### Topic & Notes

**Prescribed Fire Training Center Strategic Plan:**
- The National Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center (NIPFTC) was established to provide hands-on prescribed fire experience to federal firefighters from across the country.
  - Emphasis is placed on applied field experience, providing maximum opportunities to build skills and knowledge.
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) contains funding to support fuels management and wildfire restoration on the forests, rangelands, grasslands of the United States.
  - The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy).
    - Restoring fire-adapted ecosystems on a landscape scale.
    - Building fire-adapted human communities.
    - Responding effectively to wildland fire.
- NIPFTC Goals:
  - Maintain the delivery of our core curriculum in the southwest.
  - Expand our offerings to deliver core curriculum in western venues.
  - Support emerging training initiatives that push the boundaries of prescribed fire technology and performance beyond current limits.
  - Provide support to the Interagency Fuels Academy to help expand agency’s capacity for planning, implementation, and analysis for fuel treatments that include prescribed fire and vegetation management actions.
- Proposed Positions:
  - Training Specialist
  - Training Specialist Women in Fire
  - Operations Specialist
    - Complete contact actions to retain and/or increase the number of prescribed fire experts to assist with ongoing and new training deliveries.
    - Fill short term details for additional positions as needed.

### Decision
- Request more time to review Strategic Plan before going to Fire Executive Council (FEC) and Fire Directors but general support from FMB. Submit comments and questions to Trincado and Randall-Parker.
- Suggest rewording to fuels management instead of prescribed fire.
- Topic added to April agenda.

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**FMB Meeting Notes**

**March 15, 2023**

### Topic & Notes

#### Wildland Fire Medical and Public Health Advisory Team (MPHAT) Infectious Disease Guidance:
- Updated guidance for the prevention and management of infectious disease.
  - Reduced to three pages.
  - Agency policy summarized in a table.
  - This guidance will replace outdated materials.

Wilcox will email draft guidance to FMB members. Comments submitted to McCray are due March 29th.

#### National Predictive Services Oversight Group (PSOG) Update:
- Poised to make many technical decisions at next PSOG meeting.
- Predicted Services:
  - App outdated for the purpose of gathering data and insufficient capacity to support.
  - Data is not reflecting reality.
  - Short-term Plan:
    - Address data issues.
    - Ensure products are expressing reality.
    - Past year 2023 will not be able to sustain and will require manual entry.
  - Disparity in staffing across Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs).
    - Currently operating at 80% capacity.
    - Unable to address all issues.
    - Develop standard staffing levels for depth and flexibility.
    - May need future FMB decision on supervision and leadership to adequately meet GACC and national needs.

Topic added to April agenda.

Wilcox requests alternatives in case FMB can’t unanimously support.

#### Interagency Fuels Management Agreement:
- DOI and Forest Service have implemented cross boundary projects for many years, supported by local agreements.
  - Creates substantial workload at the local level.
  - Limitations are hindering successful interagency support.
  - Exchange of wildland firefighters across boundaries is supported by an annual exchange.
- Proposal:
  - Address limitations and enhance interagency support for fuels treatment projects, DOI Fuels Management Staff, in coordination with USDA Forest Service Hazardous Fuels staff.
  - DOI would hire one not to exceed (NTE) 5 years.
    - Develop interagency agreement.
    - Identify prioritization criteria to ensure funding is used effectively.

Forest Service approves proposal.

FMB requests periodic updates on the program.

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<th>Decision</th>
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<td><strong>Implement necessary guidelines, track processes and mechanisms to ensure funds transferred reflect work completed.</strong>&lt;br&gt;  - Forest Service would identify point of contact.&lt;br&gt;  - Coordinate with DOI to develop interagency agreement.&lt;br&gt;  - DOI has set aside initial $5 million.&lt;br&gt;  - This agreement would not replace existing local or regional agreements although if initial effort is successful that could be a future step.</td>
<td>Nelson and Koeckeritz will develop priorities list for NASA initiatives.</td>
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<td><strong>This agreement would not replace existing local or regional agreements although if initial effort is successful that could be a future step.</strong></td>
<td>Would like to request briefing from NASA following development of priorities list.</td>
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<td><strong>NASA Initiatives Regarding Wildfire:</strong>&lt;br&gt;  - Outlining FMB priorities for NASA efforts would be beneficial.&lt;br&gt;    - Three to five big picture items for the next five years.&lt;br&gt;    - Unmet needs of the wildland fire community.&lt;br&gt;    - Enhance systems or technology we are currently using.&lt;br&gt;    - Articulate the business need of the wildland fire community.&lt;br&gt;    - NASA needs conceptual framework.&lt;br&gt;    - Top after action review (AAR) requests.&lt;br&gt;    - What are NASA’s capabilities?&lt;br&gt;    - Examples: high speed connectivity and common operating picture.&lt;br&gt;  - Forest Service is working with NASA on an umbrella agreement for all things wildland fire.&lt;br&gt;    - Nelson invites Koeckeritz to be a part of this effort.&lt;br&gt;  - NASA has been pushing for NWCG membership.</td>
<td>Add NASA Priorities List as a topic for the April agenda.</td>
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<td><strong>Complex Incident Management (CIM):</strong>&lt;br&gt;  - Forest Service:&lt;br&gt;    - Not much discussion from the Regional Fire Directors regarding CIM at last meeting.&lt;br&gt;    - Will brief the Deputy Regional Foresters on CIM.&lt;br&gt;    - Line officer engagement is critical for CIM to succeed.&lt;br&gt;      - Need to stress that CIM will allow for tailoring teams and that local resources will be more available for day job activities.&lt;br&gt;  - BLM setting up spring and fall Fire Side Chats regarding CIM.&lt;br&gt;  - NWCG discussing closing CIM tasking only the training component is left.&lt;br&gt;  - Increased participation incentives for mobilizing.&lt;br&gt;    - Increased pay cap from GS15 step 10.&lt;br&gt;    - Increase capacity will have to alleviate workforce management issues.&lt;br&gt;    - Intent is to increase total number of responders and decrease hours worked per person.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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### Facilitator and Executive Secretary Transition:
- NWCG Program Manager has requested facilitator and executive secretary be freed up to work on Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM).
- Conry suggests the use of Hope as new executive secretary.
- Contracting a facilitator could be an option.

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<td><strong>Facilitator and Executive Secretary Transition:</strong></td>
<td>Blake and Drinkwater will coordinate with Hope regarding transition.</td>
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