

Communication, Education, and Prevention Committee (CEPC)

CEPC Conference Call Notes

Logistics

Date: April 10, 2025

Time: 1530 Eastern, 1430 Central, 1330 Mountain, 1230 Pacific

CEPC Members:

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

Agenda Topics

- Review Meeting Notes - approved
- Committee Business Updates
- Discussion Topics:
 - Operating Plan Review
 - VP nomination
 - Annual Meeting – in person??
- Organization/Agency Updates

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

- Chair's update – Angie:
 - Kent attended the NWCG Connections call for Angie. On the call, Erica Lamb discussed how publications will prioritize IPTM; timelines will be extended due to staffing. Steve Gaskill discussed RT-130 which has 8 new modules and a storymap, with lots of views on YouTube. The Leadership Committee discussed L-280 and Lead by Example Awards. Sarah Lee discussed the WUI Mitigation Field Guide (available electronically) – Sarah has the latest proof.
- NWCG Coordinator remarks and news and update – Sarah: Erica Lamb lateralled in from publications manager to a coordinator. NWCG has lateralled in a new publications manager from BLM AZ. NWCG has submitted a request to hire the vacancy behind Katy O'Hara (456 position).

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- PIO Subcommittee update – Catherine Koele: Accomplishment tracking is done and will be put forward soon. The PIOSC updated social media Best Management Practices, which will be re-posted soon on NIFC. Regarding the approval for change of modality for S-203 – PIOSC had checked in with NWCG, and will use NIFC EA-created video for the online portion – NWCG does not need to vet. Kerry has found a potential alpha group to test when ready. (Angie asked about observing the alpha portion, which can be done with permission from the instructors). 310-1 changes: Beginning in 2026, one will no longer need to be qualified as PIOT before becoming a PIO3. The “What Kind of PIO am I” graphic has been updated and posted to committee page, but will be changed again with 310-1 change. IMRRs are on pause; PIOSC will be meeting with PIO leads to engage on changes during the pause.
- Fire Prevention Education Team Subcommittee update – Stacey: Not on call.
- Wildland Fire Investigation Subcommittee update – Shawn: Shawn not on call. Sarah gave update: The subcommittee will have an in-person meeting the week of April 21, in Denver. During this meeting, they’ll do revisions to FI-210. The subcommittee has sent a draft Scope of Work for an X-902 course update to OLT. PMS-412, Investigation Standards, is out electronically; just waiting on published versions for the cache. FI-310 course is done as far as professionalizing videos. For FI-110, final signatures were obtained this morning.
- Fire cause task group update - Kenny: The task group hasn’t met in a while but has a meeting scheduled for next week. No additional updates since last call.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- 1) Operating Plan Review – Angie. VP discussion (see below). CEPC removed NIFC EA from the Chair/Vice Chair rotation as they are not primary members. All CEPC members should look at the Operating Plan over the next month and be ready to discuss/accept proposed changes in document at the next meeting.
- 2) VP Nomination: CEPC discussed rotation in regards to next Vice Chair. The FWS rep is Kari Cobb; Kari is only FWS fire public affairs staff in the country therefore has limited capacity; CEPC voted and agreed to move onto USFS: Mandy Scott will move into Vice Chair role effective immediately. FWS will move to the bottom of rotation list.
- 3) Annual Meeting: CEPC discussed whether in-person is an option or whether we should plan for virtual, and decided to plan on virtual giving travel restrictions. We will still build an agenda with guest speakers, etc. Proposed date is the week of October 13, likely over four short days (roughly 4 hours/day). All CEPC members will put a placeholder on their calendars for Oct. 14-17 for a virtual meeting. Those with ideas for topics/guest speakers, bring them to our next meeting.

ACTION ITEMS FROM TODAY’S CALL:

What	Assigned to	Status
Look at Operating Plan; be ready to discuss/accept changes on next call.	All	Will discuss on May conference call
Add placeholder to calendars for virtual meeting Oct. 14-17, and think of presenters to talk at the meeting/agenda topics.	All	Will discuss on May conference call

***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)

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ORGANIZATIONAL/AGENCY UPDATES

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

Name	Representation	Update
Jodie Barram	IAFC	Jodie's last name will change the day after tomorrow to Schiffman. IAFC had a successful WUI conference in Kansas City; federal partners were absent and were missed. Good learning took place across various tracts, especially on wildfire in the west/lessons learned from the LA Fires, uncertainty in the insurance industry, learning to better communicate during times of stress and shifting messaging from being data forward to more empathy/trust-building. They also covered looking to private funding sources (i.e. philanthropic sources).
Faith Berry	USFA	Not on call. The WUI guide will be available in an electronic format soon and is going through a final editorial review in publications.
Rebecca Paterson	NIFC External Affairs	Nick Howell from BLM was recently featured on BLM's podcast about prevention. BLM is working on a public dashboard on fire cause data. The BLM EA group is losing one staff member next week.
Tina Boehle	NPS	The Explorer Act stating media needs to have a special permit to film NPS employees in uniform on NPS lands has been paused for now, but has huge implications for fire/emergency response. Lots of unknowns right now.
Kari Cobb	USFWS	USFWS is changing fire communications on RX fire to add more emphasis on the WUI component/structure protection and tying comms about RX fire to recreation such as hunting (focusing away from T&E species protection in communication).
Corey Pieper	NOAA	Not on call.
Kenny Jaramillo	BIA	BIA had been planning in-person Prevention Training, but had to revise; going to one-hour monthly trainings with staff in the field. Still working on WPSAPS enhancements; working on new user interface scheduled for release in May (also a helpdesk for WPSAPS). They will then will start looking at updating guides to include new features and look at new trainings.
Angie Lane	NASF (Western)	Western States Fire Managers had a meeting today. Getting inventory of who on the federal side will still be around for IMTs in the west. Lots of moving parts. Region 6 (PNW) S-203 training was well-attended.
Kent Nelson	NASF (Eastern)	NE Forest Fire Compact has been active; lots of fires last fall. Rescheduling trainings for June. An upcoming Volunteer Fire Council class in Massachusetts will teach about wildfire risk assessments; Kent will attend. They will also be demonstrating the Community Assessor Program for NE/Midwest.
Mandy Scott	USFS	One National Fire Prevention Team is currently out, in northern AZ. Announcements for Smoky Bear Awards should be out next week. The Community of Practice webinar series will start up again next week; the schedule will be out soon. Webinars will be on Wednesdays and Fridays.
Zach Ellinger	BLM	BLM has been standardizing fire restriction language for all BLM states; working on a new template for IM – vetting through the solicitor's office. They are also standardizing prevention plan templates (via a working group). They are currently on hold with their Fire Prevention manual. All Community Assistance Agreements are being transitioned into IFPRS. State offices are soliciting bids for regional/geographic prevention. BLM is working on an Investigation "pink book" to include standard processes/procedures.

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