



PREDICTIVE SERVICES OVERSIGHT GROUP

PSOG Spring Meeting Notes

May 23 & 24, 2023

0800-1630

Attendees:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facilitator: Kephart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair/NICC: Hartman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NMAC: Fransted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair/GACC: Tomaselli	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CGAC: Nuttall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire Management: Achziger
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire Management: Hinckley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OWF: Majewski	<input type="checkbox"/> FMB: Russell
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PS FA: Gardunio	<input checked="" 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, Larry Van Bussen, Cheryl Bright, Robyn Heffernan, Heath Hockenberry

Tuesday, May 23		
0800-0830	Welcome: Meeting Intent and Rules of Engagement for the Week	Megan
0830-0900	Intel Working Group Charter	Megan
0900-0930	Future Meeting Structure and Flow	Derrek
0930-1000	Forest Service Website Modernization Discussion	Megan/Derrek
1030-1200	Special Topic Discussion – PSOG Members Only	Ox
1200-1230	FMB Leader’s Intent to PSOG	Chris
LUNCH		
1330-1430	PSOG Charter Review	Derrek
1430-1600	Predictive Services Handbook	Heidi
1600-1630	Bin Items and Wrap Up	Megan

Schedule:

NEXT MEETING: June 16, 2023, 1300-1430





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Agenda:

Meeting Intent and Rules of Engagement for the Week

Voting on Intel Working Group Charter and PS Handbook.

Can vote support or don't support.

Votes need consensus.

Intel Working Group Charter

No new edits or input received since discussion on May 12.

The total number of voting members from NICC and the GACCs is dependent on number of Intel positions filled.

Cal Fire is currently the only state member involved.

CO and TX have been asked but aren't involved at this time.

Have requested that Jim Karels send Intel Charter out through the states.

Projects should be vetted through PSOG for some centralization and prioritization opportunities. This would allow for some leader's intent for projects moving forward.

At the NICC, all of PS is intertwined working together whereas the GAs have varying degrees of cohesion.

Overall, the Intel group feels good about the Charter and believes being a part of PS is the best path forward.

Approve the Intel Charter – Support Unanimous

Future Meeting Structure and Flow

PSOG needs a full-time facilitator.

NIMO could potentially provide a facilitator, but they have many conflicting duties.

Derrek is searching for a permanent facilitator while Megan Kephart is acting as the interim.

Brainstorm how to recruit a permanent facilitator, where to draw from, required skillsets, etc.

Megan Kephart continuing as PSOG facilitator – Support

Need an experienced facilitator with the proper skillset to uphold expectations as well as being able to understand the language and topics.

Need someone who knows fire language such as a planning section chief, Logs chief, Resource Unit Leader etc.

Kephart doesn't necessarily have the bandwidth to maintain the facilitator role but would be happy to keep the role permanently if Intel became appropriately staffed.

PSOG would like to see Megan maintain the role at least through the fall and then recommend a replacement facilitator if needed.

Does PSOG like the facilitation style Megan has maintained? Yes.

At the start of each meeting, need to state whether there are enough voting members to have a quorum.

If there is something to vote on at the upcoming meeting, it should be stated ahead of time and voted on at the beginning of the meeting in case people must drop off.

Identify voting topics in the agenda.

Tuesday afternoon deadline for agenda and notes.

Nicki and Megan will work together to send out calendar invites.

Record and transcribe Team meetings moving forward.

Pre-schedule Spring and Fall face-to-face meetings.

January or February for "fall" meeting – Jim will host in Southern California.

Introduce the topic at one meeting, discuss at next meeting, then hear final thoughts/comments and vote at third meeting.



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-Gives time for research, vetting, etc.

-Timeline can be shortened or extended as needed.

Thinking points and specific topics that need to be vetted will be identified by email prior to meeting.

Friday morning meetings will continue as is. – **Fridays 1300-1430**

Forest Service Website Modernization Discussion

The Forest Service is working through standardizing agency websites in accordance with Congressional law.

In May 2022, CIO laid out what the new websites would look like, and which pieces would be standardized.

This is a FS-sponsored effort, not interagency, which left out NICC and AK.

AK decided to stay with a BLM site rather than moving to a FS site and NICC subcontracted on the NIFC website.

FS websites have agreed on a standardized template and will be upgrading to Drupal 9/10 as Drupal 7 sunsets in November.

There are a couple of projects ahead of the GA websites, but the wireframes have been created.

A Website Program Lead has been selected and is waiting for agreements to be put in place.

For any documents PSOG would like uploaded to the website, there is an NWCG coordinator and webmaster that must be contacted.

PSOG is a guest on the NWCG website, so if there are monumental changes or products to be shared with the public moving forward, there needs to be a better, more stand-alone website.

Could moving to NIFC.gov be an option?

Can PSOG stay under the NWCG site but request access to post our own content?

Intel at NICC will be moving everything to FireNet and creating a SharePoint to foster interagency sharing.

Could FireNet be an option for sharing documents among PSOG members?

If PSOG feels they have the need for a new website, that should be expressed to FMB.

The LTP and products need to be share with external groups for vetting, support, recruitment, etc. which would be easier if the information was searchable. Having a place to point people is a must.

Derrek and Megan will build out options to present to PSOG for discussion.

Megan/Derrek will reach out to Jesse Bender about how they maintain the IWDG website and to Almira regarding the NWCG website.

FMB Leader's Intent to PSOG

After the initial report came out in 2017, recommendations were identified, and the oversight group was established. FMB recognizes that what is encompassed in the report is difficult to implement since position management, ownership models, leadership, etc. are all impacted.

During many of the presentations, FMB got the impression that PSOG was having some difficulty moving forward. FMB also got the impression that PS has adopted more of an "ownership" model rather than a stewardship within the GAs.

There are multiple tiers of need and many customers that all rely on PS products, so we need to ensure things are being done in the most efficient way possible to meet the needs of everyone.

The GAs seem to be very confederate or autonomous without coverage or products having any standards which poses a challenge.

The ability to provide the same products across the board and taking an enterprise approach to how business is done is vital.





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In November, FMB was given broad concepts to consider which is like asking if they like ice cream. Yes, but what kind is being offered specifically?

PSOG needs to start discussing a middle ground pathway toward implementation. What are those recommendations?

At the April joint meeting, PSOG SMEs presented FMB with concepts in 3 big buckets and 14 digestible pieces. Bucket 1 focuses on creating a partnership between the fire community, NOAA, and NWS which was identified as something above PSOG that FMB would take over.

The Commission created workgroups with their Science and Data Workgroup to begin forming a research-to-operations pathway.

The idea of the Fire Environment Center was brought about by looking at aggregating and leveraging interagency assets and bringing them together in a way that would provide the needed services to all customers.

FMB likes the identified concepts of Bucket 2 but needs PSOG to start building out specific recommendations. PSOG needs to provide digestible individual recommendations ranging from minimally viable to a fully functioning approach with all pros and cons listed out for each.

FMB requests that PSOG shares the pieces of recommendations as consensus is reached, rather than waiting to create one massive all-inclusive report.

Bucket 3 will be the most contentious.

FMB unanimously decided that they want a national program model. What that looks like is up to PSOG.

The national model should address local, GA, and national needs as well as standardized products across the board.

All parts must equal the sum of the entire product. Decision makers need something they can have confidence in regardless of the GA they are in or the time of year.

FMB needs to know where to invest and augment in the current workforce.

How tight of a cookie cutter is expected for a standardized program nationally? Is FMB willing to accept some level of vagueness as how that's lined out in GAs? Some, like AK, are complete outliers. -Rather than immediately focusing on differences, focus on the commonalities. If we can get to a common point, we can get deeper into the weeds and work through the differences later.

Some level of non-specificity is acceptable, but FMB will eventually ask about it.

If we do not start driving the bus, we won't be on the bus at all and will get run over by groups such as PCAST, the Science & Technology group within the Commission, as they move forward with their own ideas. – We now have a very small timeframe to start showing Congress that we want to help forge our own future.

PS is particularly lacking in that the standardization of products hasn't been discussed.

Need to build a national program and the products. And what do GACCs need to do to both feed into the national program and support local areas?

A national program doesn't have to be centralized but it can be an option.

There are struggles with standardizing among programs down to the local levels forcing fire operations to pick the worst-case scenario from the possibilities to be sure they're prepared.

FMB wants to leverage the expertise of the SMEs to figure out how we start moving towards a national program starting at the top and work down (National – GA – local) creating standardized products and program standards with consistency across the board.

If you start from the bottom, PS won't have an organization that is standard across the board.

A centralized or non-centralized program could be supported.





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NWCG is currently the only interagency centralized program and is managed by an executive board while the director has staff in multiple agencies.

How important is it to FMB for widespread input from the field level to the national level? The SMEs have developed a very robust report, but it hasn't been widely vetted. It can be easier to implement if things are vetted. From FMB's standpoint, there was quite a bit of validation and feedback collected and vetted when the initial eval/analysis was completed in 2017 (400-800 responses). Though it was prolific at the time, nothing extremely divergent has come from this group so the same questions would be asked to a new cast of characters. Share the ideas but feedback isn't a necessary stopgap, and we don't have the time now that we did last time. People are threatened by change and concerned they aren't going to get the products they need when we're mainly trying to create redundancy.

Most people want to have input on the ownership piece rather than being a steward of the system. We need to get away from wanting to control things.

As PSOG moves through tasking and bring up some of the challenges, we need FMB to make some of the decisions either pushing things forward or tasking them to a different group. This will allow forward progress on the LTP and give PSOG the ability to bring in issues that aren't a part of the tasking.

There is disagreement that no changes have been made in PS since 2017. When the report came out, it forced people to acknowledge that issues existed and many of the GACCs now have fire analysts in addition to a better relationship with NWS.

There may have been some sticker shock from FMB in the past, but it's going to take money to fix the entire PS program rather than the one piece at a time band-aids of the last 20 years.

There's an investment that needs to be made and while money is something that FMB looks at, they also look at ways to bring in additional funding. That's why they need options from shooting for the moon down to the minimally viable.

Determine what standardizations need to be supported and which key elements should be supported first.

To stave off possible direction of what we need from people who don't understand, figure out the successes that can be promoted to give good direction and show progress.

PSOG Charter Review

PSOG currently has 6 voting members.

Should additional voting members be added?

Should SMEs be voting members?

If a member is taking off for a couple of months, they should find a replacement member for that time, so progress isn't halted.

Should there be a voting member from the NWS? Too soon to add external members.

-NWS focus is different than how our Mets provide service to support fire managers. NWS forecasts weather and tells the public how to behave when that weather comes in while providing more near-term forecasting.

Maintain NWS personnel as liaisons.

By default, it has been NWS personnel on campus as the NWS at NIFC crosswalks fire for the Weather Service though there could be better personnel options to serve as the liaison.

Perhaps an IMET could be included? Maybe, but IMETs are focused on one incident at a time where PS is focused on the bigger picture. A more beneficial member could be someone who has had experience as an IMET but has also seen the bigger picture of PS.

Need someone above a short-term forecasting position who can connect with different parts of projects with other agencies like NOAA, etc.

NWS liaison – Support

-Derrek to reach out to Robyn and Heath to discuss different levels in the NWS and report back to give PSOG options to discuss.

Intel supports SMEs being voting members as PSOG's implementation force.

Fire analyst group supports SMEs as voting members and would be more involved in discussions as such.

Quorum concept – Members must all agree, or all disagree to move forward.

Add something to PSOG Charter that states “we validate the members that don't agree but have reached a quorum on the decision so are moving forward.”

Add language that outlines the process if PSOG cannot reach a unanimous decision.

Benefit of PSOG having a parenting body is that if something isn't agreed upon internally, it can be presented to FMB for final decision.

Add language about absentee voting.

Add SMEs as voting members of PSOG – Support

Do the fire analysts have an official charter? Mets and Fire Analysts currently meet as one group and neither have a charter.

Do other GACCs have fire analysts? 8 total fire analysts in the GACCs.

Billy will work on a charter for the fire analyst group.

Heidi and Nick will work together on a charter for met group.

Chuck acts as a “senior advisor” with historical references as well as addressing all STP concerns.

A senior advisor position for PSOG should be considered once all historical members move on.

When does the clock start for PSOG membership?

Who can be the PSOG chair? -Any voting member.

Agency representation – BIA, NPS, not represented.

Should there be some sort of agency representation mix to fulfill?

FMB purposefully didn't have each agency represented because the goal was for PSOG to be more inclusive and less about specific agency needs.

How does PSOG communicate to agencies and groups that are not represented in PSOG membership? The

makeup of the group should allow the members to reach all necessary groups. -CGAC and NMAC mainly

Are we hitting all groups directly with the same information? Some groups are getting secondary and tertiary information. PSOG needs a reporting mechanism for socialization, feedback, and input.

Need to build out a specific plan for information distribution.

Must attend meetings for different agencies and groups to ensure they hear the correct information.

If we have a good communication plan in place, we don't need to add additional membership.

Jennifer will create a communication plan proposal.

There are other places to recruit state folks if PSOG feels there needs to be additional representation.

CGAC membership hits quite a bit of various groups including states.

Membership roles: Chair and vice chair

Should have a rotating system where the vice chair will transition into the chair role after a certain period.

Understand that there will be rumblings and concerns from PS, especially Mets, that have been involved in the frictions with NWS in the past and the potentiality of being overtaken by NWS.



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Be clear that NWS is being added to the group as a liaison because of the program partnership we are trying to build, and the need for their opinion rather than making decisions for them.

Heidi to write out and share the reasoning NWS is being brought into PSOG and the Charter as liaisons.

Jake has proposed Charter changes outlining the layout of members and liaisons to share with Heidi.

Predictive Services Handbook

Standing handbook is the 2009 version that was updated in 2016 but not published.

Change title to National Interagency Predictive Services Handbook. – Support

Change signature blocks.

There are some conflicting thoughts about including PS background or not. Important to understand where PS came from and why.

Update membership section to reflect PSOG Charter decision.

Add a PSOG Charter reference link to shorten document.

NICC and GACC responsibilities and managing operational staffing verbiage was updated slightly.

Added link to Joint Fire Science program.

Section 30.10 – Better identified wildfire analyst roles.

Products and services were split into 2 sections and outlined more clearly.

40.4 regarding staffing was added to encourage the GACCs to think about when they might order IMETs and the fire analyst role.

Backed off how early in the season calls were required, based on GACC and PL level.

Updated training requirements.

Appendix A – Add Intel, Met, and Fire Analyst Charter links.

Section 10.1 Handbook is submitted and updated yearly by PSOG.

Once there aren't as many frequent changes for PS, there should be a set timeframe for annual updates.

Where should the PS Handbook live? – NICC website

Current summary of changes presented by Heidi – Support

Heidi will send completed Handbook to Megan for 508 Compliance review followed by Derrek to acquire signatures.

Bin Items and Wrap Up

In tomorrow's discussion on LTP Buckets, the goal is to work through all ideas with pros and cons.

If PSOG comes up with a plan on how to effectively spend the money, FMB is more likely to give it.

Look at the massive program changes in the scope of accountability, scalability, and effectiveness.

In creating positions out of nothing, an SES can decide that the position is needed and then identify and negotiate a money avenue for it in some instances.

OWF representative on PSOG is helpful and should be kept.

Wednesday, May 24		
0800-0830	Fall Meeting/ Vice Chair Discussion	Derrek
0830-0900	Bucket 1 Review	Robyn
0930-1100	LTP Staffing Briefing Paper	Cheryl
1100-1400	Bucket 3 Review – Concept 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14	Nick/Cheryl
1400-1630	Further LTP Discussion – if needed	Nick/Cheryl
1530-1630	Bin Items and Wrap Up	Megan

Fall Meeting/Vice Chair Discussion

Fall meeting week of January 29 in Southern California.

Jim transitioning out of vice chair.

Jennifer nominated as vice chair, effective May 24, 2023. – Support

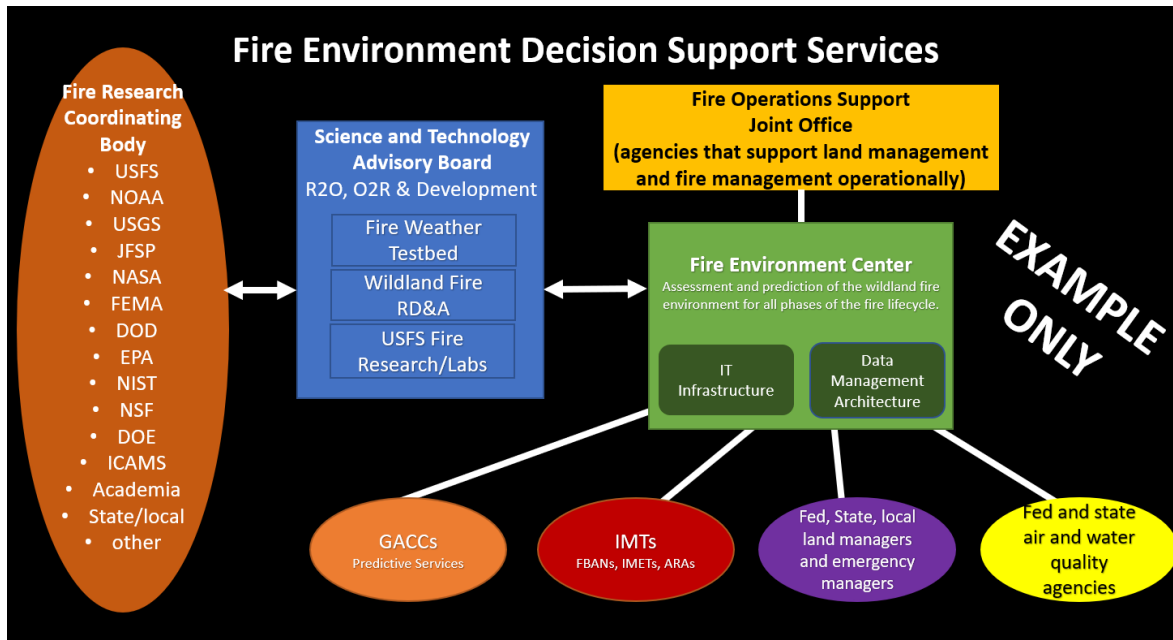
During PL4 /PL5 have PSOG members come out to Boise to see the complications during peak fire season. How do we facilitate for the subcommittees that we are creating?

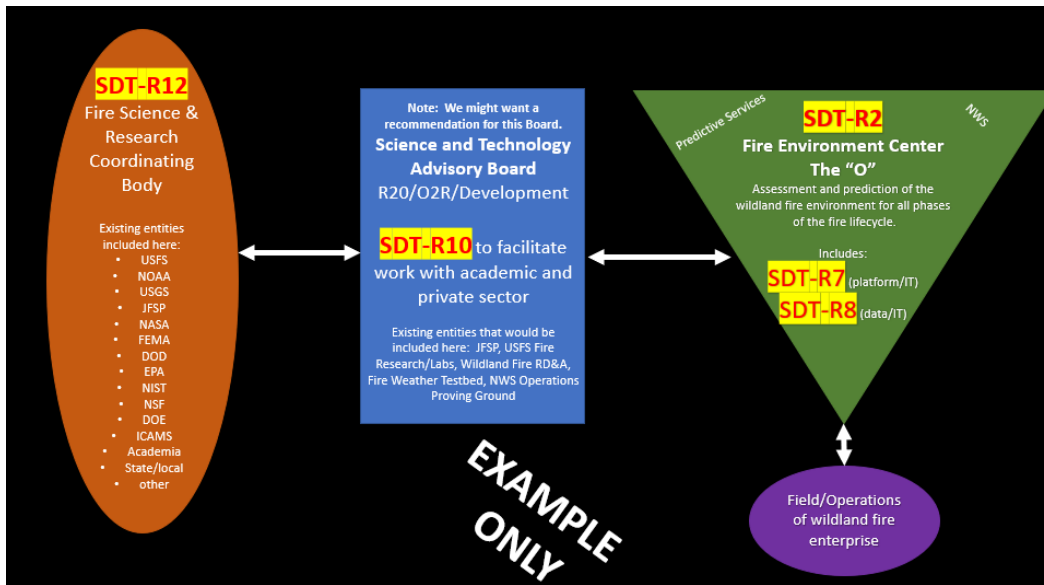
Meeting monthly isn't a negotiation as the meetings would need to be longer than people have time for.

Continue weekly meetings until fire season dictates otherwise at higher PL levels.

Conduct some business through email as necessary if possible.

Bucket 1 Review





1st schematic is similar to the past proposal presented to PS.

2nd diagram was created for the Commission with less specificity and to outline the recommendations.

Recommendation 12 is to put up a Science Board and Research Coordinating body to coordinate many of the entities as well as to act as a filtering point for operational needs.

Recommendation 10 would be for the creation of a Science and Technology Advisory Board that could help transition research to a test bed environment. They'll be able to see what works, what doesn't, what refinements need to be made, etc.

There would be a much more expedited approach facilitating work with the private sector.

The third area, and Recommendation 2, addresses the need for a fully functional consolidated operational area where all the science and technology research can be funneled into. This would be the Fire Environment Center.

Recommendations 7 and 8 address the IT and data pieces of the consolidated center.

The PCAST recommendation would be for the Fire Environment Center to be a joint office for all the agencies that have operational mission space, not just suppression, but all fire including pre-, post-, RX, etc.

At the last Commission meeting, there was great general support for the Center with the main resistance being the creation of an additional massive organization.

Currently, nothing like the Fire Environment Center exists and the consolidation of IT and data is a vital need. If the IT and data consolidation piece aren't included, there won't be as much of a transformational change through the rest of the system.

IT would be the architecture that would support all the systems. Agencies would still have IT, but the Fire Environment Center would house all the data to have the capability of interoperability and to use the technology. Would the pieces that feed the Fire Environment Center be in the center? - That would be up to the agencies.

Would this include the current suite of applications and data? - Yes

Rochelle's workgroup is creating a "data lake house" that is the closest thing to the Fire Environment Center being worked on, but they can only do so much with the DOI pieces. The fault lies in the lack of staff to support the lake house since there must be someplace for the data to go and be maintained.

The gap between the DOI and USDA IT systems is the most difficult piece to breach. Right now, whoever is funding the project gets the most control and say over the data and what happens to it.

Ask Rochelle to present to the group.



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How would this improve interagency operations if agencies still have their own IT? -The interoperability is a concern but less of an issue than where and how the systems are running, who is hosting, who is funding, who is supporting, who is troubleshooting when it's down, who is maintaining, etc.

Fire Environment Center would have its own budget, staffing, CIO, infrastructure to be able to support all the pieces and data streams that are involved and would support all agencies.

The Fire Environment Center would establish accountability for different systems and proper maintenance by the Advisory Board.

How much would come under the centralized center? - As much as possible.

In the lake house concept, users can pull data straight from the host source rather than having various applications needing its own ability to store and read data which the Fire Environment Center would be capable of as well.

The biggest question is governance. We need to get governance in place with what we currently have before this Bucket 1 implementation.

Can interoperability be added to operations? It's a massive problem for operations daily. – It could but Robyn is hesitant to do so. The power of the Center is lies with how much the agencies are willing to participate. There could be significant resistance at the beginning if agencies are asked to hand over access to all data and programs. Each of the agencies get to decide how much data and IT capability and storage they would like the Fire Environment Center to consume.

Brian to write up examples to give Robyn about lack of interoperability.

Ask PSOG members to voice support up to the Commission representatives for the Fire Environment Center.

The Commission will vote on this in principle in June.

LTP Staffing Briefing Paper

The briefing paper is an expanded version of Bucket 2 for FMB.

Data and science and technology capability and support are the foundation of PS to the agencies, interagency-wide, and at all three levels for the entire wildland fire community.

Bucket 2 is relevant, but it is big and beyond PS and PSOG.

Should we be asking for PFT positions instead of NTE? With the LTP in mind, would these positions ever go away?

– The ones in this bucket would, or they would need to be integrated into different places.

These types of positions would coordinate everything occurring right now but as we integrate, could move into an RD&A deputy.

There's an opportunity to capitalize on BIL funding and not go through permanent org chart conversations by requesting NTES giving us more flexibility to get these started and figure out permanence later.

Ask for NTEs or PFTs and let FMB choose.

The proposed Fire Danger Standards Specialist would focus on the host of fire danger standards.

Some standards were never created/upheld, some data has too many varying standards, and some base data is being utilized differently by everyone all causing issues.

This position would have the freedom to talk to the experts to create the standards, without being held up by agency "policy." The data needs would be addressed, and the policy built around the standards created.

We need to clean up specificity of this position request before sending the request to FMB. Should note the GS-level, cost, position, etc.

Add additional request for a position that will address all other data standards.

Weather stations and RAWs fall under a different subcommittee so an additional standards specialist would be helpful.

Request Fire Danger Standards Specialist and Fire Environment Standards Specialist.

Joe to help draft position request.

The Science and Technology Coordinator position would have oversight for all other Bucket 2 positions.

The R2O piece of the puzzle is different but the coordinator would be working on that as well.

The SIT 209 Next Gen Business Lead was a creative pull trying to meet the needs of Intel.

This is a broad request for what is needed to get started as the minimal viable plan.

The minimum on the proposal is 4 people.

A Fire Environment Business Lead or Fire Environment Decision Support position is also needed to look at how the systems connect and support one another.

List the positions as GS12/13 openings to reach a larger group.

The proposed integration unit can coordinate as well as identify problems and propose solutions. There will need to be FTEs for the data management implementation.

A support unit is sorely needed for fire environment. It's difficult to complete their jobs when the personnel we have are doing everything from product initiation to consumption trying to produce the best possible product. If we put the Bucket 2 positions in the standard PD for program managers, they are flexible PDs that can be used ASAP and would yield people with the skills to complete the project with the capability of moving into other positions later.

If the positions are NTE, the fire retirement piece depends on your permanent position so we can put someone in the position and get the work started now.

Sit 209 is currently going through an update process with Megan as the Business Lead so a permanent isn't needed until the fall.

If PSOG wants Sit 209 to move faster, that would be an FMB ask to get it back on the front burner to hand off to the new Business Lead position.

Tying to the DMP position creates a connection with WFIT and FAM-IM rather than having to go to separate entities.

These are the architects we need to build the future program.

Will these positions need an administrative assistant or will they line up with something that already exists? -It depends on who these positions sit under.

We should have a writer/editor type person with the skillsets to take on writing the briefing papers within this group to send things to FMB and the Commission.

Bucket 2 Proposal:

- 1 Science and Technology Coordinator
- 1 Fire Danger Standards Specialist
- 1 Fire Environment Standards Specialist
- 1 DMP Person
- SIT 209 Business Lead
- Writer/Editor – Communications

5 NTEs vs 5 PFTs

3-5 year NTEs with potential to convert a possibility?

Current SMEs would probably apply for these causing backfill concerns and additional NTEs.



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If these positions are Met folks going into NTEs, where would you backfill from? There needs to be an agreement created if you pull from outside agencies.

DOD and NWS could be avenues for NTE backfill and getting more people into fire.

Opportunity to convert must be in the announcement and need to clarify firefighter coverage with HR regarding 1-5 year. Need to ensure people won't lose their fire retirement based on their position of record.

Who do these people work for? Agency?

Data Management Program Lead is the "supervision" and would fall under Rochelle. There can be channels of communication and coordination, but this is a data management program and an NWCG lane.

Another option might be to put these positions under NWCG, but the concern is that NWCG is not an operational body and parts of these positions are directly operational.

A lot of this work is NWCG but other than the coordinators, no one else would fall directly under NWCG. Wherever they sit, it needs to be under an existing program but not necessarily under a coordinating group.

The Data Management Program would be an ideal overhead program and the positions could all be hosted by different agencies.

Should start setting the stage at the beginning that Bucket 2 is more operational than NWCG is, and at some point, these things will be moved over to its own Fire Environment Committee.

Best place to house these positions right now is under the DMP (associated with WFIT). – Support Cheryl and Nick will make some edits to briefing paper proposal.

Send proposal to Derrek by June 1 to be sent out to PSOG and discussed via email.

Get proposal to FMB by June 7th so they can discuss at their next meeting June 14th.

Standards and training are still a major concern.

Bucket 3 Review – Concept 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14

The biggest discussion will be a centralized vs non-centralized program.

The uncertainty of what future capabilities look like for data and technology, make it hard to say how future organizations will be impacted. Centralization of the data may cause the need for the centralization of positions. There can be a wide variety of options but much of the decision will be dependent on the data and technology piece.

Concept 7: Clarifying PS mission statement.

How PS should be structured, what should they be doing, who are the customers and are they satisfied? No net loss of services.

Does PS information include the current situation? – That's more of an Intel component, but looking at the Fire Environment Center, customers will be able to see where the resources are, who is left, etc.

Are we solving these problems or putting together task groups to solve these for us? -A previous option presented was to hire 3 functional PS program managers that report to PSOG to start evaluating options.

PSOG needs people dedicated to creating the PS program that can act as go-betweens with the oversight group and the SMEs while gathering input and provide recommendations.

The 3 program managers would oversee the creation and implementation of Bucket 3 in its totality.

Keep in mind that if we are going to hire SMEs to recommend options, those options all need to be pushed to FMB for decision along with PSOG's thoughts and changes to for the recommendations.

It has become common in this culture to always want additional information to make the difficult decisions, but we should consider realistically if we already have enough information to make an informed decision.



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How specific do we need to get with FMB proposals? PSOG needs to bring scalable options that could even be iterative.

Could we pull out the org charts already presented, put them in a briefing paper with the comments and send them to FMB for decision? - We need to go gradually into decision-making and the org charts rather than diving into too much at once.

Do we know what decision support is? Do we know what it is across all levels of customers? Do we know what our specialists can do? Are there different things the Mets could be providing that they historically haven't been? - Fire management and those that PS serves needs to step in and tell PS what they need.

Do the folks in the GACC currently work for someone in the GACC or someone else at the national level. Is it stove-piped?

After 22 years, PS is a big program beyond the scope of dispatch coordination.

Should we have a PS Program Manager that works directly for fire management?

Are we doing the program a disservice having PS work for the center managers?

There are deep concerns with a nationally centralized program, but we need to look at leadership and supervision. Thinking about IMTs, is that a centralized structure? Different pieces report to the IC who reports to all AAs. This is more of a short-term centralization that fulfills immediate needs which could be why it works.

PSOG shouldn't be the deciding factor in centralization, the idea of a centralized vs non-centralized program should be taken to FMB for decision.

PSOG is going propose what the national program and the subcommittees look like, but we aren't ready to talk about who supervises what. The national program needs to be built first then talk about supervision later.

PS has had a handbook of standards and there was no oversight that enforced accountability.

Where does a PS Program currently live?

AA – Fire Management – dispatch/coordination – PS

Why can't PS live somewhere else?

Why does it need to be under dispatch/coordination? – They are customers.

Why can't PS live under Fire Management as an equal to Dispatch/Coordination?

In the future, the PS Program Manager could be integrated as part of the Fire Management team.

The tables are different at the regional/state level so there needs to be an interagency center of some kind.

If the manager is not enforcing accountability to the standards, the problem will continue.

National Program

-Buckets: NWCG, FMB, NMAC, WFIT

-Should PS be under NMAC? The national PS Program Director would then be an equal to the NICC Manager and would also report to NMAC.

-In some GACCs, the PS program manager can go straight to the bosses while others cannot. Wouldn't the problem be with the coordinating groups then?

The focus in Dispatch/Coordination is not on PS.

PS members have had concerns with issues not being addressed by center managers. Sometimes the center manager doesn't agree with the PS problem and the conversation stops there, sometimes it goes to coordinating group and it stops there or they say it's a problem and tell the center manager to fix it. Sometimes even taking things through a level or two up the chain of command still doesn't yield the capability to fix the task.

Regardless of where things fit into org charts, there needs to be better leadership and accountability.

Is PS a fire management problem or a dispatch problem?





PREDICTIVE SERVICES OVERSIGHT GROUP

GACC center managers are not failing but this is a fire management problem.

Concern for a centralized program is 75-80% of the work PS personnel completes is specifically GA work.

No matter what, the wrong personality in a position will cause issues.

PS Program Manager as an equivalent to the GACC Center Manager could get things in front of GA Coordinating Groups. This model is different than the last 22 years and would show FMB that PSOG is trying to move forward. Why can't PS get direction and answers straight from the coordinating groups? -This would work well at the NICC but would be challenging in some of the GAs.

There are interagency challenges and supervisors need to understand that all PS work is not going to be strictly for the agency.

We can't fix things based on the problems of the "dialed" GAs, the program needs to be wholistic.

FMB's direction was to stay focused at the higher level with the mission, decision support, how customers are served, and the commonalities in a wholistic systems approach rather than getting into the weeds.

Being a developer of the national program, we don't know where we're going and that's where it needs to start.

What are the commonalities? How do the GACCs and coordinating groups fit together?

It's challenging talking about putting PS under the coordinating group because those positions would then have "multiple supervisors."

Need to talk about what we want the national program to look like and why it should look that way to move the program forward in socialization.

Emphasis should be put on current performance improving, clearly stating the standards, the performance matrices, and what the ramifications will be if that performance isn't met. Start holding people accountable.

It's difficult to work in depth on these and plan far down the future with Buckets 1 and 2 happening simultaneously.

PSOG should depend on the SMEs to make informed decisions.

PS has the ability to run their own program, but it's difficult to be the main expert and the program manager at the same time. There needs to be additional experts.

Even if Bucket 1 and/or 2 happens, we currently don't have the capability or capacity to meet the PS mission.

Is the Ferrari option to have Program Managers at the NICC and all GACCs, and the MVP option to add a Program Manager and additional personnel at the National level?

Within Bucket 2 and 3, SMEs are being trusted to build the groups and give guidance while fire management's job is to look at everything that will be impacted.

SMEs need to step up as they will be in the spotlight and looked to for sending up future recommendations.

There will be higher expectations and standards to meet, and SMEs need to ensure they can meet those to serve everyone at every level.

An important piece to push through with the initial request and get FMB to buy into from the beginning is going to be funding off the top.

Achieving funding off the top will also get a much different initial reaction from fire management.

Recommend to FMB that PSOG wants new funding off the top for the national PS program – Support

What are we solving with PS Program Managers at the GACCs?

-Previously, when Mets at the GACCs have disagreed on products, the ACM was unable to tell them which was more accurate so there needs to be someone who can help make internal decisions at that level and has the time to help solve those conflicts.



PREDICTIVE SERVICES OVERSIGHT GROUP

Many of the PS members currently spend much of their time fulfilling management roles rather than their operational duties. Program managers would strengthen the programs at every GACC and hold PS accountable for their products and the standards. Could get down to the why things are not being done and help with solutions. We have to start with the “architects” of what this program will become with people in the GACCs to help figure out what the program looks like.

We need a National PS Program Director and Program Managers that can work together to build out the rest of the program and figure out what’s needed.

The PS Program Director could be anyone in PS, it doesn’t necessarily have to be a Met.

We should be aware that it will be difficult finding a National Program Director and 10 PS program managers that understand all three functional areas of PS.

Putting a PS program manager at each of the GACCs might be pre-emptive and could be held off on.

We want to avoid the national program becoming a national help center if we create a robust program at the national level.

Need to define what the entire program is going to look like before we define what the staffing should look like.

MVP Bucket 3 Proposal:

PFT positions

National Program Director -GS 13/14

-Intel Program Manager -GS 12/13

-Mets Program Manager -GS 12/13

-Fire Analyst Program Manager -GS 12/13

New funding off the top

Next step: Look at the GACCs and how their PS programs are functioning.

Higher Bucket 3 Proposal:

PFT positions

National Program Director -GS 14

Assistant Program Director -GS 12/13

-Intel Program Manager -GS 12/13

-Intel Asst Program Manager -GS 11/12

-Mets Program Manager -GS 12/13

-Mets Asst Program Manager -GS 11/12

-Fire Analyst Program Manager -GS 12/13

-Fire Analyst Asst Program Manager -GS 11/12

New funding off the top

Next step: Look at the GACCs and how their PS programs are functioning.

Highlight that folks at GACCs and NICC are operational, and the initial ask of these manager positions will be to research and build out the rest of the program.

Bin Items and Wrap Up

Present Bucket 2 proposal to FMB on June 14

Mention that PSOG will be presenting Bucket 3 initial proposal during July FMB meeting.





PREDICTIVE SERVICES OVERSIGHT GROUP

Heidi and Cheryl will work on a draft proposal for Bucket 3 to present to PSOG June 16.

Next meeting on June 16 @ 1300

Fridays at 1300 moving forward.

Plan for next in person meeting September 6 & 7 in Denver

Nick and Cheryl can share the initial LTP report before it was broken out into 14 concepts if anyone needs or wants to review it.

The paper with reasonings could help direct the conversation, but that was only one version of one plan and things have changed since then.

Much of the initial paper isn't necessarily relevant to the current conversation.