

NWCG Program Update

NWCG Program Management Unit Staff

The NWCG Program Management Unit (PMU) provides coordination and support to the NWCG Committees and the Executive Board. The PMU staff helps determine NWCG priorities, assign tasks, and ensure the NWCG is responsive and proactive in addressing the needs and issues of the wildland fire community. The PMU staff includes:

NWCG Manager – Bonnie Wood

Policy, Planning, and Management Branch Coordinator – Elaine Waterbury

Equipment and Technology Branch Coordinator – Paul Schlobohm

Preparedness Branch Coordinator – Tim Blake

Business Architect – Al Borup

Data Architect – Allen Deitz

Knowledge Architect – Penny Barrowcliff

Application Architect and Portfolio Coordinator – Carol Saras

Executive Secretary – Bonnie Bradshaw

Communications – Kelly Woods

Webmaster – Tammy Denney

Committees

As of the end of June 2010, 13 NWCG Committees are operating under charters approved by the Executive Board. In addition, multiple subcommittees, units, and task teams are operating under the NWCG umbrella to provide leadership and guidance to the wildland fire community.

The committees and their chairs are:

<i>Policy, Planning & Management Branch</i>		
Committee	Chair	Charter Status
Fire Policy	Dick Bahr (NPS)	Pending
Interagency Fire Planning	Tate Fischer (BLM)	Approved
Fuels Management	Tim Sexton (FS)	Approved
Communication, Education & Prevention	John Owens (BLM)	Approved
Smoke	Pete Lahm (FS)	Approved
WUI Mitigation	Will May (IAFC)	Approved
<i>Equipment & Technology Branch</i>		
Committee	Chair	Charter Status
Information Technology	Shari Shetler (BLM)	Approved
Equipment Technology	Tori Henderson (FS)	Approved
Fire Environment	Kelly Martin (NPS)	Approved
National Interagency Aviation	Kevin Hamilton (BLM)	Approved
<i>Preparedness Branch</i>		

Committee	Chair	Charter Status
Incident Business	Sarah Fisher (FS)	Approved
NRF/NIMS	Gordon Sachs (FS)	Approved
Risk Management	Michelle Ryerson (BLM)	Approved
Operations & Workforce Development	Rosey Thomas (BLM)	Approved

FY 2011 NWCG Budget

NWCG FY2011 budget submissions were due to the Branch Coordinators on June 14. The PMU, Executive Board, and Budget Advisory Unit will be reviewing the requests in the upcoming weeks. Committees have recently submitted their third quarter expenditure reports for FY2010.

Incident Management Team Succession Planning

Participation on federally sponsored interagency incident management teams (IMTs) has been on the decline over the last several years and recent studies such as the interagency *Quadrennial Fire Review, 2009* demonstrate that the current workforce will not sustain the current IMT model and demands for the future. As a result, the NWCG Executive Board chartered and tasked a National Incident Management Team Succession Planning Project Team to analyze and provide alternatives for future incident management of national wildland fires to the Executive Board. Members of the project team all have an extensive leadership background and experience with incident management. The project team will be working with stakeholders and subject matter experts to develop and analyze viable alternatives. Field review and input on the alternatives is expected in the fall of 2010.

Corporate University

In July 2009, the NWCG Executive Board accepted the recommendations of the NWCG Corporate University Business Case to explore a corporate university concept that would provide “hire to retire” career planning and training for the wildland fire community. A contract to produce the NWCG Corporate University Business Plan and Launch Plan was awarded to Corporate University Enterprises, Inc (CUE). CUE is a national firm well known for working with large and complex organizations and companies to design and establish training or learning programs to meet the needs of the organization. NWCG established a design team of wildland fire experts to work with the contractor. One of the first recommendations of the design team was to name the corporate university the Wildland Fire Institute (WFI).

The intent of the WFI concept is to unify existing training resources and collectively address gaps in learning and development associated with incident and non-incident related skills and leadership. The WFI will help address some of the issues facing the wildland fire community such as a shrinking workforce due to anticipated retirements and changes in employee demographics with new learner profiles.

The WFI would not be a new training group, nor will it centralize all training functions. It would be an integrated, collaborative network of existing training groups throughout the wildland fire and aviation community for training development and implementation. The purpose is to

provide training, education, course evaluation, succession planning, and talent management for the wildland fire and aviation community to address incident and non-incident management into the future.

This is an exciting transition for the wildland fire community and places workforce development and succession planning in the forefront of the NWCG strategic priorities. We will continue to provide updates to you as WFI moves forward. Information updates will be posted to the NWCG website, <http://www.nwcg.gov/>.

NWCG Strategic Plan

The PMU and the Executive Board are in the process of validating and updating the *NWCG Strategic Plan*. The plan will guide NWCG operations into the future. The PMU and committees will use the goals of the plan to develop their annual work plans. The Strategic Plan is closely aligned with the National Wildland Fire Enterprise Architecture.

Support Services

At the NWCG 2010 All Committee Chair meeting in January, a topic of much discussion was the need for additional business support to the committees in areas such as meeting management, communication, and note taking. The PMU is working with committees to identify specific needs and to develop a strategy to solicit personnel with matching skills and an interest to work with NWCG committees and other groups. The Executive Board has endorsed this strategy to provide business support to the committees so they can more effectively accomplish their work. This strategy will also provide agency employees, especially those not familiar with the work of NWCG or fire management, career enhancement and diversification opportunities. By the end of fiscal year 2010, an informal outreach notice based on the information gathered from committee chairs will be circulated to all agencies to seek employees interested in getting involved with NWCG.

National Wildland Fire Enterprise Architecture Blueprint

The NWCG Architects have been working with the DOI Chief Architect to update several of the dates for recommendations in the National Wildland Fire Enterprise Architecture (NWFEA) Blueprint. This update will be used to facilitate a presentation for approval by the DOI Investment Review Board this summer. The Program Management Unit has been working throughout the year to update the status of the recommendations. This work is ongoing and will continue with identification of business stewards for many of the recommendations.

Dutch Creek Serious Accident Action Plan

On July 25, 2008, a firefighter working on the Iron Complex Fire on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in California died as the result of a tree felling incident. A Serious Accident Investigation Team studied the incident and an interagency Accident Review Board recommended eight corrective measures to be taken by wildland fire agencies to prevent similar accidents from occurring in the future. Those recommendations were outlined in the Dutch Creek Serious

Accident Tasking Plan. NWCG was asked to address six of the recommendations and two were assigned to individual wildland fire agencies.

To respond to the six recommendations, the NWCG Executive Board assembled an interagency Dutch Creek Serious Accident Task Team (Task Team), chaired by Rowdy Muir, in February 2010. The Task Team had representatives with expertise in risk management, operations, command, and dispatch. The Task Team was tasked to develop a plan of action to resolve the findings from the Dutch Creek Serious Accident Investigation Report and Accident Review Board.

The Task Team presented their conclusions to the NWCG Executive Board which provided direction in three main areas:

1. Standardized Medical Emergency Procedures for Incident Management Teams (IMT) to include in their Incident Emergency Plans
2. Standardized Communication Center Protocols
3. An expanded ICS 206 Medical Plan to include emergency medical procedures that will be reviewed each Operational Period at the Planning Meeting.

Incorporating these procedures and protocols into daily operations and practicing the critical elements should result in faster and more effective medical emergency response. The NWCG Executive Board recognizes that all IMTs place safety as their number one priority and are committed to caring for everyone assigned to incidents. For background information on the Dutch Creek Accident, please click on the Internet link below:

http://www.nps.gov/fire/fire/fir_wil_fatality_investigation_dc.cfm.

Operating Principles and Guidelines

The *NWCG Operating Principles and Guidelines* (PMS 900) is the document that provides general, consistent and uniform guidance to the NWCG organization for use in conducting business. It is an extensive document that is updated to include new processes, definitions and guidance for NWCG operations and business practices. Updates are periodically posted. The most current version can be found at <http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/pms900.pdf>.