

CHARTER

Social Science Task Group

I. Background

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) was formed in January 1974 to expand operational cooperation and coordination of the United States Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior and the various member agencies within these departments and the National Association of State Foresters. The NWCG has established a number of working teams and advisory groups to address specific issues and problem areas.

The Social Science Task Group was created to address the coordination of wildland fire-related social science.

II. Name

The name of the NWCG group is the Social Science Task Group.

III. Authority

The task group is established pursuant to the charter authority granted to the parent National Wildfire Coordinating Group through the respective Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior, via the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the NWCG, dated March 16, 1976. The deliberations of the task group are exempt under Section 204 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

The task group is authorized for a period of 5 years from the acceptance of the charter.

The task group has the authority to develop and execute an annual program of work as approved by NWCG.

IV. Purposes

Identify social science research and application needs and evaluate social science research activity for application to fire-related problems.

Improve communication among social scientists by identifying the community of interested scientists and disseminating information on ongoing research.

Improve communication of social science information to fire managers and community leaders and facilitate use of that information to support management and communication decisions.

Incorporate social science into uniform and consistent management guidelines and standards for fire management activity.

Provide a forum for scientists to interact, share information, and synthesize scientific information for management use.

Synthesize and transfer social science research findings into usable knowledge for fire managers, community leaders, and landowners.

Integrate social science with biological, hydrologic, fire behavior, and other fire science research.

V. Responsibilities

Coordinate with other NWCG working teams as needed to provide social science information and to elicit and clarify additional social science research needs.

Coordinate with the JFSP Board of Governors and other research organizations, providing recommendations on priorities for social science research.

Coordinate with the Fire Research Coordinating Council to incorporate social science research into intergovernmental science development.

Evaluate and implement relevant recommendations of "Burning Questions" and other assessments of social science and fire management.

Develop and participate in special programs in fire management to provide a social science perspective.

Prepare an annual program of work within the prescribed timeframes for approval by the NWCG.

Provide regular progress reports to the chair of the NWCG.

VI. Membership

The task group will be composed of both social scientists and fire managers. The core members of the task group will consist of:

USDA Forest Service: one science and one management representative

U.S. Department of the Interior: one science and one management representative

National Association of State Foresters: one science and one management representative

The chair of the task group will be appointed by the chair of the NWCG.

Additional members will be added to the task group as needed, with the concurrence of the chair(s) of the Social Science Task Group.

VII. Meetings

The task group will meet twice a year. Additional meetings will be held as needed.

VIII. Approvals

This Charter is effective as of the date of approval by the Chair of the NWCG. It may be revised by agreement of a majority of the task group members and with the concurrence of the NWCG.



NWCG Chair

10-30-02
Date