



NWCG Meeting Notes

November 17, 2021

Executive Board: Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Shane McDonald (FWS), Tim Sexton (RD&A), Jim Durglo (ITC), Kim Van Hemelryck (DOI OWF Liaison), Jeff Amberger (BLM), Garth Fisher (BIA), Jim Karels (NASF), Mark Koontz (NPS), Heath Hockenberry (NWS), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Frank Guzman - Chair (USFS)

NWCG Staff: Katherine Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Deb Fleming (Coordinator), Tim Blake (Coordinator), Kathryn O’Hara (Coordinator), Jesse Bender (Publications Manager), Annie Benoit (Training Program Manager), Mark Cantrell (NWCG Training), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

Guests: Brad Shoemaker (USAF), Anne Jewell (USA), Jon Larson (DOD Liaison), Travis Touchette (NWCG), Mike Ellsworth (Leadership Committee)

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>Annual Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose not holding Annual Meeting in entirety but to have an additional meeting time to follow NWCG EB February Meeting and include all committee chairs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In person meetings are generally not being approved and need Secretary approval is required for groups of 50+ for DOI. ○ Quarterly Connections Calls provide committee report outs. ○ Focus agenda on issues-based topics without committee report outs. • Topics to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update on Systems Improvement. ○ Data Management Program and interaction with Wildland Fire Information and Technology (WFIT) and funding. ○ Administrative support for committees. ○ Committee participation and recruitment. ○ Position endorsements. • Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committees find value in face time with the EB. ○ EB wants to hear from committees and receive updates on projects. ○ Important to make connections with committees and increase motivation. ○ Open channels of communication. ○ Ensure Executive Board member participation in NWCG Connections calls. 	<p>APPROVED to hold virtual meeting following February EB Meeting.</p> <p>Committees to continue providing updates directly to EB throughout the year.</p>
<p>TM-21-002, Leadership Levels Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWCG Coordinators worked with position stewards to validate the appropriate leadership levels for each incident position. 	<p>APPROVED recommendations and closeout of tasking.</p>

Additional information beyond these meeting notes (i.e. handouts, presentations, maps, etc.) will require a FOIA request to ensure proper privacy regulations are followed. Please request via FOIA Online website at <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>



Topic & Notes	Decision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With EB approval of the recommended leadership levels by position, NWCG staff will incorporate into the Incident Position Description (IPDs). • Levels will inform future position standards, position training, and position task books (PTBs). • Overall, position stewards were supportive. 	
<p>Program Overview of U.S. Air Force (USAF) and U.S. Army (USA) Wildland Fire Branches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities for implementation of NWCG requirements and standards within Department of Defense (DoD). Create partnership with NWCG. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ DoD Wildland Fire Working Group (WFWG) supports seeking NWCG membership. • Enable MILDEP programs through risk management and environmental management (prescribed fire, fuels management, and wildfire response). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Regional wildland fire modules. • Army has 152 installations. Train personnel at bases for fire. • Increase training accountably through use of NWCG standards and IQCS for tracking. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 1,300 responders in IQCS. Mainly FFT1 and FFT2 level. • Expand on existing level of engagement with Wildfire Leadership Council (WFLC) and National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) liaison. • DoD manages 26.9 million acres for the purpose of supporting the military’s combat readiness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 650,000 plus of acres of prescribed fire annually. • Could utilize DoD single resources as needed. • Many veterans pursue fire jobs. Increasing experience and qualifications through NWCG membership would be to the benefit of their personnel for future opportunities. • DoD has facilities to provide training and could assist wildland community to increase training opportunities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Traveling wildland fire cadre. ◦ Core courses RX, S-190, S-211, and S-212. ◦ Difficulty obtaining upper-level courses. • DoD NWCG membership considerations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Rotating representative from the WFWG. ◦ Currently utilizing or transitioning to NWCG training and qualifications. ◦ DoD currently limited in ability to receive and deliver training. ◦ Membership enables enhanced transition to compliance with NWCG standards. Increasing the number of qualified responders for mobilization. 	<p>Supportive of DoD briefing up and reporting back to EB.</p> <p>EB will also brief agency leadership.</p>
<p>Fire Agency/National Weather Service (NWS) Agreement:</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Additional information beyond these meeting notes (i.e. handouts, presentations, maps, etc.) will require a FOIA request to ensure proper privacy regulations are followed. Please request via FOIA Online website at <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>



Topic & Notes	Decision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWS maintains a National Agreement for Meteorological services and reimbursement with USFS and DOI partners. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Currently states cannot be signatories, so they have separate agreements. ○ Significant overhead costs waived. ○ Next 5-year agreement period starts October 1, 2022. ○ Incident Meteorologist (IMET) communication costs reimbursed through separate agreement. ○ Must get out as “physical science” position (IMET, BAER, ARC, etc.). ○ Lead agency has been the Forest Service. ○ Operational functions still governed by Annual Operating Plans. • USFS 76%, DOI 14%, and States 10% of IMET use on 210 total assignments in 2021. • Plans to expand IMET numbers by 10-12 to accommodate workload. 	
<p>Mental Health Subcommittee (MHSC) Video Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording modified language to video today. • WSTAR Module Tools also updated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tools add resources, discussion points, and components of learning. • Coordinated December release (will send announcement when posted). 	N/A
<p>Systems Improvement Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unmanned Aircraft Systems Pilot (UASP): National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute (NAFRI) is working on internally. • Fixed Wing Parking Tender (FWPT): NWCG Training Specialists will engage once hired (target January). • Faller 3 (FAL3) and Crew Boss (CRWB): finalizing IPDs and position specific standards. Requesting subject matter experts (SMEs) to engage with contractors. • Prescribed Fire Burn Boss (RXB1/2): contracted with University of Idaho. • Completed Analysis of Faller 1/2 and Fire Fighter Type 1/2. • Developing next generation PTBs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Statements from IPD will link to the PTB and are based in standards. ○ Updates will be easier when everything is tied together. ○ Infrequent use of Os in the PTBs as those items will be covered by training. ○ All training developed by NWCG will be required, given limited capacity to develop and maintain training that isn’t required. ○ Will roll out as each position is addressed. ○ Less overall training, more self-study and accessible. 50-60% reduction in training. 	N/A

Additional information beyond these meeting notes (i.e. handouts, presentations, maps, etc.) will require a FOIA request to ensure proper privacy regulations are followed. Please request via FOIA Online website at <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>



NWCG Meeting Notes

November 17, 2021

Topic & Notes	Decision
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Exploring possible video module to outline duties and responsibilities of a good trainer.● Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC) supports.	