



## **Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Committee**

### **Agenda – March 1, 2023**

Time: 1200 MT 3/1/2023

#### **Roll Call**

Jolene Ackerman, Sheryl Page, Jon Skinner, Ashley Whitworth, Erin O'Connor, Sarah Lee

Absent: Faith Berry, Dan Beveridge, Marty Cassellius, Jon Bruno, Annie Schmidt

#### **Approve February Meeting Minutes**

Will approve via email.

#### **Presentation/Discussion: Erik Litzenberg, NWCG Exec. Board Member**

Joined us to discuss his current project of assessing the WUI/mitigation profile and the training gaps. VERY simply, Erik is analyzing which organizations provide training in this arena and where might there be opportunities to add some of this language/education in. Opportunities for partnerships and collaborations. Erik walked the committee through the spreadsheet where he has compiled a lot of this information and will send that to the group to review and provide feedback. Open to committee members going direct.

#### **Discussion/Follow-up Items**

- Standard for Mitigation in the WUI update: hoping to have a Standard Document online and available for use by May. Executive Board meeting in March serves as the one-month notice to board members and they will have the full document to read/review, then the document would be approved the following month (April 2023). No transition guide needed since this is a new publication. Erin asked if we would need a transition guide for the Field Guide, Sarah commented that likely we would need to provide this, but she can draft this for us.

#### **Wildfire Mitigation Field Guide (Sheryl)**

- Report-out and update: the working group met right before the committee meeting and are making great progress; hoping for a summer-early Fall rollout. Jolene has been combing through the document, checking for consistency, addressing any remaining comments and checking for duplications. They are adding photos/graphics and will have their next meeting the week of March 13. Jolene asked about chimneys and wire gauge, the field guide had this information incorrect and wanted to catch that in the Standard. Erin checked the Standard and there is no mention of chimneys. Jen Hansen will be checking NFPA Standards/recommendations for this. Hoping to have external individuals review sometime in April.
- [Field Guide Google Folder](#)

#### **WUIMC SOPs (Erin)**

Erin provided an update about plans for the working group. Discussed extending invitations to agencies without representation on the committee. Everyone is open with the caveat that we do not force the issue. It was suggested that committee members reach out to anyone they know before offering a name to the executive board agency representative or asking for any interested individuals.

- Extend invitations to NWCG agencies without a seat on WUIMC?
  - Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. Department of the Interior)
  - Intertribal Timber Council

- National Park Service (U.S. Department of the Interior)
- U.S. Department of Defense

## **Report-outs/Round Robin (All)**

Jolene Ackerman: invited/asked to help create the schedule for the National Cohesive Strategy, Nov. 6-10 in Santa Fe, NM. She mentioned that there is a very heavy emphasis on prescribed fire last year and she will push for more fire adapted community topics, discussions, etc. By then, the Standard and Field Guide should be finished and out in the world so there may be opportunities to weave in WUI/mitigation, host discussions or have an information table with copies. [Erin mentioned that the committee agreed to try to host the in-person meeting during the 2 days before or after the conference, so there may be opportunities for committee members to support or assist with this.]

Sheryl Page: worked with USFS staff to update wildfirerisk.org website. Updates will address key items on prevention and mitigation side. They've added vulnerable populations into the consideration, fire occurrence data (preventing ignitions). Sheryl also shared that they are making an offer for their mitigation specialist position. [Jolene asked about CDWG Award announcements and Sheryl explained that the group gets closer every day, but there are some constraints as to how many can be announced this first time.]

Jon Skinner: BLM is hiring another position to support mitigation. The Infrastructure Bill has provided funding they will tap into for community assistance, which they feel meets the spirit of the law. They have identified 100 communities for their grant program. Working with Wildfire Research Center.

Ashley Whitworth: busy at home unit with 15 open positions and half her staff gone. They are moving ahead with chipping projects at the end of April, are waiting to hear about CWDG and have applied/received 2 Colorado State Forest Service grants (Forest Restoration & Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program, 50:50 match) to replace older equipment and conduct a 200-acre mitigation project.

## **Meeting adjourned.**

*Next meeting: April 5, 2023, via Teams Video Conference*