



## NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

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NWCG Tasking Memorandum TM-19-005

September 9, 2019

TO: Steve Shaw, Chair, Operations and Training Committee  
Ben Oakleaf, Chair, Incident Operations Subcommittee

FROM: Garth Fisher, Chair, NWCG Executive Board

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SUBJECT: Evaluation of the Span of Control for Heavy Equipment Boss, Single Resource and Strike Team Leader Heavy Equipment

**Tasking and Deliverable:** Please convene a task group of stakeholders to evaluate the Heavy Equipment Boss, Single Resource (HEQB) and Strike Team Leader Heavy Equipment (STEQ) position as requested by the Coordinating Group Advisory Board (CGAC) in the attached memorandum. The request states:

“In an effort to help alleviate the impacts of the national HEQB shortage, the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group, with support through CGAC, has proposed that a HEQB have the latitude to manage multiple pieces of heavy equipment (up to 3) during suppression operations. Equipment they are managing should be working in a proximate location, in order to maintain communications and operational control. Appropriate risk management needs to be employed based on the current and expected fire environment to ensure the level of supervision is appropriated for the environmental conditions.”

Please include representation from the Equipment Technology Committee and the Risk Management Committee on the task group giving full consideration to risk management issues related to this proposed change.

Submit recommendations to the NWCG Executive Board by November 1, 2019.

**Background:** The NWCG Executive Board determined that the attached request from the CGAC merited evaluation and response by the Operations and Training Committee. Executive Board discussion about the request acknowledged the HEQB shortage issue, but also the necessity to guard against unintended consequences and weakening necessary standards to address such shortages.

**Contact:** For additional information, please contact Dan Smith, [desmith@blm.gov](mailto:desmith@blm.gov).

**Attachments:**

#1 Coordinating Group Advisory Council Memo, dated July 29, 2019

#2 National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group Memo 2019-15, dated August 8, 2019

**Distribution:**

NWCG Committee Chairs

NWCG Staff