



# NWCG Meeting Notes

June 15, 2022

**Executive Board:** Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Frank Guzman (USFS), Kim Van Hemelryck (DOI OWF Liaison), Jeff Arnberger (BLM), Garth Fisher (BIA), Jim Karels (NASF), Jim Shultz for 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:** Mike Reid (NIAC), Walker Craig (NIAC), Matthew Woodwick (NIAC), Nick Nauslar (FENC), Jen Croft (FDSC), Michael Olander (WFIT)

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p><b>National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC) Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluating aircraft Incident Management Team (IMT) position and qualification vacancies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Actual need.</li> <li>○ Currently active responders.</li> <li>○ Identifying gaps.</li> <li>○ How to increase capacity.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Night vision goggles. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Region 5 is testing.</li> <li>○ Keeping informed on possible future utilization.</li> <li>○ Discussing what NIAC’s involvement will be and relationship between standards, policy, and directives.</li> <li>○ Addition of a non-voting CALFire advisor to NIAC.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Inconsistencies between A-219, Helicopter Transport of External Loads and S-271, Helicopter Crewmember training courses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Subject matter expert (SME) group working to bridge the gap between the two. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A-219 has live helicopter drills whereas S-271 does not.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Adjusting the Interagency Airtanker Board (IAB) mission statement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mission will focus more on development of performance standards. Language adjustments will be reviewed by NIAC and the NWCG Executive Board. s</li> <li>○ Will not affect availability of aircraft.</li> <li>○ Will improve the aircraft procurement process.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>TM-21-005, Type 3 Command and General (C&amp;G) Position Training Recommendations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incident Position and Standards Committee (IPSC) did not reach consensus on requiring O-305, Type 3 All Hazard Incident Management training for Type 3 Command and General Staff positions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Most of the voting entities support the requirement.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Amend TM-22-001, Complex Incident Management Tasking to include integration of one or multiple solutions</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rationale for support:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ O-305 imparted critical knowledge of the standardized processes and interactions of IMTs.</li> <li>▪ Critical for meeting performance objectives.</li> <li>▪ All-Hazards positions do require O-305.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Those who could not support the requirement did agree they could support placing O-305 under “Other Training Which Supports Development of Knowledge and Skills.”           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rationale for not supporting was that requiring O-305 would impede speed to competency.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Complicating factors:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The implementation of Complex Incident Management (CIM) creates a larger skill gap between Type 3 and CIM C&amp;G than between Type 3 and Type 2 C&amp;G.</li> <li>○ Issues with funding and time to support O-305 as a requirement.</li> <li>○ Additional requirement at this time would create confusion.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● S-420, Command and General Staff is also a viable option with modifications.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Given the CIM tasking element of evaluating the S-420 and S-520, Advanced Incident Management courses, there is an opportunity to utilize S-420 for Type 3 C&amp;G.</li> <li>○ CIMT Action Plan for Implementation includes recommendations regarding the review and realignment the C&amp;G course curriculum for Type 3 and CIM positions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>for Type 3 C&amp;G. Appropriate amount of training with flexibility.</p> <p>Fleming, Bender, and Shultz will draft amendment.</p> <p>APPROVAL to close out TM-21-005.</p>
<p><b>National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Despite best efforts, transition to NFDRS version 4 remains incomplete.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Uncertainty regarding the availability of legacy NFDRS fuel models in Weather Information Management Systems (WIMS) after May 31, 2022, which was previous hard archival date proposed by Fire Danger Subcommittee (FDSC) and Forest Service.</li> <li>○ National and regional products depend on WIMS.</li> <li>○ Soon there will be no more support for legacy fuel models.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Currently drafting a memo for geographic areas and field units to provide clarification and guidance moving forward with the transition.</li> <li>● 96% of the third-tier centers/units have completed an FDOP/FWOAD document to use NFDRS version 4 indices.</li> <li>● 23% of WIMS stations checked the enabled box to remove legacy NFDRS fuel models.</li> <li>● 76% of WIMS stations have the version 4 fuel models available for use.</li> <li>● Predictive Services successfully transitioned 7-Day Significant Fire Potential Product.</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NFDRS version 4 Pocket Cards have been published to support transition.</li> <li>• Every Geographic Area has completed two curriculum workshop sessions.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Five Transition Webinars have been provided.</li> <li>○ FDSC provided a self-directed WIMS course in the Wildland Fire Learning Portal (WFLP).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Archival of legacy fuel models will not be immediate due to the need to create a decision support module in WIMS.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Intended to feature in Fire Environment Mapping System (FEMS), which will replace WIMS.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Project Priorities- Systems Improvement (SI):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requesting approval for adding Systems Improvement as a criterion for prioritizing NWCG program of work.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Setting project priorities focuses workload and utilizes staff time.</li> <li>○ Staff and committee representatives rank project priorities monthly.</li> <li>○ SI projects will be defined as performance packages or tied to funding.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>APPROVAL to update Project Priority criteria with focus on Performance Packages related to Systems Improvement.</p>
<p><b>TM-21-004, Electronic Check-In Solution:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requested extension at May Executive Board meeting.</li> <li>• Completed tasking to develop recommendations which have been communicated to Wildland Fire Information and Technology (WFIT).               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Incident Planning Subcommittee (IPS) supports the solution.</li> <li>○ Incident Management Response Roundtable (IMRR) check-in form currently being utilized.</li> <li>○ Plans to start developing of a Demobilization Form (ICS 221WF).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Final electronic check-in solution targeted for March 2023.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Need a secure solution.</li> <li>○ Alignment with other applications.</li> <li>○ Data access restrictions.</li> <li>○ Thousands of users will need 24-hour support.</li> <li>○ Building the right platform as a pragmatic approach.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>APPROVAL to close out TM-21-004 and support WFIT working towards March 2023 goal.</p>
<p><b>TM-22-004, Devil’s Creek Tasking Memo Learning Opportunities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions to address tasking:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Devil’s Creek entrapment included in the RT-130, Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher (WFSTAR) 2021 Fire Year in Review module.</li> <li>○ An additional RT-130, WFSTAR module was created through coordinated efforts by Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center (LLC), Risk Management Committee (RMC), and Executive Board.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>APPROVAL to close out TM-22-004.</p>

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<p><b>TM-22-001, Complex Incident Management- Risk and Complexity Assessment (RCA):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IPSC recommends RCA option 1, which indicates no changes to the <i>NWCG Risk and Complexity Assessment, PMS 236</i>, for 2022.</li> <li>• Rocky Mountain Pilot developed rationale verbiage for utilizing CIM teams in WFDSS.</li> <li>• Direction on rationale verbiage needs to be consistent.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Specific for Agency Administrators.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• RCA needs to quantify where complexities exist, in which functional areas.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Allows modification to needs.</li> <li>○ Risk elements informing needs.</li> <li>○ Need revision from all perspectives, not just CIM.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>APPROVAL of Option 1 recommendation.</p> <p>Amend TM-22-00, RCA tasking dates. Draft November 2022. Test product in 2023. Final approved fall of 2023 for use in 2024 and integration into WFDSS.</p> <p>Add tasking amendment topic to July EB agenda.</p> <p>Bender will draft a memo with RCA rationale guidance.</p>
<p><b>Wildland Fire Learning Portal (WFLP) Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with CIO to open access to users.</li> <li>• Adding an additional level of security.</li> <li>• Addition of quarriable course completion date.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pushing to Forest Service and National Parks Service as a trial.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Staying on track with September target.</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Annual Meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start planning process in September.</li> <li>• Executive Board input for vision:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In-person meeting.</li> <li>○ Team building.</li> <li>○ NWCG business and group topics.</li> <li>○ Offsite.</li> <li>○ Keynote external speaker.</li> <li>○ Committee report outs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Create task group to organize.</li> <li>• Inquire at July Connections Call as to committee thoughts and recommendations.</li> </ul>	<p>Send out placeholder for Annual meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Move NWCG February monthly meeting to the 9<sup>th</sup>.</p>