

Communication, Education, and Prevention Committee (CEPC)

CEPC Conference Call Notes

Logistics

Date: March 13, 2025

Time: 1530 Eastern, 1430 Central, 1330 Mountain, 1230 Pacific **(NOTE: Delayed start to meeting because of USFS All Staff Meeting. Will end on time, just starting late.)**

CEPC Members:

Name	Representation	In Attendance (X)
Jodie Barram	International Association of Fire Chiefs	X
Kerry Greene	Public Information Officer Subcommittee	X
Faith Berry	US Fire Administration	X
Rebecca Paterson	NIFC External Affairs	X
Tina Boehle	National Park Service	X
Mandy Scott	U.S. Forest Service	X
Kari Cobb	US Fish and Wildlife Service	
Mark Thibideau	Fire Prevention Education Team Subcommittee	X
Corey Pieper	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	
Kenny Jaramillo	Bureau of Indian Affairs	
Angie Lane	National Association of State Foresters (Western)	X
Katy O'Hara Sarah Lee	NWCG	X
Caron McKee	Administrative support	X
Kent Nelson	National Association of State Foresters (Eastern)	X
Jon Skinner	Bureau of Land Management	**Retired
Shawn Zimmermaker	Fire Investigation Subcommittee	X
Stacey Grimes	U.S. Forest Service	

Agenda Topics

- Review Meeting Notes - approved
- Committee Business Updates – Chair's update:
- Accomplishment and Action Tracker Review
- Organization/Agency Updates

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

- Chair's update – Angie: Participating in subcommittee meetings/NWCG meetings as invited. Lots of good work going on.
 - NWCG Coordinator remarks and news and update – Sarah Lee: Katy is gone (took the deferred resignation). Sarah will be our interim coordinator. NWCG will have only 33% of usual number of coordinators by the end of next week; 20% publication staff, and 50% of training staff. NWCG is working through the process for hiring and bringing in detailers as the highest priority, and will be prioritizing mission-related workload. Reach out to Sarah with any needs/questions.
- PIO Subcommittee update – Kerry Greene: SMEs having been working on S-203; the course was too long, and they're now working on shortening it to 30 hours or less of instruction. SMEs are in 7-day review period; the goal is to get it ready in time for upcoming fire season.

Some content could be stand-alone online training (OLT) to be taken before coming to the classroom portion; this would be for universal content, such as checking into an incident, etc. The OLT portion

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would be approximately 1.5 hours. Because of the change of modality of training, approval is needed from CEPC (via a vote); and vetted through agencies.

****CEPC voted on changing modality of training: Decision: CEPC approves the modality change to S-203 from ILT to blended (OLT 1.5 and ILT 28 hours). (ILT - Instructor-Led Training, and OLT - Online Training)**
Sarah will work with Kerry regarding next steps.

- Fire Prevention Education Team Subcommittee update –Mark: This will tentatively be Mark's last CEPC meeting, as a new co-chair has been selected (Jeffrey Moyer, BIA). Chair is Stacey Grimes. A webinar was held for team members and PIOs on Feb. 27, and was a great success. The subcommittee recently went over regional feedback; discussed use of Firenet (not using Google). They're in the process of looking at the Digital Library; will need to coordinate with NWCG for an update. Lots of interest in AD hiring in Prevention/Education teams – waiting to hear on whether this can be done.
- Wildland Fire Investigation Subcommittee update – Shawn: PMS-412 is back from editor; getting close to finishing. FI-210 will follow next and is mostly done; at the in-person meeting the week of April 20, the subcommittee will try to finalize FI-210, then will route for review. Shawn has been involved in and will Chair the first International Wildfire Ignition Conference (WIC), in Portugal. A WIC website has gone live, and they'll be accepting submissions soon. The conference might be in Colorado next year. There could be issues with travel this year. A questionnaire will be developed to go to international fire investigators to see what issues exist worldwide, with the goal of bringing those in this discipline together. Shawn has been working on getting an article on Fire Pattern Indicators published through IAWF – it will be published in their next edition, and the intent is to stimulate interest in research.
- Fire cause task group update - Kenny: Not on call. Per Angie – Fire Cause task group met on March 6, and are continuing working on cause categories.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- 1) Accomplishment and Action Tracker – Angie. Angie put together a spreadsheet which she shared during the meeting, to track comments from the Strategic Plan which were Action Items, including a list CEPC can start working on for 2025-2027. CEPC members should review the spreadsheet and compare it to comments in Strategic Plan to make sure nothing is missed. In subsequent meetings, CEPC can discuss Action Items from the spreadsheet, begin assigning Goals and Timelines.
- 2) In-Person Annual Meeting – Southwest has been brought up as a possible location – maybe in Albuquerque/Flagstaff/Phoenix/Tuscon? Per Tina - Saguaro National Park in Tuscon has a fire-prone ecosystem and could be a potential spot to visit. Anyone with ideas for location, send to Angie and she will create a Doodle Poll to see CEPC's preference.

ACTION ITEMS FROM TODAY'S CALL:

What	Assigned to	Status
Fire Prev/Ed Team Subcommittee - Let Sarah know when Jeffrey will replace Mark – send updated roster.	Mark	
Discuss next steps on S-203 update	Sarah/Kerry	
Review the spreadsheet "25_27 ActionItems_Accomplishments" shared by Angie, and compare to comments in Strategic Plan to make sure nothing is missed. Start thinking about smart metrics for Action Items 25-27	All	

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What	Assigned to	Status
Send Angie any ideas for a good in-person meeting location for this fall, in the Southwest	All	
Look at CEPC rotation list and determine whether to go on to the next agency on the list for a vice-chair while waiting for Jon's replacement.	All	Discuss at next meeting

***FOR A LIST OF ALL CEPC ACTION ITEMS, BOTH IN-PROGRESS AND COMPLETED, SEE TEAMS DOCUMENT: [Action Items.xlsx](#)** (Located on Teams inside the Meeting Agendas and Notes folder)

ORGANIZATIONAL/AGENCY UPDATES

To be submitted in writing – can be covered if there is enough time.

Name	Representation	Update
Jodie Barram	IAFC	Gearing up for WUI conference in Kansas City at end of this month; tracking dynamics at the federal level; how they affect local. Tracking National Fire Academy closing – classes going to virtual only, and encouraging folks to contact their legislators. Gearing up for spring wildfire preparedness events, in prep for a busy year.
Faith Berry	USFA	Recently published Sesame Street color/activity book on wildfire for young children, accompanied by an adult guide which teaches parent/instructors on making communities/homes safe from WF. Some work is on pause for now/being re-evaluated.
Rebecca Paterson	NIFC External Affairs	Fireline 5K has been canceled for 2025, but we are still promoting the virtual version (more info https://www.nifc.gov/nwffd). "National Fire News" page on nifc.gov , which we often use to promote prevention messaging and link to helpful resources; NIFC invites ongoing input or suggestions from this group for what we could include (https://www.nifc.gov/fire-information/nfn)
Tina Boehle	NPS	Annual NPS PIO Webinar on April 23; will be recorded. S-203 course week after next at Lake Mead, with NPS cadre and interagency group of students.
Kari Cobb	USFWS	Not on call.
Corey Pieper	NOAA	Not on call.
Kenny Jaramillo	BIA	Not on call.
Angie Lane	NASF (Western)	Grappling as states with fallout from lack of federal funding; trying to proceed with training/backup planning on this, and still playing catchup from being shut down for trainings during COVID. Will be promoting CEPC with states at meeting next January; could co-present with Kent.
Kent Nelson	NASF (Eastern)	Shout-out to folks involved with NWCG video for new taskbooks and training. Kent has been promoting CEPC at events, such as NE Forest Fire Compact. Prevent staff in VT put out children's book. Kent will be teaching S-130 in about a week, and saw that a block on prevention is possibly going to be added to S-130. Kent has been working with federal grants.
Mandy Scott	USFS	Melissa Jenkins is the new permanent Branch Chief (replaces Maureen). USFS put together a briefing packet on Prevention/Mitigation prescriptions and standards which is currently out for regional review. Fire Prev/Ed Teams – struggling to find instructors for P-410; if anyone knows of instructors, let Mandy know. AD hiring is a concern – lots of team leads in Prevention are ADs. Working on revamping SmokyBear.com – great changes happening, and Mandy will share when complete.
Jon Skinner	BLM	Not on call. *Jon was vice-chair, so Angie emailed Sarah to find out how to proceed in getting a replacement for Jon. Sarah will reach out to BLM board rep to request replacement. CEPC can use rotation list and determine whether to go on to next vice-chair on rotation list while waiting for Jon's replacement.

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