



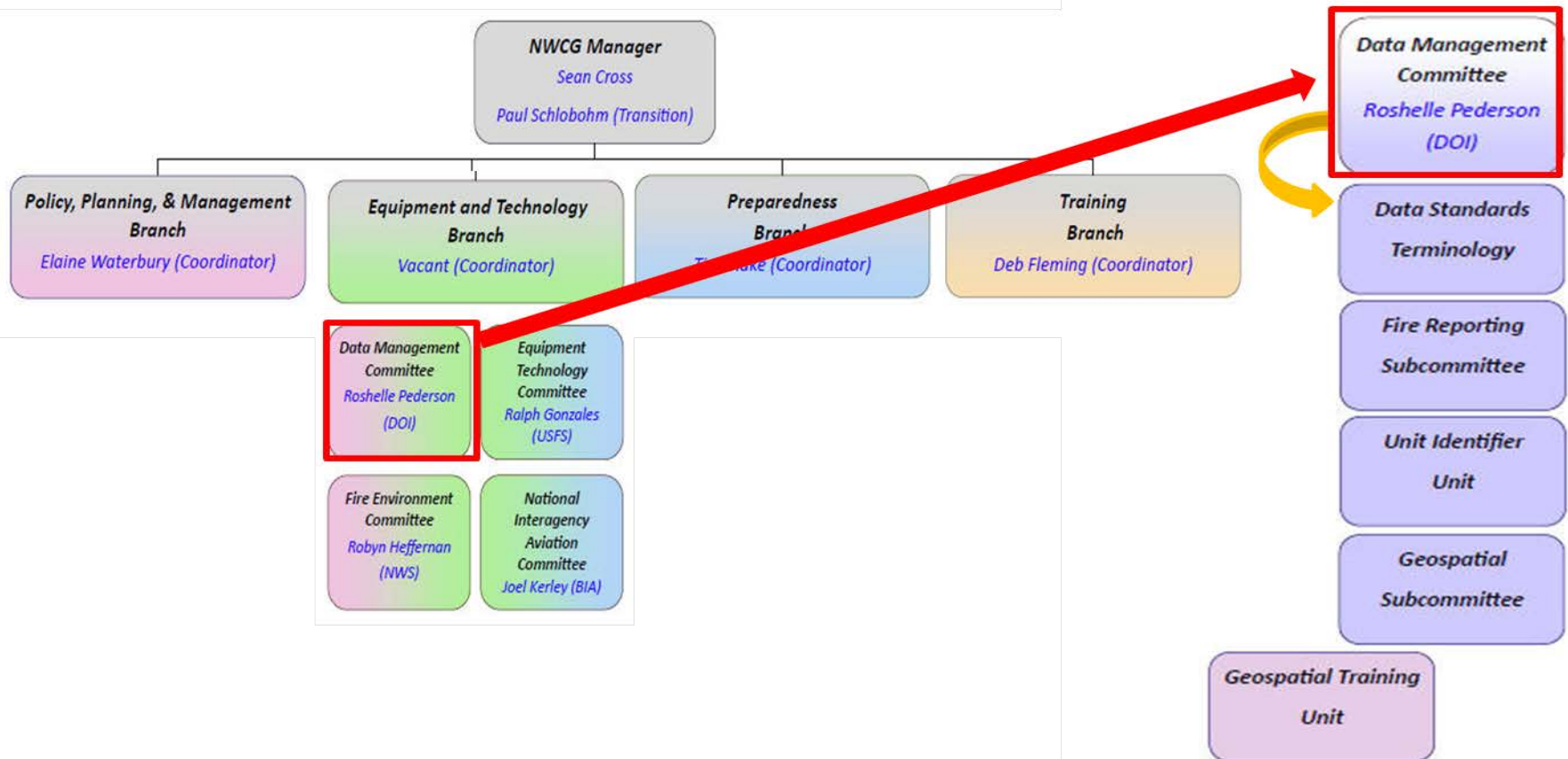
NWCG DATA STANDARDS AND TERMINOLOGY BRIEFING

2/24/2015

Data Standards and Terminology Subcommittee

Data Standards and Terminology Subcommittee (DSTS)

- **DSTS** is a subcommittee of the **Data Management** committee



Data Management Committee (DMC)

DMC Purpose

“...established to provide enterprise level management of wildland fire data for the interagency incident management community.”

DMC Responsibility

“...primarily responsible for stewardship of wildland fire data including data governance, data architecture, and data standards for efficient and effective utilization by the interagency community and information technology investment process.”

Data Standards and Terminology Subcommittee (DSTS)

- **Purpose:** To coordinate and facilitate the development, approval and maintenance of interagency wildland fire data standards and glossary entries for the wildland fire community.
- **Vision:** A consistent, timely, (and some day automated), transparent process to manage interagency data standards and wildland fire glossary terms for the wildland fire community, its partners, and stakeholders.
- **Membership:**
 - Roshelle Pederson, Co-chair
 - Kathie Hansen, Co-chair
 - Paul Schlobohm, (former) Equipment and Technology Branch Coordinator
 - Elaine Waterbury, Policy, Planning and Management Branch Coordinator
 - Tim Blake, Preparedness Branch Coordinator
 - Deb Fleming, Training Branch Coordinator
 - Sean Cross, NWCG Manager
 - also Tani Converse & Jocelyn Leatherwood, SAIC Contract

Why Does NWCG Need Data Standards and Glossary Terms?

- NWCG facilitates a consistent fire management program across agencies.
- Exchanging and harmonizing data between interagency systems requires standards.
- Consistent use of standards promotes:
 - ▣ Efficient information sharing (enter once use many)
 - ▣ Facilitates analysis of data from disparate sources
 - ▣ Improves data integrity
 - ▣ Maximizes use of shared resources
- Glossary terms provide a common shared vocabulary

Data Element Standards are Provided for Data Exchange

Example

Wildland Fire Applications

WFDSS

SIT-209

WildCAD

I-Suite

ROSS

More...

Commonly Used Data Elements

Point of Origin (Lat/Long)

Discovery Date/Time

Fire Perimeter

Fire Size

General Cause

NWCG Unit ID

More...

Many Data Elements are Commonly Used Among Fire Applications

A standard must be applied in order to exchange or synthesize data across applications and organizations

Geospatial Data Layer Standards are Provided for Exchanging Geospatial Data

Example Wildland Fire Applications

WFDSS

SIT-209

WildCAD

FAMWeb DW

More...

Commonly Used Data Layers

Wildland Fire Locations (point)

Wildland Fire Perimeters
(polygon)

Fuels Treatments (polygons)

More...

Many Data Layers are Commonly Used Among Fire Applications

Wildland fire geospatial data layer standards are intended to cover spatial layer and field/attribute definitions. A standard must be applied in order to exchange or synthesize geospatial information across applications and organizations.

Glossary Terms Provide a Shared Vocabulary

Example Applications and Products

ICS Forms
Guides and Handbooks
Training Courses

More...

Commonly Used Glossary Terms

Fire Cause
Fire Danger Rating
Fire Perimeter
Wildland Fire
e.g., WILDLAND FIRE USE

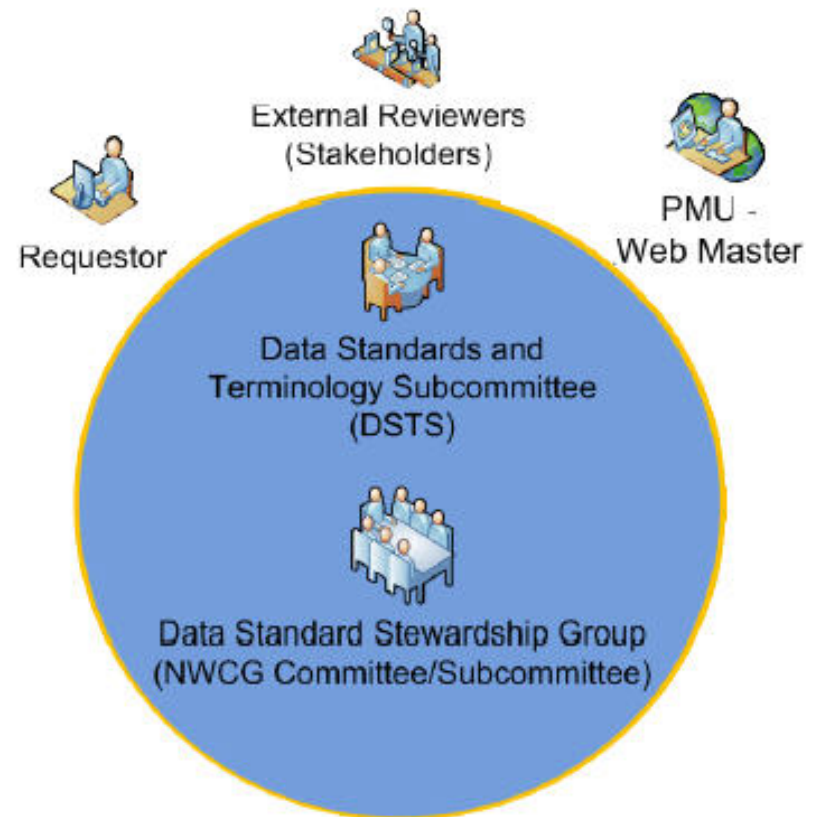
More...

Many terms are commonly used by NWCG in the areas of wildland fire and incident management

Standard definition of terms is essential to understanding the meaning of a term that is used within the context of wildland fire. Changes to terms can impact MANY products.

Who is involved in creating and maintaining data standards?

- The DSTS assures all data standard proposals follow a standardized development process, are properly vetted, approved, and submitted for publication.
- NWCG Committees (or Subcommittees) are assigned stewardship to develop a data standard or glossary term. The Data Stewardship Group consists of subject matter experts and should ensure accuracy of definitions and consistency across agencies.



What is the process for creating and maintaining data standards?



- Timeframes are **approximate**
- Standards will generally be distributed for review at the beginning of the month
- The NWCG Web site (NWCG.gov) supports this workflow (Requested, Assigned, Proposed, Approved)

Challenges...

- Getting the word out that there are NWCG data standards (attribute *and* geospatial data layer)
- Communicating where and how to locate existing data standards and glossary terms and how to request updates/additions
- Helping people understand that the *primary purpose* of a NWCG data standard is for data exchange (or data transfer) among NWCG agencies
- Understanding and communicating our role vs. DMC (even internally)

Challenges...

- Consistency between definitions and use of terms in publications and standards, and the NWCG glossary definitions
- Input from the business area(s) when developing geospatial data layer standards
- Comments on data standards, particularly geospatial data layer standards, from business areas rather than just from GIS Specialists

NWCG.gov to Access Standards and Terms

The image shows two screenshots of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) website. The left screenshot shows the main navigation menu with 'Publications' circled in red. The right screenshot shows a grid of resource links with 'Data Standards' and 'Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology' circled in red.

1. Click **Publications**

2. Click **Data Standards**

or

3. Click **Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology**

Qualifications	Taskbooks	Job Aids
Prescribed Fire	ICS Forms	Publications
Training Courses	Other Forms	Miscellaneous Publications
CEPC Electronic Bibliography	Prevention Fire Education Wildland Urban Interface	Computer Programs
Data Standards		Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology

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Last updated on : 09/22/2011 07:14:36

Data Standards Page Overview



NWCG Data Standards

PMS 910

[NWCG home](#)

NWCG data standards provide specifications that enable the common usage

- [Approved Data Standards](#)
- [Proposed Data Standards](#)
- [Assigned Data Standards](#)
- [Requested Data Standards](#)

- [Comment on an approved or proposed standard](#)
- [Request a new or revised standard](#)
- [Download the User Guide](#)

[\[top of page\]](#)

- ✓ Links on Data Standards Page
 - ✓ Link to Comment
 - ✓ Link to Submit Requests for New or Revised Standards
 - ✓ Link to Download User Guide
- ✓ Lists of Requested, Assigned, Proposed and Approved Standards
- ✓ Separate Tables for Geospatial Data Layer Standards

Successes!

Three new Approved geospatial data layer standards in September

Geospatial Data Layer Standards

Status, Date	Name	Version	Description
Approved, 9/9/2014	Fuels Treatments (polygon)	1.0	The Fuels Treatments (polygon) data layer represents the area(s) of unique fuels treatments during a single timeframe. each treatment may be made up of multiple polygons.
Approved, 9/9/2014	Wildland Fire Perimeters (polygon)	1.0	Wildland Fire Perimeter Polygons geospatial data layer standard provides the standard template for exchange/transfer of wildland fire perimeter polygons, representing the daily and final perimeters for wildfires and prescribed fires. Replaces the Fire History (polygons) geospatial data layer standard (archived) and incorporates the Daily Fire Perimeter geospatial data layer standard (archived).
Approved, 9/9/2014	Wildland Fire Locations (point)	1.0	Wildland Fire Location Points represent the final spatial locations of the fire occurrences. Fire occurrences represent the ignition points (preferred), the polygon centroids, or more generalized locations (least desirable) when the ignition points are not known or not available.

Successes!

New glossary published this month – 18 new terms and 23 updates!

A new version of the Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology has been published!

The October 2014 version includes 18 new terms and definitions and 23 updated definitions. In addition six (6) terms and definitions have been dropped. Please refer to the following document for a summary of the changes: [Summary of Changes to the Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology \(October 2014\)](#)

This glossary provides the wildland fire communities a single source for wildland fire and incident management terminology commonly used by the NWCG and its subgroups.

One of the NWCG goals is to standardize terms and definitions within the NWCG community. To support this goal, NWCG is directing that all NWCG products that contain terms and definitions found in the [Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology \(PMS 205\)](#) be based on this Glossary for the purpose of maintaining definition consistency and clarity among documents.

- [Glossary](#)
- [Download the Glossary \(PDF\) \(825 Kbytes\)](#)
- [Request a new or revised Glossary Entry](#)
- [Download the NWCG Glossary User Guide \(May 2014\)](#)
- [Glossary Information](#)



Questions?