Fire Management Board FMB Meeting Notes May 19, 2021

FMB Members: Chad Fisher (NPS), Meagan Conry (BLM), Beth Lund (USFS), Chris Wilcox (FWS), Aitor Bidaburu (USFA), Rhonda Toronto (USFS). Julian Affuso (USFS), Susan Bates, (OAS), Erin Horsburgh (FMB-Chair).

Staff: Heather Harkley (Executive Secretary).

Guests: Gil Dustin (COVID Task Force), Kaili McCray (MPHAT), Frank Guzman (NWCG), Dan Smith (NASF), Jacqueline Martin (for Bodie Shaw)

Topic & Notes	Decision
 Wildland Fire Medical and Public Health Advisory Team (MPHAT) Update: 19 tracking system, last call today to submit all comments to brief NMAC tomorrow. All things COVID19 memo briefing tomorrow, submitted updated testing guidance and an update of the language on the website. Change in CDC guidance for vaccinated individuals, presented Dr. Navarro to answer any questions and to explain what that means. A fully vaccinated person is not required to wear masks. Unvaccinated do have to still wear the masks. 	N/A
 Participant Updates: Texas and Alaska are still requiring testing to work on fires. 2020 Oregon State Forester resigned State of Washington will have 125 million for the next 8 years. NASF Jim Karels will start on May 26, 2021, he will be on the next call, in transition and his contact information will be sent out. NWCG meeting was very productive today regarding improving courses with some contract work. IPD's, task books, where the gaps are. Less mandatory training. 	N/A
 Member Updates: A second draft being available at the end of June. Fully aligned with updated CDC guidance Bill Avery as the next Interim Directory with a Forest Service and fire background. A department update soon to come. Secretary did a great job addressing firefighter's pay, moral and mental health. Inspecting aircraft, providing certifications, working with Forest Service is going very well. Aviation group doing inspections and fuels group out doing readiness reviews getting ready for fire season. Aviation doing readiness reviews. 	N/A

Additional information beyond these meeting notes (i.e. handouts, presentations, maps, etc.) will require a FOIA request to ensure proper privacy regulations are followed. Please request via FOIA Online website at https://www.doi.gov/foia/make-a-request

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 DOI Chief of Staff meeting. Hard to keep track of who's who. BLM Leaders Intent Memo went out. Experiences typical blips onboarding this year. Hard time staffing certain crews, good media attention. Want to start using the remote incident report. Retardant trying to do testing this field season on a new vendor Fortress. Process of making awards for type 2 crews. Crew did a mock fire shelter with SOS and the shelter blocked the SOS. IMRR requires more Firenet support than it was anticipated. Would like to see Firenet submit a budget request. Fuels and post fire IT working through a session. DOI side workgroup 'return to work' focusing on 3 phases: Safety to COVID19, vaccinated and non-vaccinated Updated policies, leave for childcare has a hold on it Future of work Focus is on phase 1, survey out to supervisors and employees. 	
 Update on NWCG Memorandum (21-002): When there's no policy, review the agencies program. FMB to work with NIAC to provide a process for interagency aviation approvals when USFS/DOI Interagency policy is not in place. (i.e. Use of shorthaul for fire suppression). Propose to identify those items that are divergent, Susie will be working with Chad, Beth, Paul to develop the process. 	N/A
 BUYT/procurement support for fire: FS realignment from Acquisition to Procurement & Property Services (PPS). An overview of this new section was defined. Concerns will not be able to support the interagency community. Changes:	N/A

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No Access to "Forest CO's to tap	
Shortages/Impacts: Loss of experienced FS incident procurement professionals to retirement, different post, other agencies. Significant burnout Surge contract, capacity EERA's (caterers and showers) Initial attack incident support Lack of communication across the agencies when it comes to CO's, contracts, agreements, etc. How can we get a better interagency across the board with contracts, etc. Awarding the Type 2 BPA Type 2 contracts expire June 30 th Access to 29 IA crews in July.	