



National Wildfire Coordinating Group

***Annual Funding Guidance
FY 2024***

Prepared by NWCG Staff

Approved by the NWCG Executive Board

Date: 10/19/2022

Table of Contents

NWCG Funding	2
Project Funding Requests	3
Training Products Funding Requests	4
Viability Determination	4
Prioritization	4
Mid-Year and Third Quarter Adjustments.....	5
Reporting Requirements	5
Travel Funding for NASF Members.....	5
Appendix A: Project Funding Request	6

NWCG Funding

NWCG funding is provided by the federal member agencies through their annual fire management program budget allocations. Contribution percentages are based on the *Interagency Agreement for National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Shared Funding* (<https://www.nwcg.gov/executive-board/partners-agreements>). The U.S. Fire Administration separately and independently determines its annual contribution and program emphasis.

NWCG committees and staff routinely conduct new and ongoing work in order to accomplish the NWCG mission. NWCG funding supports this work. NWCG funding is requested and allocated according to the guidance stated in this document. All funding requests must be specifically related to NWCG and the committee objectives. NWCG funding does not cover salaries (with the exception of details used to support approved projects), federal travel, meetings, training delivery, awards, or IT projects. Exceptions will be approved by the NWCG Executive Board and should be interagency and national in scope. For questions about project requests involving information technology please reach out to your agency Wildfire IT (WFIT) Representative.

The Executive Board maintains a contingency fund to cover unforeseen needs throughout the year. Contingency fund expenditures are approved by the Executive Board. Unspent contingency funds will be reallocated at third quarter. NWCG annual funding guidance and associated forms are located at <https://www.nwcg.gov/budget-guidance>.

Table 1 – NWCG Budget Cycle Responsibilities

Date	Task	Responsible Party
October 2022	Develop/review final draft of annual budget guidance.	NWCG Staff Agency Budget Leads
November 2022	Issue annual budget guidance to committees.	NWCG Executive Board
January 2023	Submit all committee and subgroup budget requests to respective NWCG Coordinator.	Committee Chairs
February 2023	Review and prioritize projects according to prioritization factors and within constraints of available budget. Share with Committee Chairs.	NWCG Staff
February 2023	Review project funding requests. Identify issues or concerns with proposed projects.	Agency Budget Leads
March 2023	Approve annual NWCG project funding allocations.	NWCG Executive Board
March 2023	Provide proposed budget to USDA FS and DOI OWF (thru BLM Budget Lead) to create preliminary budget allocation.	Budget Liaison
Spring 2023	Apply project information to NWCG Shared Costs Worksheet.	Budget Liaison
Fall 2023	Once the appropriation is signed, work with the assigned NWCG Committee Coordinator and Committee Chairs regarding cost coding structure and accountability tracking.	Budget Liaison Agency Budget Leads
April 2024	Work with the assigned NWCG Committee Coordinators to gather project expenditure data and provide NWCG Executive Board with a mid-year funding report and reallocation requests.	Budget Liaison
July 2024	Work with the assigned NWCG Committee Coordinators to gather project expenditure data and provide NWCG Executive Board with a third quarter funding report and reallocation requests.	Budget Liaison
October 2024	Work with the assigned NWCG Committee Coordinators to gather project accomplishments and provide NWCG Executive Board with a final FY24 funding report.	Budget Liaison

Project Funding Requests

Project funding requests include:

- Services
- Agreements
- Standards development
- Publication revisions
- Operations/maintenance for existing projects

Publications related requests must be coordinated with your NWCG Coordinator and the Publications Manager. See <https://www.nwcg.gov/publication-portal-management> for further guidance.

For multi-year projects, please submit out-year estimates on the bottom of the request form. Long-term planning is necessary to effectively and efficiently manage NWCG projects and associated funding.

Committee Chairs should submit a consolidated and prioritized package (including all subgroup requests) of all project funding requests to their NWCG Coordinator. All requests should be submitted on the *NWCG FY2024 Project Funding Request* form (see Appendix A for an example).

Training Products Funding Requests

Committee Chairs should discuss training funding requests with their NWCG Coordinator and the Training Development Program Manager prior to submitting. This will ensure coordination of projects, reduce duplicative efforts, and enable more accurate cost estimates. NWCG Training Program funding requests will be submitted separately by the Training Development Program Manager.

Viability Determination

NWCG staff will determine funding request viability using the criteria stated below:

- **Relevance:** Is the project relevant to the NWCG mission and strategic priorities? Is it relevant to the specific objectives of the submitting committee or entity?
- **Purview:** Is the project unique to wildland fire and does it sensibly fall under the purview of the NWCG? Is the NWCG the apparent agent to achieve the project's objectives?
- **Collaboration:** If the request involves multiple committees/subgroups, has it been adequately vetted and agreed to between these groups?
- **Uncovered Funding:** Is this request for salaries, federal travel, meetings, training delivery, awards, or IT projects?

Prioritization

NWCG staff will develop preliminary recommendations for full funding, partial funding, and no funding based on the prioritization criteria stated below and on the estimated funding availability target. The estimated funding availability target is based on the direction of the agency budget leads.

NWCG staff will then work with the relevant Committee Chairs to reach consensus. The resulting funding recommendations will then be forwarded to the agency budget leads for review prior to being forwarded to the Executive Board for decision and finalization of the annual NWCG budget.

Prioritization criteria:

- **Scope and Impact:** What is the impact of the project on the larger NWCG membership? Does it benefit field-level firefighters and fire managers? Will it improve national standardization in wildland fire management? Will it enhance firefighter safety?
- **Sustainability:** Will the project have a long-term impact? Will it address a significant and consequential issue or concern? Will its benefits last beyond project completion?
- **Feasibility:** Is the project achievable? Does the submitting entity have a proven track record of completing projects? Is the proposal in state where it is ready to receive and expend the requested funding.
- **Continuation of Funds:** Is this request a continuation of a previously funded project?
- **Efficiency:** Is the project cost effective? Will it be completed in a specified and finite time frame? Does it duplicate existing efforts? Is it a collaborative effort with a non-NWCG entity?
- **Training-Specific Factors:** In addition to the above factors, training funding evaluations will consider the following: Does the request align with the system improvement efforts? Is the training required or recommended? Does the scope of the training support multiple disciplines? Is the request for new development or for revision of an existing product?

Mid-Year and Third Quarter Adjustments

Viable funding requests that did not receive funding due to prioritization decisions and/or budget limitations will be considered for mid-year and third quarter funds that may become available after the April and July project expenditure information is reviewed. The NWCG staff will coordinate with the appropriate Committee Chairs to develop recommendations for the NWCG Executive Board. NWCG funding is annual; unspent funds do not carry over.

Reporting Requirements

Committees/subgroups that receive NWCG funding will be asked to submit accomplishment and expenditure information in April, July, and October. The NWCG Budget Liaison will work with other NWCG Staff, Committee Chairs, and project leads to gather this information.

Travel Funding for NASF Members

NASF travel costs (airfare, lodging, and per diem) for NWCG committee meetings or Training Development Program workshops may be reimbursed by funds administered by the NASF through a grant from the U.S. Forest Service. This may occur only if the attendee is serving as the NWCG committee/subgroup representative and funding is available. Instructions and forms can be found at <https://www.nwcg.gov/state-travel-guidance>.

Appendix A: Project Funding Request

Fillable form is available at <https://www.nwcg.gov/budget-guidance>.

 NWCG FY 2024 Project Funding Request	
Project Name: (select from project drop down list; if not found enter name in next row)	
Project Name: (if not in the drop down list above, type in brief and concise name)	
Project Type: (select from drop down list)	
Committee Name: (select from drop down list)	
Subgroup Name:	
Expenditure Lead: Name, agency, phone, email	
Agency expending the funds? <i>(Select one)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> BIA <input type="checkbox"/> BLM <input type="checkbox"/> FS <input type="checkbox"/> FWS <input type="checkbox"/> NPS
Description and rationale for project. This may include a detailed statement of need, benefit to committee and overall NWCG missions, or problem/issue the project addresses. Include attachment if additional space is needed.	
Funds Request for Project: Itemize funding (e.g., contract, agreement)	(Round to nearest \$500)
	\$0
	\$0
	\$0
TOTAL	\$0
Will funds be needed in future years for this project?	
If so, please enter an estimate of funding needed in the fiscal year the work is planned.	
data	Estimated Funding
Request FY 2025	\$0
Request FY 2026	\$0
Request FY 2027	\$0
Request FY 2028	\$0