



Fire Management Board

FMB Meeting Notes

January 20, 2026

FMB Members in Attendance: Adam Mendoca (USFS), Jason Fallon (NPS), Molly Anthony (BLM), Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Ed Christopher (FWS), Brad Koeckeritz (UAS)

Staff: Karma Hope (NPS)

Guests: Brian Achziger, Jessica Haas, Henry Bastion, Andrew Bailey, Marlene Eno-Hendrin, Jesse Bender

FMB 2026 Topics of Focus

- ❖ Under Development

Topic & Notes	Decision
Welcome <u>Wildland Fire Research, Technology, and IT Governance</u> Per a secretarial order – <i>Establish a governance to coordinate wildland fire related research, technology deployment and IT modernization and integration across the federal wildland fire community – deadline Sept/2026.</i> Primary Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a new, systematic approach to technology development by establishing a parent governance group with decision making power to choose viable projects and move them along the process to completion.• Three subcommittees would report to the parent group:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scientific research and application- Equipment development- IT and software development	
Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are we adding more governing layers when the direction has been to pare down.• Can we use existing entities (WFIT, JFSP, etc.) and retool to meet the established needs?• It will require coordination with USDA and USWFS.• How to incorporate the budget arm of decision making to ensure projects align with congressional appropriations.• Important not to duplicate work already being done by other agencies.	

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 at <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>

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<p><u>Red Book Update</u></p> <p>ISOG chair Marlene Eno-Hendren brought three issues to FMB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidation of chapters 2, 3 & 4 • Who will have the authority to make decisions on Red Book content. • What to do when the Red Book points to bureau specific manuals <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important for role-specific information (i.e. agency administrators) to be a separate section to avoid needing to search the entire Red Book. • Will need to establish tribal specific direction – use current BIA information? • Use SMEs to recommend what needs to be pulled in, the language to use, etc. • Fire prevention plans – should be tied to the bureau the land is on at this time. • How best to deal with severity? • 2026 is a transition year. Use ‘interim direction’ language and then make amendments as USWFS is fully incorporated and processes are established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved the consolidation of chapters 2, 3 & 4. • Approved the assembly of SMEs to propose potential edits – FMB will approve/reject. • FMB agreed to take responsibility of Red Book decisions as the USWFS makes policy, establishes process, etc. • Approved pointing back to the bureau specific guidance for now with the intent to edit as guidance is established.
<p><u>Finalization of Fire Terminology</u></p> <p>Goal to streamline and reduce confusion in IMSR by using a common framework and simplified language.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeline for the unified announcement is early Feb. • ‘Nationally recognized incident management team’ – is this the same as ‘a complex management team’? • Goal to reduce language to only 2 kinds of ‘fire’ - remove the words <i>extinguishment and confinement</i> and use only <i>direct and indirect</i>. • Concern over the ability of non-fire people to understand the distinction in terms. • Need for a comms plan for establishment of changes in fire terms. • Per Adam Mendoca – USDA is working to align language with DOI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a meeting with Brian Fennessy and Sarah Fisher – decision space should reside with them.