



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S. Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

MEMORANDUM

Reference: NWCG#014-2010

To: Kirk Rowdabaugh, Fire Executive Council (FEC) Chair

From: NWCG Chair *William Raage*

Date: March 19, 2010

Subject: NWCG Internet Domains

Background:

The GSA/DotGov registrar no longer recognizes ownership by cross-agency collaborative organizations such as NWCG. This is resulting in our inability to register INCIWEB.GOV or other domains related to NWCG without going through a cabinet-level agency CIO (Chief Information Officer).

Registering these domains through one of the agency CIOs presents the wildland fire community with the potential risk of inaccessibility. Current agency policies do not enable the necessary collaborative activities and access for users from outside DOI and USDA/FS. (See attached NWCG White Paper from the Information Technology Committee (ITC) for additional information.)

Requested Actions:

The NWCG Executive Board requests that this issue be elevated to the IIOG (Interagency Interoperability Oversight Group) for resolution. Specific actions include:

1. Establishment of a collaborative agreement among NWCG partner agency OCIOs on ownership and interagency management of NWCG domain registrations including development of appropriate service level agreements with participating OCIOs and NWCG.
2. Pursuit of a cross-agency solution to meet growing needs for collaborative sites, which are open and accessible to all wildland fire community members, including non-government users, local and state government users, and international users, in addition to federal employees of agencies outside DOI and USDA/FS.

Given the urgency and dependencies of some of our critical web based fire support programs, such as INCIWEB, requiring full operation before the start of fire season, it is requested that these actions be approved and initiated no later than **April 30, 2010.**

If you have any questions, please contact either Shari Shetler (208)387-5700 or Allen Deitz at (208)387-5264

Attachment A: NWCG White Paper – NWCG Internet Domains (pp3)

cc: NWCG Executive Board
Shari Shetler, ITC Co-Chair
Laura Hill, ITC Co-Chair
Allen Deitz, NWCG Data Architect

ATTACHMENT “A”

NWCG White Paper

Subject: NWCG Internet Domains

Topic: Registration and Ownership of Domains

Need:

The NWCG needs an organized and formalized strategy for managing the ownership and hosting of its Internet domains.

As Is (Current situation):

NWCG domains (see attachment B: NWCG affiliated domains) are currently registered with a variety of owners, both government and commercial. The related Internet sites are hosted and domain name services are provided by a similar variety of government and contracted commercial facilities.

To Be (Desired future state):

NWCG domains are .GOV domains with appropriate government ownership and hosting.

Issues and challenges:

The GSA/DotGov registrar requires all domains be owned by cabinet-level agency CIOs (see attachment A: 41 CFR Part 102-173). The registrar no longer recognizes ownership by cross-agency collaborative organizations (see attachment A: RFC 2146), even though “National Wildfire Coordinating Group” still appears on the drop-down list of agencies attached to the DotGov registration screen.

Contracted commercial hosts are used for collaboration sites because current agency policies do not enable the necessary collaborative activities and access for users from outside DOI and USDA/FS. The domains associated with these sites are not currently .GOV domains.

Recommendations

1. Establish a collaborative agreement among NWCG partner agency OCIOs on ownership and interagency management of NWCG domain registrations. Develop appropriate service level agreements with participating OCIOs and NWCG.

Alternative A. Transfer ownership of all NWCG domains to one agency’s CIO, regardless of which agency’s facility is hosting the related site.

Alternative B. Transfer ownership of NWCG domains to agencies’ CIOs aligned with the hosting facilities’ agencies.

2. Pursue a cross-agency solution to the need for collaborative sites open and accessible to all wildland fire community members, including non-government users, local and state government users, and international users, in addition to federal employees of agencies outside DOI and USDA/FS.

Attachment A

RFC 2146 - U.S. Government Internet Domain Names (May 1997)

[\[https://www.dotgov.gov/help_rfc2146.aspx\]](https://www.dotgov.gov/help_rfc2146.aspx)

Paragraph 1)

B) Cross-agency collaborative organizations (e.g., "Federal Networking Council", "Information Infrastructure Task Force") are eligible for registration under .GOV upon presentation of the chartering document and are the only non-FIPS-listed or non-US-Government-Manual-listed organizations eligible for registration under .GOV.

41 CFR Part 102-173 (March 28, 2003)

[\[https://www.dotgov.gov/final_rule_102.aspx\]](https://www.dotgov.gov/final_rule_102.aspx)

Subpart B—Registration

Sec. 102-173.30 Who may register in the dot-gov domain?

Registration in the dot-gov domain is available to official governmental organizations in the United States including Federal, State, and local governments, and Native Sovereign Nations.

Sec. 102-173.35 Who authorizes domain names?

Domain names must be authorized by the Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the requesting or sponsoring governmental organization. For Federal departments and agencies, the General Services Administration (GSA) will accept authorization from the CIO of the department or agency. For independent Federal government agencies, boards, and commissions, GSA will accept authorization from the highest-ranking Information Technology Official. For State and local governments, GSA will accept authorization from appropriate State or local officials, see Sec. 102-173.40.

Attachment B

The NWCG IRMWT / ITC has overall responsibility for NWCG Web presence, including oversight of NWCG Internet domains. Allen Deitz currently serves as the NWCG Internet Domain Steward, appointed by the IRMWT.

NWCG affiliated domains

<u>DOMAIN</u>	<u>REGISTRAR / OWNER</u>	<u>FOR</u>
nwcg.gov	USDA	NWCG
firenet.gov	DOI	NWCG
wildfire.gov	DOI	NWCG
wildlandfire.gov *	DOI	NWCG
wildlandfires.gov *	DOI	NWCG
inciweb.gov *	DOI	NWCG
firewise.org	Network Solutions, LLC	NFPA
wildfirelessons.net	Tucows, Inc	Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center (LLC)
inciweb.org	Tucows, Inc	John Gibbons - for USDA/FS
imtcenter.net	GoDaddy.Com, Inc	LLC
myfirecommunity.net	ENOM, Inc	LLC
myfirevideos.net	GoDaddy.Com, Inc	LLC
fireleadership.gov	DOI	BLM/NIFC

NWCG.GOV was originally registered by the Forest Service/NIFC. FIRENET.GOV and WILDFIRE.GOV were registered by NWCG. Since the time these were registered, GSA policy has changed and the DOTGOV registrar is now requiring all .GOV domains to be registered and owned by cabinet-level agencies (i.e., departments) CIOs. With this policy change, the registrar placed NWCG.GOV under the USDA (based on original FS registration) and the FIRENET.GOV and WILDFIRE.GOV were placed under DOI (based on the administrative point-of-contact's BLM e-mail address). However, the USDA and DOI CIOs have been unaware they now own these.

* WILDLANDFIRE.GOV and WILDLANDFIRES.GOV were originally registered by the NW GACC / Predictive Services (GSA tied these registrations to the USDA). These domains were transferred to the NWCG. However, the GSA registrar has placed this transfer in limbo pending receipt of a letter from the USDA OCIO releasing the domain and a corresponding letter from the DOI (because of administrative POC e-mail address) OCIO accepting the domain. INCIWEB.GOV was registered by NWCG with the intent of 'moving' from INCIWEB.ORG to INCIWEB.GOV. However, the GSA registrar never finalized this registration pending receipt of an authorization letter from the DOI OCIO.