

Fire Environment Committee

Conference Call Notes

April 26, 2023

On the call:

Robyn Heffernan

Katie O'Hara

Christopher

Moore Cheryl

Bright

Nick Nauslar

Chad

Hoffman

Geoff

Marshall

Peter Lahm

Tim Chavez

Larry Van Bussen

Nicki Johnston - Notetaker

Meeting Agenda:

FDSC Objectives/Standards

Cheryl working on committee subgroup template for FDSC.

The overall mission for FDSC did not change, but the primary objectives have, and the subcommittee is looking for FENC approval.

Fire danger rating definition is still being discussed and will be submitted when changes are decided upon.

Once approved, FDSC objectives can be posted on NWCG website.

FENC supports and approves.

SOP also has an agency roster rotation that they are starting to apply starting with NASF and NPS. Vice-chair was vacant but has been filled along with all positions after switching to the rotation concept. Looking at pulling in an Eastern rep from NASF.

Continuing with 2-year agency rotation as well as keeping FENC guidelines for a blended roster function.

Chair Update

PSOG presented the LTP 14 concepts at the NWCG/NMAC/FMB joint meeting. The concepts were split into 3 larger "buckets."

What does fire environment support services look like with a focus on predictive services.

Fire environment centers were supported and FMB took back that tasking as it's being worked on already by more elevated programs.

Fire environment monitoring and prediction services on IT and science side was the second bucket and was highly supported.

FMB would like PSOG to work on options and scalability for bucket 2.

The 3rd bucket was almost solely regarding predictive services and was supported by FMB who decided that they would like national program moving forward. The program should be a top to bottom program, but they would like options for what that looks like.

How are we looking regarding obligation and expenditure of funding for this FY? Need to track at some point to see if agreements need to be put in place. Fire weather doesn't have anything that will need this. Projects funded for FY23: all from fire behavior. Mod for Naffri agreement is part of it. \$80,000 Have proposed several rotations for FENC but have had a hard time finding one that will work for Fire Environment group. -Request Cheryl to report back what works for FDSC. DRI recently published a journal paper using NOAA Sea Star grants on Red Flag Warning criteria and a new matrix. This can be used as a launching point for utilizing the criteria over in a fire weather test bed. The percentile data will yield different numbers for each area, but it should ultimately be consistent across the nation.

Connections Call & Committee Toolkit

ITPM effort is up and running. First couple of positions (HECM and Safety Officer Field) up and running with next positions starting next week.

Will announce awarded contractor for IPTM efforts in a couple of weeks.

Vice-Tim position detailer will start soon with position being flown shortly after. PSOG LTP presentation during joint meeting elicited much NWCG conversation.

NWCG webpage – committees – NWCG Committee Toolkit = Has much of the information found throughout the site all in one place. Includes all Charters and SOPs.

Committee Internal SOPs Template can be utilized for pretty much anything other than Course Steering Committee.

Useful resources and templates located near the bottom of the page.

Committee/Subgroup Committee Chair Checklist that will help any new committee chair or committee subgroup understand where to start.

Round Robin

- **Cheryl:** NTR
- **Pete:** Monthly calls focusing on getting money expended to U of Idaho through agreements. Dialog on national ambient air quality and upcoming changes. Discuss strategy and requirements for ?? – policy implications will come with this as well.
- **Chad Hoffman:** Just rolled out review in Clearinghouse for Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment.
- **Tim Chavez:** Fire Behavior: Additional people would like to review the information and want the standards. IPSC members have been given until May 10 to vet the safety standard document before implementation and testing. Looking at U of Idaho's 290 and working on Naffri agreement for funding. 390 is being worked on by agency group. 490 team is exploring options for national delivery but decided a steering committee is needed. They will be sending an email out asking if there are concerns other than needing to be offered more frequently. Training coordinator at Naffri has very few people enrolled has created a placeholder for 490 in April 2024 if the decision is to have it.

495 is currently being taught by some great instructors and has initiated discussion regarding the next scheduled class and any needed updates.

Include Katie O'Hara in correspondence regarding course changes to make sure that there are no NWCG concerns and the personnel is available for the update efforts as ITPM is the main concern.

NWCG did get approval to hire additional training specialists.

CA wildfire coordinating group formed PS subcommittee and working with NOPs and SOPs PS units on project to create critical wind reference sheet for the entire state.

Numerical rating system.

Santa Ana winds tool: <https://cw3e.ucsd.edu/sdge/>

- **Larry Van Bussen** Fire Weather: Will take on fire weather subcommittee and voting on vice chair coming up.

Requested to resubmit Haynes index. Rewrote with reasons for pulling it and another section on recommendations moving forward.

May or may not be as simple as plain language. Pressure before was finding an index which isn't the concern now. Hoping to submit in May.

Darren will start work on black book as soon as his semester finishes.

Lightning team lead will be transitioning away from Nick N.

- **Nick Nauslar** NTR