



NWCG Meeting Notes

February 7, 2023

Executive Board: Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Tammi Parkinson (USFS RD&A), Kim Van Hemelryck (DOI OWF Liaison), Jeff Arnberger (BLM), Garth Fisher (BIA), Greg Smith (acting for NASF), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Heath Cota (acting for USFS), Jim Shultz (NPS), Heath Hockenberry (NWS), Jim Durglo (ITC), Anne Jewell (DoD), Shane McDonald – Chair (FWS)

NWCG Staff: Katie Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Tim Blake (Coordinator), Katy O’Hara (Coordinator), Sarah Lee (Coordinator), Annie Benoit (Training Program Manager), Erica Lamb (Publications Manager), Omaira Falcon (Webmaster), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

Guests: Eric Fransted (RMC), Marlene Eno-Hendren (IPSC), Mike Ellsworth (IPSC), David Celino (NCPFC), Larry Mastic (NCPFC), Pat Hardy (FMC), Mark Jackson (FMC), Andy James (FMC)

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>Prescribed Fire Practitioner Alternative Pathway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New pathway to provide a voluntary means to obtain nationally recognized NWCG certification as a prescribed (Rx) fire practitioner without having to obtain wildfire suppression assignments. ○ Would include federal, state, local agencies, Tribes, contractors, and private landowners. ○ This proposal was initiated in November 2021 by a coalition of the NE and SE RSCs and the National Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils (NCPFC). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Surveys were conducted by two regions that identified barriers due to current training and qualification program requirements. ▪ Recognized a need to increase prescribed fire burner capacity to reintroduce more fire safely and meet expectations called for in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act. • Prescribed Fire Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lack of capacity to meet current and anticipated Rx fire demands. ○ Rx burner non-availability due to wildfire suppression demands. ○ No national Rx burner non-wildfire qualification standards. ○ Need to increase total Rx acres by five times. ○ No national prescribed fire system coordination. ○ Inadequate Rx fire complexity analysis and rating system. ○ Not consistency or reciprocity. ○ Inadequate training, qualifications, and experience ladder. • Supporting the National Cohesive Strategy: 	<p>Executive Board has been briefed and will await the outcome of the work that Fuels Management Committee (FMC) and Incident Positions Standards Committee (IPSC) are and will do on this topic.</p> <p>Revised proposal will be presented at the April 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 <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>.



Topic & Notes	Decision
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Restoring and maintaining resilient landscapes by increasing the number of certified burners across all ownerships.○ Protecting communities by increasing the local capacity to conduct and maintain fuel treatments.○ Supporting wildfire response capacity by increasing the number of non-firefighter certified burns.● Proposed Prescribed Fire Practitioner (PFP) Qualifications Pathway:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ignition Team Member (ITM).<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ignition, holding, mop-up, monitoring, and patrol.○ PFP3: Complexity level, very low.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Pile burning, small projects, flat to low slope, agricultural lands, duration of fire is 1-day or less, and few smoke concerns.○ PFP2: Complexity level, low.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Moderate sized projects, fire behavior highly predictable, 1-day fire duration, low risk fuel types, simple firing operations, and no significant smoke concerns.○ PFP1: Complexity level, moderate.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Fire behavior highly predictable, fire spread beyond the immediate ignition area not likely, multiple but low to moderate risk fuel types, 1–2-day duration, minimal holding resources, simple firing procedures, and smoke concerns are mitigated.○ PFP1 could continue to get assignments and move to a Prescribed Fire Burn Boss (RXB) qualification.○ Position task books (PTBs) would not require wildfire assignments for PFP.● Complexity Analysis Process:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Need to align project complexity and qualification levels.○ Improve transparency; reduce subjectivity by adopting a numerical values and element weighting system.○ Will be providing recommendations to NWCG.● How will suppression needs/skills be addressed if there are no wildfire suppression assignment requirements?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Most prescribed fires are currently managed by non-NWCG burners.○ Suppression capabilities can be acquired by PFPs through Incident Command System (ICS) training, Rx fire experience via task books requirements, live field simulations, and sand table exercises.	

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 <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>.



Topic & Notes	Decision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New pathway will improve prescribed fire capacity by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishing a set of qualification standards for Rx fire practitioners. ○ Improve consistency among federal RXB and state certification programs. ○ Increases the ability to share Rx fire resources among partners. ○ Supports liability statute and insurance market development. ○ Provides a pathway for non-firefighters to become Rx certified. • Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop a request for change to create and support a voluntary non-wildfire suppression pathway to obtain PFP qualifications. ○ Create new PFP 1-3 Incident Position Descriptions (IPDs) and PTBs. ○ Propose revisions to the NWCG prescribed fire complexity guide. ○ Draft an NWCG PFP qualifications set of standards and guidance to assist states and agencies with implementation. 	
<p>Tasking Memorandum 22-001: 2022 through 2024 Implementation of Complex Incident Management (CIM) (T3 & Unit Leader Training Feb Due Date):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalized Incident Position and Standards Committee (IPSC) Memorandum 2023-02: IPSC response yesterday. • Mid-term: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No change to qualification requirements to be Type 3 Command and General (C&G) and Unit Leader. ○ Responders advancing to Complex will complete S-420, Command and General Staff or L-481, Advanced Leadership for Command and General Staff or O-305, Type 3 All Hazards Management Team as required training prior to taking S-520, Advanced Incident Management or the Complex Incident Management Course (CIMC) and opening a Complex PTB. ○ Responders will complete S-520 or CIMC and Complex PTB to attain CIM competency. ○ Pathway remains the same as 2023 except for requiring training prior to opening a CIM PTB. ○ Keeping Field Evaluation for current Type 2 C&G open for 2024. • Long-term: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implementation is contingent on completion of a new Basic Incident Management Team (IMT) Training and Advanced IMT Training. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommend tasking 520/620 Course Steering Committee under IPSC with creating a Basic and Advanced IMT course with assistance from NWCG Training as necessary. 	<p>APPROVAL of Mid-term Type 3 and Unit Leader Training Pathway. Field Evaluation for Type 2 C&G will remain in effect until January 2025 (per NWCG EB Memorandum 23-002).</p> <p>APPROVAL of Long-term Type 3 and Unit Leader pathway to CIM after Basic and Advanced IMT Training courses are certified by NWCG and available to responders January 2026.</p> <p>APPROVAL of Tasking to prioritize NWCG Training to work with IPSC Course Steering Committee and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to create/update Basic and Advanced IMT Training to meet target of December 2024 for Basic and December 2025 for Advanced, with implementation in December 2026.</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 <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>.



Topic & Notes	Decision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Type 3 C&G: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complete Basic IMT, position-specific training and PTB to become Type 3 C&G qualified. Training will be completed before opening a Type 3 C&G PTB. ▪ Responders advancing to Complex will complete Advanced IMT Training and Complex PTB to attain CIM competency. ○ Unit Leaders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No change to qualification requirements. ▪ Complete Basic IMT Training and position-specific training if they choose to obtain a Type 3 C&G qualification. ▪ Responders advancing to Complex will be required to complete Basic IMT Training and position-specific training prior to taking S-520 or CIMC and opening a Complex PTB. ▪ Responders will complete Advanced IMT Training and Complex PTB to attain CIM competency. ○ Division Supervisor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The pathway to obtain a Type 3 C&G qualification will apply to Division Supervisor, which is the only non-unit leader position that can also be granted a Type 3 general staff qualification. 	<p>Position-specific training development will stay within the Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM) workflow.</p>
<p>Risk Management Committee Days Off/Fatigue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMC is meeting this Thursday and will discuss the Days Off/Fatigue briefing paper and decide on posting the paper to the RMC webpage. • Have had discussions with Incident Business Committee (IBC) about what can be done currently to improve fatigue mitigation within policy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trying to be proactive in advance of U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) decisions regarding firefighter pay. • Submitted an NWCG Budget request for fatigue measuring devices for potential studies. • Jewell is gathering information regarding recovery rates from the military. 	<p>N/A</p>