



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

Federal, State, and Local Government Agencies Working Together in Emergency Response Management

Date: February 12, 2025

NRCG Memo# **2025-002**

To: Northern Rockies Interagency Wildland Fire Community

From: Chair, Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

Subject: Support of Proposed Dispatch Organizational Charts

With the current consolidations of dispatch centers, and anticipation of more consolidations in the years to come, the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCG) supports the rationale for the presented organizational charts for a high and very high complexity dispatch center.

In 2022, the Northern Rockies Dispatch Steering Committee (NRDSC) completed a dispatch complexity analysis. Findings in this analysis were humbling, the results brought to the attention a broad picture of the many challenges that dispatch centers, not just regionally but nationally, are facing. It was found that historically centers had been organized and staffed to meet a very specific need. Today we are finding that the workload and collateral duties in every dispatch center is different and operates with the broad guidance of the National and Regional Mobilization Guides, the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations and local policy.

In February of 2023, results from a mental health dispatch survey were released. It was alarming to see the decline in the mental and physical health of wildland fire dispatchers nationwide. Over worked, over stressed, a busy fire season bringing 800+ hours of overtime per dispatcher. Work/life balance is non-existent. A normal fire season workday is 14-16 hours long, with minimal breaks and little time for meals or exercise.

In 2024, the NRDSC, was tasked with taking this 2022 complexity analysis information and compiling current center organization charts and presenting a blanket high complexity organization chart and a very high complexity organization chart. With the presentation of the organization charts, the dispatch community wanted to stress the need for these organization charts to be flexible and not binding in the organizational structure and needs of individual centers. Noting the lengths of tours of duty and that dispatch centers must be allowed to hire different tours of duty to build capacity.

Each organization chart was drawn to show maximum necessary positions to create a successful center during “the perfect storm”. This would ensure total coverage over 7-day coverage, as well as 24-hour a day staffing for a long period of time, estimated Northern Rockies Geographic Area fire season of six months. Prescribed fire season two months on each side of fire season, creating a 10-month need for full staffing of a center. These organizational charts were also drawn dependent on the PD’s approved by OPM for center managers and assistant center managers, based on increased number of supervised employees and increased complexity of the center.



We know there is still work to be done. We are requesting the associated complexity analysis be revisited with the consolidations of centers and changing of dispatch zone boundaries. We also realize that most centers cannot currently support the organization charts due to limited space, lack of internet connectivity and lack of desk top radios.

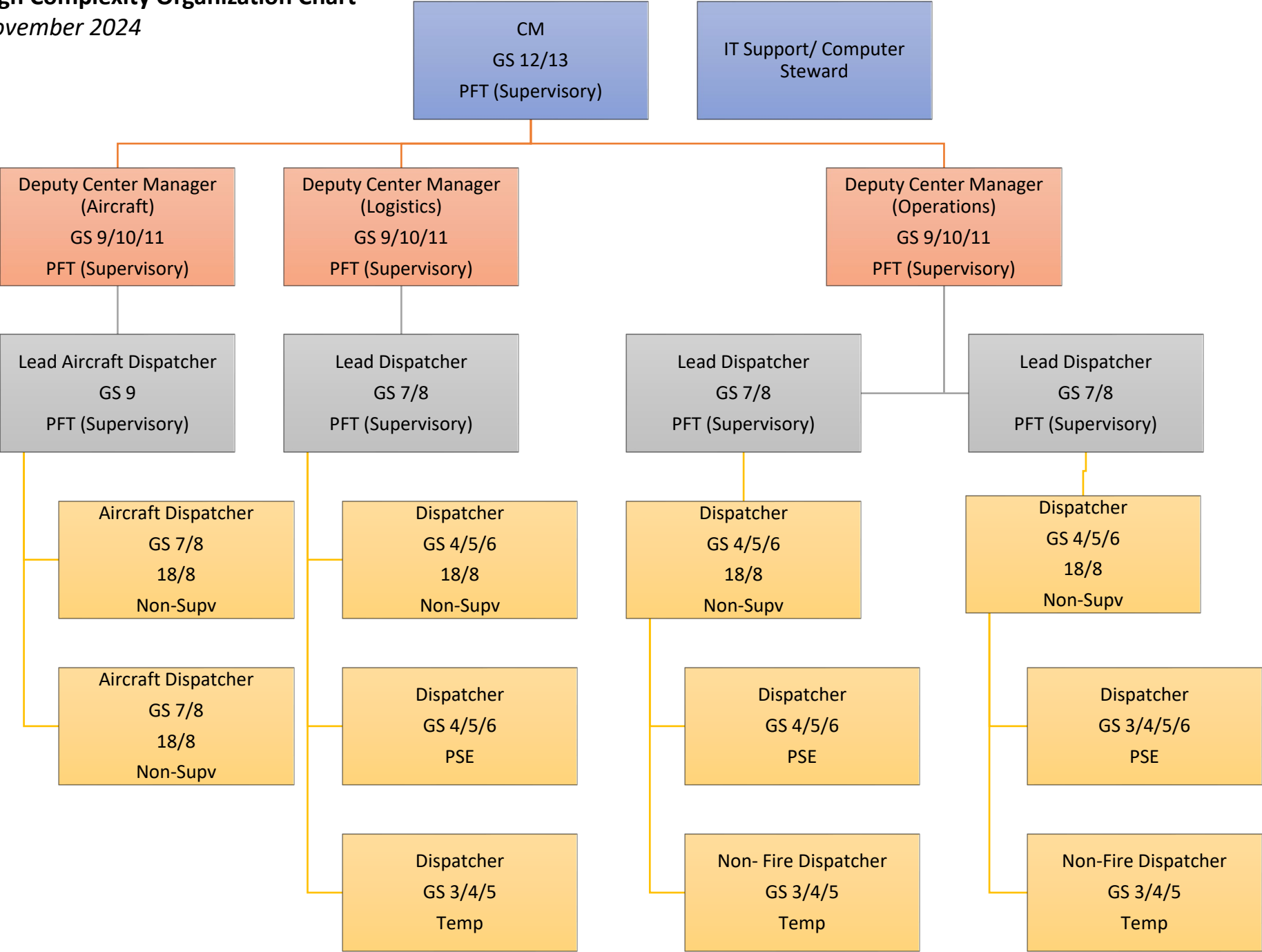
As chairman of the NRCG, I speak for all centers in the Northern Rockies when I say we are so very appreciative of all the work that has been done to support this critical community. We look forward to and anticipate changes that are still being made. We are in full support of the proposed organization charts and complexity analysis of current dispatch centers.

Bryce Rogers
Chair, Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

Attachments:
High Complexity Dispatch Center Organization (1 page)
Very High Complexity Dispatch Center Organization (1 page)



High Complexity Organization Chart
November 2024



June 2024

June 2024

