

**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

### Wildland Fire Research, Technology, and IT Governance

Per a secretarial order – *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.*

#### Primary Recommendations

- 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:
  - Scientific research and application
  - Equipment development
  - IT and software development

#### Discussion

- 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.



Fire Management Board

## FMB Meeting Notes

January 20, 2026

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##### Red Book Update

ISOG chair Marlene Eno-Hendren brought three issues to FMB

- 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

##### Discussion

- 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.

- 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.

##### Finalization of Fire Terminology

Goal to streamline and reduce confusion in IMSR by using a common framework and simplified language.

- 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 *extinguishment* and *confinement* and use only *direct* and *indirect*.
- 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.

- Set up a meeting with Brian Fennessy and Sarah Fisher – decision space should reside with them.