



NWCG Meeting Notes

March 15, 2023

Executive Board: Sara Brown (USFS RD&A), Kim Van Hemelryck (DOI OWF Liaison), Jeff Arnberger (BLM), Garth Fisher (BIA), Jim Karels (NASF), Erik Litzenberg (IAFC- Acting Chair), Dave Haston (USFS), Jim Shultz (NPS), Jim Durglo (ITC), Anne Jewell (DoD), Mike Ellsworth (Acting for FWS)

NWCG Staff: Katie Wood (NWCG Program Manager), Tim Blake (Coordinator), Katy O’Hara (Coordinator), Sarah Lee (Coordinator), Annie Benoit (Training Program Manager), Erica Lamb (Publications Manager), Omaira Falcon (Webmaster), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

Guests: Tyler McCowan (EMC), Kaili McCray (EMC), Michelle Curry (EMC), Andrew Southard (EMC), Jennifer Symonds (EMC), Eric Fransted (RMC), Cheryl Bright (FDSC), Nick Nauslar (FENC)

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire First Aid, PMS 560:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing paper addresses questions raised at the December Executive Board (EB) meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the difference between the proposed standard and conventional first aid? • Transition plan addresses how do we meet the standard as an interagency community? • Additional intent content was added to the foreword of the <i>NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire First Aid</i>, PMS 560. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PMS 560 intent is to ensure that all line firefighters have the basic knowledge to stabilize, communicate needs, and transport patients. ○ The objective of this minimum standard is to support first aid training appropriate for the remote working environment and first aid skills specific to the occupational and operational needs of wildland firefighters, including leadership and communication. • Emergency Medical Committee (EMC) will be establishing a Wildland Fire First Aid Subcommittee (WFFAS) to provide continued leadership and subject matter expertise in all aspects of wildland fire first aid. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scope of WFFAS will develop over time. ○ WFFAS will develop job aid and tools to assist agencies with meeting this standard. 	<p>APPROVAL of <i>NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire First Aid</i>, PMS 560.</p> <p>APPROVAL of Transition Plan for Implementation of <i>NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire First Aid</i>. PMS 560.</p>
<p>Risk Management Committee (RMC) Days Off/Fatigue Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fransted and Blake met with Jewell and Department of Defense (DoD) Neuroscience to discuss this topic and how DoD could assist the wildland fire community. • Booz Allen Executive Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tactical QLA 30 mins interview. 	<p>Fransted will present RMC recommendations during the April Joint Session.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ In field RAG deployment. Understanding your individual readiness assessment based on fundamental human performance pillars through a subjective survey is key to identifying baseline and developing future protocols.▪ Post field analytic insights. Partner with Data Science Analysts to conduct a thorough analysis on data collected.○ NWCG budget request not sufficient to cover, \$250,000 to \$300,000 for Phase 1/2 and \$400,000 to \$1 million for Phase 3 optional wearable devices.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lots of questions before we commit.▪ Trying to understand options.• Psychomotor Vigilance task:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Daily one minute puzzle app to assist understanding fatigue and readiness for duty.○ \$200 per person annually.• Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Present a request like Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM).○ Some BIL funding has been designated for firefighter health and wellness.○ Process for requesting BIL funding; Fire Management Board (FMB) to Interagency Fire Executive Council (IFEC).○ Once funding is secured details of the project can be arranged.• Need to coordinate with other groups to recognize the grand scheme and what others are developing in this area.• National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Has already conducted numerous studies in this area.○ NASA seems to be a willing participant to assist the wildland fire community.• RMC has posted Fatigue in Wildland Firefighters Research Summary to the NWCG website.• RMC is communicating with the Incident Business Committee (IBC) on how to make changes within existing policy.• RMC has been requested to present this topic to the Northern Rockies IMT meetings.• Recommendations for April Joint Session:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Sliding scale for days off based on number of days worked.○ Length of shift changes.○ Will be requesting assistance in designing a research project.• Concerns:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Project needs a clear scope and duration.	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How will the project be managed? ○ What are we measuring and why? ○ Capacity to do the research and manage will be an issue. 	
<p>Fire Danger Subcommittee (FDSC) Roles and Responsibilities vs Operational Implementation Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Briefing paper provides information and recommendations for the FDSC to refocus on its mission by explaining the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) transition history and continued operational implementation needs of NFDRSv4 that have overwhelmed the subcommittee and Chair. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FDSC mission is to provide national leadership to advance fire danger rating in support of effective fire management decision-making. ○ Fire danger rating is an important decision support tool used by all NWCG member agencies and at all levels. ○ The primary focus on NFDRS for so long has made it difficult to refocus on its broader mission and meet operational expectations. ○ Desired outcome is to gain interagency support at the EB level for FDSC to refocus on its mission and NWCG lane to provide standards, training and IT business requirements for all fire danger science, and data systems, and move forward recommendation for implementation of NFDRSv4. ● The fire danger community lacks capacity of subject matter experts (SMEs). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ S-491, Intermediate National Fire Danger Rating System does not fill capacity gap. ● Timeline of events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2018- Transition plan initiated to provide a stable NFDRS2016 system. ○ 2019- Full transition deadline changed to January 2021 due to capacity issues. ○ 2020- Decommission explained as legacy model unavailable for operational use. ○ February 2022- Renamed NFDRSv4. Delays in transmission due to COVID, fire activity, and lack of SMEs. ○ August 2022- EB approved FDSC memo stating NFDRSv4 will become the operational standard for NFDRS. ○ March 2023- Decommission of legacy model removing in from Weather Information Management System (WIMS). ● The original intent and primary objective of the transition were not met, therefore the only available NFDRSv4 is not trusted or understood by end users, lack SMEs and end user support, and associated applications are continually being updated to resolve issues. 	<p>Topic will be presented during the April Joint Session.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FDSC does not have operational decision space to fully transition to NFDRSv4. ● Recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1. Operational standards for the application of fire danger need to be managed by the appropriate NWCG committee. ○ 2. Enforcing interagency governance of data and IT applications through Wildland Fire Information and Technology (WFIT) and NWCG involvement. ○ 3. Fire Environment Management System (FEMS) will eventually be the authoritative fire danger application of NFDRS and will be a Decision Support System (DSS). Moving NFDRS with other DSS applications under WFM RD&A will resolve these operational issues. ○ 4. Support Predictive Services Long-Term Plan to integrate with WFM RD&A, DMP, and Fire Environment Committee (FENC). To develop Fire Environment capabilities, requirements. Data standards and a Research to Operations process. ○ 5. Make a legacy NFDRS code available to State programs that can utilize it within their own predictive services units. ● Biggest challenge is not having an authoritative body to answer questions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Issues fall under agency purview. ● Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide information and discuss with agency representatives. ○ Present during the April Joint Session. ○ National Predictive Services Oversight Group (PSOG) and Geographic Area Coordination Centers (CGAC) are meeting Friday to discuss and come to agreement before April Joint Session. 	
<p>Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC)/ NWCG Training Complex Incident Management (CIM) Tasking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establishment of basic and advanced Incident Management Courses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EB tasks IPSC to work with NWCG Training to establish a new CIM training steering committee leveraging the S520 Steering Committee and adding Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) perspectives to blend existing course objectives, content, and methodology. ○ Intent is to have a systems approach to IMT training from basic to advanced with a single steering committee for alignment of course content and materials. ○ S520/620 Course Steering Committees must remain in place until new basic and advanced courses are implemented. Look for opportunities to combine and restructure courses. 	<p>The S-520/620 Course Steering Committee will remain in place until new basic and advanced courses are implemented.</p> <p>Lee will convey to IPSC representatives the need to fully vet Course Steering Committee members with EB.</p> <p>Addition of Complex Incident Management Course (CIMC) to first</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the interim Type 3 C&G and Unit Leader/DIVS pathways are being evaluated for mid and long-term. A memo will be released with information on the pathways for 2024 forward. ● Basic and advanced IMT Course Steering Committee will have oversight by EB. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IPSC representatives need to fully vet Course Steering Committee members with EB. 	<p>sentence in tasking under Tasking and Deliverable.</p> <p>APPROVAL of tasking memorandum with edits listed above. Once edits are made Bibaburu will sign.</p> <p>Revisit original IPSC IM 22-001, 2022 through 2024 Implementation of CIM at April EB meeting.</p>
<p>FY24 Project Funding Budget Approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provided priority scoring sheet to rate funding requests. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Criteria: meets funding guidance, implementable and attainable, positive past track record, contracting agreement mechanism determined, NWCG staff ability to support, likelihood of success. ● Projects recommended are listed in priority order. ● Plan to develop a more efficient funding request form to make better informed decisions in FY2025. ● NWCG can reallocate contingency funds for the current year in May. ● NWCG can also reallocate unused funds into the large contract for IPTM. ● No changes to agency contributions and funding based on requests for FY2024 to OWF that is then allocated to the agencies. 	<p>APPROVAL of FY24 Project Funding Budget.</p>
<p>NWCG IT Capabilities – Prioritization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NWCG IT capability requirement statements are high-level descriptions of specific business needs currently in the WFIT portfolio. ● EB approved the process and prioritization criteria at November 2023 meeting. ● NWCG staff develop priority recommendations for NWCG EB approval once a quarter, the month prior to the Joint Session. ● Prioritization viability criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Relevance, purview, collaboration, sustainability, feasibility, and efficiency. ○ Each capability is evaluated by applying values to rating criteria that reflect the mission of NWCG and wildland fire in relation to the proposed capability’s relative importance. 	<p>APPROVAL of NWCG IT Capabilities Prioritization.</p> <p>Topic will be presented at the April Joint Session.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does the application fill a long-standing gap? ● 300 total applications, 150 that have a touch point with NWCG, 15 that have been funded in FY23 or proposed for FY24. ● Priorities were presented to WFIT and supported last week. ● Opportunities exist to refine the prioritization matrix and recommendation can be shared with O’Hara as the liaison for NWCG/WFIT. 	
<p>New Publication Review for Next Month’s Decision- <i>NWCG Standards for Mitigation in the WUI</i>, PMS 052:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presented <i>NWCG Standards for Mitigation in the WUI</i>, PMS 052 to EB, request that the publication be reviewed for fatal flaws. ● No transition memorandum was needed due to no changes. Current publication is just documenting what is currently being done in the field, as a standard had not been previously published. ● Coordinated with FENC. 	Decision on <i>NWCG Standards for Mitigation in the WUI</i> , PMS 052 will be made at April EB.
<p>Finalize NWCG Charter and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Requested EB members to vet Charter and SOPs at February EB meeting. ● McDonald sent out a copy of Charter and SOPs March 1st for review. ● Committee Toolbox has been posted to the web. ● EB SOPs will also be posted to the website. ● SOPs are internal. NWCG Charter needs Fire Executive Council (FEC) signatures. ● Changes include addition of a mission statement and clarity that NWCG does not establish policy. 	APPROVAL of NWCG SOPs. APPROVAL of NWCG Charter. Wood will draft NWCG Charter Summary of Changes.
<p>Review and Approve NWCG Executive Board Chair Rotation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2024 and 2025, U.S. Fire Administration (USFA). ● 2026 and 2027, International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). ● 2028 and 2029, DoD. ● Historically NWCG EB Chair had to reside in Boise. With current technology this is no longer required. 	APPROVAL of NWCG Chair Rotation. Incorporate NWCG Chair Rotation into NWCG SOPs.
<p>Review Strategic Alignment Process Tasking Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Incident Strategic Alignment Process (ISAP) was released last fall National Incident Management Organization (NIMO). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NIMO focused a lot of energy toward this product. ○ Currently being taught to the field and in NWCG courses, but not established as an interagency standard. 	Request review and provide edits of draft memorandum from EB. Summit edits to Shultz or Arnberger.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to focus on where ISAP belongs and make the standard interagency. ○ The field thinks this is an NWCG product. ● Develop Standards for the Incident Strategic Alignment Process: Strategic Risk Assessment and Strategic Operations, draft tasking. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tasks IPSC, RMC, and Training Delivery Committee (TDC) to develop NWCG standards for the use of ISAP by fire management organizations and IMTs. The target interagency adoption of this process, products, and curriculum in 2024 to align with CIM. ○ Conversations with committee chairs will inform tasking. ● Standards are halfway developed. ● Concern about committee and NWCG Training workloads with current projects. 	<p>Data Management Committee needs to be added to committees tasked in the draft memorandum.</p> <p>One primary committee lead needs to be established in the draft tasking.</p> <p>Shultz will finalize memorandum by April EB meeting.</p> <p>Lee will set up meeting with Shultz, Arnberger, Day, IPSC, RMC, DMC and TDC Chairs.</p>
<p>Off-Site April Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Intent is to build team cohesion during an off-site meeting annually which was decided on by the EB last year. ● Hotels need to be booked by Monday 3/20. ● Still need drivers. ● Tuesday will be visiting Camp Pendleton and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. ● Wednesday EB meeting and Joint Session. ● Thursday Navy ship tour and visit to Emergency Operations Center. 	<p>Benoit volunteered as a driver.</p>
<p>Meeting Decision Review and Process Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Need to refine process for clarifying decisions made during EB meetings. ● Clarify decisions made during lightning round? Or wrap up each topic with a clarification? ● Agendas are packed with topics. Need additional time to give justice to each topic presented. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meetings must be completed by noon due to FMB and NMAC meeting conflicts. ○ Continually bumping topics each month. 	<p>Take a couple of minutes after each decisional topic to clarify and agree upon the final decision.</p>