

# Communication, Education, and Prevention Committee (CEPC)

## December 2019 Conference Call Notes

### Logistics

Date: December 12, 2019

Time: 15:00 Eastern, 1400 Central, 1300 Mountain, 1200 Pacific

Call Length: .5 hours

Call in number:

United States: +1 (866) 742-8728 -

Access Code: 1759103 (Leader Pin – in case the leader cannot make the call – will ask if you are the leader, press \*, Pin is 7721651)

CEPC Members on the call: Tina Boehle, Cathy Broughton, Sean Collins, and Terri Jenkins. Gwen Beavans provided notes for the call - attached in Organizational Updates.

NWCG Coordinator: Deb Fleming – not on the call.

### Agenda Topics:

#### COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

Chair's update. – Terri provided an update on the Fire Cause Task Force. Work continues as approximately 90 comments were received during the comment period. The Task Force is addressing each comment, and accepts or rejects the issue raised and notes changes made in part or whole, with reasoning to explain the process to the comment. There has been sufficient input to prompt the Task Force to adopt some of the suggestions and release once again for comment. Task Force work will resume in January with weekly calls.

WPSAPS Train the Trainer session was held in Albuquerque December 10-12. The software is still being tweaked as the trainers encounter bugs in the system. Rollout for the training will most likely occur in the first quarter of the new year and possibly as soon as January. A tentative training calendar for WPSAPS was developed, with multiple geographic areas hosting trainings to urge wide interagency participation.

Terri will also work to reschedule the November NWCG presentation on IDP's and other standards that will be necessary for the committee to work on in the coming year.

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PIO Subcommittee update – Sean – The Social Media Tasking is complete and should be in place for the 2020 fire season. Details will be available on the NWCG PIOSC website. (A huge debt of gratitude is owed to the subcommittee from CEPC, it was a monumental undertaking and will provide direction and guidance to all levels of PIOs, from local to national incidents). Additionally, PIOSC have completed their IPD's, (another sterling accomplishment).

PIOSC is moving forward with the recommendation for the development of PIO3's, largely due to the inclusion and expansion of Type 3 IMT use. The required and associated work on the PIO3 position should be completed within the next 3 months.

Sean reported that Vice Chair Candice Stevenson, has accepted a new position with the National Park Service. NPS has generously consented to allow Candice will continue to serve out her tenure as Vice Chair and assist with the incoming FWS representative on committee, Susie Heisey.

## DISCUSSION TOPICS

Update on Fire Cause Task Group – addressed under Chair's update.

Update on WFSAPS training - addressed under Chair's update.

Update/review of PMS 455, Wildfire Prevention Strategies – pending, will address in new year.

## ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

USFA – Cathy Broughton confirmed the news that Ricky Ziebart will retire at the end of the year. We will miss Rick and his leadership on the committee, and wish him the very best in his retirement and new life endeavors. Cathy will, fortunately for us, remain on the committee. When the new USFA WUI Administrator is fully on board, they will most likely become the Fire Administration's representative.

USDA FS – Smokey Bear Licensing – The Smokey Bear Licensing webpages are now up and running on the FS WWW. After a long hiatus, information about the [licensees and their official products](#) or [www.fs.fed.us/smokeybearlicensing](http://www.fs.fed.us/smokeybearlicensing) as well as how to [become a licensee](#) are now available. We will continue to update the pages as new licensees are signed.

Awards: Smokey Bear Awards - The nomination period for the 2020 national Smokey Bear Awards opened on August 9, 2019. [Nominations](#) are open until December 15, 2019.

75<sup>th</sup> smokey bear products on sale at [www.symbols.gov](http://www.symbols.gov) !!

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More information is available on USDA's Prevention and Mitigation Post, attached to these notes, as a separate document.

NASF – no report

IAFC – no report

NIFC – EA - Carrie mentioned that she was able to tie into the WFISC and should be able to have consistent communication with the subcommittee. Carrie advised that Jeff Bonebrake will also be retiring June 2020, Jerry Hepler is going to take over the subcommittee in February. They are concerned that with the impending loss of additional members to retirement, about how to maintain the committee as they move forward. WFISC is also looking for some type of repository, for the material they have produced before they lose the “brain trust” (as Jeff put it). He asked about maybe something through NWCG. Carrie will check on this. Carrie has also been busy with year-end reporting, and upward reporting success stories.

BLM – no report

NPS - Tina advised that Candice Stevenson has accepted a position with NPS Communication and Education and was excited to welcome Candice aboard (and have some much welcomed assistance). Tina has also been preparing year end information to the Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) and on “Green Book” success stories.

BIA – no report

USF&WS – Terri reported that number of prevention teams were deployed in October throughout the Southeast, in a number of different states. As rains slowed activity down, Terri and Mark Wiles were deployed to the USDA R8 FAM regional office and provided assistance and program support for Paul Gellerstedt and Lex Gabaldo. Terri and Mark focused on Smokey Bear accomplishment reporting, and long term prevention campaign “self-ready” products, should wildfire activity recur this fall or spring.

Work continues on WPSAPS and how it will be utilized and implemented within the Fish and Wildlife Service.

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