



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

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M-14-02

MEMORANDUM – 15 April 2014

TO: NWCG Executive Board

FROM: Dan Smith, Chair, NWCG Executive Board

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Smith".

SUBJECT: Clarification and Update of Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide, PMS 484 (April 2014).

This memorandum replaces [NWCG Memorandum#013-2013](#) by clarifying qualifications and currency between the prescribed fire plan preparer and the technical reviewer. This guidance is effective immediately.

The November 2013 version of the *Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide* (PMS 484), commonly referred to as the *Rx Guide*, has been updated and a new version is available (April 2014) for use by the interagency wildland fire community.

Changes were made to clarify NWCG standards as it relates to the qualifications and currency between the prescribed fire plan preparer and the technical reviewer. One of the two positions must be current in their RXB qualifications, minus physical fitness requirements. Changes can be found in the following sections:

- Responsibilities (page 14).
- Fire Management Officer, Fire Program Manager or Fuels Program Manager (page 15).
- Prescribed Fire Plan Technical Review (page 38).

The PMS 484 provides standardized interagency guidance, specifically associated with the planning and implementation of prescribed fire on federal lands. It also describes the minimum interagency requirements that are acceptable for all phases of a prescribed fire for federal NWCG member agencies.

The following changes have been incorporated:

Every prescribed fire plan must receive a technical review prior to agency administrator approval. The technical reviewer and prescribed fire plan preparer must be qualified or have been previously qualified as a prescribed fire burn boss

at an experience level equal to or higher than the complexity being reviewed. **Either the technical reviewer or the prescribed fire plan preparer must be current in their qualification**, minus the physical fitness requirement.

Please disseminate this information broadly throughout your communication networks within the wildland fire community.

cc: NWCG PMU

NWCG Committee Chairs

John Cissel, Joint Fire Science Program, Manager