

FMB Members in Attendance: Jim Shultz (Acting for NPS), Meagan Conry (BLM), Sarah Fisher (USFS), Brad Koeckeritz (OAS), Jackie Martin (Acting for BIA), Stephen Nelson (USFS), Julian Affuso (USFS), Erin Horsburgh (OWF), Chris Wilcox- Chair (FWS)

Staff: Tim Blake (FMB Facilitator), Darci Drinkwater (Executive Secretary)

Guests: Roberto Trincado, Tammy Randall-Parker, Katherine Spomer, Kristy Swartz, Francisco Romero, Clint Cross

Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>Prescribed Fire Training Center Strategic Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center (NIPFTC) was established to provide hands-on prescribed fire experience to federal firefighters from across the country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emphasis is placed on applied field experience, providing maximum opportunities to build skills and knowledge. • Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) contains funding to support fuels management and wildfire restoration on the forests, rangelands, grasslands of the United States. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restoring fire-adapted ecosystems on a landscape scale. ▪ Building fire-adapted human communities. ▪ Responding effectively to wildland fire. • NIPFTC Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintain the delivery of our core curriculum in the southwest. ○ Expand our offerings to deliver core curriculum in western venues. ○ Support emerging training initiatives that push the boundaries of prescribed fire technology and performance beyond current limits. ○ Provide support to the Interagency Fuels Academy to help expand agency’s capacity for planning, implementation, and analysis for fuel treatments that include prescribed fire and vegetation management actions. • Proposed Positions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training Specialist ○ Training Specialist Women in Fire ○ Operations Specialist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complete contact actions to retain and/or increase the number of prescribed fire experts to assist with ongoing and new training deliveries. ▪ Fill short term details for additional positions as needed. 	<p>Request more time to review Strategic Plan before going to Fire Executive Council (FEC) and Fire Directors but general support from FMB. Submit comments and questions to Trincado and Randall-Parker.</p> <p>Suggest rewording to fuels management instead of prescribed fire.</p> <p>Topic added to April agenda.</p>



Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>Wildland Fire Medical and Public Health Advisory Team (MPHAT) Infectious Disease Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated guidance for the prevention and management of infectious disease. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduced to three pages. ○ Agency policy summarized in a table. ○ This guidance will replace outdated materials. 	<p>Wilcox will email draft guidance to FMB members. Comments submitted to McCray are due March 29th.</p>
<p>National Predictive Services Oversight Group (PSOG) Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poised to make many technical decisions at next PSOG meeting. • Predicted Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ App outdated for the purpose of gathering data and insufficient capacity to support. ○ Data is not reflecting reality. ○ Short-term Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Address data issues. ▪ Ensure products are expressing reality. ▪ Past year 2023 will not be able to sustain and will require manual entry. • Disparity in staffing across Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Currently operating at 80% capacity. ▪ Unable to address all issues. ▪ Develop standard staffing levels for depth and flexibility. ▪ May need future FMB decision on supervision and leadership to adequately meet GACC and national needs. 	<p>Topic added to April agenda.</p> <p>Wilcox requests alternatives in case FMB can't unanimously support.</p>
<p>Interagency Fuels Management Agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOI and Forest Service have implemented cross boundary projects for many years, supported by local agreements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creates substantial workload at the local level. ○ Limitations are hindering successful interagency support. ○ Exchange of wildland firefighters across boundaries is supported by an annual exchange. • Proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Address limitations and enhance interagency support for fuels treatment projects, DOI Fuels Management Staff, in coordination with USDA Forest Service Hazardous Fuels staff. ○ DOI would hire one not to exceed (NTE) 5 years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop interagency agreement. ▪ Identify prioritization criteria to ensure funding is used effectively. 	<p>Forest Service approves proposal.</p> <p>FMB requests periodic updates on the program.</p>

Topic & Notes	Decision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement necessary guidelines, track processes and mechanisms to ensure funds transferred reflect work completed. ○ Forest Service would identify point of contact. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate with DOI to develop interagency agreement. ○ DOI has set aside initial \$5 million. • This agreement would not replace existing local or regional agreements although if initial effort is successful that could be a future step. 	
<p>NASA Initiatives Regarding Wildfire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlining FMB priorities for NASA efforts would be beneficial. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Three to five big picture items for the next five years. ○ Unmet needs of the wildland fire community. ○ Enhance systems or technology we are currently using. ○ Articulate the business need of the wildland fire community. ○ NASA needs conceptual framework. ○ Top after action review (AAR) requests. ○ What are NASA’s capabilities? ○ Examples: high speed connectivity and common operating picture. • Forest Service is working with NASA on an umbrella agreement for all things wildland fire. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nelson invites Koeckeritz to be a part of this effort. • NASA has been pushing for NWCG membership. 	<p>Nelson and Koeckeritz will develop priorities list for NASA initiatives.</p> <p>Would like to request briefing from NASA following development of priorities list.</p> <p>Add NASA Priorities List as a topic for the April agenda.</p>
<p>Complex Incident Management (CIM):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not much discussion from the Regional Fire Directors regarding CIM at last meeting. ○ Will brief the Deputy Regional Foresters on CIM. ○ Line officer engagement is critical for CIM to succeed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to stress that CIM will allow for tailoring teams and that local resources will be more available for day job activities. • BLM setting up spring and fall Fire Side Chats regarding CIM. • NWCG discussing closing CIM tasking only the training component is left. • Increased participation incentives for mobilizing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased pay cap from GS15 step 10. ○ Increase capacity will have to alleviate workforce management issues. ○ Intent is to increase total number of responders and decrease hours worked per person. 	<p>N/A</p>



Topic & Notes	Decision
<p>Facilitator and Executive Secretary Transition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NWCG Program Manager has requested facilitator and executive secretary be freed up to work on Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM).• Conry suggests the use of Hope as new executive secretary.• Contracting a facilitator could be an option.	<p>Blake and Drinkwater will coordinate with Hope regarding transition.</p>