



NWCG Meeting Notes

April 21, 2021

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

NWCG Staff: Deb Fleming (Acting NWCG Program Manager), Katherine Wood (incoming NWCG Program Manager), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary), Tim Blake (Coordinator), Kathryn O’Hara (Coordinator), Annie Benoit (Acting Coordinator), Jesse Bender (Publications Manager), Nancie Turner (Webmaster), Jeff Hughes (Training Program Manager), Mark Cantrell (Training)

Guests: Erik Litzenberg (IAFC), Cory Berkebile (BLM), Mack McFarland (NPS), Mark Goeller (NASF), Chris Buzo (OWF), Stewart Richter (WFLP Governance Board), John Buehler (NPS), Eric Fransted (FWS)

Topic & Notes	Decision
NWCG Project Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed and validated Project Priorities https://www.nwcg.gov/priorities 	N/A
Wildland Fire Learning Portal (WFLP) Governance Board Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> User accounts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2018-26 accounts, 2021-25,975 accounts. Editing trainers relay information to ground personnel. Sending out surveys on how to improve communication to the field. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible user guides for context in fire. Need clear standards and consistent message to users. If an issue arises work through the Governance Board. 	Update for NWCG EB after survey at June Meeting.
Tasking Update (TM-21-003) Captain Brian Hughes Corrective Action Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original tasking to Hazard Tree Subcommittee (HTTFS) was to address finding in the Corrective Action Plan. Developed Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). Element 1- Analyze new USFS saw training to determine applicability to updated S-212 training. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used Wildland Fire Chainsaw Operations Standards as an anchor point. Draft in May 2021. Considered complete. Element 2- Gap analysis of tree felling operation procedures, training, and best practices in supervisory taskbooks in Operations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for change for adding evaluable task language to task books specific to discussing tree felling hazards on incidents was submitted to Risk Management Committee (RMC). WFSTAR video “Does it need to come down” released Spring of 2020. WFSTAR video “When complexity changes” will be released Spring of 2021. 	N/A

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>



Topic & Notes	Decision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Element 3- Propose development of an Advanced Wildland Fire Chainsaw training course. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Combined with Element 1. Standards 90%. ○ Current detailer finalizing the standards to compare and break into S-212 or new S-312 course. • Element 4- Propose review and revision, if necessary, to FAL3, FAL2, and FAL1 tasks and currency evaluation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will begin after adoption of standards and when curriculum for S-212 and potential S-312 are established. 	
<p>National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC) Inconsistent Standards for Approval of Federal Special Mission Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent standards are in place which require partner agency review and approval of federal special mission programs that cause administrative burdens and confusion. • This requirement does not reference policy. • When aircraft is ordered from another Federal agency all the capabilities should be available for use. • Draft formal request and elevate to Fire Management Board (FMB). 	Topic for May FMB agenda.
<p>Tasking Close-Out (TM-21-001) Standard Incident Operations, Business Practices, Forms, and User Groups for FireNet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWCG committees were positively engaged with completion of the TM. • An SOP was developed as the formal means of transmitting the decisions. Responses have been reviewed by FireNet leadership for acceptance of those that are feasible and within the scope of the tasking. • Will respond back to committees with final SOP approval, then send out announcement with combined message and guidance on requesting an account. • New committee objective will be added to facilitate future interactions without further need of taskings. 	APPROVED to close out tasking.
<p>Draft Memo re: PTB Electronic Fillable Forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posted fillable evaluation and certification pages on the NWCG position task book page with guidance on how to appropriately complete PTB evaluations when trainees and evaluators are working in separate physically locations, especially for remote and virtual assignments.. 	ARRPOVED PTB memo.
<p>Update on Finalizing System Improvement Efforts Proposed Tasking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal to overhaul training. • Not enough information yet to send out a tasking memo. • Will reevaluate the need for a tasking once the new Program Manager in place. 	N/A



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<p>FY21 Mid-Year Reallocation Recommendations and System Improvement Effort Contract Briefing Paper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presented mid-year funding status and recommendation for reallocating funds to a BLM contract to expediate the Systems Improvement recommendations.• System Improvement Contract Briefing Paper-<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Joint effort where NWCG staff works in conjunction with a contractor to expedite the process and increase output.○ NWCG staff responsibilities develop PSAT, Task Analysis, draft PTB and Performance Plan.○ Contractor responsibilities standards, Detailed Design Plan and Performance support materials (e.g., training).○ Goal is to include up to six positions in the contract to allow us to gather data on how much it would cost to develop standards and training for a variety of positions.	<p>Will schedule an executive session next week to discuss further.</p>