



## NWCG Meeting Notes

April 20, 2022

**Executive Board:** Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Dave Haston (USFS), 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), Jim Durglo (ITC), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Shane McDonald – Chair (FWS)

**NWCG Staff:** Katie Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Deb Fleming (Coordinator), Tim Blake (Coordinator), Katy O’Hara (Coordinator), Jesse Bender (Publications Manager), Annie Benoit (Training Program Manager), Rhonda Noneman (Web Assistant), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

**Guests:** Eric Fransted (RMC), Sean Peterson (NCSC), Stew Richter (WFLP), Rick Gividen (WFLP), Steve Griffin (NIMSIC), Barbara Frazier-Geringer (NIMSIC)

| Topic & Notes   | Decision  |
|---|---|
| <p><b>National Coordination System Committee (NCSC):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back on regular meeting schedule after a lapse for busy fire seasons.</li> <li>• Recruited new membership.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Representative from the Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC) Board.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Asked Hazard Tree and Tree Felling Subcommittee (HTTFS) to define a Faller Module.</li> <li>• Took over stewardship of the Interagency Emergency Helicopter Extraction Source List, PMS 512, from National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC).</li> <li>• IROC Change Board and SIT 209 groups meeting again regularly under National Center Mangers oversight.</li> <li>• Plan to meet throughout fire season.</li> </ul>   | N/A   |
| <p><b>Risk Management Committee (RMC) – Work/Rest Task Team Efforts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Created a task team to look at days off standards/policy to proactively develop an RMC perspective before we were asked.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Intent from RMC chair to the task team is to examine why the standard is 14/2 and what science exists to support that.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Collecting data from firefighter fatigue studies in Canada and Australia.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A Canadian summary looked at the effects of three days off after fourteen.</li> <li>○ Studies have been difficult to summarize.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Task Team feels strongly that our workforce is fatigued.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Many factors affecting; length of assignment, lack of sleep, personal problems, on-call, work/life balance, mental health, etc.</li> <li>○ Difficult to measure fatigue.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Task Team will provide a briefing paper at the June RMC meeting.</li> </ul> | <p>Work/Rest Task Team to connect with Katy O’Hara for Navy Medical Research.</p> <p>Eric Fransted will report out on Work/Rest Task Team findings at July NWCG EB meeting.</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>.



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current work/rest guidelines developed after 30 Mile Fire.</li> <li>• Possibility of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) research funding.</li> </ul>  |  |
| <p><b>Devil’s Creek Taskings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committees and Chairs have reviewed taskings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mental Health Subcommittee (MHSC) has already started work.</li> <li>○ Devil’s Creek incident was included in the RT-130 2021 yearend review video. Additional videos or module tools may be created.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Three taskings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Devil’s Creek Serious Accident- NWCG Burn Protocols</li> <li>○ Devil’s Creek Serious Accident- Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Educational Content</li> <li>○ Devil’s Creek Serious Accident Learning Opportunities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   | APPROVAL of all three taskings.  |
| <p><b>NWCG Business Processes Related to Agency Serious Accident Investigations/Corrective Action Plans:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NWCG EB will validate work request to NWCG Committees.</li> <li>• Meeting between Katie Wood and Shane McDonald to review Charter in two weeks could possibly incorporate statement.</li> <li>• Master Committee Charter Outlines SOPs for NWCG. Incorporation into this document will also be considered.</li> </ul>   | <p>APPROVAL of business process language.</p> <p>NWCG Staff will follow up as to the most appropriate place to post.</p>                             |
| <p><b>Logistics and Planning Endorsements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination for endorsement proposals moved from SMEs to Position Stewards to National Incident Management System Integration (NIMSIC) to Incident Position and Standards Committee (IPSC) to NWCG EB.</li> <li>• Intent is to help build capacity.</li> <li>• Will need to reevaluate following transition to Complex Incident Management (CIM).</li> <li>• Due to finding gaps in prerequisites position stewards are evaluating Incident Communications Technician (COMT), Demobilization Unit Leader (DMOB), and Situation Unit Leader (SITL) qualifications.</li> <li>• Geospatial Subcommittee (GSC) is reviewing Geographic Information Specialist (GISS) Endorsement.</li> <li>• Operations and Air Operations positions will be next, followed by Finance and Command positions.</li> </ul> | <p>APPROVAL of Logistics and Planning Endorsements, will be posted online.</p> <p>Approval of GISS Endorsement will be requested at May Meeting.</p> |
| <p><b>Wildland Fire Learning Portal (WFLP) Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to time constraints on the March EB call, WFLP Governance Board was unable to fully inform NWCG EB of implications and actions needed prior to being able to open portal to “all learners”.</li> </ul>  | Mark Koontz will provide monthly updates to the NWCG EB.   |



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EB is still supportive of opening the WFLP up to all users, yet there are some delays associated with the Authority to Operate (ATO) approval process.</li> <li>• Currently WFLP is undergoing an ATO which provides a security assessment on user access being granted.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New ATO should address some of the concerns raised by Wildland Fire Information and Technology (WFIT) and the chair of the Governance Board.</li> <li>○ Governance Board will work through the concerns raised in their briefing and report back to the Exec Board.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Average 800-900 new users per week. Last week saw a spike of 1,057 new user requests.</li> <li>• State and Locals are getting accounts.</li> <li>• WFLP requested clarification of intended learners.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NWCG training content on the NWCG website and from the cache is accessible to all.</li> <li>○ Who defines who intended users are for WFLP?</li> <li>○ Concerns were raised about collecting information from minors, however the WFLP currently is not collecting information on age from any user.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• WFLP requested an additional \$81,550 to pay for additional help desk support due to the expectation of additional WFLP users.</li> <li>• NWCG Staff is receiving numerous calls and emails requesting help for the WFLP.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Concerned with providing good customer service.</li> <li>○ Most calls are from Government employees who are not getting a response from WFLP.</li> <li>○ Learners who have been accepted into a class yet are not affiliated with an NWCG member Agency are having issues obtaining pre-work located on WFLP.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Need better direction to learners regarding National Fire Administration (NFA) courses if unable to access WFLP.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Currently no Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place with NFA.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p>Agreed that the Governance Board is responsible for portal oversight, not training and access decisions. Those decisions fall under the EB.</p> <p>Agreed to work through the new ATO with the intent of providing access to all learners. Currently open to 99% of learners including non-feds. Currently excluding those who are non-NWCG members or affiliated.</p> <p>Governance Board will work to increase customer service in coordination with NWCG Staff.</p> |
| <p><b>Approve NWCG Memo – Shifting Approvals from position Stewards to Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for Duration of Systems Improvement Effort:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systems Improvement project has very vigorous timelines. One year for each position. Need to create efficiencies in all areas to be successful.</li> <li>• Streamlining the approval process will move the decision authority to SMEs in place of the committees/position stewards.</li> </ul>   | <p>APPROVAL of Memo. Garth Fisher supported via email.</p>  |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Committees/Position Stewards should consider selecting a representative or SME from their group to work with the SME group. There should be continual communication between SMEs and committees.</li><li>● NWCG will formally check in with committees at two points.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Review of the draft Position-Specific Standard and of the proposed Training Design Plan. Only “fatal flaw” changes will be allowed.</li><li>○ Committees will have final approval of the package.</li></ul></li></ul> |          |

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