



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S. Development Avenue
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MEMORANDUM

Reference: NWCG#005-2010

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From: NWCG Chair *William Page*

Date: February 12, 2010

Subject: Interagency Wildland Fire Geospatial Governance

I am writing to you, a key member of the wildland fire geospatial community, to request your assistance in the development of an interagency wildland fire geospatial governance model. Our NWCG Geospatial Task Group (GTG) has identified you as a key subject matter expert in interagency fire geospatial utilization and management. The GTG is interested in meeting with

you to conduct a short survey concerning your thoughts related to the needs of the geospatial community to improve NWCG's ability to accomplish a vital part of its mission.

Geospatial technologies and related dependent data have become a critical element in the operation of federal, state, and local wildland fire programs. Demands for geospatial technologies, data, and its related products continue to increase as NWCG members strive to operate more efficiently. Recent developments by the wildland fire community include applications that are interagency and national in scope, and which require consistent landscape based data across agency boundaries. Several studies and reports are available that examine geospatial technologies and data in support of wildland fire business areas. These reports describe the difficulties and challenges related to managing and applying geospatial information effectively in support of wildland fire management. However, they do not necessarily provide an integrated governance model that maps validated requirements into a framework for modernization, collaboration, and governance.

The GTG's Work Plan (supported by a contractor) is separated into four tasks. These tasks are designed to provide a comprehensive review of the geospatial programs within the interagency fire community to analyze wildland fire data needs, conduct a stakeholder analysis, analyze policy and directives related to geospatial data governance, and develop a strategic framework that will align geospatial data within the wildland fire program. The final deliverable will combine the individual task results into a model to enable the NWCG agencies to define roles and responsibilities, a current governance model mapping validated requirements, and a governance strategy for mapping validated requirements in the future.

Your input is key to the integration process as the governance model will allow NWCG member agencies to utilize the existing and developing geospatial infrastructure to increase efficiency, as well as to provide support for planning, suppression, and other management operations. Please find the attached questionnaire for your review. We would appreciate your **feedback by Friday, February 26, 2010.**

Our team will be in contact with you to answer any questions and schedule a follow-up interview session. In advance, thank you for your participation and feedback – it is critical to this effort to establish an integrated interagency wildland fire governance model.

If you or your staff has any questions, please contact Sean Triplett of the NWCG GTG at (208) 387-5284, or Karen Ashby of Booz Allen Hamilton at (208) 608-0913.

Separate Attachment: Interagency Geospatial Governance Subject Matter Expert (SME) Survey

cc: NWCG Executive Board

Shari Shetler
Sean Triplett
Karen Ashby