▪ SMEs selected. ▪ SME initial kick-off meeting ○ Analysis – 70 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Start working with contractor ▪ In-person weeklong meeting with SMEs and contractor ○ Design – 72 days ○ Development – 81 days ○ Evaluation – 30 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Last phase working with contractor 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Certification and closeout – 45-90 days○ Average time per position is based on low and moderate positions and no delays – approximately 428 days	

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