

# Wildland Fire Investigation Subcommittee (WFISC)

## Conference Call Agenda

**DATE:** February 1, 2023

**TIME:** 12:00 pm PST

**ATTENDANCE:**

WFISC Member's	In Attendance 2023/02/01	WFISC Member's	In Attendance 2023/02/01
Shawn Zimmermaker (NASF, Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jim Engel (Associate Member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scott Fischer (BLM, Vice Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steve Grimaldi (Associate Member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lisa Hudema (Associate Member, Admin Assistant)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Henricks (Associate Member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jerry Hepler (USFS, Primary Member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ken Ness (Associate Member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jeff Moyer (BIA, Primary Member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Rice (Associate Member)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teresa Rigby (BLM, Primary Member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gary White (Associate Member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kip Kemak (BIA, Primary Member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chris Forkner (Associate Member)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steven Holmes (FWS, Primary Member)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mike Heath (Associate Member)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Clavier (NASF, Primary Member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bruce Landrum (Associate Member)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jan Lemons (NPS, Primary Member)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trevor Maynard (Associate Member)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neil Miller (NASF, Primary Member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ken Pitt (Associate Member)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jon Handrick (NASF, Primary Member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Richard Woods (Associate Member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ryan Finn (NASF, Primary Member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lucas Wolf (Associate Member)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ryan Andrade (NASF, Primary Member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Bonebrake (Associate Member)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carrie Bilbao (CEPC Liaison)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeremy Verdiel (Associate Member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sarah Lee (NWCG Program Coordinator)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joe Hitselberger (Associate Member)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jim Shanley (Associate Member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Bird (Associate Member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alan Carlson (Associate Member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Theo Bailey (Associate Member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curt Cogan (Associate Member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

### Welcome and Agenda Expectations – Shawn Zimmermaker

#### Agenda Topics:

#### 1. Retirements and new members introductions

Shawn Zimmermaker

##### Retired

- Jay Hinshaw (BIA)

##### Membership Removal

- John Barnes – Has not been an active member on subcommittee for approximately 5 years. Emails sent to him have come back undeliverable.

**ACTION ITEM:** If any members are aware of how to contact John, please inform Shawn Zimmermaker.

#### New Members

- Teresa Rigby – Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico.
- Kim Kemak – Idaho

## **2. NWCG housing of technical papers (archive project)**

Sarah Lee

- Sarah met in December with the working group.
- NWCG Web Master is putting together a digital library.
- NWCG is moving to a new web platform. NWCG Web Master will ensure library is on the new platform.
- Shared solution Re: published / copyright documents– Addition of a thumbnail picture on document to show where referenced from, that will allow user to research the article referred to.
- Paper records will have to come later.
- Documents needed for Litigation is highest priority.

Jim Stanley

- National Fire Academy is also housing documents. Currently only 41 results when searching wildland and fire investigation.
- National Fire Academy does not want duplicates.

## **3. Budget**

Shawn Zimmermaker

- Funding for X900 approved. \$20,000 (5k for years 2023-2026)
- Funding for Archives project approved (CEPC ranked this project as the second priority). \$9,000 (2024), \$5,000 (2025) and \$2,000 (2026-2028)

## **4. Microsoft TEAMS Access**

Shawn Zimmermaker

The following are solutions if having challenges with TEAMS access:

- Check your agency restrictions / firewall.
- Use a different email (personal email).
- The WFISC can create a new TEAMS site. This is a last resort and would not likely solve the problem.

Scott Fischer

- Some members are being dropped off the TEAMS site with reason unknown. Scott is looking into this.

**ACTION ITEM:** Please notify Shawn Zimmermaker if you are unable to access the TEAMS site. Shawn will then notify Scott Fischer, Sarah Lee, or Teresa Rigby to get issue resolved.

## **5. FI-110 revision update**

Shawn Zimmermaker

- Spoke with David Frey, the NWCG Training Specialist regarding the possibility of a FI-110 test course. Test course can be hosted on-line through the learning portal.
- The FI-110 task group is leaning towards having an FI-110 test course as the task group did not feel they received enough feedback from the subcommittee.
- Course will be ready in 2 months (March / April). At that time, the course will be available to be taken and feedback provided.
- Certificate will be issued for the new FI-110.
- Looking into having the NWCG Specialist be the person responsible for updating this course.
- Confirmed that Canada and Australia have access to the learning portal.

**ACTION ITEM:** Let Scott Fischer or Sarah Lee know if you are unable to access the learning portal.

## **6. PMS 412 and FI-210 revision update**

### **PMS 412**

Shawn Zimmermaker

- Task group will be going through comments provided by the subcommittee next week.
- The task group will update photos in the next version of 412 (after reference manual is completed). The task group did not receive enough quality photographs to update all photographs at this time.
- Following the review of subcommittee comments, the task group will need to update PMS 412 as required based on comments. The task group also has additional editing work (Checking grammar, spelling, adding vectors to photos etc.) before sending it off to publications.
- Once all editing is complete by the task group, the task group will provide the new DRAFT version to the subcommittee for 2<sup>nd</sup> review before sending PMS 412 to publications.

Richard Woods

- Suggested having a professional publication group put PMS 412 together using the software they have access to.
- Has used a professional publication group for another matter where the publication group was able to identify many things that made the product much better. They can also condense redundancy and ensure consistency.

Jim Stanley

- Second Richard's suggestion

Shawn Zimmermaker

- Suggested that it may be good to test a professional publication group with PMS 412, then based on the results, consider the same for the reference manual.

**ACTION ITEM:** Shawn ZIMMERMAKER will follow up with Sarah re: option proposed by Richard.

### **FI-210 Revision**

Shawn Zimmermaker

- PMS 412 changes will result in needed changes to FI-210. Will provide timeline for revision of FI-210 once PMS 412 is complete.

## **7. FI-310 update**

Scott Fischer and Jerry Hepler

- FI-310 (Beta 3) will be instructed at Tuscan Arizona or Southern California May 1<sup>st</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- Sub Committee members are welcome to attend and assist. It will be a good opportunity to see the new FI-310.
- The task group will be assigning units and group instructors. Assigned Instructor's will go through comments from Beta 1, 2 and 3 and bring forward to Instructor group as whole for improvements.
- Estimates that by the end of June, there will be a final FI-310.
- The task group would love to have instructors that have not instructed FI-310 to date involved.

**ACTION ITEM:** Reach out to Scott Fischer and Jerry Hepler if interested in instructing or assisting with FI-310 Beta 3.

## **8. Videography project funding needs**

Curt Cogan and Shawn Zimmermaker

- Can't use approved funding for travel costs. Will need to find federal agency funding for travel.
- Project is to document fire indicators, specifically how they are created.
- Lisa to see if there is an appetite in BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) for videographers to assist with this project. One of the BCWS Videographer's had 2 fire seasons experience with Wildland Fire Investigations. BCWS used video and drone imagery in 2022 when instructing FI-210 to show fire progression and how fire indicators were made.

**ACTION ITEM:** Keep Curt Cogan informed if anyone has any resources / funding available for videography project.

## **9. Fire pattern indicator studies with Cal Poly Humboldt**

Shawn Zimmermaker

- Cal Fire has found funding for this project (\$100,000). Funding is approved with caveat that other projects can also occur on site at the same time (smoke detection etc.)
- Study to test how indicators are formed in grass and brush fuel. This will occur in both a laboratory setting and in the field.
- Information on this study is on our TEAMS site.
- Field study will occur at Red Bluff (end of May) and Humboldt (date to be determined).
- Pre littering of plots will occur in advance so that vegetation has time to establish around litter before introducing fire.
- Will also be studying electric fences and cigarettes re fire ignition in various fuels.
- Red bluff will occur the same time as the FI-210 course, therefore, can maybe use instructors from that to assist.
- Committee members are welcome if interested in attending the burns.

Theo Bailey

- Alberta has been actively involved with evaluating cigarettes and their ability to ignite fires.
- Alberta as done a significant amount of research to date and will have a technical paper soon. Next steps for Alberta is field testing.
- Alberta has access to large scale plots for testing.
- Including BC in testing.

**ACTION ITEM:** Theo, Shawn and Lisa will have a side conversation on this topic.

Lisa Hudema

- Has there been new incendiary devices found on fires since our last publications, and is there an appetite re: testing incendiary devices and sharing with subcommittee?

Shawn Zimmermaker

- Testing ignition devices is occurring internally (each agency) however this information has not been shared with subcommittee to date. Will be testing some of the incendiary devices at some of the test sites this year.

## **10. Drone use on fire investigations**

Scott Fischer

- Task group is looking into how to best use as a camera platform for Investigations. Looking into the best practices (how to mark on ground to see in air etc.).

Gary White

- Gary has been using drones for 5 years on investigations, therefore can share his experience.
- Will be adding drones to 412.

Theo Bailey

- Alberta has been using drones since 2015, therefore can share their experience.

Alan Carlson

- The Investigator needs to direct drone operator to get what is needed for Investigation. Suggests having an example of what you want produced to share with operator.
- Will be adding drones to reference manual.

Steve Grimaldi

- Will be using drones on Investigations in BC this fire season as drones are being assigned to investigators. Also have access to larger drones via engineering group and other gov't groups.

Lisa Hudema

- Birds eye view from Drone – assists with orientation in administrative forums or court proceedings. Shows gravity and magnitude of damages. Embracing this tool in BC.

**ACTION ITEM:** Let Scott Fischer know if you are interested in participating or have suggestions re drone use on investigations.

**ACTION ITEM:** Add drones as an agenda item at our in person meeting this fall.

## **11. Arson Track**

Shawn Zimmermaker

- Agreed that there is no interest in the arson tracker by the subcommittee at this time, therefore no action required.

## **12. X-900 project**

Shawn Zimmermaker

- Task team has been approved. The 3 SME's involved include Shawn Zimmermaker, Joe Hitselberger and John Bird.
- Task team will work with contractor for this project.

## **13. IAAI CFI trainer module for wildland fire investigations**

Scott Fischer

- CFI trainer has been used for pre-work course material.
- Downside is IAAI is structure based and that the IAAI - Wildland Fire Investigation module is outdated.

Gary White

- Exam questions were not good. IAAI had an outside source develop the questions and would not allow Gary and Paul who developed the course change the test questions.

Richard Wood

- FI-110 supersedes the IAAI course.

Lisa Hudema

- Once the new FI-110 is complete, should the course in IAAI be removed?

Alan Carlson

- Suggests that IAAI course be removed as not current. Suggests PMS 412 replaces it; however, it should stay with NWCG, not IAAI.

Jim Stanley

- will contact IAAI Randy Watson to determine IAAI thoughts (direction they are heading).

Jim Engel

- Concerns with who IAAI has speaking on an upcoming agenda. Never heard of the investigator. Theo Bailey provided link <https://www.iaaiitc.com/wildland-fire-investigations-a-walk-in-the-woods-> on the agenda for the upcoming IAAI-ITC

Richard Woods

- Suggests we don't duplicate. Keep all training under NWCG not NWCG and IAAI.

**ACTION ITEM:** Jim Stanley will contact IAAI (Randy Watson) to determine IAAI direction and his thoughts regarding wildland fire investigation and report back to subcommittee.

## **14. Curling vote**

Ken Ness

- Suggested remove curling. Suggested Curling falls under Protection.

Curt Cogan

- Spoke to founder of curling. Suggested having curling with foliage freeze under a foliage indicator heading. (Curling, dropping, freeze)

Lisa Hudema

- Used curling indicators however not often, and not as a stand-alone indicator. Used other indicators to confirm. Suggested the need for further research / experimentation on this indicator to determine reliability (species, time of year, fuel moisture content etc.)

John and Richard

- Not a stand-alone indicator as they use other indicators to confirm. John and Richard see this indicator in the East in the spring. Suggests that we need to keep this indicator as they do use it.

Gary White

- Suggests removing indicator.

Alan Carlson

- Reference manual (chapter 5) has removed protection as indicator as 8 or 9 of the indicators could also be protection. Protection is a process not an indicator. Can't put curling as protection as protection has been removed.
- Suggests we need a clear definition and principles on how it is formed.
- Suggests not grouping with other foliage indicators as there are different process that make each of them.
- Somethings that were once included in Protection do not have an existing indicator category, therefore task group has come up with a new category. (Degree of damage or damage differential)

VOTE: 3 possibilities (1. Remove curling, 2. Keep curling until reference manual is done and research / studies /experimentation has occurred. 3. Add curling under foliage freeze with expansion of what it is)

1. 2 members
2. 11 members
3. 4 members

There was enough Primary Members to have a quorum. Majority of Primary Members were in favor with option 2. Primary members came to a consensus which is option 2.

**DECISION (CURLING INDICATOR - based on 11 votes):** Keep curling as an indicator until reference manual is done, and research / studies /experimentation has occurred to determine its reliability.

## 15. Task Group assignments and Subcommittee membership

Shawn Zimmermaker

- WFISC - Be proactive and participate in task group. Suggested that you need to be an active member in at least 1 task group to be a member in the subcommittee.
- Discussed that NFPA has yearly appointments where they look at participation and attendance and vote members in or out each year.
- Discussed chair will monitor participation and attendance. Let Chair know if you are going to be away and unable to attend meetings.

**DECISION (MEMBERSHIP - based on 20 votes):** To be an active subcommittee member, you need to be an active member in at least 1 task group.

**DECISION (NEW ADMIN ASSISTANT):** Lisa Hudema

## 16. Locations for next in-person meeting

**ACTION ITEM:** Decision is required on our next TEAMS call to determine where our next in-person meeting will occur. (Suggested on call was South Lake Tahoe, Boise, Sacramento, Denver)

If in Boise, Sarah can set up a tour for subcommittee.

## 17. Next WFISC Microsoft Teams Meeting

Date: May 10, 2023

Time: 12:00 PDT

Location: Virtually on Microsoft Teams and Conference Line