



National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)



Hazard Tree and Tree Felling Sub Committee May 14, 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:

Stihl Fuel Cap Recall: This is out of our arena for the most part. It is more the yard care type of equipment. They are not typically on Chainsaws but is good information to have out to folks. IE blowers, trimmers, weed eaters and pole saws.

Approve Minutes from April: Minutes approved.

NWCG Coordinator Report Out: Chunking through website updates. Please look at your pages to see if anything needs immediate attention or overhaul. 26 positions through the analysis (rodeo). Everything is on track for the Yosemite course in June with Softec. Equipment technology meeting: Chainsaw kits coming from the cache are being looked at and updated. Marcus Medina is the lead on going through and developing the cache chainsaw kits. We should be in contact with him. They also host the fuel geyser site and are in conversation on whether to keep the site up and running or shut it down. The number of instances has gone down significantly.

Noah Wendland to talk to about being an SME. Currently trying to make contact.

New Business to Add: Nothing

HTTFS Projects:

FAL3 - S-112:

Finished going through the edits for ILT onto old unit 11 new unit 12 going through all the comments to fix any concerns. Will be talking with SMEs this week. OLT complete ILT is almost finished. Very close to being finished with everything for the test course. Should have adequate time to complete everything before the test course. All SME's have done a phenomenal job on the edits and timeline.

- Yosemite Pilot 2 course scheduled June 9-13th.
- Report Out on S112 revisions.

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

Not on but kicked down the Job Aid. Doesn't really align with 112 so they will be doing a work session to make sure there is alignment with verbiage. Workshop to be set up for next week to work through this with them. The page will be sent out to be looked over soon.

Web Page (Chadwick, Bruington): Need to set up meeting to go through links to remove. All removals are proposed and will be worked through committee before action occurs.

Charter (McFarland, Berkebile): Haven't finished! Charter drafting to occur during 2024.

Report out:

Hazard Trees (Chadwick): Busy with training season and waiting in limbo for the final guide to come out. Have mainly been working with folks in the field. They are currently working on an app for the documentation process to identify hazard trees. There has been a positive response to the app but it is not completely out.

USFS Chainsaw Program (McLaughlin): Currently working on facts sheet for 2024. Redbook has been updated for chaps NFPA1977 approved. Should be coming out on the facts sheet then will be coming out through policy in the future.

USFS Climbing Program (Winn): Winn was in Puerto Rico to talk about and work with them on the crossover for the certification process. They have a strong group across the country. May is a busy month for training as well as June for climbing. Regions 6 WA and OR is growing and there will be the largest instructor climbing training in June. The heavy rigging climbing training is going on through CA, WA and OR. Multiple have happened in Oregon. There has been a higher use on top handle battery saws that have come a long way in the recent future. Strong push to get more women into climbing. Women training Women. There are multiple categories EC 1-4. There is a plan to separate the classes from recerts to new training. EC 4 is the most advanced class. They are trying to develop more training in climbing instead of climbing and cutting. A weeklong class into just climbing with not everyone receiving the cert. If you want to climb and cut you must come in with a B Fal minimum. This starts as pruning and trimming. They are wanting to have a separate class for spur climbing. Experience and skillset in climbing are required for EC 4 it is its own separate advanced level class.

Must be an advance sawyer and climber. Typically 14 students or less. Heavy Duty topping trees and bringing down limbs and larger trees. All are extra certifications. 85% of climbers are not using Saws.

NTDP (Apuzzo) Working on Chainsaw chaps and tweaking them to make improvements on design. Looking into a lot of the battery powered options and PPE. Put out a PowerPoint on what is known versus unknown. Wrapping up a boot project for Chainsaw protection in and outside of Fire. This is currently being reviewed by the sponsor. Meeting with NFPA 1977 to do testing on different types of wildland specific types of head protection with European helmets. To see where we can move forward from there. That will continue throughout the summer. A couple accidents that have happened with helmets and shelters. Currently trying to see where they go with the protection.

There is a short supply for the old FS style Chaps.

Euro helmets have lateral protection. That is the biggest benefit not just top down like the current helmets. Will be doing heat testing this summer. New helmets can be integrated with face shields and earmuffs. Being looked at for rappel and rescue as well. They are an established standard used by 15 different countries. ETC meeting Chaps are in low supply from DLA. Wrapping up reports for the new chaps that will be going to DLA soon.

BLM From FOG. Working on FALV which will be the new FAL 1 certifier. This will require a task sheet and be its own training that will need to be done yearly and helps to maintain a higher standard. Should be coming out in an IM. It is good that it passed. Entails Task sheet completion. Maintain FAL 1 and participate in a geographic saw training. Needs a recommending official signature to move forward in IQCS. Teaching could count as a recert.

FWS

BIA Just finished up 212 locally Not much to report.

States Not much Saw training is wound down. Possibly one more 212 this season. Anxiously awaiting the release of the 112.

NPS non-fire related saw injury in the Great smokeys from a significant side bind situation. The storm damage was significant and requesting pictures to add to and help teach in 212. NPS has some climbing. Some top down and pine collecting. Will bring in FS to help with tree climbing and to teach classes. They follow American arborists association certifications. The goal is to expand the FS climbing program to NPS and is in the works.

Wanting to partner with Mount Rainer to do an EC4 training and find out how to make a partnership work from the FS to NPS.

**Next Meeting is – June 11, 2024
1300 mtn.**

TEAMS