

Wildland Fire Investigation Subcommittee (WFISC)

Conference Call Notes

October 22, 2021

12:30 pm PDT

WFISC Members: Jerry Hepler (USFS, Chair), Shawn Zimmermaker (NASF, Vice Chair), Jeff Moyer (BIA, Primary Member), Scott Fischer (BLM, Primary Member), Jay Hinshaw (BIA, Primary Member), Steven Holmes (FWS, Primary Member), Brian Clavier (NASF, Primary Member), Jan Lemons (NPS, Primary Member), Neil Miller (NASF, Primary Member), Jon Handrick (NASF, Primary Member), Ryan Finn (NASF, Primary Member), Carrie Bilbao (CEPC Liaison), Deb Fleming (NWCG Program Coordinator), Annie Benoit (NWCG Program Manager), Alan Carlson (Associate Member), Curt Cogan (Associate Member), Jim Engel (Associate Member), Steve Grimaldi (Associate Member), Jeff Henricks (Associate Member), Ken Ness (Associate Member), Brenda Rice (Associate Member), Gary White (Associate Member), John Barnes (Associate Member), Chris Forkner (Associate Member), Mike Heath (Associate Member), Bruce Landrum (Associate Member), Trevor Maynard (Associate Member), Ken Pitt (Associate Member), Richard Woods (Associate Member), Lucas Wolf (Associate Member), Jeff Bonebrake (Associate Member), and Jeremy Verdiel (Associate Member)

WFISC Members in Attendance this Call: Jerry Hepler (USFS, Chair), Shawn Zimmermaker (NASF, Vice Chair), Scott Fischer (BLM, Primary Member), Deb Fleming (NWCG Program Coordinator), Brian Clavier (NASF, Primary Member), Jan Lemons (NPS, Primary Member), Jeff Moyer (BIA, Primary Member), Jon Handrick (NASF, Primary Member), Ryan Finn (NASF, Primary Member), Steven Holmes (FWS, Primary Member), Alan Carlson (Associate Member), Curt Cogan (Associate Member), Steve Grimaldi (Associate Member), Lisa Hudema (Associate Member), Jeff Henricks (Associate Member), Ken Ness (Associate Member), Richard Woods (Associate Member), Gary White (Associate Member), Jeff Bonebrake (Associate Member), Jeremy Verdiel (Associate Member), Trevor Maynard (Associate Member).

Others in Attendance this Call: Jim Shanley, guest from NFPA 921 Technical Committee

Welcome and Agenda Expectations – Jerry Hepler

NWCG Comments – Deb Fleming

- Seven vacancies on NWCG staff now.
- Request for 2023 budget items will be coming out soon.

Agenda Topics:

- **Introduction of New Members (accepted to subcommittee) – Jerry Hepler**
 - Jon Handrick - NE Region Staff Specialist, Minnesota: Fire, Enforcement, Roads
 - Ryan Finn – CAL FIRE Deputy Chief - Civil Cost Recovery/Law Enforcement
 - Steven Holmes – USFWS - Wildland Fire Module Leader
- **Associate Members accepted to WFISC– Jerry Hepler**
 - Jeremy Verdiel - Government of Ontario, Fire Compliance and Prevention Specialist
 - Lisa Hudema, Wildfire Enforcement Superintendent, British Columbia Wildlife Services
 - Joe Hitselberger, Sr. Program Manager, Wildfire Operations
 - Contract Cause and Origin Investigator for many years and recently filled that position at PG&E in Oregon
- **WFISC Roster Review – Jerry Hepler**
 - Members should review info from the following website for accuracy:
 - <https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/wildland-fire-investigation-subcommittee/roster>
- **FI-110 – Self-Directed Online Training (OLT) update – Jerry Hepler**
 - Mark Cantrell and Travis Touchette are working on the Request for Bid. Trying to get it to Forest Service contracting in October.
 - May cost more than allotted 15K. If so, perhaps the WFISC can put their X-900 money toward FI-110 since this is the priority. If it's not much more than 15K, perhaps NWCG can fund the difference.
 - The ideal time for this OLT to be completed would be March so it's ready for the 2022 training season.
 - Working group needed to work with Vincent and FI-110 OLT contractor needed.
 - Team Lead will be Jeff Henricks; Jan Lemons and Steve Grimaldi to assist.
- **INTM to INVL Updated – Jerry Hepler**

- 2021 NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications, PMS 310-1 was updated on October 1, 2021.
- The Wildland Fire Investigation Team Member (INTM) position was archived on September 30, 2021, <https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/intm>.
- The Wildland Fire Investigation Team Leader (INTL) position was created on October 1, 2021 and replaces INTM <https://www.nwcg.gov/positions/invl>. Qualified INTM's on September 30, 2021, were "grandfathered in."
- The Wildland Fire Investigator (INVF) Position Task Book, PMS 311-66 has been updated, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/position-taskbooks/311-66>.

- **Finalize INVL IPD** – Jerry Hepler

- Comments: the introduction second sentence should read: "The INVL supervises one or more Wildland Fire Investigator (INVF) and reports to Incident Commander (IC) OR, Agency Administrator (AA), or their designee."
- JUSTIFICATION: In some major agencies the fire investigators report directly to, and work for, the Agency Administrator, not the IC. Although we always "coordinate" with the command staff.
- Comment accepted and Deb Fleming will see that the change is made and the INVL IPD is finalized.

- **INVF and INVL Educational Page** - Fire Prevention and Education page update - Carrie Bilbao.

- Working on photos now, First Responder training video for next year.

- **Glossary Items** – Jerry Hepler and Deb Fleming

- Discussion on Azimuth/Azimuth _____ Method, Azimuth Circle.
- After discussion, preferred term is 'Bearing & Distance Method'.
- Scott will do more research i.e., check with FLETC, tabled for next meeting.

- **FI-310 (beta 2)** – Reno, NV Scott Fischer

- Teams Roster Update and Access.
- There are 2 Microsoft Teams:
 - 1. For FI-310
 - 2. For the subcommittee.

- At the end of May had the Beta test for FI-310.
- Beta 2 will be in Reno in the 3rd week of March.
- CALFIRE will host an FI-310 course in mid-April.
- Anyone from the subcommittee who wants to participate or observe let Jerry know.

- **Wildland Fire Investigation Historical Archives** – Jeff Henricks and Richard Woods

- Purpose is to collect and preserve for reference point.
- If we don't collect the information, we'll lose it.
- Idea is to store hard copies and digital information at Boise or a Forest Service HQ; make it accessible to anyone.
- Other historical research documents attached to the actual training courses should be collected and stored as well.
- Jesse Bender is currently exploring options at NIFC to ensure we have a 'platform' to house copies of past digital and actual training material.

- **NFPA Update** – Jim Shanley

- Currently in revision cycle for 2024.
- There's a task group for the wildfire chapter.
 - Working on two projects: Checking on terms used in NFPA 921 and PMS 412, and
 - Research

- **PMS 412 – Revision Update and Tracking Changes for Units** – Shawn Zimmermaker

- Most agencies want the present PMS 412 to be revamped with better photographs and more complete information in certain areas and state the cited research references. Also, suggested to make it a "living document", so updates can be made yearly.
- Consensus is there is a need for two documents:
 - Revised PMS 412 handbook
 - Reference document that has more substantial research and detailed information that supports the handbook.

- Will this more complete document be a standard or a reference guide? NWCG uses the word “standard” to describe guidelines, procedures, and best practices. Decision is to write it first then we can finalize what we call it.
- Lead for the PMS 412 handbook revision will be Shawn Zimmermaker.
 - Jay Hinshaw, Jeff Moyer, Jeff Henricks and Jim Shanley will assist on this task team.
 - Gary White, Shawn Zimmermaker and Jim Shanley will be on both the PMS 412 and the more complete reference document development teams.
- Lead for development of the more complete reference document is not decided at this time.
 - Members of this task team are as follows: Shawn Zimmermaker, Alan Carlson, Lisa Hudema, Jim Shanley, Trevor Maynard and Gary White.
 - PMS 412 must be revised and completed before FI-210 is revamped.
 - Deb Fleming will setup a Teams meeting with both groups, so we can make sure everyone is on the same page.

- **Next WFISC Microsoft Teams Meeting.**

- **Date:** Week of Jan 24 to 28th, 2022.
- **Location:** U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Forest Supervisor's Office, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 (IN PERSON!).
- <https://www.fs.usda.gov/ltbmu/>