



NWCG Meeting Notes

October 20, 2021

Executive Board: Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Shane McDonald (FWS), Tim Sexton (RD&A), Jim Durglo (ITC), Kim Van Hemelryck (DOI OWF Liaison), Jeff Amberger (BLM), Garth Fisher (BIA), Jim Karels (NASF), Mark Koontz (NPS), Heath Hockenberry (NWS), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Frank Guzman - Chair (USFS).

NWCG Staff: Katherine Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Deb Fleming (Coordinator), Tim Blake (Coordinator), Kathryn O’Hara (Coordinator), Jesse Bender (Publications Manager), Mark Cantrell (NWCG Training), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

Guests: Eric Fransted (FWS), Steve Griffin (NIMSIC), Ken Kehmna (NIMSIC), Jim Shultz (IPSC), Dave Celino (IPSC), Derrek Hartman (IPSOG), Dianne Cash (FS Budget Lead)

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>TM-20-004 Implementation of Endorsements: Update and Request for Extension:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original tasking due date October 1st 2021. • NWCG Endorsement Analysis Process, provide framework for analysis to determine if positions NWCG shares with FEMA National Qualification System (NQS) need wildland fire endorsements. • Intent is to build capacity by utilizing All-Hazards qualified resources on wildland incidents after they have met the endorsement requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1) Validating wildland fire business systems (e.g., IQCS, IROC, IQS) are set up to incorporate endorsements. IQS is the only system capable currently. Recommended endorsements include Wildfire (WF), Prescribed Fire (PF), and All Hazard (AH). ○ 2) National Incident Management System Integration Committee (NIMSIC), Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC), and NWCG Training are ensuring Incident Position Descriptions (IPDs) have specific wildland fire roles and responsibilities identified. ○ 3) NIMSIC Endorsement Task Group developed a process that will be used to analyze each position. ○ 4) Develop endorsements for positions with position stewards. Completed analysis for Public Information Officer (PIO). Now engaged with Risk Management Committee (RMC) for Safety Officer (SOF) positions. ○ 5) External entities will need to develop standards and process for ordering and filling endorsed resources. ○ 6) Developing a “Frequently Asked Questions” document as a communication plan to address the endorsement process. ○ When completed, endorsements, by position, will be available on nwcg.gov. 	<p>APPROVED for tentative extension of Spring 2022.</p>

Additional information beyond these meeting notes (i.e. handouts, presentations, maps, etc.) will require a FOIA request to ensure proper privacy regulations are followed. Please request via FOIA Online website at <https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request>



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<p>TM-20-001 Recommendation: Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original tasking March 2020. Standardize the RPL process. Provide organizations with a means to achieve credentialing and for wildland fire to increase capacity. • IPSC will finalize edits to the publication in November. • <i>NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications</i>, PMS 310-1 needs to be updated to include language on the RPL process. • NWCG Standards for Recognition of Prior Learning will be an NWCG publication-. Estimated release date of January 2022. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NWCG terminology and process should align with FEMA guidance. ○ Support for interagency cooperation on approvals and RPL boards. ○ Opportunity for non-member agencies that have employees seeking wildland qualifications. ○ Not intended to circumvent expected competencies for NWCG positions. ○ Fundamental requirements for gaining NWCG qualifications. ○ Evaluation panel must contain as least one member currently qualified in that position. Home unit makes the final evaluation. ○ Agencies will need to develop templates which will be made available on the website. • Parallels between RPL and endorsements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Endorsements specific to 45 positions in common with NQS. RPL entry level positions based on any prior experience. • Some biases but to build a stronger program need to stay open minded. 	<p>Provide feedback by November 15th to Jim Shultz, Dave Celino or IPSC representative.</p>
<p>6 Minutes for Safety (6MFS) Proposed Move to Lessons Learned Center (LLC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three options proposed in briefing paper. • RMC discussed the hybrid option as requested by the Executive Board with LLC. LLC wishes to operate autonomously. • Option 2, traditional subcommittee was deemed the best option. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Intend to start recruiting new chair and members to create a more robust committee. Create a resilient group not hinged on one person. ○ Maintain relationship with NWCG publications and webmaster. 	<p>APPROVED to move forward with 6MFS subcommittee.</p>
<p>Department of Defense (DOD) Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FWS and DOI have a partnership with DOD. • Branch Chiefs of the Airforce and Army expressed interest in a partnership with NWCG. • DOD is striving to achieve NWCG qualifications. DOD has responders in IQCS, but we are unable to access them. 	<p>DOD will provide briefing of programs at November NWCG Meeting.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airforce has 16 modules based on NWCG qualifications. Each base has a fire department similar to local civilian fire departments. • Would like to explore this partnership more to build a stronger workforce. • Identify point of contact for all DOD branches. 	
<p>FY21 End-of-Year Budget Report and FY23 Budget Guidance for Approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY21 final budget very similar to mid-year. Final numbers except for USFS staffing. • FY23 changes- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Removed Budget Advisory Unit. ○ Training language change based on new process. • Guidance will be distributed to committees in November. Requests for FY23 funding due January 2022. 	APPROVED budget.
<p>Systems improvement Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing plans for possible Infrastructure Bill funding. • Awarded contract for Crew boss and Feller 3 positions with a 1-year timeline. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contact expensive. Training contractors to do this work. Cost should be less in the future. • SMEs completed Performance Support Analysis Tool (PSAT) and task analysis. • Starting Faller 1 next week. • P-310, Fire Prevention Education Team Member certified. • S-130, Firefighter Training starting approval process. 	Update NWCG EB after contract kick-off meeting.