



NWCG Meeting Notes

May 18, 2022

Executive Board: Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Frank Guzman (USFS), 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), Omaira Falcon (Webmaster), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

Guests: Kaili McCray (MPHAT), Heath Cota (TDC and WFLP), Peter Dutchick (TDC), Sean Peterson (NCSC), Gina Dingman (DPMS), Robin Cole (IMRR), Rick Gividen (WFLP)

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>Electronic Check-In Standards, TM 21-004 and Type 3 C&G Position Training, TM 21-005:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TM 21-004 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requesting extension to June 30, 2022. • TM 21-005 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requesting extension to June 30, 2022. ○ Exercising the Wildland Fire Information and Technology (WFIT) processes. ○ IMRR solution is still viable. ○ Working on a plan and timelines for finished product to be released. 	<p>TM 21-004 Extended to June 30, 2022.</p> <p>Update EB on TM 21-005 after June 1 meeting via email with a possible decision at that time. O’Hara will discuss at next WFIT Program Board meeting.</p>
<p>Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Mental Health Overlap with NWCG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated effort between the DOI and Forest Service for firefighter health and wellbeing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approved for BIL funding. ○ Mental health cannot be addressed without addressing overall firefighter wellbeing. ○ Employee Assistance Program (EAP) although a good tool has some gaps. ○ Program will be extended to seasonals. ○ Year-round prevention and training. ○ Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) positions at each bureau. ○ Firefighter culture increases the risk for mental health problems. ○ Address stress mitigation. • Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Secure full-time employees (FTEs) to ensure capacity. ○ Build on strengths. • Approved Request: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Program FTEs at Bureau, Tribal Liaison, and Office of Wildland Fire (OWF). ○ Funding for consultants to facilitate strategic action plan. 	<p>N/A</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year One Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fill FTEs. ○ Develop a Needs Assessment with National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH). ○ Strategic action planning with stakeholders. ○ Development of contracts. • NWCG Involvement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Engagement in strategic planning efforts. ○ Sponsoring/endorsement of firefighter health and wellbeing summit. ○ Strengthening of the Mental Health Subcommittee (MHSC). • Timelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Position announcements out by October 2022. ○ Will not commit funds until a policy memo is released. 	
<p>Training Delivery Committee (TDC) Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developing a request for change process for <i>NWCG Standards for Course Delivery</i>, PMS 901-1. ○ Created the Education Technology Subcommittee (ETS). Maintaining a pulse on evolving technology and how to incorporate it into training in addition to blending of virtual and in-person learning. ○ Working on solution for certificates printed from the Wildfire Learning Portal (WLFP). ○ Updating Governance Board Roster. ○ Discussion on TDC Newsletter to go out every other month. ○ Continuing to build on distance learning at a national level and making learning more accessible. • Challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Longer fire seasons. ○ Lack of available cadres and instructors. ○ Delivery of training while improving upon it. ○ Some duplication of efforts by the Geographic Areas. • Forest Service dedicated cadre pilot: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two weeks of training for detailers to then assist and instruct courses. ○ Lessen the burden on local units. ○ Consistency of instructors and content. 	N/A

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phase 1 2021 and Phase 2 2022. ● WFLP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collaborating on best practices. ○ Sharing technology. ○ Enhancing assessments. ● GATRS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual weeklong meeting last week. ○ Incorporating GATRS into the larger effort. 	
<p>Wildland Fire Learning Portal (WFLP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Forest Service Initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Received Forest Service funds. ○ Forest Service detailer. ○ Incorporating training opportunities for military personnel transitioning out of the military. ○ Developing course for IQCS audits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus on maintaining consistency during audits. ○ Leveraging the WFLP for year-round training. ○ Developing webpage to reach a larger audience for Staff Rides and Round Tables. ● ATO authorized and should be complete the end of May. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Completing final security check then additional needs will be presented. ● National Fire Academy (NFA): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applies industry standards to accept learners. 	<p>NWCG EB requests recommendations from the Governance Board to set parameters for learners. Broad as possible within the law and industry standards. Report back at the August/September NWCG EB meeting.</p>
<p>Aviation Dispatcher Policy Impacting Interagency Dispatch Centers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Forest Service policy effective January 1, 2022, states all Forest Service aircraft shall be dispatched only by a qualified Aircraft Dispatcher (ACDP) or under the direct supervision of one. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ACDPs shall meet the training, currency, and qualification requirements defined in the Forest Service <i>Fire and Aviation Qualifications Guide</i> and the <i>NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications</i>, PMS 310-1. ○ Geographic Areas may supplement this implementation plan but cannot extend the implementation date. ○ This revision is having a negative impact on interagency dispatch centers and their ability to support aviation operations. ● Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Many dispatch centers do not have an ACDP on staff. 	<p>Support to move Issue Paper forward to FMB. Possibility of co-signing with NMAC.</p> <p>Guzman will discuss topic internally with the Forest Service.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initial Attack Dispatcher (IADP) position task book has tasks specific to aircraft dispatching. ○ Each region is taking the direction differently. ○ All Type 1 helicopters and airtankers are contracted by the Forest Service. ○ Due to the pandemic, D-312 has not been delivered for two years. ● Requesting support to allow IADPs to dispatch aircraft while gaining the experience to become qualified ACDPs. 	
<p>Incident Management Response Roundtable (IMRR) Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IMRR started as a response to the fire community adjusting to the pandemic. ● Tried to gain consistency by sharing good ideas. ● Meeting with NIMO Incident Commanders (IC), NWCG chair, and NMAC chair. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trying to incorporate IMRR representatives into NWCG committees. ○ Move recommendations forward in a collaborative effort. ● Providing regular updates to NMAC. ● Continuing Efforts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic Risk Assessment ○ Utilizing underutilized resources. ○ Remote work teams. ● Intent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Real time learning. ○ Expanding conversations. ○ Improvement of large fire management. 	<p>Connect IMRR representations with IPSC.</p>
<p>Operations and Air Operations Position Endorsements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Due to being inherently wildland fire positions no endorsement is recommended for: Operations Section Chief (OSC1), OSC2, OSC3, Division/Group Supervisor (DIVS), Air Operations Branch Director (AOBD), Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS), or Geographic Information System Specialist (GISS). ● Endorsement is recommended for Air Support Group Supervisor (ASGS). ● Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Command, Liaison, and Finance positions. ○ IQS is ready for endorsements. ○ IQCS will be ready within a month. ○ IRWIN and IROC will be updated until six months to a year. ○ NIMSIC will need to reevaluate language at that time. 	<p>APPROVAL of Operations and Air Operation endorsements.</p>

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<p>Implementation Timeline and Transition Plan for Complex Incident Management (CIM) Pilot- Draft Memorandum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation timeline: memo effective immediately through 2022; however, IQS and IQCS may not be ready until June 3. • Transition Plan Options: evaluation can be completed by same functional area or IC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agree that ○ Will not reference edits to <i>NWCG Wildland Fire Risk and Complexity Assessment</i>, PMS 236. ○ Discussion of possible FAQs in anticipation of questions. • Training competency is different than the actual training taken. • Next year the defined course will be one of the pathways to gain CIM competency. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Field Evaluation option will go away once a course is required. ○ No one will become unqualified due to a new course being required. ○ Evaluations need to go back to the home unit. • At this time, Type 1 and 2 qualifications will remain with the addition of CIM qualifications. • AD Pay Rate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rocky Mountain Area is currently approving CIM positions at Type 1 AD pay rate. ○ Incident Business Committee (IBC) will need to establish the CIM rates. 	<p>Fleming and Bender will edit the drafts and distribute to the NWCG EB via email for approval.</p> <p>NWCG EB requests memo and announcements sent out ASAP.</p>
<p>NWCG Outreach Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to remain aware that previous efforts for CIM like initiatives were derailed due to a few individuals, communication is key to CIM’s success. • Need increased communication to line officers through agency-specific channels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Request CIM be added to agency line officer agendas. ○ Expand the conversation to include other NWCG projects. 	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Action Items from L-580:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision for the Future: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NWCG Staff and committees serve NWCG EB’s vision. ○ NWCG EB leads up to FMB. ○ Systems Improvement. ○ Clarifying roles and responsibilities as well as expectations. ○ Increased interaction with NWCG EB. ○ Establishing a clear vision may reduce tactical discussions at meetings. ○ Vision would also help establish priorities for committees. ○ Embrace opportunities to connect with the field. 	<p>NWCG EB to take the lead in establishing a rotation for annual offsite meetings for team building and to discuss vision (spring).</p> <p>Guzman and Wood will discuss having NWCG representatives at national course deliveries.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Influence of NWCG:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Understanding of what NWCG does is lacking in the fire community.○ Working on committee engagement video.○ Social media and announcements for correspondence with the field.	

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