

NWCG Fire Environment Committee

Date: 19 November 2025

Attendees:

- Nick Nauslar
- Ben Hatchett
- Billy Gardunio
- Darren Clabo
- Dave Schultz
- Jim Wallmann
- Natalie Kehrwald
- Robert Clark
- Dan Jimenez
- Travis Verdegan

Agenda

- **FBAN/LTAN IPTM**
 - Nick: Pushed through, with exec board for briefing (informational, no approvals needed). May 2026 will be in 310-1.
- **S-290/390/490 Update**
 - 2nd hand info that some GATRs are not excited about the blended 290 and that a request to NWCG for an all in person version will be made. Could be request to NWCG for all in-person...apprenticeship has strong in-person focus/component. Will not create new course/no dual modalities. Trying to work through different ways to make it more user friendly on instructor side. If there are concerns, let FENC know via Nick.
 - S-390 is still awaiting certification. Dave: closing loops, portal checking, certification sheet in hand, sending to exec board soon. Nick/Dave: Anticipating will be approved in December.
 - S-490 test course was successful. ICF has until 12/31/2025 to submit final edits to NWCG. Certification will be sometime in the early spring 2026. Dave: contract ends 31 Dec. SME group concern about getting through things on original timeline, NCE to push out one month. Nick met with some fire homies to get revisions for weather parts dialed in. Kevin Stroman (sp?) did weather, trying to get folks aware of changes/new things, please identify SMEs with as much lead time as possible since material has changed, note that toughest units at end of the week. If you're teaching, and first time, please give cadre plenty of time to prepare.
- **SSD/290 Memos**: Went out, haven't heard much feedback beyond some minor clarifications from NWS.
- **FBFRG**
 - FBSC compiling FBFRG edits to meet the 12/1 deadline. Hopefully the new document will be released before 590 3/1/2026. Darren: has been challenging to coordinate edits from fire weather standpoint due to shutdown. May end up scrubbing document of haines, working on revision for next FY.

- **S-491 Update:** Spring course in Missoula still on track. Material should be ready by then. Robert: Teaching course in CA end of Jan, Mark Steele handling. Should be good to go.
- **FEMS/WIMS:** Been some concerns raised about FD methods, methods are different but not much, people not looking at was calc'd in WIMS vs FEMS (NFDRS v4 is the issue). Loss of alternate gateway stations was an issue, working on that. Lots to coordinate w state mesonets, esp w calcs vs observations. Been a challenge, working on this for nearly two years.
- **Chair Rotation and Pause on Restructuring:** Nick staying on until end of January, then Cheryl as chair, Wes as vice, now with restructuring, pause til 1 July, lots of changes/things in the air. Robyn: Cheryl is no longer an option, will be a gap. Dave: hoping to have names for new committees, have about half now. Robyn: Find interim chair until re-structure occurs? Dave: up to FENC to decide, recommend reaching out to exec board rep, may be able to assign.
- **Fire Weather:** Meets tomorrow, cleaning up docs with LAL and Haines. Handbook: nearly all text is done, needs to go back and edit. Graphics remain an issue, funding is non-existent. Text is good but may need extension to deal with graphics. NCE via institution and USFS?
- **Fire Danger:** Met yesterday, first call in a while with larger group. Focused on round robin, where people are, capacity is. Documentation discussed a lot, FBFRG, Fire Danger section, how that correlates to documentation on FEMS side of things. A lot that could be done to straighten out information about forecasts, etc.
- **No DOD updates**
- **States:** Email with NASF, Robert moving over to committee. Doing research with RAWs network and potentially add sensors to support products, discussed with Matt Jolly about potential for custom calibration of GSI. Travis: some uncertainty with western states rep on FDSC where he was landing, want to verify who ended up where. Robert will track this down.
- **Predictive Services/PSOG:** no updates
- **USGS:** In the middle of reorganization at USGS, determining if research arm will be part of re-org or will stay separate in USGS. Know more in 2-3 weeks.
- **NWS:** no updates
- **NWCG:** is the NWS going through a re-organization? Yes. timeline is soon, in approval stages now. From partner prospective, they will not notice a difference.
- **FWT:** 2-pager to share, model evaluations of NBM occurring.
- **FBSC (email from Chris Moore)**
 - S-590 has 80 plus applicants for 50 seats. Grading and prioritization will occur first week of December at SC meeting.
 - Overall FBSC will be wrapping up existing projects and not be starting anything new until unification and NWCG reorg. Are complete.