

NWCG Fire Environment Committee

Date: 28 January 2026

Attendees:

- Nick Nauslar
- Chris Moore
- Natalie Kehrwald
- Dave Schultz
- Wes Hall
- Ben Hatchett
- Travis Verdegan
- Robert Clark
- Pete Lahm
- Robyn Heffernan
- Jim Wallmann
- Cole Belongie

Agenda

- **S-290/390/490/491 Updates**
 - End of 6 month grace period, new course needs to be taught. COMET has updated website and sent emails, removed NWCG branding/credit. Can still get certificates now until end of month. Starting in feb, new version is only certified one.
 - Robert: notified site was shut down, students couldn't access it, will follow up on his side. If not enrolled in full course (going module-by-module; Pete confirms they use that approach), won't give a certificate. Contact Nick for issues over the next few days.
 - Pete: ARA trainees are moving to new version, some in progress?
 - Nick: lots of IMETs reached out, saying 290 is different. 20 hrs of material to step through each one, instructors are not able to allow people ability to jump around. Dave to check on this. Nick gotten good feedback from IMETS
 - Robert: discussion about moving to full in-person version? Dave, yes there is discussion on this and guidance for how to present blended material as in-person course.
 - 390: no updates
 - Chris: someone emailed about unit instructor quals, talked about that on subcommittee, need to ask about how to do this, make FBAN/LTAN as lead instructor? (currently has DIV req so LTAN can't). Dave: request for change process needed here, part of standards for training delivery PMS 901-1.
 - 490: on track for certification timeframe, within a week or two. Ready to review material once it comes. Want to make sure enough offerings to have folks be able to take one when needed (avoid course cancellations).
 - 491: Full class in Montana, Wes: had FDSC meeting last week, lead instructors (interim) are on FDSC meeting to talk 491. Between various subcommittees,

want to keep a steward engaged if transition occurs. Chris: both cochairs of 491 steering committee stepping down due to day job commitments, timing means need to find folks to fill, but need to set them up for success on this course.

Robert: 491 being taught in Auburn this week, getting input on adjustments, going well otherwise.

- Dave: Current course steering committees will stay in subcommittees, no NWCG page/roster, no requirement for notes. Nick: where is fire danger going? Dave: will be a detail to figure out during the transition.

- **FBFRG**

- No real updates. 310-1 and 308 were publications priorities. Also working on S-490 review (priority til now, no updates on that for timeline, plan is next month or two, some template issues), pubs working on review of content will move on to other work including FBFRG.)

- **NWCG Update (Dave)**

- NWCG moved back into original building (2nd floor of admin building), good move. NWCG annual meeting coming up in February, prepping for this, lots of IPTM work happening, detailed steward briefings, five positions have analysis workshops upcoming in March, SME recruitment for 11 positions in May.
- Updating committees with coordinator duties, Dave retiring in early March, working to fill in, Sarah Lee will be FENC coordinator, starting next month (Feb).

- **NWCG Reorg (Dave)**

- Status: met with all management committees, intent was to get chair/vice-chair selected from groups to get them info for annual meeting. Pretty successful so far, one remaining. Assigned subcommittee folks, start doing kickoff meetings with new groups, now scheduling. Deb helping keep track/organized. 1-2 management committees at a time so can have everything within same week or two, goal to get chair/vice-chair, liaison to sit w management committees.
- 1 July is goal date for implementation, Deb drafting mission/objective statements and SOPs for management committees. Working with folks to get these revised.
- June-ish, plan to work with webteam to get new site up, data transferred. Identify resources on subcommittee pages/unit pages that want to bring over. Figuring out this process.
- Chris: Who is new FENC chair? Fire planning management committee: Andrew Bailey, vice-chair Tami Staale (sp? IAFC).

- **Round robin**

- Natalie: no changes from DOI restructuring (USGS did not change)
- Pete: want to discuss smoke at some point with Dave/Deb. Trying to maintain engagement with folks in smoke world but not in NWCG.
- Wes: Subcommittee waiting for transition to happen. Dates not sent out yet for workshop (typically week after risk workshop).
- Travis (Fire danger): nothing to report
- Robert (States): nothing to add
- Chris: nothing else to add
- Jim (fire weather): holding pattern

- Cole: waiting for things to shake out from transition, USFS is moving raster imagery to predictive services (new environment, some things might break)
- Robyn: raising awareness about NESDIS wildfire portal for satellite data availability. Interagency side, wildfire technology roadmap going to national security council for second time (today).
- Nick says thanks everyone for all the help while he was Chair, will be unavailable for next few meetings, trying to figure out on NWS side, likely not on FENC the rest of this time, may have an assignment in new organization (right now does not, that may change)