

February FENC Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 1500 MT

Attendees: Cheryl Bright, Robert Clark, Billy Gardunio, Chris Moore, Kimberley Miner, Chuck Maxwell, Darren Clabo, Casey Teske, Clint Cross, Pete Lahm

- NWCG Update
- FEMS/Fire Danger
 - Discussed paper from Scott Linn
 - Communicated to agencies (DOI, USFS, NASF) and scheduled to talk with EB March
 - Robert: are we trying to advocate for funding?
 - Clint: agencies in a different funding state than thought possible 12 months ago.
 - Robert: losing capabilities at state level with half finished rollout
 - Cheryl: trying to communicate what is happening and when and provide time for agencies to give guidance to the field
 - Nick: any issues with a slightly revised memo going to EB? OK, will get this out and please pass through agency channels to help us before briefing EB
 - Clint: will put FS specific letter with this memo to go out soon
- S-290/390/490 (Chris)
 - S-290 still on track to certify this Friday
 - S-390 having lots of people in test course drop out due to confusion about travel restrictions. Will make go/no go decision soon (Mar 5th)
 - S-490 still moving forward. GB/RM/SW (30 students) test course in Tucson (not NAFRI) in October.
- Safe Separation Distance - Dan not on and will follow up
- Lightning Contract (Darren)
 - New contract is ~90% more expensive per month. Even the monthly extensions are much more expensive. BLM trying to figure this out and have some avenues. Will work with NASF EB (Smitty) as well. Working on white paper from FWSC on how important this data is. Still plugging away on Fire Weather Handbook
- Haines/LAL (Me)
 - Went into effect Feb 1. Still getting requests for replacements for Haines but being firm and consistent with messaging with no direct replacement. Alaska worked out temporary replacement for LAL this summer. Haines/LAL part of Year in Review 2024 NWCG video will be online and available in next two weeks
- FBRFG
 - Chris: Budget request in for updating this but not confident
 - Cheryl: Should this be a FENC issue? FENC tasking?
 - Chris and Robert: Keeping PMS 437 and 437-1 in sync is a problem
 - Nick: Should we update it twice a year? Can it easily be split up?
- Round Robin
 - FWSC/Darren: Robbie Swofford is retiring. Maybe we should do something in recognition of his contributions of the decades

- Robert/States: Busy month that we weren't accounting for. Lots of support and we appreciate that. Hosting interagency FDOP in March with 90 participants.
- FDSC/Cheryl: Haven't briefed FDSC directly about the FEMS/WIMS news due to NWCG Annual Meeting conflict. Need to find WIMS references in NWCG materials.
- FBSC/Chris: Casey invited to NASA meeting FIRESENSE. Will get overview of project next month
- Billy/PS: Continue to meet and work on handbooks
- Pete/SMoC: ARA announcement is out but a lot of adaptive management. Struggling to engage with IPTM positions. SmoC updating and making available smoke management resources
- Chuck/DMP: Data summit preparation and still working on fire environment definitions and data
- Casey: Nothing specific but will reach out to FWSC for NPS representation.
- Nick: People referenced us multiple times for the amount of good work we put into Haines/LAL and how it can be a model/example for other changes. Also please get subcommittee work in the NWCG form submission