

Public Information Officer Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes: 7/24/2025

Attendees:

Kerry Greene (USFS — Chair), Catherine Koele (NASF — Vice Chair), Candice Stevenson (NPS — Rep), Jenner Harsha (USFWS — Rep), Chris Barth (USFS — Rep), Sarah Lee (NWCG), Brian Harrison (NWCG)

Also in Attendance:

Committee Business:

- **Agency Updates:**
 - **BLM** — Not present.
 - **BIA** - Not present.
 - **NPS:**
 - Managing Dragon Bravo Fire inquiries.
 - Political pressure for investigations due to confusion over "controlled burn" terminology.
 - Updated language in Incident Management Situation Report (IMSR) clarifies fire management strategies. Fire not managed under full suppression strategy or fire managed under a full suppression strategy but utilizing a combination of tactics e.g. monitoring, confinement, or point zone protection. Fire managed as described are identified on sit report as "Comp fires." Additional information can be found in NWCG glossary.
 - **IAFC** — Not present.
 - **USFS:**
 - Secretary Rollins shared a memo/video about five hub locations and USDA de-staffing in District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia area.
 - **NASF:**
 - Core FY funding approved; planning to host S-203 in MN.
 - Wisconsin has first T3 Incident Management Team (IMT) rostered for national mobilization.
 - **USFWS:**
 - Continued agency interest in deploying PIOs.
- **Communication, Education, and Prevention Committee (CEPC) Update:**
 - Not present.
- **NWCG Update:**
 - Moving forward with hiring (Training Specialists, Coordinator, IPTM Project Manager, Writer/Editor).
 - Executive Board (EB) approved Incident Commander Complex (ICCI) pathways, but **Public Information Officers (PIOs) not included** in the current approval due to ongoing discussions to get positions that were approved through. Once concerns are mitigated, more positions such as PIO can be added.
 - Committee reorganization underway; feedback is being reviewed and acted on.

- Next steps include a smaller group meeting; no August EB meeting scheduled, but executive calls continue biweekly.
- **IPTM Update (Brian Harrison):**
 - Working on Public Information Officer, Technician (PIOT) standards/webpage.
 - Test course for **S-203** scheduled for **Nov 17–21 in training center outside Boulder City, NV**. There is a cadre with one lead and six unit instructors.
 - **Beta test** scheduled for **Feb 9-13 in Twin Falls, ID** (likely not certified in time for March MN course).
 - New proposed task for handheld radio use by PIOs; Reusable Learning Object (RLO) in development on radio use from S-130.

New Business:

- **“Day in the Life of a PIO” Video:**
 - Script sent for feedback.
 - Discussion needed on whether to include Public Information Officer, Type 3 (PIO3).
 - Clarification needed on whether the video will be recommended or required.
 - A Request for Change (RFC) to NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications, PMS 310-1 can be submitted by October for the next FY.
 - Can be added to recommended resources list immediately.

Old Business:

- None.

Pending Action Items:

- None.

Other Information:

Next Call: August 28, 2025; 1330 ET, 1230 CT, 1130, MT, 1030 PT.