



National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)

Interagency Helicopter Operations Subcommittee (IHOPS) April 15, 2026

Attendance:

Primary Members:

Chair: Eric C. Graff, USFS	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice-Chair: Taylor Schmadeka, NASF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joe Rogan, BLM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chris Wright, FWS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dave Underwood, BIA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kris Paxson, NPS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jonathan Lindley, OAS	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sarah Lee, NWCG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Advisory Members:

David Frey, OAS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
John Waddell, USFS	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tori Leshuk, USFS	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Sloan, USFS	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ashlee Nelson, USFS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

March Meeting Notes Approval:

YES / NO If no, provide corrections below. Once accepted, post to NWCG website.

April Topics and Presenter:

- DECK IPTM Process/Update** – Phil Quinn NWCG Training Specialist
PQ: New, came from DOD fire protection, 2nd project, is a SEL & UAV pilot so excited for involvement in this project.
New IPD, IPS, & PTB. Pre-analysis showed no change/update to training requirements.
Contract kicked off last week, all SMEs selected; 4 in total – one from each of the following Geographic Areas - N Ops, NW, SW and S Ops. In person analysis workshop in Boise May 4-8th. **June 26 - Aug. 28 – IHOPS review & approval of IPD, IPS, PTB, etc.** Project closeout currently scheduled for 9/21/26.
Phil Needs Leader’s Intent which includes task, purpose and end state as well as identifying a lead SME from the committee.
JR: Agenda item today, hopefully will have letter to PQ today.
TS: Who or how is lead SME selected?
PQ: Committee selects lead SME

2. **HMGB IPTM Update/PARR Briefing** – Cathy Carter (CJ)

SL: Nicole Oak is lead; CJ is “pinch hitting” for Nicole. **PARR & other documents (PTB, PS, etc.) review period begins May 8th & will be open for 3 weeks.**

CJ: March 23-27th was the in-person meeting.

Recommended SME changes for S-372/HMGB:

- Require S-229 Single Resource Boss. The S-229 course is not currently completed but it will be by the time S-372 is completed.
- Require L-280 (has been mandated by IPSC to occur by 2027)
- Remove S-270
- Change WCT from Moderate to Arduous
- Add that HMGB maintains currency for ICT4 as other single resource boss positions currently do.
- Recommended adding as optional training: A-200, S-112, S-211, A-205, A-303, A-310

SL: per 310-1 can only have NWCG courses cannot add N/agency courses; would not remove any agency requirements/equivalencies

SL: For both of those (WCT & ICT4 currency), it would be a request for change through IPSC. However, because it is associated with IPTM, it would be a more simplified RFC that is exempt from the Pause Memo if committee approved.

CJ: PS & new PTB only publications. Group recommended HMGB maintains currency for HMLR, removed – out of scope of the project.

SMEs wanted a reusable learning objective that focuses on aircraft/FSV carding for rw, SEATS, etc. – Removed by NWCG as it is out of scope w/ position revision.

PTB is substantial, 50-ish items

SL: Request that the committee really look at the PARR, PS, draft PTB during the review – concerned about having every item from PS in PTB; could slow process of personnel completing PTB/becoming qualified.

3. **IHOPS Task Sheet** – Ashlee

Overview of task sheet; explained purpose and reviewed elements of task sheet

JR: It looked good, no suggestions or additions

TS: Where will this be housed for all to access?

AN: Need to discuss with EG and identify a location.

- a. **Request any tasks/topics for May’s meeting**

4. **NSHO Request for Change Form** – Taylor

TS: Quick review of the draft MS Forms Survey put together by TS & EG. TS will send out to the group for review and feedback.

JR: Has a timeline been discussed?

TS: Wanted the committees feedback and approval first and then will send out to the field.

JR: Deadline for input from committee members?

TS: Will double check with EG and send deadline in an email with the form for the committee to review.

5. **DECK Memo Feedback** - Taylor

TS: Any suggestions for change or update before it gets sent to the SME group?

JR: Provided his comments, nothing additional to add.

TS: Will confirm with EG, but sounds like it’s good to go.

Round Robin:

National Association of State Foresters: WA DNR - all seasonals on, ODF already has resources mobilizing out of state, waiting to hear on needs for MN and AK. All parties are working on training. Taylor will confirm if WA DNR is bringing on a few Blackhawks for the season (RJ question/ask)

BLM: Personnel attending training, first rw EU starts in 2 weeks. The transition to Fire Service is keeping everyone busy, hopefully things will be straightened out in the next couple of months once positions are filled & in place.

BIA: No report

USFS Safety: No report

USFS RW: No report

FWS: Fuels based contracts are going off contract; still some areas that are dry, lots of resources are starting to shift towards western states.

NWCG: Status of re-org, management committees received draft SOPs, etc. due back the 24th. Then will filter down to RWC. Will put NWCG meetings on calendar and create new Teams channels for each committee.

Vice Dave position will open today, will share position posting with all chairs/vice chairs, please share with those who may be interested.

Let NWCG know what IHOPS wants transferred over from current website to new site; web team is working on web sites in the background. July 1st deadline – won't be all done but goal is to have it as close to completion as possible. Old websites will not be deleted so if something is identified as "missing" later it can be moved from old to new website.

OAS: No report

OAS Training: No report; ACE occurring this week in San Diego.

NPS: At A-450. Pretty much in the same boat as everyone else; contracts are starting up, lots of trainings taking place. Natl. hoist plan in place for the year for NPS. SAFECOM coming out– close call with high lining/slack line and a helicopter at beginning of the month. Reach out for additional information. Focus on the basics as we go through lots of change.

Next Meeting is May 20th, 2026