



National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)



Hazard Tree and Tree Felling Sub Committee

April 18, 2023 - TEAMs Call

Present:

Mack McFarland, NPS, Chair

Cory Berkebile, BLM

Brian Burbridge, USFS

Kristen Chadwick, USFS

Mike Guarino, NPS

Ben Webster, State Foresters

Brian Billie, BIA

Logan Blankenship, BLM

Aaron Pederson, USFS

Announcements:

- March Meeting minutes approval.
- We have been tasked to review and update the FELB IPD and Task Book. Review memo to determine timeframes. Our priority is still the chainsaw operator courses.
- McFarland presented the 3-course proposal out to the RMC. There was general support but because the group was not a quorum the decision was delayed until next month (May). We have support from most agency reps but still need to hear back from states and USFS. There is good alignment with where they want to see other course work go under Incident Performance Training Modernization model.
- White Bark Pine Restoration paper shared by Kristen Chadwick. Keeping an eye on this issue and how it will affect our work and emergency consultation.

NWCG Training SME Update:

SME report out:

- The SME group is meeting 2 times/week for 1 hr each.
- Decision on the S-112, 212, 313 course arrangement is critical to how we construct the rest of S-112 and S-312.
- Work with the contractor is going well and the online portion is helping to shape the classroom graphics and instructor lead training.
- Huge push on the complexity issue for the basic level is getting wrapped up.
- Production is moving a little faster now. We are in Unit 5 of web-based training.
- We feel like we are past the 50% mark.
- BLM specific comments are concerns for more training. General approval for the 3-course concept. High SME engagement is part of this story and the emphasis on quality training.
- SMEs feel the complexity video and how things interact to create complexity is a key component of this foundational course. Lots of support for our SME group and feedback from the contractor.

USFS Training Update:

- Rolling it out and it is new for folks. The USFS TAG continues to get good honest feedback

from folks who have seen it. There are some needs for updates already.

- Ben sat through the R-9 presentation. Overall, it was a good new platform introduces more complex situations.
- Participants continue to ask how this USFS effort aligns with NWCG (S-212).
- In some regions, most of the fire folks are not using Developing Thinking Sawyers and deferring to NWCG S-212.

Taskbooks:

SME group will begin to work through task books soon to assure alignment and potentially interest the USFS in adopting the task book system for wildland fire sawyers.

RT-212 status: McFarland will forward the draft to NWCG for posting on the HTTFS webpage.

Glossary Terms:

None discussed.

Round Robin:

BLM – presenting the 3-course proposal to FOG tomorrow at 1100 and should be able to get their buy in. State buy-in will be important. Contractor is very interested in longevity of the course work by building in current events and lessons learned. Taskbooks are an important part for consistency.

NPS – Mike reviewed the West Virginia tree strike fatality incident.

BIA – Consistency is so important across agencies.

USFWS – No Rep

States – Provided additional information on the West Virginia tree strike fatality.

USFS – Delegation from stihl came out to R-6 prompted by a position paper on the 500i issues. Stihl reps wanted to better understand the fire environment. New fuel injected models in the 400, 600, 800 series are in production.

Fuel geysering did come up but not in great detail.

Advisors:

Hazard tree update (USFS): Roads policy danger tree and hazard tree language was a little messy and it has been updated to “hazard tree” language.

Post fire specifications for hazard tree mitigation along corridors should be developed with SMEs to define the end state as early during the fire as possible.

Campgrounds are a more complex function because targets are more stationary.

10/16/23 week of training to bring arborists and pathologists together to calibrate language and techniques to identify failure processes and indicators.

Next Meeting is May 9, 2023

1100 Mtn time

TEAMS