



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

NWCG Memorandum 19-002

July 24, 2019

TO: NWCG Executive Board Members

FROM: Garth Fisher, Chair, NWCG Executive Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garth Fisher", is positioned to the right of the "FROM:" line.

SUBJECT: National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) 2016 Release

In February 2018, the NWCG Executive Board announced the timeline of releasing the NFDRS 2016 revision. This new system would replace the existing 1978 and 1988 NFDRS models by May of 2020.

The National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) is key to the science and frame work for the application of interagency fire danger based decision. NFDRS is the interagency standard for fire danger based decisions. This includes, but is not limited to determination of Adjective Fire Danger Rating, staffing levels, dispatch levels, preparedness levels, fire restrictions and fire prevention.

One of the key dates outlined in the February 2018 announcement was the completion of Geographic Area Interagency Rollout Workshops by May 2019. Capacity issues, compounded by the prolonged federal government shutdown, created challenges in conducting the Geographic Area NFDRS 2016 Rollout workshops by May of 2019. As a result, to date, only one geographic area has successfully completed all of their planned workshops. Four other geographic areas have completed at least one of their planned workshops. The remaining three geographic areas are planning, but have not yet completed, any workshops.

A new transition timeline will allow additional time for the geographic areas to complete the necessary workshops. Also, the timeline will be extended to allow for evaluating NFDRS 2016 outputs and finalizing decision thresholds. Additional information can be found at <https://www.nwcg.gov/committees/fire-danger-subcommittee>.

Below is the updated timeline:

- January 2019 to March 2020:
 - Geographic Area Leadership groups conduct NFDRS 2016 workshops for local units.
- March 2020 to December 2020:
 - Local units will evaluate NFDRS 2016 outputs and finalize new fire management decision thresholds based on the new model.
- January 2021
 - All units will be fully transitioned to NFDRS 2016
- January 2022:
 - NFDRS 78/88 versions will be decommissioned.

In order to ensure objectives are met within the timeframe, the National Incident Management Organization (NIMO) and the Joint Fire Science Program Exchange Networks (JFSP) are assisting with NWCG standards are interagency by design; however, the decision to adopt and utilize them is made independently by the individual member agencies and communicated through their respective directives systems.

the rollout effort. NIMO will provide planning and coordination support. JFSP Exchanges are providing support for workshop and webinar implementation.

Contact: Jon Wallace, Chair, Fire Danger Subcommittee, jon_wallace@fws.gov, or 404-679-7244.

Distribution:

Chair, Fire Environment Committee

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