



## National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)



### Hazard Tree and Tree Felling Sub Committee April 09, 2024, TEAMs Call

#### **(Yes)(No) Present:**

- ☒ \_ Cory Berkebile, BLM, Chair
- ☒ \_ Mack McFarland, NPS,
- ☒ \_ Adam Benkula, USFS
- ☐ ☒ Kris Bruington, BLM
- ☒ \_ Logan Blankenship, BLM
- ☐ ☒ Brian Billie, BIA
- ☒ \_ Joel Colelay, BIA
- ☐ ☒ Brian Burbridge, USFS
- ☐ ☒ Aaron Pedersen, USFS
- ☐ ☒ Kristen Chadwick, USFS
- ☐ ☒ Mike Guarino, NPS
- ☒ \_ Godot Apuzzo, USFS
- ☐ ☒ Lisa Winn, USFS Climbing Program lead
- ☐ ☒ Loretta Duke, USFS R6 Climbing program coordinator
- ☐ ☒ James (Brock) Mayo USFS National climbing program Tag lead
- ☒ \_ Katie O'Hara, NWCG Coordinator
- ☐ ☒ Dave Frey, NWCG Training
- ☒ \_ Dave Roy, BLM s112 SME
- ☒ \_ Roman Hucks, BLM notes
- ☒ \_ Ben Webster Fire program Supervisor for the Stat of Missouri
- ☒ \_ Daniel Staab Training specialist at NWCG
- ☒ \_ Daniel McLaughlin Region 9 Saw Coordinator

#### **Announcements:**

Introducing Roman Hucks: *quick intros from group*

Colorado Tree Strike: This was a contractor S-212 program. A student Volunteer Firefighter was struck by a tree during S-212. The Individual was not felling the tree. FS was going to do an info gathering on the incident. Randy Jacks determined this was a private entity on private ground. There was not a large push for a federal investigation. The individual had a cracked skull and vertebrates. Colorado fire camp has a large teaching presence and MOU with Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group. No FLA or LLR. RMCG will be taking a look at their existing MOU's and possibly look more at the Not-for-Profit entities. Look into work area control especially for S-112 and putting that in the instructor portion.

USFS info on accepting S-112: FS is using Thinking Sawyer until S-112 is officially accepted by the FS and NWCG. Trying to push S-112 up to the agency heads rather than just staying at the grassroot/local level. There are currently two paths being taught. S-212 and developing thinking swayers. Continued work on developing a clear path to get that out to people. The intent is to find a

way to disseminate solid direction on how to implement S-112, S-212 and S-312 to people and how to incorporate the correct training for people and document things correctly to provide Sawyers quals.

Approve Minutes from March: *Not Happening*

NWCG Coordinator Report Out: NWCG's new Website is live. We need to look at links to ensure they are directing to the correct areas and see if there is anything missing. Reach out to Katie O'Hara if you find anything missing and it will be updated.

Felling boss Project: Standards and PTB are back, and folks are in agreement. Still waiting on the Job Aid and hopefully will have it today and it will go back out to the SMEs. It is a two-page document that should be easily accessible and preferably laminated. The first side will consist of Communication, Securing felling area and escape routes. The back side will be Ticklers and things to think about to get Felling Bosses in the right frame of mind and ensure that there is alignment with ideals.

New Business to Add:

## **HTTFS Projects:**

### **FAL3 - S-112:**

- NWCG ISD report for S112 Pilot 1 in Florida.
- Report Out on S112 revisions.
- S112 Pilot 2 in Yosemite info. Will be June 10<sup>th</sup>? After Pilot 2 goes through there will be revisions made. Then it will be certified and added to WFLP and NWCG.

Florida S112 Pilot went well. Cadre and the participants thought that it was better than the legacy S-212 program. There were some oversights found that will be fixed and revised by the end of this month. OLT and ILT versions. 12 classroom units and the 13<sup>th</sup> field day.

S-112 to be completed this summer. It has not been Certified yet.

### **FAL2 – Contract.**

- NWCG info.
- Contracting will continue with Softech

**FELB Training:** (Guarino) Report from Lead SME. Dan Staab is our NWCG Training Unit lead.

**Web Page** (Chadwick, Bruington): We need to set up a meeting to go through links to remove unnecessary items. All the removals are proposed and will be worked on through the committee before action occurs.

Will be setting up a meeting to vet everything that they will be adding and taking away.

**Charter** (McFarland, Berkebile): Haven't finished! Looking over an FS Charter. Drafting to occur during 2024.

## Report out:

Hazard Trees (Chadwick): Unavailable

USFS Chainsaw Program (Apuzzo/Mclaughlin): Training and getting into the season, Looking into new helmets as well as ANSI and NFPA 1977. Currently setting up a project to dive into international projects and do 3<sup>rd</sup> party testing against our current helmets. They have lateral protection and have better retention to stay on the head. 2024 Redbook has changed and specifies NFPA 1977 approved chaps and there should be more options for Chaps in the future. Old FS Chaps will still be compliant. Forest service policy is lagging but will change. Clogger out of New Zealand is one of the leading and driving companies for this. If the Chaps have the 1977 stamp they will adhere to policy. DOI will be able to implement the new Chaps immediately.

USFS Climbing Program (Winn): Currently Unavailable.

BLM: Presentation with FOG to Keep the Higher-level Sawyer qual, Faller Evaluator FALV.

FWS: Unavailable

BIA: Nothing to Add

States: Nothing to Add

NPS: Appointed a new Non-Fire Chainsaw Coordinator. No changes with NWCG. Working on changes with the Redbook. Should not affect this group much or at all. You should be able to keep Quals coming from FS over to DOI. It just takes a little extra leg work on behalf of the training officer to ensure things are documented in IQCS effectively.

**Next Meeting is – May 14, 2024  
1300 mtn.**

**TEAMS**