

**READ SC Monthly Call (notetaker – Lisa Hanson)**

**January 25, 2021**

**1. Roll CALL**

Attending:

Primary Members:

BIA Juliette Jeanne  
BLM Tim Kramer  
CalFire Stephanie Velasquez  
FWS Brain VanDruten  
NPS Lisa Hanson (Chair)  
USFS Linn Gassaway (Vice Chair)

Liaison Member:

BOR Kendra Fallon (Guest: BOR Jason Kirby)

Associate Members:

BLM Danelle Nance  
BLM Johanna Blanchard  
NPS Nelson Siefkin  
NPS Rich Schwab  
NPS Cedar Drake  
NPS Martin Hutten  
Jun Kinoshita  
USFS David Calery  
USFS Anne Poopatanapong  
USFS Christine Pyle  
USFS Marisa Anderson

**2. OLD BUSINESS:**

**a. ARCH working group**

Linn – updates and questions: complexity qualifications (T1, T2, etc).  
After a short discussion, the SC provides direction to focus on the IPD for ARCH; additional levels of the ARCH position (eg. Lead ARCH), and complexity ratings (eg. T1, T2) should be deferred to a later date.

**b. Request for Change Package (Linn and Jun interested)**

<https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/incident-and-position-standards-committee>

Stewart Richter (FS – Incident Position Subcommittee IPSC) e-mailed Kristy and I to see if there is any movement on the RFC ... Kristy had submitted a package about a year ago to pull the READ and REAF positions into PMS 310-1.

Since that submittal, the READ SC has refined our plans for submitting RFC for REAF, ARCH, Lead READ.

Linn did some brief e-mails with Stew; we need to stay in close contact with Stew to shepherd this RFC package through the IPSC (but must go through IFPC).

- c. **IRPG – MIST review** – Brian, Cedar, Lisa – sent track changes 1/19; David Calery sent out additional track changes for consideration. After a robust discussion, and after collecting comments from IFPC members, here is a summary of the sections:

- READ Section: Group agreement with the text created for the READ section.
- MIST Section: The primary changes are derived from the 2017 READ Guide, Appendix J (PMS 313). Changes to the term MIST, and the NWCG Glossary definition of MIST must be submitted to the NWCG Glossary definition change process (before we can change these pieces in the IRPG) – This info came from IFPC (Missy Forder, Chair, and Justin Boeck, Vice Chair). The resolution is to utilize the name and definition found in the NWCG glossary in this version of edits.
- Reporting Fire Chemical Introduction Section: primary changes result in a recognition that some, but not all of the Federal agencies, and NSFA (National State Foresters assoc) have policy direction for reporting misapplications. Kristy Swartz (IFPC) provided revised text to the READ SC edited paragraph; Lisa and Linn support Kristy's text.

Lisa submitted revised text to IFPC on Tuesday 1/26; IFPC comments were due to Lisa by COB 1/28. Lisa will submit the final edits to IFPC (Missy), and Missy will submit the package to the Incident Operational SubCommittee (IOSC) on Friday. Lisa will send out the final text for the READ, MIST, and Fire Chem Misapplication sections to all READ SC members after Missy sends the package to the IOSC.

**d. Communication Plan (DEFERRED)**

Intent is to foster clear communications with the Resource Advisor community, READ stakeholders, and select NWCG committees.

- i. develop a general info sheet – what we are generally working on
- ii. Plans to attend end season/start season with IMTs
- iii. Reach out to other NWCG committees for education and buy in on IPDs, quals, training, job aids

**e. Work Plan (DEFERRED)**

Develop a 1 year work plan with specific milestones and schedules; include priorities in “high” or “low” (eg, some positions, like CULS would be “low” priority, while working on RFC packages for REAF, Lead READ, and ARCH would be “high” priorities)

- Jun – we should think about how we will communicate with other NWCG committees; develop a coordinated plan to roll out info for NWCG consumption/feedback (see 5.a. above)
- Lisa sent a draft of a work plan for review
  - o Rich suggested that revising READ handbook be listed
  - o Should this be connected with the NWCG Standards Management Cycle/develop training and performance support step(Job aid), or in the NWCG Standards step? This matters because if we chose the latter, we should work on the handbook right now
- Tim volunteered to re-group/organize the draft work plan

**f. NWCG Data Standards (DEFERRED)**

NIFS (National Interagency Feature Service) – Geospatial schema –

- READ Cohorts asked: “we were discussing the possibility of adding a field to the suppression repair or incident NIFS that would allow READs or Operations to enter a priority level to aid in suppression repair efforts of constructed firelines or points. We use the "Comments" field and "repair comments" field for other types of repair information but are hoping to have an addition field for priority level so the GISS folks can use the priority field to add halos when displaying repair progress. Is this something that is even possible? If so, I can ask the cohort what domains (not sure if that is the right term) for the field - i.e, high, medium, low or maybe 1-10?"

- NIFS Org Admin responded: “We are looking to formalize the process for requesting changes and enhancements to the NIFS and associated content for 2022.

Ideally, this would involve soliciting compiled feedback from representatives of the different stakeholder groups, like READS, as well as general feedback from users.

We are still in the very early stages of planning, but please keep an eye out for any communications regarding this next summer.

Feel free to check in with us next spring as well for an update.”

- Skip Edel (NIFC, NPS) runs the NIFS project. He thinks that a discussion in the spring 2021 would be helpful; additionally, Skip said “Once the group [READ SC] wants to suggest a change they can send it to me and I will make sure it is addressed.

We will want some information on how the field should be used so that we can try and standardize it as much as possible.

**g. READ Jurisdiction and Coordinated with IMTs (DEFERRED)**

- SEE NOTES FROM OCTOBER NOTES FOR REFERNECE DISCUSSIONS

- we discussed the use of LOFR (as READ Liaison) during our Nov. meeting

- Not all Teams want to designate a LOFR to READ Liaison

- Using this position seems to be working effectively – should be start advocating for more LOFR (READ Liaison) positions?

- READ SC would have to be diplomatic about advocacy – we should be ambassadors for our constituents, so will need support from AAs and Teams

- need to clearly identify the need and the role/responsibility, and terms... to all teams

**h. Coordination between READ/Fs and FOBS/SITL (Brian) (DEFERRED)**

- We can really help each other when collecting lines and not have duplicative efforts. Also getting GISS with some teams to readily accept our data when we are actually walking and evaluating lines. I wonder if some sort of document could be drafted from us for distribution to the IMTs throughout the nation to maybe elicit some better coordination?

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. READ PG or APP for a tablet** – Rich e-mail 12/2/2020; discuss during February meeting

**b. Lead READ IPD** - need to have a small group start on this PD. Linn wants to be involved, and Cedar has volunteered to be involved... if you are interested in helping, please let Linn and Lisa know.

**e. USFS Suppression Damage Repair Catalog** – inspection forms; add these to Appendix to READ Guide? Rich initiated a discussion about Peter Adam's work on suppression repair work, and specifically his inspection forms. Several of the READ SC members have been involved in various document reviews over the past few years. The SC is very interested in Peter's work, but as a group, we don't have time to take on reviewing and incorporating the inspection forms into the Resource Advisor Guide (PMS 313). This review and consideration for inclusion in the Guide might be considered in 6 months (end of July); it makes sense to consider this in conjunction with revisions to the 2017 Guide as we move into training and job aides for the REAF, ARCH, and Lead READ positions. Rich corresponded with Peter Adams, conveying the need to defer the READ SC involvement with his Suppression Damage Repair efforts.

**f. Wilderness expertise** – Pete Irving (ret. FS; READ Cohorts member) asked if READ SC can add expertise to inform READ SC actions with respect to Wilderness laws/policy.

- not all NWCG executive board member organizations manage Wilderness (FS, BIA, BLM, NPS, FWS, NASF, FEMA, Intertribal Timber Council, International Assoc of Fire Chiefs)

- how should we include concerns about Wilderness management with this group?

- Advisor? Associate member? Only agency-specific actions?

\*Homework – be prepared to discuss if/how to include Wilderness concerns in this subcommittees work – will discuss during the February meeting.

**g. NWCG Changes** – Deb Fleming detailed into NWCG Program Manager; Annie Benoit detailed into Deb's role as NWCG Coordinator (Liaison for IFPC and READ SC) [abenoit@blm.gov](mailto:abenoit@blm.gov)

**h. READ SC changes:** Lisa will retire (3/26); Linn will assume the Chair position. The READ SC members will discuss who will take the Vice Chair position; primary members should be prepared to vote on filling the position during the February or March meeting. Cedar Drake will assume the READ SC – NPS Primary Member position. These changes will take effect in early March.

#### **BIN ITEMS:**

- Primary Members – if you need help to further your agency perspective or considerations, you may add individuals to the READ SC as associate members, or advisors. Please forward names to the Chair for formal addition.
- can we ask IQCS to run a report on numbers of red carded READ and REAF?
  - Lisa – Kristy was working on IFPC on something similar, with a count of how many READ and REAF assignments, and # hours of READ and REAF logged (I think this would be helpful after fire season slows down... end of 2020 fire season?) Lisa will ask ~~Kristy~~ Missy to run the numbers when the current fire season winds down
- Tim – we need these positions (IPDs) available for use next fire season. As Kristy stated, there will be lots of review time by other NWCG committees. Should we develop a list of 'higher level' post-fire annual meetings (NWCG or agency?) to target with a presentation

or briefing statement, so these groups expect the READ/REAF/ARCH revisions? We especially need to start informal communications with the (NWCG) Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC).

- **Mission Statement and Objectives**

- - The webpage on NWCG is “live”, but still needs some content.
- if you have any pics that clearly depict READ work, please send them to me
- will post a list of current projects and progress
- Lisa asked Nancie (NWCG WebMaster): do we need permission to show individuals in photos? What kind of credits do you need for photos? Nancie’s reply: *It depends on where you got the photo. If they were taken in a public place and the subjects are adults, no you do not need permission. If the photographer is a federal employee than no we don’t need credits.*

- **Tribal Participation**

- Juliette has been trying to recruit participants to serve as tribal participants; if READ SC members have suggestions, please talk to Juliette

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- NWCG RFC Package(s): Determine who will start working on the NWCG RFC package(s) and understanding the process - Linn and Jun are interested; work should be in consultation with Stewart Richter (Section 2.b.) **Lead?**
- Data Standards subcommittee: NIFS – see Section 2.f., above. READ SC needs to figure out what change should be suggested, then send it to [Skip\\_Edel@nps.gov](mailto:Skip_Edel@nps.gov)... He also needs info on how the field should be used so that NIFS can try to standardize it as much as possible. **Lead?**
- Bin items: Refine/consolidate– **BRIAN**
- draft READ SC work plan: Re-organize/clean up the– **TIM**
- Example of LOFR (READ Liaison) role/responsibilities - **LINN**
- Communication Plan: Develop a draft comm plan; see section 2.d. above– **Lead?** (Jun initiated this)
- NWCG READ SC Webpage: Mission Statement and Objectives, etc –start working on the content of the READ SC NWCG page Photos, current work plan (or general work list?), objectives, etc) **Lead?**
- Wilderness expertise: be prepared to discuss during 2/22 meeting (see 3.f.) – **ALL**
- Lead READ IPD: Small group to start working on Lead READ IPD; Need to consult with Missy and Justin to figure out how to sequence presenting a new position, then packaging up the REAF, ARCH, and lead READ positions in the RFC package. **LINN, CEDAR, Others?**