

NWCG Fire Environment Committee

Date: 22 May 2025

Attendees:

- Nick Nauslar
- Ben Hatchett
- Cheryl Bright
- Jeff Fuentes
- Darren Clabo
- Jim Wallman
- Wes Hall
- Robyn Heffernan
- Travis Verdegan
- Chris Moore
- Natalie Kerwalk
- Michele Crist

- Safety Zones
 - IPSC Memo Drafted, 'we are done, and no further changes will be taken. Some substantial changes made.' Dan crushed this (many presentations, years of work). This will be in 290-390-490, Fire Behavior Guide, WFDSS, an app (Wise). FENC fully supports this. Just waiting on risk management committee.
 - Wes: next IPSC? Meeting not til July.
- New folks joining: Jeff Fuentes (CAL-FIRE/WFTIIC), Natalie Kehrwalk (acting USGS wildfire science manager)
- IPTM update for LTAN and FBAN from Chris:
 - Had meeting with Dave Schultz last week, changes to 310-1, feedback from SMEs, FBAN to add classes that support further learning (S-495, Rx-300 for assisting burn plan writing if possible, Rx-410, M-410 (how to teach classes class), RAWS class). For LTAN, remove SOPL class, did not support adding Rx-300 (many LTANs not at burn boss level), M-410, RAWS class. LTAN, firing boss and femo left over from fire use days, might be restricting some folks if not active burning, want to open up. Wes: FEMO hard to get in SW, but many been through 495 and 590, this would let more folks in.
 - Vote: none opposed to FBAN/LTAN changes, so moving forward! Run these changes up to agency leadership, let us know if issues, Nick will get official documentation. May need to loop back if changes. This is a several month process to complete.
- Chris S-290/390/490 Revisions:
 - 290: subcommittee, UI to get things finalized in the portal (last week), getting final review feedback back to NWCG.
 - 390: corrections went back to NWCG from contractor, June/July certification
 - 490: test course in October in Tucson
- Nick: lots of concern from local WFOs about Haines removal (LAL not a problem).

- Partners need some indicator of instability. Scott Sterns/Nick N sent out some info about best practices, how to deal with this. Don't use mixing height as a replacement! Live training recorded yesterday, sent out today. Should have prepped folks about this better and how to handle partner requests. Been a struggle for local fire weather forecasts (also disruption to partners in their ops).
- Darren: Got done with FWSC, convo around how to address WFOs, they are going rogue to create products to keep partners happy. Creating memo to run through FENC and Exec Board, don't create new products until scientifically vetted!
- Nick: We don't have established process for operationalization. Fire Wx forecast can be more open ended
- Jim: Want to cover PS folks as well, make sure he gets a copy.
- Casey: Shared email with Nick about NASA INCUS mission (Stability mission, webinar about it coming up). No NASA rep on today.
- Round Robin:
 - FWSC: got focus set for next meetings.
 - Chris Fire Behavior: FB Field ref guide, fire danger, crown fire, some other topics being worked on to produce editable version. Fall meeting in early Nov, see where doc is at.
 - Travis Fire Danger: Had convo w FBSC, need to write something up about 491. Spoke w rep from IFPM, going to send out memo about changes. New fire danger release is on track for June (interesting things found in NFDRSv4...). Potential changes to S-491 and who needs to take it.
 - Wes: Continuing education, regularly schedule meeting for tomorrow, working to find someone to take over next year. Had participation in FB risk workshop, well received, set good model, and want to make recurring in the future. FB Ref guide, happy to take on crown fire updates. FENC cont education would like to be more involved in future.
 - Casey: Trying to fill committee holes in FENC. NPS rep is now Dan (vice chair position). Has an alternate set up. Otherwise, Ammon is fire weather, Diane and Ron for continuing education(?), Chris FB. Casey has several roles going, will be moving out of FENC, trying to help produce fire environment datasets as being foundational for other things. Cheryl suggests to tag Chris Moore to be FENC rep ;-)
 - Jeff from States: Nothing to report from states, glad to listen in!
 - Michele acting USGS wildfire science coordinator:
 - Fire Weather Testbed: GOES-based Fire Detection system (NGFS, also applied to other satellite platforms), Integrated Warning Team (land managers/NWS from CA/FL/KS/NC) for Fire warnings, Fire Warning issuance report from last summer evaluation in final final NOAA review, full report (w exec summary) should be publicly available on NOAA IR in coming weeks. Just did smaller virtual eval earlier this week with ~6 predictive services intel folks.
 - Upcoming USACE webinar (Kathryn Rowden/Silver Jackets) on postfire topics: BAER and postfire debris flows, link sent to Nick.