



July 18, 2024 | [Fire Weather Subcommittee](#) Meeting

**Members/Invited Attendees:**

Larry Van Bussum (NWS), Drew Daily (OK Forestry Services), Colby Neuman (NWS), Brian Potter (USFS), Robert Swofford (BLM), David Schultz (NWCG Coordinator/BLM)

**Actual Attendees:** Not available

**\*\*These and past notes are also available internally in our [Google Drive folder](#).**

**Agenda**

1. **Haines Index/Lightning Activity Level updates** (Nick Nauslar/Jim Wallmann/Dave Schultz)
2. **Finalization of Incident Response Pocket Guide Haines Index/Lightning Activity Level Removal/Replacement** (all)
3. **BLM Lightning Contract** (Jim Wallmann)
4. **Round Robin** (all)

1. **Haines Index/Lightning Activity Level updates** (Nick Nauslar/Jim Wallmann/Dave Schultz)

Progress was presented to the NWCG Executive Board on July 16th. The progress is on track and going well. At their fires this summer, NWS Incident Meteorologists (IMETs) are spreading the work about the Haines Index and Lightning Activity Level. Some customers know about the changes, while others have been surprised.

The question was asked about when we would be able to review the NWS public comments regarding the proposed changes to the Fire Weather Products. See the NWS Public Information Statement here: [pns24-38 proposed discontinuation of haines index and lal.pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf_2023_24/pns24-38_proposed_discontinuation_of_haines_index_and_lal.pdf), [https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf\\_2023\\_24/pns24-38 proposed discontinuation of haines index and lal.pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf_2023_24/pns24-38_proposed_discontinuation_of_haines_index_and_lal.pdf)

Larry Van Bussum and Nick Nauslar spoke with folks at the Joint Fire Science Program about funding for research about low and mid level instability and fire behavior/plume dominated fires.

2. **Finalization of Incident Response Pocket Guide Haines Index/Lightning Activity Level Removal/Replacement** (all)

January 2022 Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG): <https://fs-prod-nwcg.s3.us-gov-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/publication/pms461.pdf?VersionId=IXUgkLMK9mRTMyssaamowdM3y6u7CKpl>. Darren Clabo shared his latest proposal text and graphics during our last meeting, and Drew Daily added comments in red in an emailed version on July 16th. Drew also proposed changes to clarify the information for the intended audience. This was accepted by all. Jim Wallmann sent out updated slides to all subcommittee members.

3. **BLM Lightning Contract** (Jim Wallmann)

The previous Statement of Work for the contract from Nanette Hosenfeld and Paul Sopko in 2020 was shared with the working group in an email on July 16th from Darren Clabo. Paul Sopko is the chair of the Lightning Unit (LTNU). The current contract is valid through April of 2025. There is a new local contact in Boise for the BLM Lightning Contract. Contact has been made with Kathy Paulson, to ensure important pieces that were missing in the 2020 contract are caught. The Statement of Work was modified to include language that asks for details in how the prospective products meet the standards set forth. Brian Potter asked that the contract also include a line about documentation and metadata.

Inclusion of results research (Comparing ground-based lightning detection networks near wildfire points-of-origin) from Hatchett et al. 2024: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11069-024-06741-8>.

4. **Round Robin** (all)

There was discussion about Kestrel weather meters. This topic will be revisited at our next meetings.

**Next meeting September 19, 2024 at 11 am MT**

**\*\*typically the 3rd Thursday of each month\*\*** (no meeting will be held in August)