



NWCG Meeting Notes

December 15, 2021

Executive Board: Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Shane McDonald (FWS), Tim Sexton (RD&A), Kim Van Hemelryck (DOI OWF Liaison), Jeff Arnberger (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), Tesha Street (Webmaster), Rhonda Noneman (Web Assistant), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

Guests: Dave Haston (ETC), David Maclay-Schulte (FSPPEs), Pete Dutchick (TDC)

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>Review of Draft Equipment Advisory Regarding Old Fire Shelters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire shelters manufactured prior to 2006 do not have the seam strength, material laminate bond strength, robust floor, and shake handle design as newer shelters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Many shelters in circulation are at least fifteen years old and have had retrofits. ○ Newer fire shelters have green or yellow paper insert labels and are easy to identify. ○ Risk Management Committee (RMC) chair agrees with a hard date to phase out old shelters. • Two entrapments in 2020 highlighted the distinct differences between the older and newer shelters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Older shelters show more degradation and may provide less protection in marginally survivable situations. • Currently, there is no expiration date on fire shelters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Older shelters still function as intended but the bond is more robust in the newer shelters and does not break down as rapidly. ○ National Technology and Development Program (NTDP) would need physical testing of shelters to determine an expiration date. • Smaller agencies and states will need more time to phase out shelters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Could cause significant budget issues. ○ Funding opportunities in the form of grants and infrastructure bill. 	<p>APPROVED Tentative date for phase out at the end of 2022.</p> <p>Dave Haston will update draft advisory with tentative date, highlight funding resources, and add a bullet asking firefighters to consider how old their shelters are.</p> <p>Karels and Litzenberg will socialize draft with States and locals.</p> <p>Final decision at January meeting.</p>
<p>Interagency Aerial Supervision Subcommittee (IASS) Status Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective to show progress in defining structure of IASS and subcommittees. • Following up on the authorities and governance question from January 2021 regarding the cancelation of National Serial Supervision Training Academy (NASTA). • Recommendation is to place NASTA under IASS with four working groups under NASTA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGSWG), Air Tactical Supervisor (AITSWG), Leadplane (LPILWG), and Helicopter Coordinator Working Group (HLCOWG) 	<p>Topic will be added to January or February agenda. Additional discussion is needed to better define relationship.</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">○ Mission statements have been reviewed by NWCG staff.○ Collaboration relationship with NWCG.○ Positions are a mix of <i>NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications</i>, PMS 310-1, and federal supplement positions.	
<p>Systems Improvement Graphic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Propose splitting the Incident Position Standards definition, into Position Qualification Requirements and Position Specific Standards.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Position Qualification Requirements- include training, experience, physical fitness, position currency and incident position descriptions (duties and responsibilities).○ Position Specific Standards- specify the tasks and behaviors that make up the duties and responsibilities.○ New graphic reflects the change in definitions.○ To move forward with Systems Improvement efforts we needed a common language to use internally and share with committees.● Proposed modifying the definition of NWCG Standards as follows: NWCG standards establish common practices that enable efficient and coordinated national interagency wildland fire operations. These standards may include be comprised of requirements, guidelines, procedures, processes, best practices, specifications, techniques, and methods. NWCG standards are interagency by design; however, the decision to adopt and utilize them is made independently by the individual member agencies and communicated through their respective directives systems.	APPROVED graphic and definition change.