

Communication, Education, and Prevention Committee (CEPC)

CEPC Conference Call Notes

Logistics

Date: June 12, 2025

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

CEPC Members:

Name	Representation	In Attendance (X)
Jodie Barram	International Association of Fire Chiefs	
Kerry Greene	Public Information Officer Subcommittee	X
Faith Berry –retired	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
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)	
Zach Ellinger	Bureau of Land Management	X
Branden Smith (FS-ID) – for Shawn Zimmermaker	Fire Investigation Subcommittee	X
Stacey Grimes	Fire Prevention Education Team Subcommittee	

Agenda Topics

- Review Meeting Notes from last meeting:
- Input for NWCG Committee listening session:

NWCG is proposing restructuring to consolidate 17 Committees into 10):

Public Information Management Committee (PIC) – formerly parts of PIOSC/CEPC

a. Education & Prevention Subcommittee (EPSC) – formerly CEPC/FPETSC

b. Fire Investigation Subcommittee (FISC) – formerly WFISC

After hearing from Sarah Lee on this topic (see notes below), CEPC discussed initial thoughts:

CEPC Discussion on Committee Re-organization:

- Will there be a mismatch with WF Investigation subcommittee, with new structure focus of Public Information management? Shawn should be looped into this conversation. Public Information is a very small part of the investigation piece. If not, where else would they be housed?
- The impetus to get back to the basics seems positive
- No one thought of any fatal flaws.
- How would the proposed budget for the one National Wildfire Agency affect reorganization/large incident management. Right now, the existing 5 federal fire agencies provide NWCG funding off the top.

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CEPC's next meeting is right before input forms on restructuring are due to NWCG, and after the CEPC listening session, so this committee will revisit this topic before providing official input.

- Committee Business Updates
- Organization/Agency Updates

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

- Chair's update – Angie: Restructuring of NWCG committees – suggestion is to go from 17 to 10. Angie sent an email to CEPC with FAQs on this topic.
- NWCG Coordinator remarks and news and update – Sarah: Restructuring highlights: Next year NWCG will be 50 years old and has grown; it's become difficult to manage workloads. Discussions have been ongoing for several years, and restructuring is vetted through the Executive Board – nothing is final yet. Listening sessions are the next step (these will include 3-4 representatives per committee, and reps from NWCG's Executive Board and coordinators). The purpose of the listening sessions is to hear thoughts and concerns, and there will be a form to collect feedback (this form can be filled out by individuals, not just committees). Sessions will continue through the end of June, then NWCG will process feedback. February 2026 is the goal for timing of restructuring. NWCG is not trying to do more with less, but to anchor back to the core mission of interoperability, and restructure across the board to increase efficiency (not just committees); this is the third restructuring over the years, all with the intent of improved efficiency.

The new structure under consideration is set up to have management oversight committees to help provide leadership, coordination, and agency vetting. Groups beneath the subcommittee level can still form do fulfill tasks; they would just not be permanent. The end result will be organization more similar to ICS structure to anchor back to interoperability, qualifications and standards.

In the interim, CEPC should keep doing work as usual.

After feedback is analyzed, NWCG's Executive Board will make decisions on specific positions. Lots of unknowns exist; for example, the potential creation of one National Wildfire Service could affect the reorganization. Reorganizing with the involvement of people who know the current system is ideal.

CEPC's Listening session (June 18) will be attended by: Mandy, Tina, Kerry, Zach or Stacey, and Shawn

- PIO Subcommittee update – Kerry Greene: The PIOSC lost one representative (BIA) to the DRP. Elaina La Paz is the new BIA rep. PIOSC met May 22 and talked about topics related to consolidation efforts within DOI/USFS, such as staff who took the DRP working during fire season, PAO availability on host units due to DRP, etc.

The PIOSC is working on IPTM – rewrite of the S-203 course. SMEs are reviewing content which is a very heavy workload due to lots of content and gaps in material. There's a proposal that the unit on engaging with media would be a good stand-alone training as it applies to a wider audience. An Alpha test for the

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new version of S-203 is likely to happen in the fall.

The PIOT position description has been reviewed and sent to Sarah Lee.

PIOSC has been discussing the Pocket Organizer, and who will be responsible for editing it/where it will be available, etc.

NIFC EA will work on creating a video "A Day in the Life..." Candice Stevenson is lead on this.

Inciweb development staff has been downsized from 10-12 down to 4 staffers. They won't be able to focus on anything other than maintenance. There have been some suggestions for enhancements (such as recreation layers on Inciweb maps) which the developers are looking into but have limited capacity for now.

- Fire Prevention Education Team Subcommittee update – Zach: Stacey provided Zach with updates: FPET is working on a briefing paper on FPET incidents on Firenet. Will need SOPs if this comes to fruition (on file structure, Docbox, roles and responsibilities, etc.). FPET didn't lose anyone to the DRP. They're hoping to address some training issues; consolidation could be positive for the prevention community as a whole as it could address training and more.
- Wildland Fire Investigation Subcommittee update – Branden: The FI-210 Powerpoint presentation completed in April has gone out for testing; feedback has been good overall and might lead to a few tweaks. The subcommittee had a meeting in Missoula, MT with the coordinating group and folks in fire lab to get more studies. They also met with USFS staff doing studies on spark arrestors and are getting more info on new ones coming out. Shawn is working on an instructor study guide for FI-210.
- Fire cause task group update - Kenny: The task group met two weeks ago and discussed degree of confidence on reporting; there's been no further movement at this time. WPSAPS update: USFS got full funding requested for contract – this will help with continued enhancements, the helpdesk, and the new dashboard under development. The dashboard should be rolled out by August.

ACTION ITEMS FROM TODAY'S CALL:

What	Assigned to	Status
Attend listening session on NWCG restructuring for CEPC, on June 18	Mandy, Tina, Kerry, Zach or Stacey, and Shawn	Assigned

***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	Not on call
Faith Berry	USFA	Vacant
Rebecca Paterson	NIFC External Affairs	• NIFC is encouraging participation in the Virtual 5k leading up to National Wildland Firefighter Day (NWFFD). https://www.nifc.gov/nwffd. They also encourage the use of social media to celebrate on or leading up to July 2. • Getting ready for Week of Remembrance. • Lots of public interest on deployments to Canada.

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Name	Representation	Update
Tina Boehle	NPS	NPS's Leader's Intent memo on 2025 Wildland Fire and Emergency Response went out along with the joint DOI/USDA memo. OWF released guidance on consolidated employees and fire assignments. OWF is working on a SharePoint page to help consolidated employees.
Kari Cobb	USFWS	No updates
Corey Pieper	NOAA	Not on call
Kenny Jaramillo	BIA	Busy doing A-123 prevention program reviews, work on WPSAPS.
Angie Lane	NASF (Western)	Very warm temperatures in NW. Starting to see some larger fires on the landscape. WA and OR are part of the NW Compact and have been able to send resources to western Canada (Saskatchewan and Alberta). Keeping an eye on the right time to keep resources in geographic area.
Kent Nelson	NASF (Eastern)	Not on call
Mandy Scott	USFS	Not on call
Zach Ellinger	BLM	Jon Skinner's position is still vacant – will fill with a detail in the fall. Bureau-wide, lots of initial attack in the last 24-36 hours. AWP (annual work plan) for 2025 is supposed to be out next week, including IRPP – will go to State offices in lump sums. Budget staff working on this.