



October 17, 2024 | [Fire Weather Subcommittee](#) Meeting

Members/Invited Attendees:

Darren Clabo (NASF/SD State, Chair), Jim Wallmann (USFS, Vice Chair), Dennis Burns (NASF), Larry Van Bussum (NWS), Drew Daily (NASF/OK Forestry Services), Kari Fleegel (NWS), Colby Neuman (NWS), Brian Potter (USFS), Paul Sopko (USFS), Robert Swofford (BLM), David Schultz (NWCG Coordinator/BLM), Nick Nauslar (NWS)

Actual Attendees: Brian Potter, Darren Clabo, Robert Swofford, David Schultz, Colby Neuman, Nick Nauslar, Paul Sopko, James Wallmann, Kari Fleegel

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

Agenda

1. **BLM Lightning Contract** (Paul Sopko)
2. **NWCG Connections Call** (Darren Clabo)
3. **Haines Index/Lightning Activity Level Updates** (Darren Clabo)
4. **Round Robin** (all)

1. **BLM Lightning Contract** (Paul Sopko)

Paul Sopko, chair of the Lightning Unit (LTNU), will be working with fellow members on a revised Statement of Work. His initially edited Statement of Work was shared out with the Fire Weather Subcommittee members via email. Paul Sopko was asked to add Matt Elliott, matthew.elliott@noaa.gov (NWS Storm Prediction Center) and Nick Nauslar, nick.nauslar@noaa.gov along with Lightning Unit rostered folks to future coordination on the Statement of Work.

It was noted that there was a need to keep on the technical requirements. One example is with the archive portion of the contract, and how far back data should be available. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was suggested. Nick Nauslar shared a public/peer reviewed analysis of the networks with respect to wildfire ignition patterns: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11069-024-06741-8>

A finalized Statement of Work should be completed by the first week in November so Robbie Swofford can move forward on his side at BLM so that a RFQ (Request for Quote) can be created by at least the start of the year. It was noted that it could take 4 to 6 months from when the contract is approved to get everything in place. The current contract goes through the end of April.

2. **NWCG Connections Call** (Darren Clabo)

The NWCG Connections Call was held 2 weeks ago. One of the main points was to make sure that our subcommittee roster listed online is valid.

Subcommittee membership info: <https://www.nwcg.gov/committee/fire-weather-subcommittee/roster>

Fire Environment Observation Unit (subcommittee/subgroup):

<https://www.nwcg.gov/committee/fire-environment-observation-unit/roster>

Lightning Unit, LTNU (subcommittee/subgroup):

<https://www.nwcg.gov/committee/lightning-unit/roster>

Another topic was the budget. FY2026 needs are due in January or February. The main budget item for our subcommittee will be the Handbook update. The request for projects will be coming out in the next week or so.

If we would like an Executive Board member to join an upcoming meeting we would go through Dave Schultz for this request.

3. **Haines Index/Lightning Activity Level Updates** (Darren Clabo/Nick Nauslar)

A WFSTAR (Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher) script for Haines Index/Lightning Activity Level is in the process of being worked on. Darren Clabo has been working with Joe Schindel (WFSTAR contact, mschindel@blm.gov), Nick Nauslar, Jim Wallmann, Robyn Heffernan on an outline. Darren Clabo will be sending this outline to our subcommittee for review in the next few days. A quick turnaround is needed.

Nick Nauslar noted that the process of removing the Haines Index and Lightning Activity Level continues within the NWS. The NWS fire weather Service Program Team (SPT) will be voting on it shortly.

4. **Round Robin (all)**

No additional comments.

Next meeting November 21, 2024 at 11 am MT

****typically the 3rd Thursday of each month****