

NWCG Executive Board/Fire Management Board (FMB)/National Multi-Agency Coordination Group (NMAC)  
 Joint Session Meeting Notes

January 19, 2022

**NWCG Executive Board:** Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Frank Guzman (USFS), Tim Sexton (RD&A), Jim Durglo (ITC), Kim Van Hemelryck (DOI OWF Liaison), Jeff Arnberger (BLM), Garth Fisher (BIA), Jim Karels (NASF), Mark Koontz (NPS), Heath Hockenberry (NWS), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Shane McDonald - Chair (FWS)

**FMB:** Aitor Bidaburu (USFA) Juilan Affuso (USFS), Brad Koekeritz (OAS), Chad Fisher (NPS), Meagan Conry (BLM), Stephen Nelson (USFS), Sarah Fisher (USFS), Dave Haston (USFS), Aaron Baldwin (BIA), Erin Horsburgh – Chair (DOI)

**NMAC:** Ken Schmid – Chair (BLM), Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Shane McDonald (FWS), Jim Karels (NASF), Chad Fisher (NPS), Josh Simmons (BIA), Dave Haston (USFS)

**NWCG Staff:** Katherine Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Deb Fleming (Coordinator), Tim Blake (Coordinator), Jesse Bender (Publications Manager), Annie Benoit (Training Program Manager), Mark Cantrell (NWCG Training), Rhona Noneman (Web Assistant), Tiesha Street (Webmaster), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

**Guests:** Nick Nausler (NICC), John Catoldo (NPS), LJ Brown (BLM), Derrek Hartman (NICC), Charles Maxwell (NICC)

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p><b>Incident Workforce Development Group (IWDG) Quarterly Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire Executive Council (FEC) issued memo in support of Complex Incident Management Action Plan. IWDG has drafted several tasking memos with the action plan components for finalization and distribution by NWCG, FMB, and NMAC to their respective subgroups.</li> <li>• Work to fill a detailed position for IWDG is still moving forward under NWCG.                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Incumbent must be free to interact with all groups involved with full support from parent groups.</li> <li>○ Consider a joint delegation of authority.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Reinforce briefing up through agency channels with unified and consistent messages.                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Parent groups take ownership in the change and ensure subgroup participation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• External presentations are increasing as Geographic Areas prepare for their fire seasons.                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ IWDG continues to provide updates and use Storymap.</li> <li>○ All levels of organization need to hear message from within the agencies as well.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pilot of Complex Incident Management Teams (CIMTs):                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rocky Mountain Area leading the way by labeling all three IMTs as CIMTs for 2022. Support to them is needed, including communication from NMAC than CIMTs will be accepted by any ordering unit.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Overall support for complex incident management action plan as identified in the 1/10/2022 FEC memo.</p> <p>Taskings are draft at this point. More discussion with parent bodies on details, timelines, and taskings to clarify next steps for each group.</p> <p>Schedule another Joint meeting before April’s next scheduled quarterly update.</p> <p>Support phased implementation of CIMTs rather than pilots.</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>○ CIMTs are available as a Resource Item in IROC.</li> <li>○ Sense of urgency is felt by those concerned that piloting would result in over-analysis. Agreement to focus on opportunities to implement in phases instead.</li> <li>● Next Steps:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Each group needs to discuss and make decisions within their respective authorities while continuing to make collective movements towards this change.</li> <li>○ Draft tasking memos are a continuation of implementation plans. They need to be finalized and distributed to subgroups.</li> <li>○ Identify what is necessary and realistic to accomplish this year and what needs to wait until next year, then provide communication to all stakeholders.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>7-Day Significant Fire Potential and Fire Danger Issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Without intervention 7-Day Significant Fire Potential Product will fail for some GACCs by June.</li> <li>● Fire Danger outputs will be unavailable or degraded.</li> <li>● Issues are already occurring.</li> <li>● Underlying Issues:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Changes to the data and process these systems rely on and loss of expertise.</li> <li>○ No systematic support dedicated to the development and maintenance of NFDRS and other products.</li> <li>○ Deficiencies have been mitigated for years, but that option is no longer viable.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Short-Term Mitigation- Status Quo:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Outages and unreliable data.</li> <li>○ Full range of impacts is unknown.</li> <li>○ Ad-hoc mitigations at every GACC will further degrade outputs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Short-Term Mitigation- Substantial Intervention:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cadre of SMEs to formalize tasks, priorities, and long-term vision.</li> <li>○ Perpetuate current capabilities, but no guarantee of success.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Long-Term Vision:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Need fully functional and operationally supported fire environment monitoring and prediction system.</li> <li>○ Dedicate dozens of permanent FTEs and contractors to build and support data system.</li> <li>○ Fire Environments Mapping System (FEMS) is part of the solution.</li> <li>○ Partner with NOAA/NWS.</li> <li>○ Develop a modern fire environment monitoring and prediction system.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>More discussion needed.</p>

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