



National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)

Interagency Helicopter Operations Sub- Committee Annual Workshop October 15, 2025

October 15, 2025

Present:

Eric Graff, USFS

Chris Wright, FWS

Bill Sloan, USFS

Dave Underwood, BIA

Taylor Schmadeka, NASF

Jonathan Lindley, OAS

John Waddell, USFS

David Frey, OAS

Jamie Knight, States (Notetaker)

David Schultz, NWCG

September Meeting Notes Approval

Notes approved by the group.

NPS Representative

Eric will reach out to NPS to see if there is a replacement representative who has been identified for IHOPS.

PMS 501 Updates:

Updates were approved and posted. PLDO updates are contingent upon 508 Compliance. This is a timely update ahead of fall burning season.

NSHO Considerations:

Eric is looking for feedback from IHOPS members. Eric will send the considerations from Joe on the Wind Restrictions to the group for review.

Weight Reduction Chart

Eric is working on a technical bulletin or information bulletin for 2026 regarding the weight reductions. Jonathan and John confirmed this should be a tech bulletin.

Round Robin:

National Association of State Foresters: Not much happening. North Carolina and Minnesota have gotten active, but no asks for aviation positions so far.

FWS: Two contracts out.

BIA: 5 helicopters working. Watching Oklahoma activity.

NWCG: IPTM Helicopter Manager position is entering the analysis period (February 9-13th). Contract kickoff starts in the next two weeks. **Looking for a spot on the November Agenda for the detailed steward briefing.** NWCG has developed a draft charter that will come to IHOPS for review and input.

USFS Safety: Finishing a mishap investigation on a 2025 accident. Interagency Airworthiness Workshop “Envisioning the Future” Jan 12-16, 2026 McClellan, CA

OAS: Working with all the bureaus doing tech work. Evaluating workflows for carding and inspections. Alaska Region is hiring a new inspector pilot.

OAS Training: Dave will be the A-200 guy. Safety can send their finished PowerPoints to Dave for publication.

USFS Inspector: Planning to reduce impact to companies in the performance of Pilot inspections, collaborative process between FS/DOI. Continuing to conduct inspections. Interagency inspection workshop Jan 13-15

USFS: Last 4 short-haul, 2 rappel ships, and a handful of helitack crews on. Short haul meeting in Ventura in November.

Next Meeting is November 19th, 2025
TEAMS