

Fire Behavior Subcommittee

10/15/25 FBSC Meeting

Chris Moore, Tonja Opperman, David Greathouse, Rocco Snart, Steven Stolze, David Schultz, Nick Nausler, Brent Wachter

S-290

- 40,000+ people have taken the COMET version of S-290 in the last 15 years.
- The COMET version of S-290 will not be valid for NWCG credit after January 31, 2026. ARAs and IMETs can take the COMET version for their qualifications after that time.
- Kaas/Ring-O-Rang –need to follow up with Dan.
- Rocco has had good luck using the new S-290
- Tonja was contacted by a Wildfire Apprentice Program rep. about S-290 since they teach 290 in person. They can teach whatever they want if they meet the objectives and take the certified exams. NWCG develops the content and the exams, but we don't manage the delivery piece, it is up to the training program to decide how they want to deliver it.
- We need to keep track of comments so they can be addressed, and a revision timeframe can be created.

S390

- Feedback to NWCG was submitted at end of September. NWCG is working on addressing feedback. Brian Harrison will get Chris an updated timeline for certification today.
- Behave7—the Behave calculator is referenced in S390. It is hard to “refer” to this generically, and updates to S390 still needed for Behave. B7 now runs in a browser. S390 has screenshots of B6. We should not delay certification since B7 is still not 100% workable.
- Unit 8 about Decision-making is excellent.

S490

- Teaching Test Course next week with 26 students that can still travel despite shutdown. Had a few instructors and coaches drop because of furlough status. NPS and USFS can travel for mission critical training. NWCG is sending Harrison and Spence down to Tucson to observe test course.
- Test course feedback will be sent to ICF.

- FBSC will tentatively review 490 for certification in early December.
- December 2025 is tentative certification.

NWCG Reorganization

- A call in September indicated an Exec Board Member decides where you fall into the new organization. We do not decide. It will be decided for us. It's a good time to reach out to our Executive Board Member to express our desires. Likely to only be one DOI rep on each of the committees and subcommittees. Some decisions based on the DOI reorganization.
- Rosters will be sorted by end of October.
- New NWCG structure was slated for February 2026 but may not be realistic...might be closer to July.
- We are the Fire Analysis Subcommittee under the Planning Management Committee.

LTAN/FBAN IPTM IPSC

- Chris, Dave, and Nick were on agenda at IPTM and advocated for the changes we wanted.
- 2026 310-1 will not include the revised SRB LTAN requirement but it will be in 2027.
- RAWs course triggered a lot of conversation; if we had said it was "required" as SMEs they would support but we wanted to lower barriers and not lower the bar.
- FENC approved recommended 310-1 changes. Dave will send Nick a documentation form.

FBFRG and Fall Meeting in Prescott

- If can't travel, we'll make it virtual the first week of November if we are still shutdown on October 20. Will plan 2 hours/day if virtual.
- December 1 is the NWCG deadline for the FBFRG update with goal of finalizing by March.
- Chris on leave from Nov 13-27. Tonja will collate the doc for delivery to NWCG.
- It will be updated annually, we are not striving for perfection, but improvement.
- Chris sent everyone their section as a PDF; each person needs to convert to Word and work on their section independently until we collate the final.
- **CRITICAL: Use Track Changes!** Formatting guide from NWCG will be sent by Chris.
- Audience? It's being used in S290, 390, 490 but also used by LTANs and FBANs.
- **Finish your section when you can and then post to Firenet.**
- Should we reassign anything from furloughed to non-furloughed people?
 - Tonja can get started in Nicole's section.

- Other assignments are in the box below.

- Splash Page - Chris
 - Weather - FWSC
 - Fuels - Andrew/ Steve
 - Fuel Moisture - Andrew/ Steve
 - Mapping - Nate
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- Surface Fire - Greathouse
 - Crown Fire - FCESC
 - Fire Assessment - Chris
 - Best Practices Fire Modeling - Nicole
 - Fire Danger - FDSC
 - CFFDRS - FDSC
 - References - Tonja
 - Fire Behavior Reference Guide vs Fire Environment Field Reference Guide
 - Audience
 - Link to fire weather handbook

209 Issues

- There was an issue this summer that a person reported that Slash was the “previously burned” fuel model and then a call came in from a state politician saying that it was not appreciated and did not “look good.”
- Do we advocate for changes, such as changing the fuel model dropdown from the 13 to the 40. Or the six basic fuel categories (timber, shrub, etc). What are the implications?
- We landed on advocating for basic categories, but no tasking.

SSD

- FENC supports adoption of the information, but Agencies in Exec Board did not. Chris will send out a memo for documentation.

AD Rate increase, submitted, but no response yet.

Round Robin Tidbits:

- Rocco plans to retire in March!
- Brent: Lots going on in the fire weather arena with some new thunderstorm videos and issues learning FEMS' new ways of displaying data, etc.
- Chris is meeting with NWCG tomorrow re: Heather Heward requesting access to S390 for teaching a class.
- Prescott Meeting: Expect meeting TEAMS invite from Chris on Monday October 20 if government is shutdown. Expect late morning meetings.
- Chris will send NWCG format guide to use in FBFRG revision.
- Plan on reviewing S490 in early December.