



PREDICTIVE SERVICES OVERSIGHT GROUP

PSOG NOTES

April 28, 2023

1000-1130

Attendees:

<input type="checkbox"/> Facilitator:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair/NICC: Hartman	<input type="checkbox"/> NMAC: Fransted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Co-Chair/GACC: Tomaselli	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CGAC: Nuttall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire Management: Achziger
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Management: Hinckley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OWF: Fallon	<input type="checkbox"/> FMB: Russell
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PS FA: Gardunio	<input type="checkbox"/> PS Intel: SeLegue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PS Met: Strader
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LTP: Nauslar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admin: Johnston	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Attendees: Chuck Maxwell, Cheryl Bright

Topic	Presenter(s)	Purpose
Intel and Predictive Services Handbook Plan of Action	Derrek	Discussion
LTP Steps/Actions	Derrek/Nick/Cheryl	Discussion
LTP Planning for Face-to-Face Meeting	All	Discussion
Roundtable	All	Information

Schedule:

NEXT MEETING: 5 May 2023, 1000-1130

Agenda:

1. Intel and PS Handbook

Next meeting will discuss Intel Charter and Predictive Services Handbook.

Heidi can email charter out to group to review.

2. LTP Steps/Actions

In the current system, technology and science decision support capability is unorganized and inconsistent.

Multiple entities are completing research with no pathway to get the results into operations or a vetting framework to decide if it should be migrated into operations.

How do the research results get to R2O, O2R & Development? This process would fill a massive missing piece.

Predictive Services is the unofficial Fire Environment Monitoring and Prediction System and Intelligence stewards and have worked those duties into their day-to-day, but they are still collateral duties.

Bucket 2 is set up to address this disorganization and inconsistency and could be assisted by NWCG and the NOAA/NWS partnership.

The overarching Fire Environment program could be an anchor point for many of the fire research and systems that Predictive Services relies on.

As the various entities produce their research, there needs to be more collaboration, cooperation and communication creating an avenue to get the information to the field for better decision support capabilities.

The first step would be to develop Fire Environment and decide what their oversight is, so all parts are on the same page.





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Predictive Services as a national program can provide a conduit from research to the field as well as ensuring data and product standards.

The concept of an Interagency Governance Board currently doesn't exist but would include research, technology, and operations.

Bucket 2 would also include an Integration Unit developing data and product standards, identifying capability that can be provided and how, and centralizing system operations and maintenance.

Bucket 3 starting proposal:

- Hire 3 BIL 1-3 year NTEs (1 intelligence, 1 analyst, and 1 meteorologist) and..
- 3 functional area managers to ease the burden of program management at national and geographic area levels to free current staff for operations.
- OR
- Intelligence officer/coordinator, fire analyst, and fire meteorologist at national level to provide national and geographic area support for operations by filling in operational gaps as needed allowing PS staff to focus on program management needs.

Organizationally, there will need to be discussion on what each option looks like. The product is not just a national program with national oversight that we want to build, but a program with national employees at the NICC and GACC levels.

Visually it would be helpful to see various layout charts though essentially the additional NTE personnel would be under national office supervision as "bench" employees to help where and when needed nationwide.

There is concern that 3 NTEs would not provide enough support for the PS program due to the extensive shortages there are currently.

SMEs on the call would like to see both options implemented simultaneously. The staffing help is much needed and having managers at the national level is critical to creating a cohesive team that can assist with running the PS program.

It would be helpful to not only create a wire chart but also elaborate on the roles and responsibilities to send to SME groups for feedback.

BIL NTE Summary of Requests:

- National PS Program Manager (vice Ed Delgado) - would lead and coordinate Bucket 3 efforts (Concepts 7, 10-14)
- Science and Technology Coordinator(s) – lead Bucket 2 efforts within PSOG/FMB span of control
- 3 Predictive Services NTEs – 1 position from each functional area OR 3 Functional Area Program Managers
- SIT 209 Business Lead – will be needed next year when Next Gen effort starts

If we ask for NTEs, ask for both PS position options (6 positions) to get depth in the bench and hopefully within those 3 years, can fill out the program at all levels.

It is likely that some of those 6 positions will be filled by existing PS personnel leading other positions needing to be backfilled as NTE details. This is difficult for retention but is a necessary risk for a long-term solution.

Consider requesting these 6 positions as PFT rather than NTEs for easier hiring and permanent forward progress. To change these to FTEs, there would need to be discussion and structure consensus for what the organizational chart looks like for PS going forward strengthening the FMB ask.

Consider the 6 positions being a program manager and an assistant for each functional area bolstering program structure.

If we go the route of independent program managers, we need to figure out who people work for, and which agencies are responsible. Does that person sit on NMAC and float under a national group?





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Predictive Services should be an interagency program so perhaps it should not sit under the individual agencies but a group like NWCG instead.

There has been discussion for Joint Office Authority surrounding PCAST which may be an oversight option for PS. The National Program Manager proposed would be in addition to the 6 functional area program managers and would oversee the entire PS program maintaining collective workflow and consistency in standards. It would be ideal to have one point of contact for all PS program issues providing needed analysis and decision on how to accomplish Bucket 3 as needed.

The National PS Program Manager could be viewed as more of a Director and would focus on everything that touches PS.

Sit 209 Business Lead and Science & Technology Coordinator positions could still be NTEs to get things running. Sit 209 Business Lead duties could potentially become Intel Program Manager duties based on workload.

However, if an NTE would be sufficient for the duties of the Business Lead, and it would not be as difficult to backfill the expertise and duties, the recommendation should be to hire the NTE.

FMB will want to see and know what is being done differently rather than just hiring additional positions.

PS has been an underserved community for a long time with mostly collateral duties, and not functioning as it should. We want to permanently invest in these positions and the program.

FMB can always come back to the FTE request and only support the NTEs, so the aim should be high.

If NTEs are decided on, the announcement must say “opportunity to convert without further competition” for the possibility of transitioning those positions in the future.

Organizational changes aren’t doing something differently cause we’ve done that. What are we doing for the program that is going to improve it overall that we haven’t done in the past.

Next steps: Cheryl will draft proposal that says NTEs that states opportunity to convert without competition to at least give the ability to tap into BIL funding but the potential for FTE in the future and solve both problems.

3. Face-to-face Meeting

Review PSOG charter.

Potentially request FMB member availability for face-to-face meeting for agency perspective.

4. Roundtable Discussion

Jim – Looking at long term transition plan (around December) to have the NCCM representative transition.

Brian – Unable to attend next meeting, May 5.