



Memorandum No. 15-007

Date: 24 June 2015

TO: NWCG Executive Board Members

FROM: Dan Smith, Chair, NWCG Executive Board *Dan Smith*

SUBJECT: Completion of NWCG Evolving Incident Management (EIM) Implementation Project

This memorandum 1) summarizes the accomplishments of the NWCG Evolving Incident Management Implementation Project; 2) sunsets the activities of the project team members; and 3) transitions remaining project assignments to standing NWCG committees where applicable. Please distribute this as appropriate within your agencies.

The Implementation Phase of the NWCG Evolving Incident Management project was tasked on February 22, 2013 (NWCG Tasking Memorandum 2013-002). The Implementation Project Team and other entities have made significant progress toward implementing the 2011 report, [*Evolving Incident Management: A Recommendation for the Future*](#). Decisions and accomplishments include:

- Decision to maintain Type 1 and Type 2 Qualifications Standards for command and general staff positions.
- Proposed pathways from Type 3 unit leader positions to Type 2 and Type 1 command and general staff positions to improve speed to certification. These are currently being evaluated for inclusion into the 2015 NWCG *Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide* (PMS 310-1).
- Addition of Type 3 general staff positions in the 2014 310-1.
- Analysis of historical Incident Management Team use to develop recommendations on future numbers, placement, and mobilization of national IMTs.
- Development of a strategy to increase capacity to staff Area Command Teams and expand their mission to include a more strategic role in incident management
- Clarification and completion of single qualification and NIMO units
- Increased coordination across Geographic Areas for trainee assignments
- Analysis and prioritization of recommendations outside NWCG's purview prior to elevation through agency channels

Even with these accomplishments, much remains to be done. The NWCG has received direction from the federal Fire Executive Council, the federal Fire Management Board, the National Association of State Foresters, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs to develop a path forward to accomplish the remaining work. This work includes:

- Clarify roles and responsibilities for IMT direction, prioritization, and oversight.
- Develop a plan and strategy to increase non-traditional IMT participation (e.g. DOD, USGS, BOR, NRCS).
- Continue to develop and improve NWCG qualification pathways.
- Clarify goals and responsibilities for equitable experience opportunities among IMTs.
- Determine number of IMTs that can be supported.
- Identify and implement IMT mobilization efficiencies.

- Coordinated trainee management to meet national IMT staffing goals.

The remaining work will be completed by various entities within the current national wildland fire governance structure, including the Fire Executive Council, the federal Fire Management Board, the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group, and the Geographic Area Coordinating Groups. Given the on-going nature of this work, NWCG will accomplish its work through regular committee business. Additional information will be provided via joint memorandum from NWCG, NMAC and FMB Chairs.

With the transition of implementation project work into regular NWCG Committee business, the work of the Implementation Project Team is complete.

I want to express my appreciation to the members of the Implementation Project Team for their commitment to this project and its goal of solving the challenge we face to sustain and improve the success of our Incident Management Teams.

cc: Bill Kaage (Chair, Fire Management Board); Evans Kuo (Project Lead, EIM Implementation Project Team); Aitor Bidaburu (Chair, National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group)