



12/8/2021

NWCG Briefing Paper

FROM: Geospatial Subcommittee (GSC)

SUBJECT: **2022 Updates to the GIS Specialist (GISS) Position - Transition Plan**

Background

Based on feedback from qualified and trainee GISS through surveys, one-on-one correspondence, changing technology, changes to the GISS Workflow, the GSC and the Geospatial Curriculum Management Unit (GCMU), developed a GISS Issue Brief, https://firenet365.sharepoint.com/sites/WildfireResponse_SharedDrive/Admin%20Files/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FWildfireResponse%5FSharedDrive%2FAdmin%20Files%2FGISS%5FPosition%2FGISS%20Position%20Issue%20Brief%20Report%20and%20Recommendations%2020211028%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FWildfireResponse%5FSharedDrive%2FAdmin%20Files%2FGISS%5FPosition&p=true, after the conclusion of the 2021 fire season. The issue brief focused on changes to the GISS position to improve the training and readiness of GISS responding to incidents. The GSC recommended additional required training to the GISS position including S-341, Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialist for Incident Management and RT-341, Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialist for Incident Management Annual Refresher. This required training will ensure GISS meet incident response needs. The GSC roster can be found at <https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/geospatial-subcommittee/roster>.

GISS Transition Plan

Qualified GISS: To minimize the impact to the field, the process of historical recognition for GISS will be used to grant credit for the S-341 course to current qualified responders upon release of the January 2022 PMS 310-1 Position Catalog. Additionally, qualified GISS responders will be granted the RT-341 competency for 2022. GISS responders will be required to annually attain the RT-341 beginning in 2023.

Current Trainee GISS: All current GISS trainees will be required to meet the new required training requirements as outlined in the PMS 310-1 Position Catalog which includes S-341 and RT-341. Additionally, all GISS trainee responders will be granted the RT-341 competency for 2022. GISS trainee responders will be required to annually attain the RT-341 beginning in 2023.

The Geospatial Subcommittee determined that the 'GISS Intro' class that was offered in the Wildland Fire Learning Portal in 2020 or 2021 is considered equivalent to S-341.

Impact to the Field and Operations

Any time additional requirements are placed on a position there will be an impact to the number of people who qualify for that position. The GSC has weighed that issue and has tried to create the least impact to operations while still meeting a critical need to improve the skills of the GISS position. The GISS refresher will be an 8-hour time commitment yearly. The updated S-341 is a 40-hour virtual instructor led training providing the minimum requirements necessary to ensure GISS trainee can function on an incident.

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