



Executive Board: Heath Cota (USFS-Acting), Greg Smith (NASF), Shane McDonald (FWS), Jon Wallace (FWS), Jim Shultz (NPS), Erin Horsburgh (NPS), Sarah Brown (RD&A), Jim Durglo (ITC), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Kim Van Hemelryck (OWF), Jeff Arnberger (BLM), Garth Fisher (BIA), Heath Hockenberry (NWS), Anne Jewell (DoD), Parimal Kopardekar (NASA), Aitor Bidaburu - Chair (USFA)

NWCG Staff: Katie Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Sarah Lee (Deputy Program Manager), Toni Suminski (IPTM Project Manager), Katy O’Hara (Coordinator), Carmen Thomason (Coordinator), Dave Schultz (Coordinator), Erica Lamb (Publications Manager), Eric Coulter (Communications Lead), Heather Gonzales (Supervisory Training Specialist), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

Guests: Nick Nauslar (NWS), Jim Wallmann (FWS), Sam Storms (BLM), Steve Griffin (NIMSIC), Mike Ellsworth (IPSC), Mike Falkowski (NASA), Steve Weidner (NASA), Greg Alder (USAID)

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM) Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faller 2, Faller 3, and Fixed-Wing Parking Tender are in the development phase. • Medical Unit Leader is in the final review of the Performance Support Package. • Helicopter Crewmember and Safety Officer, Field are in the design phase with design workshops complete. • Personnel Time Recorder, Equipment Time Recorder, Status/Check-In Recorder, Firing Boss, and Felling Boss are in phase 1 committee approval phase. • Achievements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Crew Boss and Prescribed Burn Boss 2 are certified. ○ Scheduled to brief at Geographic Area Incident Management Team (IMT) meetings this spring. ○ Smartsheets is being developed for dashboards and reporting in real time. • Risks and Challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Travel funds for subject matter experts (SMEs). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In-person workshops are extremely important. ○ Scare skill gaps: technical writers and online developers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NWCG has only one online developer currently. ○ An increase in required training recommendations will now require Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC) approval in phase 5 instead of phase 1. • Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SME recruitment video launched. 	<p>N/A</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continuing process improvement. ○ Continuing to socialize and inform the field. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developing Communications Strategy. ○ Next contract order’s award date is March 4. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We will be hosting a 16-position analysis rodeo April 29-May 9. ▪ Initial Attack Dispatcher, Aircraft Dispatcher, Expanded Support Dispatcher, Expanded Dispatch Coordinator, Documentation Unit Leader, Demobilization Unit Leader, Resource Unit Leader, Incident Commanders Type 5, Firefighter Type 1, Engine Boss, Public Information Officer Technician, Public Information Officer 3, Resource Advisor, Resource Advisor Fireline, Resource Advisor Coordinator, and Archeologist. ● Course Creation/Revision not funded under Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ S-130, Firefighter Training – kickoff February 26. ○ S-390, Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations – drafting statement of work. ○ S-490, Advanced Fire Behavior Calculations – drafting statement of work. ○ Introduction to IMT (Basic) – development phase. ○ Advanced IMT – kickoff planned for April 2024. ● Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approved - \$27.5 million ○ Funded - \$16.5 million ○ Obligated - \$4.2 million ○ Planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 16 position - \$10 million 	
<p>Memorandum and Transition Plan for the removal of the Haines Index (HI) and Lightning Activity Level (LAL) from NWCG products – Fire Weather Subcommittee (FWSC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Originally presented to the Executive Board (EB) in November. ● Requesting EB support to discontinue the use of HI and LAL in fire weather forecasts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Once the NWS receives this memorandum of support there will be a 30-day public comment period, followed by other internal NWS processes prior to full implementation of the transition plan. ● Background: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FWSC has spent years working on these recommendations and consulting SMEs. 	<p>SUPPORT for HI and LAL Memorandum and Transition Plan.</p> <p>Addition of the HI and LAL Communication Plan to the June or July EB agenda.</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HI is unsupported by research in predicting large fire growth and is not a metric of atmospheric stability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If adopted fire weather forecasts would contain information on atmospheric stability in the discussion section. ○ LAL is a duplicate of the thunderstorm coverage product that is already in fire weather forecasts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential for lightning would be highlighted in the sky weather section. ● Transition Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FWSC and the Fire Environment Committee (FENC), recommend the discontinued use and removal of all references to HI and LAL within NWCG products as of January 1, 2025, should the National Weather Service (NWS) make the decision to remove. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will coincide with the 2025 edition of the <i>NWCG Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG)</i>, PMS 461. ○ 	
<p>Annual Meeting Run of Show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual Meeting agenda review and logistics. 	N/A
<p>Monthly IMT Course Steering Committee (IMTCSC) Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On track, phase 2 for the basic IMT course was completed in January. ● Developing a storyboard and FAQs. ● Design workshop scheduled for April 22-25 for advanced IMT. ● Scheduling the alpha test of the basic IMT course in southern California in June, and the beta will be in the eastern area. ● Jeff Arnberger will be transitioning with Greg Smith as the EB Liaison. 	N/A
<p>Type 1 Pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussions over the winter has prompted the discussion of closing the Type 1 pathways sooner rather than later. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not closing the pathways has created confusion. ○ California has agreed to support Complex Incident Management (CIM). ○ IPSC supports closing the pathways now. 	<p>APPROVAL to remove the Type 1 pathways. Will revise the previous memorandum via email.</p> <p>Topic will be added to March EB agenda if the memorandum cannot be finalized via email.</p>
<p>2024 EB Off-Site Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attending the World Fire Conference will not be possible this year. ● NASA volunteered to host the EB Off-Site Meeting May 20-24 in California at Moffett Field. 	APPROVAL for NASA to host the 2024 EB Off-Site Meeting.

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<p>Next Generation Position Task Books (Next Gen PTBs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of IPTM, a draft Next Gen PTB was evaluated during the 2022 and 2023 fire seasons. • Developed to streamline and modernize NWCG incident position packages. • Increases trainee/evaluator communication and enhances speed to competency. • IPSC approved the Next Gen PTBs. • Improvements in the Next Gen PTBs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Task statements are derived directly from the Incident Position Description and new Incident Position Standards. Only includes those tasks required to be evaluated for successful performance in the position. ○ Designed to be used in conjunction with the Incident Position Standards to set the baseline standards and expectations for successful performance. Support constructive conversations between the evaluator and trainee. ○ Evaluators will no longer initial whether a task has been completed or not, instead they will rate the trainee on their performance. ○ Addition of “S” code for simulation. ○ Allows use of multiple codes for the type of training assignment. ○ Relevant Leadership Level is included for each position. ○ Next Gen PTBs will be position specific, there will be no combined PTBs. • Transition Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Next Gen PTBs will be made available for a position when the IPTM process and corresponding position package has been completed. ○ Once a Next Gen PTB is published for the position, the current “Classic” PTB will no longer be available from NWCG. 	N/A
<p>New Publication – NWCG Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Field Guide, PMS 053:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced PMS 053 which will be a companion to <i>NWCG Standards for Mitigation in the Wildland Urban Interface</i>, PMS 052. • PMS 053 will be available on the web as a PDF and hard copy from Great Basin Cache. 	Decision on PMS 053 at March EB Meeting.
<p>Support to the Incident Workforce Development Group (IWDG):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) requested that IWDG make a video regarding CIM and asked about NWCG ability to assist with this effort. • NWCG Media does not have the capacity to support this request at this time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NWCG Media is understaffed with three vacancies. ○ A 5–7-minute video requires 50 plus hours of work to finalize and polish. 	N/A

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NWCG Meeting Notes

February 20, 2024

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Detailers are currently used to support the WFSTAR program which has become the preferred platform to distribute information.● Suggested that IWDG could submit a budget request to NWCG to fund the video via the Media Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA), see if funding from their FY2024 request could be used or seek out other support from agency AV specialist for BSU.	

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