



NWCG Meeting Notes

March 19, 2024

Executive Board: Dave Haston (USFS), Greg Smith (NASF), Jon Wallace (FWS), Erin Horsburgh (NPS), Jim Durglo (ITC), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Kim Van Hemelryck (OWF), Steve Shaw (BLM), Garth Fisher (BIA), Heath Hockenberry (NWS), Neil Clineman (DoD – Acting), Mike Falkowski (NASA – Acting), and Aitor Bidaburu – Chair (USFA)

NWCG Staff: Katie Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Sarah Lee (Deputy Program Manager), Katy O’Hara (Coordinator), Carmen Thomason (Coordinator), Dave Schultz (Coordinator), Colby Jackson (Deputy Training Program Manager), Daniel Staab (Training Specialist), Dave Frey (Training Specialist), Erica Lamb (Publications Manager), Matt Dunn (Training Specialist), and Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

Guests: Dan Jimenez (FBSC), Mark Jackson (FMC) Marlene Eno-Hendren (IPSC), Steve Weidner (NASA)

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>Safety Zone Calculations – Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated the Executive Board following the presentation on safety zones last spring. • Has presented this information to a wide audience. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Engaged in many positive, organic discussions with the field. ○ Developed ways to incorporate the science into field operations. • Original calculation $SSD=4XFH$: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developed for flat terrain with no wind. ○ Based on radiant heat only and does not account for convective heat from wind and/or terrain influences. ○ Currently only calculating for half of the factors in the fire environment. • New calculation Safe Separation Distance ($SSD=8XVH \times \Delta$): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will require larger safety zone areas. ○ Considers the fire environment which includes both radiant and convective heat. ○ New calculation is more dynamic. ○ Low to moderate wind speeds and slope are based on strong supporting data. ○ High winds speeds and slope are more difficult to replicate. • New heat transfer model: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Based on lab/field data and computer modeling. ○ Low wind speed and slope. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Total heat flux = 1 to 2x radiant heat flux. ○ Moderate wind speed and slope. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Total heat flux = 2 to 3x radiant heat flux. 	<p>Hockenberry and Jimenez will connect to discuss integration within the fire weather forecast.</p>

Additional information beyond these meeting notes (i.e., handouts, presentations, maps, etc.) will require a FOIA request to ensure proper privacy regulations are followed. Please request via FOIA Online website <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>.



Topic & Notes	Decision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High wind speed and slope. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Total heat flux = 4 to 5x radiant heat flux. ▪ Limited supporting data. ○ Reference table with calculations highlighted in yellow or red signal to fire managers to reassess and rethink tactics. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tool for open discussion regarding tactics. ● Desire is for the new guideline to be adopted into the <i>NWCG Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG)</i>, PMS 461, however this may be difficult given timelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Submitted request for change to Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC) in February 2023. ○ Conducted a beta test and requested user feedback via QR code during the 2023 fire season. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will expand testing and feedback this season 2024. ○ Optimistic that the new calculation will be in the 2025 IRPG revision. ● SSD evaluator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Web product that allows those in the field to see safety zones in the landscapes they are operating in. ○ Currently improving fuel model layers. ● Wildland safety evaluator app: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mobile application under development. ○ 2024/2025 launch date. ○ Evaluates how many acres needed for a safety zone with on-the-spot data. 	
<p>Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM) Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Achievements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Helicopter Crewmember and Safety Officer, Field design workshops are complete. ○ Medical Unit Leader in final review. ○ Smartsheets is being developed for dashboards and reporting in real time. ○ Subject matter experts (SMEs) recruitment video launch – increase of 200+ button pushes. ● Risks and Challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Travel funds for 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. 	<p>Dunn will share SME groups representation for IPTM projects with the Executive Board (EB).</p>



Topic & Notes	Decision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unintended consequences of recommended changes; more training coming out of analysis and being recommended by committees. ● Next Steps: <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. ○ Planning for future year performance packages and just-in-time projects. ○ Next contract order’s award date was 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, Resources Unit Leader, Incident Commander Type 5, Firefighter Type 1, Engine Boss, Single Resource; Public Information Officer, Technician, Public Information Officer Type 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 was 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 Incident Management Teams (IMTs) (Basic) – development phase. ○ Advanced IMT – kickoff planned for April. ○ 	
<p>Prescribed Fire Practitioner Alternative Pathways Tasking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This topic was discussed extensively at the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC). ● Intent is to have more practitioners to increase capacity in the field. ● Currently changes need to be made in agency policy before NWCG develops standards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conflicts currently exist with policy for some agencies. ● Agencies will have to adjust policies before any NWCG standards can be developed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Legislation could be coming out to assist the agencies. ● Draft FMC response, presented in August 2023 to the EB, is the best path forward. 	<p>At this time, there will be no tasking to the Fuels Management Committee (FMC). FMC was asked to query their agencies to determine who supports the development of alternate pathways as a supplement to the 310-1 outside of NWCG.</p>
<p>2024 Annual Meeting Feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Summarized feedback from the QR code. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Received 37 responses. 	<p>N/A</p>

Additional information beyond these meeting notes (i.e., handouts, presentations, maps, etc.) will require a FOIA request to ensure proper privacy regulations are followed. Please request via FOIA Online website <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>.



Topic & Notes	Decision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overall, the attendees enjoyed the meeting. ○ Met or exceeded attendee expectations. ○ Recommended that the meeting be in-person every other year. ● Potential Actions items from EB Listening Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop checklist/cover page for EB decision and briefing topics. ○ Create dashboard on the website to show committee/subgroup work efforts. ○ Start a NWCG newsletter. ○ Share information on how to find out if an instructor is on the FEMA Approved Instructor list on the NWCG website. ○ Send an expectations letter or a thank you letter to committee chairs’ supervisors. ○ Revise current Connections Calls format. ○ Add an NWCG organizational chart to the website. 	
<p>Annual Meeting FY2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NWCG staff proposed to host an in-person Annual Meeting on even years and half day virtual meetings on odd years. ● Virtual meeting FY2025 with expanded invitations. ● NWCG Staff will host future Annual Meetings. 	<p>APPROVAL of Annual Meeting proposal. FY2025 meeting will be a half day virtually and, in the future, even years will be in-person, and odd years will be virtual to balance the staff-work.</p>
<p>2024 EB Off-Site Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NASA volunteered to host the EB Off-Site Meeting May 20-24 in California at Moffett Field (Palo Alto, CA). ● Agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tuesday – EB Meeting and NASA Presentations ○ Wednesday and Thursday – tours/highlights ● An email will be sent out regarding base access one month prior to the meeting. 	<p>O’Hara will send out logistics email.</p>
<p>NWCG Long-Term Budget Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Need to have awareness on the contracts that will be in place for a significant amount of time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Must factor in maintenance phase once the projects are completed. ● Concerns regarding workload and capacity. ● First ten projects of IPTM were trial and error. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complexity and ripple effects are now being realized. ○ Many courses that are not required for positions but need revision if made required. 	<p>Add topic to April Joint Session agenda.</p> <p>Suminski will provide burn rate numbers for the EB.</p> <p>NWCG Staff to develop a business plan with 3–5-year projection.</p>

Additional information beyond these meeting notes (i.e., handouts, presentations, maps, etc.) will require a FOIA request to ensure proper privacy regulations are followed. Please request via FOIA Online website <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>.



Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>NWCG FY2025 Budget Process Overview and Upcoming Decision Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget guidance was approved by the EB in October. Proposed budget will be sent out early for review and April decision topic. 	N/A
<p>WFLC – Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention hosted the last WFLC meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations and discussions centered around the health effects of smoke. Lahm from the Smoke Committee was in attendance. Discussions regarding how more prescribed fire would be beneficial to reduce smoke issues long-term. New smoke standard discussed. Suggestions that NWCG increase capacity for prescribed fire practitioners. 	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 at February meeting. Received extensive comments from Office of Wildland Fire, which were shared with the committee for review. Further committee review and edits required prior to EB approval. 	Topic added to April EB agenda.
<p>IPSC – Complex Positions and IMT Course Steering Committee – Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complex transition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operations Branch Director (OPBD) position will be finalized including a Next Generation Position Task Book and added to the <i>NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications</i>, PMS 310-1 errata in June. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Incident Business Committee is working on classification of the AD Pay Plan for this position. IMT courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On schedule. Batch 1,2,3 storyboard developed for Introduction to IMTs (Basic). Alpha test course for Introduction to IMTs scheduled June 25-27, CAL FIRE hosting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good representation from multiple agencies. In-person IMT CSC meeting April 22-25 to focus on Introduction of IMTs. 	Shaw will assist Smith as a liaison from the EB to the IMT Course Steering Committee.