

Communication, Education, and Prevention Committee (CEPC)

2024 CEPC F2F Meeting Notes Schoodic Institute, Maine, October 8-10

Logistics: (*Breaks as needed*)

- **Tuesday, Oct 8 (0830-1700 ET)** – Meeting in conference room 100, Rockefeller Hall, Schoodic Institute, 9 Atterbury Circle, Winter Harbor, Maine and Teams for virtual attendees.
- **Wednesday, Oct 9 (0830-1700 ET)** – Meeting in conference room 100 and Teams.
- **Thursday, Oct 10 (0800-1700 ET)** – Field Day to Surry and Acadia NP (no virtual meeting).

CEPC Members:

		In Attendance (x)		
Name	Representation	Oct 8	Oct 9	Oct 10
Jodie Barram	International Association of Fire Chiefs			
Faith Berry	US Fire Administration	X		X
Carrie Bilbao	NIFC External Affairs	X		X
Tina Boehle	National Park Service (Caron acting in absence)	X		X
Kari Cobb - virtual	US Fish and Wildlife Service		X	
Kerry Greene - virtual	Public Information Officer Subcommittee	X	X	
Kenny Jaramillo	Bureau of Indian Affairs	X	X	X
Angie Lane	National Association of State Foresters (Western)	X	X	X
Caron McKee	Administrative support			
Kent Nelson	National Association of State Foresters (Eastern)	X	X	X
Katy O'Hara - virtual	NWCG Coordinator	X		
Rebecca Paterson	NIFC Interagency External Affairs			
Corey Pieper	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration			
Mandy Scott - virtual	USDA Forest Service	X	X	
Jon Skinner	Bureau of Land Management			
Mark Thibideau	Fire Prevention Education Team Subcommittee			
Shawn Zimmermaker	Wildfire Investigation Subcommittee			
Stacey Grimes - virtual	FPETSC vice chair – sub for Mark	X	X	

Tuesday, October 8th – Schoodic

Video Proposal

- We will be taking photos and B-Roll during the course of the meeting to allow Erik (NWCG) to put together a video for CEPC to be able discuss what we do, plan for succession, etc.

Standard Operating Principles and Plan Review

- Capturing updates via tracked changes in SOP.
- Check with NWCG Executive Board representative for DoD and InterTribal Timber Council to see if there is a desire for primary representation to CEPC. In addition, check with NASA about representation. *Informed by Katy O'Hara that InterTribal Timber Council does not have any*

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representation on any committees/subcommittees – if they need to voice something, they do so via BIA representative. Also, if there is a desire to add DoD representative, write a request to Katy and she will begin the process.

- External Affairs representative will return to an associate member role vs. a primary role as they are not represented on the NWCG Executive Committee. They will no longer be eligible to hold chair or vice chair.

Presentation – Comma - Jane Darnell, Joel Iverson w/Allison Mims, Visual Specialist, and Amber Ortega, Smoke Scientist

- Want to change how the agencies and communities communicate about wildland fire and smoke
- Smoke is what gets the attention, and draws attention to a fire – whether prescribed or wild
- Look at framing, narratives – what, how, and when we communicate. How has Comma members been engaging in that process of communication on the ground
- High stress moments are not the time to introduce messages, it is the time for listening, caring, and empathy. Messages can be emphasized if introduced before, during low-stress situations
- Perception of efficacy > perception of hazard – people go into problem-solving mode; just the opposite – people go into fear mode
- Environmental psychology – that feeling of safeness when seeing something like smoke. Why readiness should include smoke readiness.
- Put smoke in messaging first because smoke is more visible and has bigger potential impact
- **What will wildland fire find when it arrives? What did we leave for the next wildland fire?**
 - Emphasizes strategies and actions – emphasis on right place, right conditions
 - Using opportunities (crises) as they arise – e.g., when a wildfire is happening elsewhere, use it as an opportunity for messaging about “what will wildland fire find when it arrives in our community?”
- There is no future without wildland fire or smoke, so where do we have the efficacy to use that opportunity for the narrative?
- Preparing the public to **receive** smoke so they can have more control over their exposure
- Opportunities for system shift – environmental justice, social, etc. leads to paradigm shift
 - Paradigm shift changes thinking at a deep <https://www.nwcg.gov/committee-roles-and-membership-information-level>; paradoxes exist; fire and smoke paradox. Deeper level of meaning allows shift. How do we move BEYOND paradox to understanding the **system**?
 - People understand their place in relation to wildland fire
- War on ____ – raises concern, but is not actionable

NWCG updates – Katy O’Hara

- For PIO, moving to next IPTM phase – addressing S-203
- Next round of IPTM for positions, starting in February 2025, does not include any positions stewarded by CEPC or any of its subcommittees

Subcommittee Updates

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- **FPETSC – Stacey Grimes**

- Pushed back to fall/winter for IPTM
- Southern Region looking at possibility of hosting Prevention Education team at end of October
- Started quarterly training webinar
- Only bureau/agency without representation is USFWS

- **PIOSC – Kerry**

- PIO position underwent IPTM
- Group will be revamping S-203

Below is a summary of what was approved in the PARR meeting and pushed forward to IPSC through the IPTM process.

PIOT:

- Add S-110, Basic Wildland Fire Orientation Optional Units as other training which supports knowledge and skills. (specifically Unit 3 which is PIO specific)
- Add 'Day in the Life' OLT module from S-203, Introduction to Incident Information, to other training which supports knowledge and skills.
- Change the PIOT position name to remove the Officer identifier, PIOT is not trained or intended to perform Public Information Officer functions without significant supervision.

PIO3:

- Remove PIOT qualification prerequisite requirement for PIO3.
- Require S-110, Basic Wildland Fire Orientation if PIOT is removed as a prerequisite.
- Remove L-380, Fireline Leadership from other training which supports knowledge and skills.
- *NO CHANGE* Require ICS-400, Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff
- Revise S-203 Introduction to Incident Information, consider blended delivery (some online units)****Please consider that as S-203 is revised the next level of Information Officer Specific Training will need to be considered as the course is revised. Despite the fact that THIS contract may not cover training for a PIOC, subject-specific training will likely be recommended and needed to progress to the next level****

- **WFISC – Carrie for Shawn**

- Annual meeting Oct 21-25 in Santa Fe, NM.
- Working on edits to PMS412 with group.
- Kenny will be new liaison to WFISC (can attend meeting to provide CEPC update).

Agency Updates – All

- **BIA**

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- BLM
- IAFC
- NASF
 - East
 - West
- NPS
- USFA/FEMA
- USFWS
- USFS: Currently working on Prevention PD; setting up working group for Prevention/Mitigation Plan template; community of practice webinars on Wednesdays and Fridays; working with Ready, Set Go and recreation for campsite evacuation plans; Smokey Bear Live 4 will run every Friday in October.

New Action Items

- Carrie Bilbao will request roster change – Angie Lane to become chair in October 2024 and change External Affairs to associate member role - Rebecca Paterson will represent NIFC EA. Jon Skinner will become vice chair per CEPC SOP rotation. Kenny Jarmillo will be WFISC liaison – add to WFISC roster.
- Faith Berry will become a liaison for CEPC to WUIMC – verify with Erin O'Connor, WUIMC chair.
- Carrie will put in a request to Katy for DoD representative to CEPC.
- Put in funding request for archiving project for historic documentation held by Tina.
- Suggest that vice chairs of parent committees attend quarterly connections calls as silent observers (learning the ropes).
- Check on providing rep/liaison to Comma group – possibly Tina?

Wednesday, October 9th, Schoodic

CEPC Strategic Plan

- Reviewed plan and tracked changes – see document for notes and comments.
- Added suggested action items into comments. Comments marked with ‘–’ are accomplishments. Comments marked with ‘*’ are suggested action items.

Presentation - Wildfire Investigation – Ranger Matt Bennett

- Fire investigation review on a recent resolved arson case (like Date Line!).
- Investigators went door to door to find witnesses – many private and business cameras captured video of suspect to piece together case.
- Local fire department chief convicted of arson.
- Recorded presentation.

PIOSC SOP review

- Reviewed document and made suggested changes and questions noted in comments to review with Kerry Greene, PIOSC chair – PIOSC SOP located in PIO Subcommittee folder in NWCG CEPC Team.

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Wrap-up

- Add action items from Strategic Plan to Action Items spread sheet.
- Agenda items not addressed to be added to CEPC monthly meetings:
 - CEPC publications and training - review P classes, IDPs for PREV & PETL, etc.
 - Fire Prevention Digital Library – review
 - WPSAPS – video review/updates – Kenny (will cover November 14 CEPC meeting).
 - Website review – NWCG and NIFC
 - Fire restrictions page/website – Kenny/all
- Transfer of command: Carrie Bilbao to Angie Lane – review roles with Katy O’Hara, NWCG Coordinator.

Thursday, October 10th, Surry & Acadia NP

Surry - Met with Maine Chief Forest Ranger Robby Gross, Fire Chief Bryan McLellan, Director and State Forester MFS Patty Cormier and community members Allen and Mary at Surry volunteer FD.

- Discussed CWPP and issues in emergency response with the community.
- Blue Hill Peninsula plan involving nine communities.

Acadia NP – Met with Public Affairs Officer Amanda Pollock and Acadia Engine Captain Bryan Daigle.

- Discussed fire management and ecology within the park.
- Kent Nelson provided 1947 Fires overview.

Bar Harbor – Fire station

- Stopped at fire station to view display of 1947 Fires on Mt. Desert Island.
- Bonus: Northern Lights!