



National Wildfire Coordinating Group

Executive Board Meeting Notes

September 15, 2026

Attendees

Executive Board Primary Members (EB):

Erik Litzenberg (IAFC, Chair), Ryan Sundberg (DOW — Acting), Heath Cota (USFS), Jim Durglo (ITC), Greg Smith (NASF), Eric Fransted (USWFS)

Associate Members:

Heath Hockenberry (NWS), Steven Weidner (NASA — Alternate)

NWCG Staff:

Sarah Lee (NWCG Program Manager — Acting), Toni Suminski (Training Program Manager), Steven Gaskill (Coordinator), Nicole Oke (Coordinator), Chelsea McKinney (Publications Manager), Michael Rodriguez (Executive Secretary), Joe Schindel (EB Facilitator)

Guests:

Rick Gividen (WFLP)

Wildland Fire Learning Portal (WFLP) Quarterly Update (Informational)

☐ Decision: N/A

☐ Action Item: N/A

Notes:

- A tool is now available that works alongside existing systems, enabling rapid content creation and streamlining development through enhanced communication capabilities.
- Federal user numbers remain stable, and the most significant growth over the past few years has been among state partners and the Department of War (DOW).
- Wildland fire training was also provided to activated military personnel, as well as partners from Australia and New Zealand, using the Learning Management System (LMS).
- The overall capability has continued to increase as additional tools are integrated.
- The former DOI Office of Aviation Services (OAS) will be migrating to the Interagency Aviation Training (IAT) to the WFLP in FY27.
- Capability Overview:
 - The quarterly focus is now on capability, not just activity.
 - The LMS supports workforce readiness at scale and connects needs to measurable learning.
 - The LMS is emphasizing shared learning, standardization, and continuous improvement.
- Community Reach:
 - The LMS spans agencies and boundaries, giving immediate access to the whole wildland fire audience.
 - Existing scale provides a major readiness advantage.
- Rapid Response to Workforce Needs:
 - One system supports many learning types without rebuilding delivery.
 - Examples include operational needs, professional skills, technical development, and well-being.
 - Enables fast deployment, national reach, tracking, and ongoing evaluation.
- Workforce Intelligence:



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- LMS data shows where capability grows or needs improvement.
- Insights include who is learning, what content, when demand occurs, and how learning is applied.
- Patterns drive questions like cross-agency reach and gaps in application.
- Learning to Readiness:
 - Shared capability creates a repeatable process: identify needs, develop learning, reach workforce, measure application, improve.
 - Supported by reliable infrastructure and competency alignment.
 - Outcome: A more ready wildland fire workforce; LMS is the infrastructure behind readiness.

Training Program and Incident Performance & Training Modernization (IPTM) Update (Informational)

- ☐ Decision: N/A
- ☐ Action Item: N/A

Notes:

- IPTM
 - The IPTM StoryMap has the following information:
 - The current status of positions.
 - The link where Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) can sign up.
 - Upcoming positions.
 - There are currently 44 completed positions, 27 are in progress, and 42 are upcoming.
 - Spring 2027 positions are being analyzed to support informed decisions by the EB with respect to requiring additional training for position qualifications. The analysis of the complex positions will provide recommendations that may account for gaps between Type 3 and Complex positions. NWCG will review the analysis reports from a programmatic perspective and provide to relevant stakeholders for decisions.
- Call Order 10 — Batch 2, Spring 2027: Now Recruiting SMEs
 - Finance/Administration Section Chief Complex (FSCC)
 - Incident Commander Complex (ICCI)
 - Logistics Section Chief Complex (LSCC)
 - Operations Section Chief Complex (OSCC)
 - Planning Section Chief Complex (PSCC)
 - Safety Officer Complex (SOFC)
- In-Progress Incident Position Standards and Next Generation Position Task Book (Next Gen PTB) Development: Estimated Completion
 - Public Information Officer Type 3 (PIO3): Fall 2026
 - Aircraft Timekeeper (ATIM): Fall 2026
 - Deck Coordinator (DECK): Fall 2026
 - Compensation/Claims Unit Leader (COMP): Fall 2026
 - Cost Unit Leader (COST): Fall 2026
 - Ordering Manager (ORDM): Fall 2026
 - Receiving/Distribution Manager (RCDM): Fall 2026



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- Crew Representative (CREP): Fall 2026
- Staging Area Manager (STAM): Fall 2026
- Field Observer (FOBS): Fall 2026
- Fire Effects Monitor (FEMO): Fall 2026
- Geographic Information Systems Specialist (GISS): Fall 2026
- Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4): Spring 2027
- Heavy Equipment Boss, Single Resource (HEQB): Spring 2027
- Single Engine Airtanker Manager (SEMG): Spring 2027
- Helicopter Manager, Single Resource (HMGB): Spring 2027
- Tentative Upcoming Positions
 - October 19-23, 2026
 - Strike Team Leader Crew (STCR)
 - Strike Team Leader Engine (STEN)
 - Strike Team Leader Heavy Equipment (STEQ)
 - November 2-6, 2026
 - Advanced Faller (FAL1)
 - Equipment Manager (EQPM)
 - Mixmaster (MXMS)
 - Retardant Crew Member (RTCM)
 - November 16-20, 2026
 - Task Force Leader (TFLD)
 - Fixed Wing Parking Tender (FWPT)
 - Public Information Officer, Complex (PIOC)
 - Wildland Fire Investigator (INVF)
- New and Updated Training Courses
 - D-110, Expanded Dispatch Recorder (Instructor-led), 2026
 - D-310, Expanded Dispatch Support Dispatcher (Instructor-led), 2025
 - FI-110, Wildland Fire Observations and Origin Scene Protection for First Responders (Online), 2024
 - L-280, Followership to Leadership (Instructor-led), 2025
 - M-280, Resource Advisor, Fireline (Instructor-led), 2025
 - S-112, Introduction to Chainsaw Operations (Blended), 2025
 - S-130, Firefighter Training (Blended), 2025
 - S-131, Firefighter Type 1 (Instructor-led), 2026
 - S-204, Interpersonal and Critical Thinking Skills for Safety Officers (Online), 2024
 - S-212, Intermediate Faller (Online), 2026
 - S-219, Firing Operations (Blended), 2025
 - S-229, Single Resource Boss: 2026
 - S-230, Crew Boss (Single Resource) (Blended), 2023
 - S-231, Engine Boss (Single Resource) (Instructor-led), 2026
 - S-271, Helicopter Crewmember (Blended), 2025



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- S-290, Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior (Blended), 2025
- S-320, Introduction to Incident Management Teams (Blended), 2025
- S-359, Medical Unit Leader (Blended), 2025
- S-390, Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations (Blended), 2025
- S-490, Advanced Fire Behavior Calculations, (Blended), 2026
- X-900, Investigating Powerline Caused Wildland Fires (Online), 2025
- In-Progress Training Course Development/Revisions: Estimated Completion
 - RT-130, Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher (WFSTAR) (Instructor-led): Fall 2026
 - S-200, Initial Attack Incident Commander: May 2027
 - S-203, Introduction to Incident Information: Summer 2026
 - S-236, Heavy Equipment Boss (Single Resource): May 2027
 - S-273, Single Engine Airtanker Manager: June 2027
 - S-372, Helicopter Manager: June 2027
 - S-420, Intermediate Incident Management: October 2026
- Upcoming Training Course Development/Revisions: Estimated Kick-Off
 - FI-210, Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination (Instructor-led), 2016: Fall 2026
 - S-312, Advanced Faller (NEW!!): Fall 2026
 - S-330, Task Force/Strike Team Leader (Instructor-led), 2014: Fall 2026
- New Job Aids
 - Packing List for Wildland Fire Fireline Personnel, J-101
 - Packing List for Wildland Fire Support Staff, J-102
 - Checking In Resources Customer Service Job Aid, J-111
 - Incident Status Summary (ICS 209) Resource Count Job Aid, J-112
 - Felling Operations and Tree Analysis Job Aid, J-212
 - Thinking Skills for Risk Management, J-301
 - Expanded Dispatch Job Aid, J-601
 - Initial Attack and Aircraft Dispatcher Job Aid, J-602

NWCG Annual Meeting (Reorganization After Action Review) Planning (Informational)

☐ Decision: N/A

☐ Action Item: N/A

Notes:

- The Idaho Historical Society rooms used last year have been booked again.
- NWCG is working to identify the appropriate facilitator and determine the best method for running the after action review (AAR) (large-group session vs. breakout groups).
- EB members are being asked to provide planning support. That support includes helping select the correct facilitator and methodology for the AAR.
- Anticipated topics include defining the process for gathering and evaluating proposals for updating the new structure; determining whether stewardship should remain only with the Management Committees or shift elsewhere; and outlining how each agency will handle vetting and alignment.



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- Discussion is also needed on how to manage agency-specific business previously handled by NWCG.

Committee Branch Briefs (Informational)

- ☐ Decision: N/A
- ☐ Action Item:

Notes:

- The Coordinators provided the EB with an overview of ongoing work across the three committee branches, highlighting key leadership changes, vacancies, and current efforts related to publications, incident positions, and training courses to provide a common operating picture.

EB Executive Session (Decisional)

- ☒ Decision: The EB approved the use of NWCG contingency funding for NASF invitation travel for IPTM SMEs when state agencies are unable to provide financial support for FY2027.
- ☐ Action Item:

Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

Date: October 20, 2026

Time: 0900-1600 MDT

Location: NIFC, Old Admin Building #110, NWCG Conference Room (second floor)