



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Participants:

Board Members: Darron Williams, Bryce Rogers, Aaron Thompson, Tate Fischer, Josh Harvey – Chair, Rich Cowger – Vice Chair, Patrick Lonergan, Steve Holton, Ryan Melin, Craig Glazier

Deputies and Others: Corey Buhl, Kathy Pipkin, Joe Sampson, Aitor Bidaburu, Jordan McKnight, Jeni Jeresek, Tara Dana, Pam Jolly

Purpose: Welcome and a reminder that this is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

- CGAC is meeting this week. Two-day joint meeting with CGAC and NMAC starting tomorrow. There will be robust discussion about the future of Area Command teams. Covid will also be a topic, with an MPHAT presentation. Believe may trend back to Covid protocols of 2020.
 - Note: Rich Cowger and Aaron Thompson will also try to attend this meeting. Darron Williams will be listening also on Wednesday.
- IMT Coordination will look and feel like last year.
- Crew Coordination – T2 and T2IA contract crews will be national resources, regardless of host GACC.
- Last week at NMAC, had an eye-opening briefing from predictive services staff. Reviewed list of single point of failures for many products that are produced.
- Messaging effort needed around Complex Incident Management memo. Expect discussions and decisions around those efforts.
- Leadership Update – incoming NMAC Chair is Chair Ken Schmit; Shane McDonald is the incoming NWCG chair.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl)

- Attending CGAC and NMAC joint meetings this week. On Wednesday, will be looking for feedback regarding problems or issues that would be better handled at the National Level.
- Working on the Heavy Equipment Task group addressing several issues, with the intent to produce a proposal for NRCG review.
- Working on trying to fill predictive services position and are experiencing PD challenges.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- No fire activity since January 5th.
- Do have resources are out of GACC providing support for both prescribed fire and suppression.
- As of right now, only the T2 National Contract crews will be moved to NICC for dispatching. Still several details to work out with this change.
- David Lee out of Miles City received a coordinator position at NICC. Multiple dispatch vacancies within the GACC. A new Chair for the Dispatch Committee will be voted on in the future.



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Old Business

Streamlining NR MAC Fire Prioritization Process – Informational Topic – Corey Buhl

- Are moving forward with this effort. Intelligence Coordinator will be reaching out to Rick Stratton to identify if his product is scalable and feasible for the Northern Rockies.

Tasking – IC Committee – IMT Future Organization – Decisional Topic – Josh Harvey and Joe Sampson

- NRCG memo attached from December at the end says "The specific tasking for the IC group will be developed in early 2022"
- (See reference documents in pre-reading materials)
- IC Committee is meeting tomorrow. Are looking for clarity of intent since distribution of Complex Incident Management national memo. Would like clarity on configuration summary and if it should be in line with that memo.
- Craig Glazier – Agree; Northern Rockies configuration should be in line with the new national direction.
- Aitor Bidaburu – Memo has been fully supported and signed off on; can take it at face value in terms of intent.
- Aaron Thompson – Some GACCs are looking to go to Complex Incident Management in 2022. Can now order a Complex Incident Management team in IROC. Do feel this is on par to implement in 2023. Do feel Northern Rockies IMTs should be in alignment with memo.
- Rick Cowger – Need exists for a reality check for what will be attainable this season. Also agree that the need exists to strive to meet those timelines set forth in the memo.
- Joe Sampson – Tasking will, in part, come down to capacity. Do have some concerns with the FEC memo. NMAC will have much more control of the teams, regardless of planning level.
- Aaron Thompson – Do feel there is a need to assess if there is capacity to stand up a few T3 IMTs in the GACC. Do not share above concern regarding control, as feel good coordination and communication with NMAC will be functional and assist with taking care of the well being of resources.
- Joe Sampson – Are rolling into the second year of the GYA T3 IMT and have had good success. Worth having on paper that the Northern Rockies will follow the intent of the FEC memo.
- Action Item: Rich Cowger will draft a tasking memo for Chair's signature.

Support for Northern Rockies Operations Officer – Informational Topic – Craig Glazier / Aaron Thompson

- Critical support for this position is needed.
- Proposal is to formalize that process a bit more.
- Would like to offer up Jordan McKnight as a primary back-up to Corey Buhl.
- Aaron Thompson – Do feel that should formalize pre-season and update the Delegation of Authority. Would also like to include additional names as further depth.
- Action Item: Craig Glazier will update the DoA; including input from Jordan McKnight and Corey Buhl regarding adding roles and responsibilities verbiage.

RIST Update – Informational Topic – Craig Glazier

- USFS can come up with two detailers that will get through eight months of the year. This should get the Northern Rockies through 2022. Do need group support that the Forest Service can pick up the



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shoulder season dollars; however, if during season these individuals are not on a P-Code, that they be placed on the Northern Rockies Cost Share.

- Intent would be to bring individuals on in March.
- Action Item – This will be put on the February Agenda for a formal vote.

Review of Action Items: (Josh Harvey)

- Per Rich Cowger – remove the medical topic action item as there has been no discernable movement on that front.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is February 15, 2022 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time



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Tuesday, February 15, 2022

PARTICIPANTS:

Board Members: Bryce Rogers, Tate Fischer, Josh Harvey – Chair, Matt Hall, Rich Cowger – Vice Chair, Steve Holton, Paul Cerdá, Craig Glazier

Deputies and Others: Heath Esety, Sarah Lee, Corey Buhl, Jay Mcallister, Aitor Bidaburu, Jeni Jerezek, Melissa Wegner, Tara Dana, Anthony Krause, Pam Jolly

Purpose: Welcome and a reminder that this is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

- NWCG Parent Groups are meeting throughout this week. FMB issued latest Covid guidance.
- NWCG meeting on Wednesday. Complex Incident Management discussions continue.
- NMAC will be meeting on Thursday. National Mobilization Guide should be out soon.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl)

- Paperwork has been submitted vice-predictive services positions. Detailer will extend.

NRCC Update (Jay Mcallister)

- 7-Day Product and other products that will be affected by NFDRSv.4 – some that relate to fuel model G will no longer function. Are working on solutions. Draft proposal out regarding this issue and will be a topic on the March NRCG Meeting agenda.
- Continuing to work on Northern Rockies Mobilization Guide updates.

Old Business

RIST “Roles and Responsibilities” One Page Document – Decisional Topic – Craig Glazier

- (See *Draft in pre-reading materials.*)
- Action Item from 2021 MAC AAR - Propose that if are in MAC, RIST Coordinator would work for MAC Coordinator. Prior to MAC activation, RIST Coordinator would work for whomever the NRCG BOD designates. Also, will include one page “roles and responsibilities” document for this group for a future meeting discussion and decision to outline the “prior” part at either the February or March regular NRCG monthly meeting.
- First Part is do want to continue down this road; second part is the funding aspect (see next topic).
- Reviewed history of this topic.
- Proposal is that the Forest Service would host two back-to-back detailers to cover the season for 2022.
- Bryce Rogers – Do have a half, FTE position that could explore options regarding this aspect. Is this still something to delve into further?
 - Craig Glazier – Interested in any long-term solutions.
- Conducted vote to approve the draft:
 - BIA GP – Support
 - BIA RM – Support
 - BLM – Support
 - FWS – Support
 - IDL – Support



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- MT DNRC – Support
- MT State Fire Chiefs' Association – Support
- MT Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association – Support
- NPS – Support
- USFS – Support
- **Approved – unanimous consent.**

RIST Support for 2022 – Decisional Topic – Craig Glazier

- USFS can come up with two detailers that will get through eight months of the year. This should get the Northern Rockies through 2022. Do need group support that the Forest Service can pick up the shoulder season dollars; however, if during season these individuals are not on a P-Code, that they be placed on the Northern Rockies Cost Share.
- Intent would be to bring individuals on in March.
- Funding for the first and last month would be picked up by the Forest Service and the rest would be covered by the cost share. Last fiscal meeting it was proposed that RISK was not needed on the NR Financial Plan, so could replace that with the RIST position.
- Tate Fischer – During the agreement call, did take out the RISK or not – and proposed to replace with RIST?
 - Craig Glazier – That was a discussed proposal for moving forward.
 - Sarah Lee – This change is being discussed for FY23. This funding being discussed for a vote would be coming off the Suppression Cost Share?
 - Craig Glazier – Correct.
- Matt Hall – Confirming that individuals will charge to active incidents being supported as much as possible?
 - Craig Glazier – Correct.
- Vote to approve FY22 proposal for detailers (Fiscal Vote):
 - BIA – Support
 - BLM – Support
 - FWS – Do Not Support
 - IDL – Support
 - MT DNRC – Support
 - NPS – Support
 - USFS – Support
 - North Dakota Forest Service not on this call.
 - **Fiscal vote not unanimously approved.**
- Tate Fischer will discuss concerns direct with Craig Glazier. If resolution is reached, will document in an email and then will reach out to North Dakota Forest Service for a delayed vote.
- UPDATE: On March 04, 2022, Tate Fischer sent email documentation supporting this proposal. On March 08, 2022, Ryan Melin cast an email vote in support of this proposal.
 - **The proposal stands unanimously approved on March 08, 2022.**

NRK – Cache Update – Informational Topic – Anthony Krause

- Working to fill critical positions.
- Multiple contracting issues exist. Two larger issues are trucking and temporary labor services.



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Working with the contracting officers that support the cache system nationally for solutions.

- Parts shortages are occurring. Need to expect some shortages that will require modifications to operations.
- Equipment changes – no fish strainers will be attached to the pump kits; have not changed fuel mixture ratio as of yet; discussions are ongoing around this issue. Fire shelters are also being discussed. Nationally, are committed to change over to rechargeable repeater batteries at some point.

IMT Selections – Decisional Topic – Jay McAllister

- (*Roster Selection document will be distributed post meeting.*)
- ICs met last week; roster were completed late last night. All that applied were placed on a roster.
- Rosters will be disseminated. There are holes on every roster and some rosters have excess individuals.
- Tate Fisher – How many individuals are on more than one team?
 - Josh Harvey – Would need the rosters to verify.
 - Sarah Lee – Last year, from a spreadsheet view, there were only four. That may not reflect reality. BLM does have some concerns around multiple job shares and open positions. As a Board need to ensure are setting teams up for success.
- Rich Cowger – Sat in on IC meeting reviewing the rosters. There were a few individuals represented on multiple teams between primaries and alternates. The ICs did work that out to where they were comfortable. Emphasized the need to have confidence in the IC's decisions regarding rosters.
- Paul Cerdá – Same thoughts on supporting ICs.
- Josh Harvey – Move to approve rosters today.
- Craig Glazier – Support Josh Harvey motion.
- Vote to approve IMT Rosters:
 - BIA RM – Support
 - BLM – Conditionally support; however, are reserving the right to object once review the rosters.
 - FWS – Support
 - IDL – Support
 - MT DNRC – Support
 - MT State Fire Chiefs' Association – Support
 - MT Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association – Support
 - NPS – Support
 - USFS – Support
 - Approved – majority consent.

New Business

Priority Trainee Program Proposal – Decisional Topic – Melissa Wegner

- (*See proposal in pre-reading materials.*)
- Priority Trainee program in place since 2015.
- Proposal to not have an application period; however, to still have a program.
- Effort to set the region up for future success by always having wide inclusion.
- All Northern Rockies Trainees with sufficient qualifications and appropriate support will be considered



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priority trainees.

- Have never reached a “maintenance” point with IMTs.
- Craig Glazier – Requesting clarification that IMTs go out without the full complement of trainees?
 - Melissa Wegner – Yes; and intent is to have as much inclusion of all trainees as possible.
- Paul Cerda – Request clarification regarding prioritization and the national approach of this program?
 - Melissa Wegner – Do work in tandem with other Geographic Areas and coordinate closely with counterparts. Admittedly, some of the process is subjective. Northern Rockies does run its program differently from other Geographic Areas.
- Tate Fischer – What kind of feedback was received from Training Committee?
 - Melissa Wegner – Training Committee does not meet until April. Many of the training officers also work in Dispatch. That crossover helps tremendously with feedback.
- Sarah Lee – Concerns over prioritization process as well. Suggestion for survey to inquire feedback on improving the process moving forward.
- Vote to approve proposal:
 - BIA RM – Support
 - BLM – Support
 - FWS – Support
 - IDL – Support
 - MT DNRC – Support
 - MT State Fire Chiefs’ Association – Support
 - MT Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association – Support
 - NPS – Support with the caveat that there is an established list and a prioritization process.
 - USFS – Support
 - Approved – majority consent.

Review of Action Items: (Josh Harvey)

- Postponed by the Chair in the interest of time.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is March 15, 2022 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time



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Deputies and Others: Jeff Moyer, Heath Estey, Pam Jolly, Corey Buhl, Ryan Patrick, Calvin Miller, David Lee, Kat Sorenson, Gaylen Yeates, Jordan McKnight, Jeni Jerezek, Dave Williams

Purpose: Welcome and a reminder that this is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

- (Unable to participate in today's meeting.)

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl)

- MAC Plan update – will not be ready for final BOD review prior to prioritization piece that will be discussed at the April spring meeting. Other edits have been added and can distribute if any care to review in advance.
 - Meteorologist position is in Boise and will have to go through classification.
 - Assisted teaching S-420 last week.

NRCC Update (Calvin Miller)

- Had a meteorologist come up from Great Basin to assist with NFDRSv4 transition. All associated with the transition should be finalized by the end of this month.

Old Business

MAC and NRCG BOD Voting Membership – Includes BLM ID request to join NRCG BOD – Informational Topic – Craig Glazier and Aaron Thompson

- BLM Idaho is requesting to become part of the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group. They have jurisdictional lands within the Northern Rockies and would like to become more involved with NRCG. At this time the BLM has agreed to keep the voting membership at one (1) vote per the agency, which would be BLM MT/DKs.
- Desire to be more involved. Dennis Strange would be the Idaho BLM representative.
- BLM MT/DKs State FMO would maintain the one vote for the BLM.
- Craig Glazier - In going through the current charter (from 2018), this would be appropriate.
 - Recommend and volunteer to update the charter to reflect current business practices.
 - Aaron Thompson will also volunteer to assist.
 - Tate Fischer will also volunteer to assist.
 - Rich Cowger will also volunteer to assist.
 - **Action Item: Craig Glazier, Aaron Thompson, Tate Fischer and Rich Cowger will review and update prior to April Spring Meeting.**
- Rich Cowger – Montana State Chiefs is listed in the Charter; however, do coordinate with counterparts in Idaho. Similar to BLM request.
- Motion to include North Idaho BLM into the NRCG BOD with vote being represented by BLM MT/DKs



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State FMO.

- Vote:
 - BIA NW – Support
 - BIA GP – Support
 - BLM – Support
 - FWS – Support
 - IDL – Support
 - MT DES – Support
 - MT DNRC – Support
 - MT State Fire Chiefs' Association – Support
 - MT County Fire Wardens Association – Support
 - ND FS – Support
 - USFS – Support
 - Approved – unanimous consent.
 - Action Item: Chair will reach out to Dennis Strange and Aaron Thompson will provide Pam Jolly with relevant contact information.

NFDRS Briefing Paper Discussion – Informational Topic – Calvin Miller

- (See briefing paper and proposal in pre-reading materials)
- Northern Rockies has moved forward with updating for NFDRSv4 with completion expected by the end of the month.
- New version will affect some Fire Danger Operating Plans and some programs.
- Aaron Thompson – What are the potential failure points and how can those be address in advance?
 - Calvin Miller – Communicating and working with the field to increase understanding. May see a gap in the 7-day product; however, hopefully this component will be addressed prior to fire season.
- Craig Glazier – Appreciate knowing about any assistance needed.
 - Calvin Miller – Fire Analyst positions are critical to the long-term product success. This would be a new position in the Northern Rockies.

Supporting NR Operations Officer – Decisional Topic – Corey Buhl

- List has recently changed and needs updating.
- Request feedback regarding qualified and available individuals. Please send these names direct to Corey Buhl.
- Action Item: Corey Buhl will update the list and it will be voted upon at the spring meeting.

NR Dispatch Complexity Analysis Results – Informational Topic – Kat Sorenson and David Lee

- (See briefing paper in pre-reading materials)
- Reviewed history of the topic including tasking and methodology.
- Developed a complexity matrix that best represented the Northern Rockies.
- All center managers have had an opportunity to review and comment.
- Aaron Thompson – What was the reaction from the different dispatch centers?
 - David Lee – For the most part responses were positive; however, some centers did disagree with their center's rating. Some advised that the criteria utilized did not best capture their



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center. These centers were encouraged to share their business practices, so that the criteria may be updated moving into the future.

- Craig Glazier – Appreciate this work and effort. Regarding staffing challenges, were there any discussions around any potential consolidations?
 - Kat Sorenson – One consolidation is occurring now; Bozeman is combining into Billings Dispatch by mid-April. No other talks in the committee currently. However, analysis has shown some logical options that could be reviewed moving in the future. Analysis also highlighted the “other” duties – including training officer workload.
 - David Lee – Truly highlights how staffing and organization is still configured for fighting fire 20 years ago. Needs to be larger discussion around appropriate staffing levels for current situation.
- Aaron Thompson – What are the next steps of this process?
 - David Lee – Next steps are to develop some recommended Table of Organization (TOs) and bring some center managers into any potential consolidation discussions.
 - Kat Sorenson – Can make a recommended staffing plan and move possibly towards the next steps of consolidation. Can have the staffing plans back to NRCG BOD for review by mid-summer. Center Managers did have some good suggestions regarding addressing staffing.
- Ryan Melin – Emphasized the need to address recruitment and retention as well as sustainability under current staffing levels.
- Craig Glazier – How difficult is it to determine adequate staffing levels?
 - Kat Sorenson – Do have the advantage that other GACCs have previously and are currently going through this process and can learn from those experiences.

Update for National Committees – Complex Incident Management – Informational Topic – Aaron Thompson

- Nationally is being supported; question now is how to get there and what does it look like.
- Several proposals on the table currently.
- Rocky Mountain area was proposing piloting this year per their Coordinating Group; however, there has now been a decision that they couldn’t go outside the GACC for the summer. If were to go outside the GACC, would need to go as a T1 or T2 IMT.
- Will be giving an update to executives at the end of March.
- Continue to see on the ground administrators not aware of or not understanding complex incident management. Encourage all to do what they can to further this understanding and share information.
- Implementation is set for 2024.

IMT Roster Status – Informational Topic – Aaron Thompson

- Aaron Thompson – Request clarification regarding IMT roster approval and who will be taking over the Team Coordinator role in Kathy Pipkin’s absence?
 - Josh Harvey – All rosters were approved at the last meeting.
- Craig Glazier – The number of holes further highlights that moving forward with seven (7) teams is not sustainable.
- Aaron Thompson – Concern over giving approval; specifically, around setting the teams up for success. Concerns over expectations and continuing to provide the IMTs with key support.
- Craig Glazier – Need to identify a good communication strategy to the WFAAs regarding this topic.



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- Aaron Thompson – What do we need to do to close the loop and ensure the ICs are aware those were approved?
 - Calvin Miller – Kathy was reaching out for approval from other GACCS regarding out of area team member resource support.

New Business

Contract Operations Support – Informational Topic – Ryan Patrick

- Looking for assistance with upcoming training and inspector workshops. Need instructors and course coordinators. Please canvas agencies and advise of any interested individuals.

Review of Action Items: (Josh Harvey)

- Differed until review at the spring meeting.

The next scheduled NRCG Meeting is the Virtual 2022 Spring NRCG Meeting, April 18-22, 2022.

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Monday April 18, 2022 – General Session

Welcome and Introductions – Josh Harvey

- Appreciate all the work that has been accomplished this winter.
- Acknowledged the change that has occurred over the last few years, including the business changes that came about from Covid.

National Update and Report – Aitor Bidaburu

- Nationally PL2; receiving resource orders supporting Southern Area and the Southwest.
- Conditions are beginning to creep into the southern Great Basin.
- NMAC – approximately 40 T2IA crews on the National contract this year; will be dispatched at the GACC level. T2 Crews are still in the contracting process. Expecting approximately 200 crews; will be dispatched out of NICC.
- Complex Incident Management (CIM) – IMRR calls have been occurring; facilitated by NIMO. Putting some structure in to provided for governance protocols and vetting ideas through NWCG standards. NMAC will be the focal point to task out items to committees. CIM effort continues to move forward. NWCG standards committee is actively involved and has been tasked with identifying pathways. Short turnaround for a draft that will then be reviewed. 2023 will be a transition year with full implementation in 2024. Rocky Mountain Geographic Area will pilot this year. Looking for feedback on areas that would accept a CIM team.
- NMAC will continue prioritizing teams per the protocols listed in the National Mobilization Guide. This assists with managing team welfare and fatigue.
- Corey Buhl – Need to identify if any teams want to be part of the pilot and need to decide if this GACC will accept CIM teams by June 1st.

Northern Rockies Operations Spring Report – Corey Buhl

- Action Item: Need to identify if any teams want to be part of the CIM pilot and need to decide if this GACC will accept CIM by June 1st.
- Crews – all IHC intend to stand up as T1.
- Smokejumper refreshers and rookie training occurring. Minimal turnover this year.
- 20 Airtankers on contract this year; with CWNs, up to 30.
- Do expect some shortages if multiple areas become busy concurrently. Will experience supply chain shortages. Cache experiencing some staffing shortages as well. Shipping will also be challenging due to truck availability.
- Dispatch centers are also experiencing staffing struggles.
- Aviation Updates:
 - Region 1 pilot staffing will be at 30%.
 - Will struggle to provide 7-day staffing for two Sherpas.
 - One lead plane trainee within Region 1, expect him to be fully qualified early in fire season.
 - Down two Rappel crews nationally due to contracting.
 - At least two helicopter vendors are not fully staffing available helicopters due to contracting.

- Light Fixed Wing contract still in process with the Washington Office (WO). Hope modified CWN will be temporary fix.
- Fortress 200 will be tested out of Ronan in the seats.
- Should have Fixed Wing Program Manager position filled prior to fire season.
- UAS – Standard ordering for NRM projects is on the NRCC webpage; fire will be updated with flow chart guidance soon. It is currently being looked at to facilitate as much standardization with the National Office as possible.

NRCC Spring Report – Kathy Pipkin

- Crew coordinator position is now vacant. DNRC is working on filling behind.
- Meteorologist position also now vacant. Short term plan to utilize retired meteorologist; BLM and FWS are working on filling positions.
- Outreached for two 120 details for Overhead desk; were only able to fill one. Individual is slated to come on in May.
- Working on hiring front desk position.
- Calving Miller's detail ends at the end of June and working on a second detailer.
- Staffing will be challenging; will be relying on AD workforce for support during the season.
- Working on transitioning the mobilization guide to be a supplement to the National Mobilization Guide. Hope to publish at the end of May.
- Website modernization project in the works.
- NRDRSv4 transition in WIMS is still on track for archiving by the end of May. Energy Release Component (ERC) graphs on web page do have broken links due to this process. Seven-day significant fire potential analysis is complete and are waiting for implementation approval.
- RIST detailer, Billy Philips, is slated to begin Monday.

Incident Prioritization – Fires Comparison Spreadsheet – Kate Holsapple and Rick Stratton

- Need exists to leverage new science and technology into prioritization process.
- ([Fires Comparison Matrix PowerPoint](#) – *please note, must have FireNet NR_Coordinating Group Team access.*)
- Proposal – Looking to replace Incident Prioritization Worksheet (IPW) and Criterium Decision Plus with this Fire Comparison Matrix. Criterium Decision Plus is no longer supported on the USFS network. Other drivers towards this proposal are that it significantly streamlines and increases efficiency.
- Intelligence function would bring the matrix, along with the radar charts, in addition to information gathered on calls, and would compile a recommendation. Would also be prepared to discuss the limiting factors that are not represented by the matrix. Intelligence function would then document any adjustments and the corresponding rational.
- Corey Buhl – For prioritization this year at NRCC, this could be appropriate at the zone level.
- Vote: Proposal to replace IPW and Criterium Decision Plus with this Fire Comparison Matrix.
 - BIA RM – Support
 - BLM – Support
 - FWS – Support
 - IDL – Support
 - MT DES – Supports

- MT DNRC – Support
- MT State Fire Chiefs' Association – Support
- MT County Fire Wardens Association – Support
- MT Sheriffs and Peace Officer Association – Support
- NPS – Support
- USFS – Support
- Approved – Unanimous consent.

NRTC Update and Trainee Priorities – Melissa Wegner

- Staff update – filled vacant BIA position; appreciate all efforts from everyone that went into that process. Billy Philips will be detailed into a temporary promotion into the RIST coordinator position. Billy is also a key part of IMRR. Matt Gibson continues to be instrumental in distributing the El Dorado case study out to the field. He is also a key link in innovative learning and training. Lydia Faller continues to perform essential duties and responsibilities, including providing MAC documentation support last year.
- 1,078 nominations processed; with two courses yet to go. 569 selected students.
- Cadre participation was increased to meet student to lead ratio. 206 unique individuals participating.
- Looking towards the future, anticipate that will have more in person training. Will also be remaining flexible.
- Priority Trainee Program – as approved in February, all trainees in the Northern Rockies will be considered priority trainees, as long as they are in the qualifications within the priority trainee program.
- Only item that changed is that there is now no application period. All else remains the same. Encouraged all to reach out with individuals with known limited availability periods.

Northern Rockies Contracting Update – Ryan Patrick

- Working through technical evaluations for heavy equipment with water and water handling.
- Weed Washing under VIPER this year, conducting technical evaluations as well.
- Process has evolved much from the past. Information is also gathered from pictures obtained during the winter. This comes with certain challenges. Coordinating with multiple Contracting Officers (CO) is more challenging from coordination with the historical, two COs.
- Looking for assistance with coordination of inspector workshop. Need exists and capacity is low.
- Brian Weber will be detailed into this position. (Ryan Patrick taking a detail.)
- Regarding workload, if nothing changes pertaining to assistance, then will need to prioritize the contract workforce that do have currently. Workload has increased significantly from historical perspective. Prioritization will be needed.

Northern Rockies Cache Update – Jordan McKnight

- Personnel
 - NRK currently at 40% staffing, 1 person in front office.
 - 100% vacancy in front office projected. Will not have anyone in an administrative capacity at the cache any time soon.
 - Potential of new, untrained hires late spring
 - Not currently staffed to allow for 7 day a week coverage

- No depth to cover staff absences.
- Loss of experience will lead to less production.
- Equipment Issue
 - Probable shortages: shelters, pump parts, oil, chaps, gloves, hose, fittings, medical kits, hot food. Additionally, containers, flight helmets, hose rollers, pyro, batteries, and other items we have not considered.
- Potential Operational Issues
 - Cache to Incident trucking in question.
 - Trucking contracts and medical have been moved to the national contracting level.
 - National Medical Contract unknown status.
 - Lack of temp laborers (pay, fuel costs).
 - Temporary labor – are finding that the pay is not competitive; AD drivers are citing pay and fuel cost.
 - Detailers are also in critical shortage.
 - Trucking will be a large issue. Now is going through a brokerage in Florida; where used to utilize ones that were familiar with the area.
- Be prepared
- Some incidents may need to pick up supplies; will prioritize deliveries to smaller incidents.
- Discussed communication and what it will look like this year regarding prioritization.

SW MT Zone Prevention Team – Chris Johnson

- ([SW MT Prevention Team PowerPoint](#) – please note, must have FireNet NR_Coordinating Group Team access.)

2021 Summary

- Seated for the equivalent amount of time for “six rolls” for this team.
- Anticipate meeting virtually for another 92 days for 2022.
- Benefit to having a team working remotely is increased team member availability.
- Will most likely continue the “Treasure Our State” campaign and promote the [Montana Wildland Fire Information website](#). Website will be utilized as both a fire information and restrictions platform.
- Are recruiting individuals to build bench strength and expand the capacity of the support area.
- Team assists with ensuring consistent messaging.
- No ask of this board for funding; however, efforts are underway to obtain funding through individual agencies.

2022 Campaigns and Recruitment

- Team will be seated again for the upcoming season.
- Spreadsheet and survey went out to gather interest and recruit interested individuals.

NRCG Restrictions and Closures Guide - 2022 Update

- [Montana Wildland Fire Information website](#) – intended to be a “one stop shop” for public and users.
- Last year only had one single POC for all orders and updates throughout the summer. Workload necessitates changes for 2022. Are now moving that to the area restrictions coordinators.
- Idaho and the other states have their own platforms.

- [NRCG Restrictions and Closures Guidelines](#) document is updated, 508 compliant, and on the NRCG webpage. Provided some template language with the goal of avoiding conflicting language.

Heavy Equipment Task Force Updates – Jordan McKnight

- ([Heavy Equipment Task Force Updates PowerPoint](#) – *please note, must have FireNet NR_Coordinating Group Team access.*)
- Emphasized that all recognized the importance and value of this resource in the Northern Rockies.
- Are somewhat restrained in how can utilize regarding supervision.
- Important for the Board to consider supervision dynamics and involved risk, including liability.
- Concerns from incident business and finance side regarding incorrect and incomplete shift tickets and how this affects the payment processing.
- Agreements expire at the end of next year.

Action Items Review – Josh Harvey

- Reviewed Action Item listing line by line and made and updates.

Fall Meeting

- Consensus to plan for hybrid Fall NRCG meeting in Missoula, MT.
 - Jake Ganieany has additional “owl” cameras, should they be needed.
- Meeting dates are November 7 – 10, 2022.

Thursday April 21, 2022 – Morning – General Session**IT Update – Tara Dana**

- Received funding and were able to purchase equipment for multiple IMTs.
- Currently are distributing that equipment; form has been distributed to the IMTs and closes on April 28th. Will be open to dispatch centers afterwards.
- BPA for rental IT equipment in place. Are able to change licensing and there will be return labels provided. Will now use an online ordering portal. Do still have the ability to utilize local vendors.

Dispatch Complexity Update – Craig Glazier, Gaylen Yeates and Kat Sorenson

- Reviewed the previously released complexity analysis.
- ([Dispatch Complexity Update PowerPoint](#) – *please note, must have FireNet NR_Coordinating Group Team access.*)
- Identified items with which agency leaders and managers can assist:
 - 90 fire requirement is a hinderance.
 - Lack of cross-walk from operations to dispatch.
 - Support of work environment.
- Sarah Lee – important to message potential next steps regarding consolidation appropriately, emphasizing the benefits of increased coverage and improved work/life balance.
- Important to note that consolidation is a tool and will not fix recruitment or retention.

- Rich Cowger – issues seem similar to other emergency response dispatch centers. Wonder if there are opportunities to co-locate or co-join with local 911 dispatch centers.
- Gaylen Yeates – next Monday will have the Northern Rockies Dispatcher's workshop and will be recruiting for individuals to replace departing member of the dispatch steering committee. Will continue work on the next steps of this tasking.

Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS) – Cost, Rate and Intent Discussion – Sarah Lee

- The Business Committee added REMS configuration information to the NR Chapter 20 (Acquisition) supplement for incident-only contracting in 2019 after a NRCG task group developed the basic configuration. Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS) is an extraction team that provides technical expertise in the use of Low Angle Rescue Operations, High Angle Rope Rescue Operations, and advanced terrain extraction techniques. The Business Committee has not added a rate suggestion to the NR Supplement, as the NRCG BOD previously agreed that local/county resources have legal authority and should be the first source to provide rapid extraction support - refer to [NRCG 2018 Memo on REMS](#).
- In 2021, we saw an increased reliance on REMS as a long-term (14 day or longer assignments) solution to a lack of EMS resources in the system, such as EMTs and ambulances. The use occurred more frequently with out of area IMTs. This deviation from the NRCG original intent in the 2018 memo (estimated that only 5% of NR fire operations occur in environments requiring REMS and that IMTs are expected to release REMS units when no longer needed) raised concerns within the incident business community regarding appropriateness and cost. We currently don't have established rates in Chapter 20 for REMS; however, contract vendor pricing last year averaged \$7000/day. Additionally, there are multi-state licensing concerns.
- The Business Committee is asking the current Board to review the [2018 NRCG BOD guidance](#) for REMS and provide the Business Committee additional direction:
 - If NRCG BOD wishes to retain the specifications in Chapter 20, do rates need to be established? (If so, establishment of a rate will need to be tasked to Ryan Patrick's staff, as the Business Committee does not establish contract rates or specifications.)
 - The Business Committee suggests removing the detailed information on REMS from Chapter 20 (Acquisition), and instead directing readers to Chapter 50 (Cooperative Relations) which outlines local government capabilities and rates for local government resources.
 - The Business Committee asks BOD members to refresh their Agency Administrators on the 2018 NRCG Memo, especially to reiterate, "Agency Administrators and IMTs also should look seriously at tactical plans that put resources at high risk in high-angle situations where there are limited values at risk, or where operational risk management would lead to another tactic."
- Rich Cowger – have experienced multiple times when REMS have sat idle for fourteen-day assignments. Agree with Corey Buhl that the 2018 guidance is still valid.
- Patrick Lonergan – support recommendation to remove from chapter 20 and support the 2018 memo.
- Sarah Lee – suggestion to add verbiage to the out of GACC letter that would highlight this topic.
- Bryce Rogers – support the removal from Chapter 20 and agree that the 2018 memo is valid.

- Paul Cerda – may need look at requiring justifications for REMS ordering. Support editing the verbiage to “technical rescue”.
- Vote on Proposal to remove language from chapter 20, revise the 2018 REMS Guidance and add appropriate verbiage to the Out of GACC letter.
 - BIA RM – Support
 - BLM – Support
 - FWS – Support
 - IDL – Support
 - MT DES – Support
 - MT DNRC – Support
 - MT State Fire Chiefs’ Association – Support
 - MT County Fire Wardens’ Association – Support
 - NPS – Support
- Approved – Unanimous consent.
- Action Item: Josh Harvey, Rich Cowger, Paul Cerda and Aaron Thompson will review and revise both the Out of GACC letter and the 2018 REMS Guidance with the intent of voting on the revised drafts at June meeting.

Other Business Items

- Rich Cowger – need exists to set up a meeting to talk directly with ICs.
- Sarah Lee – misperception exists that the “yurt” method of building camps is cost effective. This is derived from a historical time when yurts were furnished by the national cache system. Currently, obtaining conference spaces and locally available venues with needed connectivity is more cost effective.



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

PARTICIPANTS:

Board Members: Heath Estey, Aaron Thompson, Dennis Strange, Tate Fischer, Josh Harvey – Chair, Matt Hall, Rich Cowger – Vice Chair, Ryan Melin, Paul Cerdá, Craig Glazier

Deputies and Others: Aitor Bidaburu, Corey Buhl, Brian Webber, Kathy Pipkin, Jeni Jerezek, Melissa Wegner, Tara Dana, Dave Williams, Pam Jolly

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

- NMAC – not much change in the last month; focal area is the Southwest at PL4. Interest on the FEMA side and impacts to Los Alamos Lab.
- Nationally at PL2, NMAC is meeting once a week on Thursdays.
- Predictive Services individuals at NICC are releasing IMSR daily.
- IC/AC liaison discussed Geographic Areas' current abilities to stand up IMTs.
- NWCG is meeting Wednesday and will be discussing release of a memo framing up the Complex Incident Management (CIM) project moving forward. 2022 will be a pilot year, 2023 will be a transition year with pathways in place, and 2024 will be the planned, full implementation.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl)

- Significant support being sent to the Southwest. All Northern Rockies (NR) IHC that have come available have mobilized to the Southwest.
- Concern over neither of the Northern Rockies T1 IMTs being able to stand up as of yet.
- T1 IMTs are supposed to be rostered year-round.
- Have been asked to travel down and assist at SWICC; will travel late next week.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- NICC reached out yesterday and are almost at the end of round one of the T1 IMT national rotation.
- Calvin Miller is soliciting other GACCs on how they accomplish pre-use inspections, particularly regarding out of area assignments.
- BLM and FWS are working towards announcing the Meteorologist positions. Mike Richmond will be filling in for coverage.
- Hoping detailer will begin June 19th and will strive towards an updated fire and fuels outlook that will be posted to the website.
- Have had to Unable-to-Fill (UTF) multiple critical position orders.
- Eastern Area went to PL2 over the weekend.
- Tate Fischer – Encouraged all to reach out to agency administrators regarding concerns being voiced.
 - Josh Harvey will also reach out to the WFAA Chair.
- None of the T2 IMTs will come available until after June 1st.
- Aaron Thompson – Inquired on tasking to IC committee regarding 2023 Northern Rockies IMTs.
 - Rich Cowger – Did speak with this group; however, no written tasking as it is a moving target with the changes occurring nationally. Conversations are occurring within the teams regarding movement.



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Old Business

Complex Incident Management (CIM) IMT Participation – Decisional Topic – Corey Buhl

- Response on the following two items is needed by June 1st:
 - Will NRCC GACC accept incoming CIM IMTs for 2022?
 - Will any NR IMTs pilot CIM for 2022?
- Did ask at CGAC what receiving GACC of a CIM IMT would be receiving specifically. They advised they would get back with that information; however, have not yet received. Particularly relevant regarding the qualification's credentials.
- On the CGAC meeting, North Ops had a T2 IMT interested also.
- Dennis Strange – Important to acknowledge the unknown, do not have all the relevant information currently. Voting on a concept.
- Aaron Thompson – Currently are only two CIM in the nation; one is already a T1 IMT.
- Craig Glazier – Would be important to utilize these teams appropriately and not above what they are qualified to do.
- Josh Harvey – Does an inquiry need to be made as to prerequisites for T2 IMTs to participate as CIMs?
- Dennis Strange – Need exists to understand what a CIM is and is not, and will or will not, be doing.
- Kathy Pipkin – If approval is given, would provide another avenue to obtain a T1 IMT. Northern Rockies guidance will be to still order T1 and T2 IMTs.
- Vote – Proposal for Northern Rockies Geographic Area to accept incoming CIM IMTs for 2022.
 - BLM – Supports
 - FWS – Supports
 - IDL – Supports
 - MT DNRC – Supports
 - MT State Fire Chiefs' Association – Supports
 - MT Sheriffs and Peace Officer Association – Supports
 - ND FS – Supports
 - USFS – Supports
 - **Approved – unanimous consent.**
- Will any NR IMTs pilot CIM for 2022
 - Rich Cowger – Team 6 expressed interest in shadowing and evaluation process if it manifests.
 - Josh Harvey – Proposed vote would then be to make one of the T1 IMTs to pilot CIM.
- Vote – Proposal to approve both NR T1 IMTs for CIM this year, pending both ICs support.
 - BLM – Support
 - FWS – Support
 - IDL – Support
 - MT DNRC – Support
 - MT State Fire Chiefs' Association – Support
 - MT Sheriffs and Peace Officer Association – Support
 - ND FS – Support
 - USFS – Support
 - **Approved – unanimous consent. Rich Cowger will follow up with both IC's for approval and disseminate the resulting information.**



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Tuesday, May 17, 2022

- Aaron Thompson – Decision impacts both WFDSS decisions and AD pay rates; decisions will be needed in the future regarding CIM.
- Kathy Pipkin – Decision also has multiple impacts to the coordination system. Would need to reach out to the Rocky Mountain area regarding these specifics. Will not be a swift process as involves increased workload. Patience from all will be appreciated.
- Action Item: Rich Cowger will need to relay this increased workload aspect for both the coordination system and qualifications systems to each IC prior to their decision to accept the proposal.

Delegation of Authority – Northern Rockies Operations Officer – Decisional Topic – Corey Buhl

- Vote to approve draft:
- Pam Jolly will follow up with a poll vote and disseminate results.

IMT Financial Support – Review – Informational Topic – Kathy Pipkin

- Due to time constraints, all BOD will review the following information and conduct appropriate follow up.
- \$2,000 per agency was included in the NRCG Financial Plan as a new change in 2021.
- Plan was voted on and approved during the February 02, 2022 special session.
- Based on the BOD Liaison for each IMT listed in the [NRCG Team Plan](#).
 - Team #1 is USFS
 - Team #2 is FWS
 - Team #3 is IDL
 - Team #4 is DES (Funds covered by BIA, Rocky Mountain Region)
 - Team #5 is NPS
 - Team #6 is MT DNRC
 - Team #7 is BLM

New Business

2022 Support for IMTs - Dr. Harry Sibold - NRGA fire support – Decisional Topic – Corey Buhl

- Proposal to hire for a third year; provided valuable information and support.
- Craig Glazier – What specific services does this individual provide?
- Corey Buhl – Did assist with positive cases and coordination burden.
- Tate Fishcer – Not sure have enough information to vote at this time.
- Aaron Thompson – Individual has provided valuable support to both the MAC and IMTs regarding a multitude of medical inquiries. Do feel more mobilization management could be implemented.
- Josh Harvey – Could support a transition year.
- Vote to approve hiring Dr. Harry Sibold for the upcoming season:
 - BIA – Support
 - BLM – Support
 - FWS – Support
 - IDL – Support
 - MT DNRC – Support
 - ND FS – Support



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Tuesday, May 17, 2022

- USFS – Support
- **Unanimous consent from those present; follow up with NPS vote needed for approval.**

NRCG Committee Liaison – Data Gathering Discussion and Request – Informational Topic – Aaron Thompson

- Due to time constraints, this topic shall be tabled until the June meeting.

Review of Action Items: (Josh Harvey)

- Postponed in the interest of time.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is June 21, 2022 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call – Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

PARTICIPANTS:

Board Members: Darron Williams, Dennis Strange, Tate Fischer, Matt Hall, Rich Cowger – Vice Chair, Patrick Lonergan, Steve Holton, Ryan Melin, Paul Cerda, Craig Glazier

Deputies and Others: Sarah Lee, Bob Jones, Calvin Miller, Jay McAllister, Jeni Jeresek, Tara Dana, Anthony Krause, Brian Webber, Chad Pickering, Aitor Bidaburu, Kate Wilson, Karly DeMars (Facilitator)

Purpose: *Welcome and a reminder that this is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.*

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

- Nationally at Preparedness Level 2. NMAC is still meeting weekly.
- Southwest area is starting to see relief with the onset of monsoons.
- NICC – Sean Peterson will be on leave for rest of month. Derek Hartman is acting.
- NWCG hired full-time Incident Workforce Development Group Manager, funded by BLM. Jesse Bender was hired for the position and will report directly to the NWCG board.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl)

- No update.

NRCC Update (Calvin Miller)

- Bonny Resner, employee at NRCC passed away last week. Please keep Bonny's family and the NRCC staff in your thoughts.
- 2022 NRCC Mob Guide has been posted. The guide is now a supplement of the national mobilization guide
- Staffing Updates: Fire Analysis detailer (Jon Rieck) started this week and will start working with agencies on fire analysis. NRCC's new front desk person starting today. Mike Richmond will be covering Predictive Services this summer.

Old Business

NRCG Charter Update Discussion – Informational Topic – Craig Glazier

- Still working on draft document. Have reviewed several examples from other GACCs. Of note, will likely review the status of current membership – including inclusion of BLM Idaho and other cooperating agencies from North Dakota. Membership will also be evaluated as to who should be part of the membership. The charter will also outline financial plans/obligations – who pays for what, etc. There is no expectation to do anything big or too disruptive immediately.
- Will move forward with the draft this fall.



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

NRCG Committee Liaison – Data Gathering Discussion and Request – Informational Topic – Aaron Thompson

- Ask is for each liaison and NRCG member to go back and complete the questions.
- At the July meeting, expect that have a more robust report out on the questions and moving forward. (Questions will be emailed again with the notes)
- [NRCG Board Liaisons to Committees and Zones](#) can be found on the [NRCG website](#).

Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS) – 2022 Update – Decisional Topic – Sarah Lee

- The REMS Guidance has not been changed, but it was proposed by the BOD Chair and task group to be re-signed for 2022 to ensure everyone is aware that the BOD's stance has not changed since 2019.
- Sarah explained the updates and answered questions.
- Vote to adopt the 2022 Update to the Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS)
 - BIA NW – Supports
 - BIA RM - Supports
 - BLM – Supports
 - FWS – Supports
 - MT DNRC – Supports
 - MT State Fire Chiefs' Association – Supports
 - MT Fire Wardens Association - Supports
 - MT Sheriffs and Peace Officer Association – Supports
 - ND FS – Supports
 - NPS - Supports
 - USFS – Supports
- Approved – unanimous consent.

NR Geographic Area Briefing Letter (Out of GACC Team Letter) – 2022 Update – Decisional Topic – Sarah Lee

- The Out of GACC Team Letter has added/updated information on cost shares, the use of electronic incident files, REMS and the Heavy Equipment Task group.
- Vote to adopt the 2022 Update to the NR Geographic Area Briefing Letter
 - BIA NW – Supports
 - BIA RM - Supports
 - BLM – Supports
 - FWS – Supports
 - MT DNRC – Supports
 - MT State Fire Chiefs' Association – Supports
 - MT Fire Wardens Association - Supports
 - MT Sheriffs and Peace Officer Association – Supports
 - ND FS – Supports



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- NPS - Supports
- USFS – Supports
- Approved – unanimous consent.

NRCG Board Apparel – Rich Cowger

- Rich and Aaron have researched samples for shirts. If interested in ordering a shirt, respond to the meeting notes email. Rich mentioned that the MT State Fire Chiefs could likely help with funding for this effort.

New Business

Updated AIS Protocol for Montana – Decisional Topic – Matt Hall and Kate Wilson

- Kate Wilson presented the proposed updates/changes to the AIS Protocol for Montana. The recommendations include:
 - NRCG updated guide to provide more prescriptive protocols and improve efficacy
 - NRCG Updated directive/letter – changed mandatory to recommended in the title and provided clear, concise direction.
 - Recommended strategies for dissemination online.
- Vote to adopt the updated AIS Protocol for Montana
 - BIA NW – Supports
 - BIA RM - Supports
 - BLM – Supports
 - FWS – Supports
 - MT DNRC – Supports
 - MT State Fire Chiefs' Association – Supports
 - MT Fire Wardens Association - Supports
 - MT Sheriffs and Peace Officer Association – Supports
 - ND FS – Supports
 - NPS - Supports
 - USFS – Supports
- Approved – unanimous consent.

Review of Action Items: (Rich Cowger)

- Reviewed spreadsheet. Updates have been provided in the tracking spreadsheet.
- Of note, the updated [NRCG Restrictions and Closures Guidelines](#) have been posted.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is July 19, 2022 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

PARTICIPANTS:

Board Members: Heath Estey, Bryce Rogers, Aaron Thompson, Tate Fischer, Jake Ganieany, John Monzie, Rich Cowger – Vice Chair, Patrick Lonergan, Ryan Melin, Paul Cerda, Craig Glazier

Deputies and Others: Jeff Moyer, Jason Jarrett, Pam Jolly, Kara Stringer, Joe Sampson, Kat Sorenson, Gaylen Yeats, Aitor Bidaburu, Jordan McKnight, Jeni Jerezek, Tara Dana, Dave Williams

Purpose: Welcome and a reminder that this is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

- Nationally are at PL 3 as of last week.
- Crew situation is looking better this year than it did last year. With T2 crews, expecting to have over 400 T2 contract crews. Also are expecting approximately 150 T2IA crews, and there will be 115 T1 crews.
- FMB and NWCG meetings occurring tomorrow. High priority item continues to be complex incident management implementation process. Full implementation will occur in January of 2024.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl)

- Uptick in activity within the GACC.
- Continuing to support other GACCs as well.
- Have been ordering some crews on preposition and the majority of those are being assigned as they arrive.
- IMT situation update – have had difficulties rostering IMTs so far this year. Have had one IMT go to Alaska with ten or more positions borrowed from other teams. This in turn affects availability of other GACC IMTs. Team that mobilized to Alaska did so with multiple vacancies in significant positions.
- CGAC tasking from the NMAC that includes developing a national rotation for Complex Incident Management (CIM). Would like to form a committee to address GACC response that is due in September.

NRCC Update (Kara Stringer)

- Are seeing some demobilization from Alaska.
- No pinch points on fills yet.
- Fuels are drying out and fire activity is increasing.
- All BOD need to sign in and sign up for the [2022 GMAC Rep Calendar](#), identifying specific weeks as the GMAC representative.

Old Business

Heavy Equipment/ Heavy Equipment Task Force Supervision – Informational Topic – Jordan McKnight, Dave Williams, Craig Glazier



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

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Tuesday, July 19, 2022

- Reviewed tasking history.
- Highlighted four main areas in the report.
- Complied associated briefing paper that highlights risk areas outlined by the review.
- Demand for resources outpaces capacity.
- Understanding the risk, both operational and contractual, is critical.
- NRCG has responsibility to consider associated liability.
- USFS will be having more internal discussions around this topic.
- Agency Administrators and Line Officers need to be fully aware of ramifications and truly understand the rules that are in place.
- Action Item – Dave Williams will provide both the review and one-page briefing paper to Pam Jolly. She will then distribute both of these items, and include the Update [Heavy Equipment Supervision memo](#), for the BOD to review.

IMT Sustainability for 2023 – Tasking Update – Informational Topic – Joe Sampson

- This is an IC committee tasking.
- Team 7 will not exist with JT retiring.
- All of Northern Rockies T1 and T2 teams are in various stages of CIM conversions.
- Current rosters status stands that teams are doing a very good job of sharing resources.
- Succession planning – Currently have seven teams; however, reality of resources is that can only staff five IMTs. GACC does not have significant capacity for T3 IMTs either.
- Propose five IMTs for FY23, with the caveat that the ICs be required to apply early and then have the board decide who will be the five ICs. Then those chosen ICs will build the rosters from there.
- Aaron Thompson – A written recommendation needs to go to the WFAAs by August.
- Patrick Lonergan – Agree and support submitting a proposal. Suggest streamlining the IC application process as well.
- Tate Fischer – Support above recommendations.
- Rich Cowger – Request recommendation from IC Committee in writing for consideration in preparing proposal submission to WFAAs.
- Aaron Thompson – Suggest NRCG meeting with the WFAAs in August to discuss.
- Action Item - Joe Sampson will submit write up to NRCG no later than August 1, 2022.
- Action Item - Rich Cowger will work to arrange an August meeting with the WFAAs.

Complex Incident Management Transition – Informational Topic – Aaron Thompson

- (See draft memo in pre-reading materials)
- Feel it is important to put out intent memo, outlining a plan.
- Joe Sampson – From IC Committee perspective, support NRCG memo.
- Patrick Lonergan – Suggest meeting with ICs in October to address and discuss these key upcoming issues.
 - Aaron Thompson – Support this intent and effort.
 - Group consensus to schedule two full days – October 4 & 25th for the BOD, ICs, Kathy Pipkin and Corey Buhl. These two days will be utilized as working days for IMT business.
 - Action Item – Pam Jolly will create and distribute these meeting invitations.



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- Action Item – Draft memo will be finalized and distributed.

Moving IMTs into CIMT Standards – Informational Topic – Craig Glazier

- Need to formalize some strategy this summer and ensure it occurs. Needed for consistency and clear direction.
- Suggest tasking to operational committee.
- Aaron Thompson – Support; memo will provide guidance.
- Tate Fischer – Unsure if operations committee will have the capacity to take this on without prioritization.
- Aaron Thompson – Team 2, everyone except one individual is converted over to CIM.
- Joe Sampson – Is challenging due to specific agency policy.
- Aaron Thompson – Suggest utilizing Great Basin data call and sending it to the IC committee and BOD for review.
- Action Item - Craig Glazier will obtain and edit the Great Basin data call, adjusting it for the Northern Rockies, and will distribute to both the IC committee and BOD for review by Wednesday, July 27, 2022.

New Business

Dispatch Complexity Analysis Organizational Charts – Informational Topic – Gaylen Yeates and Kat Sorenson

- (Reviewed PowerPoint presentation.)
- Next step is to re-run survey during the upcoming winter. (Due to some dispatch centers combining.)
- Need exists to increase staffing and capacity.
- Costs are based on a step 5 on all GS level positions. Will require interagency support.
- Realistic ask for what is needed. Support from interagency fire management is needed.
- Aaron Thompson – Appreciate the work that went into this analysis. Are the PDs written for all these positions? Concerns of being able to fill current vacancies before adding more positions. Also concerns over the number of dispatch centers in the Northern Rockies.
 - Kat Sorenson – Consolidation was not part of the scope of this survey. The 90 requirement is being considered by OPM. Providing career ladders for dispatcher is critical for long term retention. There is a PD for a GS-12 center manager.
- Kara Stringer – Was this done in conjunction with the USFS efforts around leads?
 - Kat Sorenson – Yes; was built in so that could be in alignment with anticipated policy.
- Tate Fischer - Have there been any efforts towards a consolidation analysis in this GACC?
 - Kat Sorenson – Larger centers still have higher workloads; consolidation does not negate the workload.
- Craig Glazier – USFS would like to put together an independent group to identify other options over this upcoming winter.
 - Aaron Thompson – Support the concept; however, are having a hard time with other agencies not filling positions in centers BLM has positions at now.



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- Kara Stringer – Have been a part of projects that looked at consolidations; most recent ones did not have the infrastructure to support and justify the cost investment.

Review of Action Items: (Rich Cower)

- Differed in the interest of time.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is August 16, 2022 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

PARTICIPANTS:

Board Members: Bryce Rogers, Dennis Strange, Tate Fischer, Matt Hall, Rich Cowger – Vice Chair, Patrick Lonergan, Paul Cerdá, Craig Glazier

Deputies and Others: Jeff Moyer, Craig Howells, Jason Jarrett, Pam Jolly, Brian Webber, Kathy Pipkin, Aitor Bidaburu, Melissa Wegner, Tara Dana, Anthony Krause

Purpose: Welcome and a reminder that this is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

- NWCG meeting tomorrow.
- NMAC Updates:
 - Operationally were trending toward PL4; however, trend leveled off and continue at steady PL3.
- NMAC Updates:
 - Meets twice a week.
 - Yesterday discussed draft CIM rotational guidelines that would be in place at the beginning of 2024. Is a first draft and identifies a national rotation only. Identifies three options and is out there to share. Some response received already and all feedback should be provided to CGAC representatives.
 - ICAP may be available September 1st. USFS may also provide a help desk.
 - Reviewing and revising the IC Charter. Area Command will no longer be included in this charter.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl)

- Steady, moderate initial attack (IA); going well. Are receiving needed resources.
- Continuing at PL3.
- Are receiving comments from working group regarding CIMT rotational draft. Will share out with BOD for review prior to submission.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- One T2 IMT that has not mobilized yet.
- Shared an informational bulletin regarding dispatch center reality.
- NRCC is currently, mostly, fully staffed, counting detailers.

Old Business

NRCG Committee Liaison – Data Gathering Discussion and Request – Informational Topic – Aaron Thompson

- Ask from the June 21st meeting was for each liaison and NRCG member to go back and complete the questions.



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- Goal is to engage in a more robust report out on the questions and moving forward.
- [NRCG Board Liaisons to Committees and Zones](#) can be found on the [NRCG website](#).
- Matt Hall – Prevention and Education Committee
 - Current active charter with good purpose behind committee.
 - Active with prevention teams across the GACC and zones.
 - Completed needed work with restrictions and guidelines documents.
 - Some agencies are unable to meet Chair and Vice-Chair roles.
 - Committee feels supported by NRCG Board.
- Tate Fischer – Operations Committee
 - Discussed two-way communications in depth.
 - Discussed taskings and were comfortable with workload. Appreciated the relevancy and opportunity to provide feedback.
 - Felt good about charter.
- Craig Glazier – Dispatch Committee
 - Active committee.
 - Have been working on a three phased ask - complexity levels, staffing and interagency review/consolidation analysis.
 - Does feel supported by NRCG.
 - Will be reaching out for NRCG BOD insights as these items above are address over the winter.
- Craig Howells – Business Committee
 - Engaged, doing well.
 - There has been significant of turn over.
- Paul Cerdá – Incident Commander Committee
- Matt Hall – Intent is to review and validate committee representation.
- **Action Item** – The two remaining committee report outs will be provided during the next meeting. Review and validation of committee representation will occur afterwards.

New Business

IC Committee Recommendation – IMT Future for 2023 – Discussion

- Tate Fischer – Concerns over reality of meeting this recommendation. Would like ideas on how can solidify a number.
- Rich Cowger – Was in the meeting where the IC Committee formulated this decision. Share similar concerns. Motion to keep six teams was narrowly won. Will require more discussion by the Board prior to taking to the Agency Administrators.
- Patrick Lonergan – Have had discussions with individuals involved with that decision making meeting. Issue needs clear resolution. Vote was close and ultimately depended on who was present on the call.
- Dennis Strange – Need exists to get IMTs ready for CIM. Close vote demonstrates lack of agreement.



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More work that NRCG BOD needs to do to identify clear intent of this tasking and how to define how many teams the Northern Rockies (NR) wants to field on a regular basis and what objectives are to be met.

- Craig Glazier – Have received calls from three different ICs in the last week that feel have not been given clear direction. Have had assignments turned down this year because could not field teams. Would like a timeline review regarding IC application.
- Rich Cowger – Guidance from the board has been clear. Tasking was based on capacity and capability of available individuals. Acknowledged there are some unknowns around CIM and what it ultimately looks like and how it works.
- Tate Fischer – Need exists to review the IC application process and possibly streamline.
- Kathy Pipkin – Full IC recruitment occurs during October. This allows for NRCG BOD review and selection during the fall meeting. Still need to address issue of T3 IMT recruitment. Historically, had identified that T2 IMT usage in the Northern Rockies was 97%. Have two T1 IMTs that were not able to come available until late May or June. All GACCs had this same issue, particularly in staffing plans sections. T2 IMTs also were not able to come available on rotation during pre-season.
- Corey Buhl – Do feel there was lack of agreement during the IC Committee decision-making meeting. Feel that the reality is Northern Rockies can only support five teams.
- Rich Cowger – Was tasked with setting up a meeting with the agency administrators regarding this issue; however, have held off until the Board is able to have more discussions around the recommendations.
- Patrick Lonergan – Suggested both special NRCG BOD session to discuss recommendation and then take that outcome to a near future meeting with the agency administrators. Intent of special session is to accept or reject the recommendation.
 - Dennis Strange – Suggestion for the intent of the special session for all to review the recommendation and identify a consensus for what is to be presented to the AAs by the outcome of that meeting.
- Craig Glazier – Support; suggest one day next week – Wednesday, August 24th at 1030 Mountain. Special Session will include NRCG BOD, Corey Buhl and Kathy Pipkin.
- Action Item: Pam Jolly will distribute Special Session meeting invitations to all NRCG BOD, Corey Buhl and Kathy Pipkin for a NRCG Special Session to both vote to approve or reject the IC Committee recommendation and to identify a consensus for what is to be presented to the agency administrators.

Review of Action Items: (Rich Cowger)

- Differed in the interest of time.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is September 20, 2022 at 10:00 Hours Mountain

Time



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

PARTICIPANTS:

Board Members: Darron Williams, Bryce Rogers, Aaron Thompson, Dennis Strange, Tate Fischer, Josh Harvey – Chair, Jake Ganieany, Matt Hall, Rich Cowger – Vice Chair, Ryan Melin, Paul Cerda,

Deputies and Others: Chad Pickering, Pam Jolly, Corey Buhl, Ryan Patrick, Kathy Pipkin, Aitor Bidaburu, Jordan McKnight, Anthony Krause, Dave Williams

Purpose: Welcome and a reminder that this is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

- NMAC – activity has slowed down significantly; meeting twice a week now. Trending towards releasing some aircraft.
- NWCG – same emphasis areas as reported last month; will be meeting tomorrow.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl)

- Several IHCs are winding down and will be done soon.; will have several still available for a few weeks.
- No Critical needs in the GACC.
- Several IMTs closing out and smokejumpers are back on shoulder season.
- Some IA still occurring.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- Activity slowing.
- Moved to PL2 in the Northern Rockies.
- Will be establishing if there is any Northern Rockies IMT availability.
- Logistics Coordinator position is being advertised. BLM meteorologist is on board. FWS meteorologist recommended selection has gone forward for approval.
- Looking at returning to five-day coverage on October 9th.

Old Business

NRCG Committee Liaison – Data Gathering Discussion and Request – Informational Topic – Aaron Thompson

- *(Continued from August 16, 2022 Meeting)*
 - Action Item – The two remaining committee report outs (Incident Commander and Training Committees) will be provided during the next meeting. Review and validation of committee representation will occur afterwards.
- Ask from the June 21st meeting was for each liaison and NRCG member to go back and complete the questions.
- Goal is to engage in a more robust report out on the questions and moving forward.
- [NRCG Board Liaisons to Committees and Zones](#) can be found on the [NRCG website](#).
- Paul Cerda – Incident Commanders Committee



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- Charter needs review and updating.
- Navigating the transition to new liaison has proved challenging; however, will be implementing better communication strategies.
- NMAC tasking to IC/AC group - Joe Sampson will be representing the Northern Rockies regarding CIM transition.
- Josh Harvey – Training Committee
 - Did not contact the Training Committee yet.
- Review and validation of committee representation.
 - Intent of this exercise is to improve both communications and engagement.

IMT3 Process Tasking – Decisional Topic – Aaron Thompson

- *(See draft in pre-reading materials.)*
- Intent is to recognize an established process for T3 IMTs.
- Josh Harvey – Wildland Fire Agency Administrators expressed interest.
- Kathy Pipkin – Suggestion to go ahead and do the outreach for the ICs, in an effort to keep all IC recruitment together on the same timeframe.
- Ryan Melin – State Forester supports this effort.
- Paul Cerdá – Question if October 1st timeframe is realistic?
- Action Item – Kathy Pipkin will obtain T3 SOP documents from the Great Basin and will provide to Pam Jolly to share with the full BOD.
- Corey Buhl – Agree with recruiting the ICs; can get this item on the IC Committee fall meeting.
- Tate Fischer – FWS supports this endeavor also.
- Aaron Thompson – Suggestion for Corey Buhl to take the lead on this and forgo a formal vote.
- Action Item - Will task to Corey Buhl and Kathy Pipkin. Josh Harvey will compile a formalized tasking.
- Action Item – Discussion around IMT support, including the T3 IMTs, will be put on October agenda. Kathy Pipkin will provide an update on current support provided.

New Business

NRCG CGAC Representation Proposal – Decisional Topic – Aaron Thompson

- Background:
 - National Multi Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) uses the Coordinating Group Advisory Council (CGAC) and the Incident Workforce Development Group (IWDG) as two primary subgroups to help inform national policy and direction. Currently the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCG) representative to CGAC is the chair of NRCG which rotates every two years. The participation on CGAC from NRCG has waned over the years depending on the Agency's value of CGAC. The Northern Rockies Operations Officer and Coordination Center Manager have filled in as representatives as necessary to cover those meetings. Some GA's use the same methodology as the NRCG for participation and others have appointed a permanent position based on workload and need.
- Proposal:
 - In an effort to have consistent representation on CGAC, the proposal is to appoint an agency



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from the NRCG Board who has a stakeholder interest to a two-year term limit. After the term is completed, the BOD will solicit for another Agency or re-appoint the current agency to another two-year term. This will help reduce the workload on the NRCG Chair as well as provide CGAC with a consistent name to coordinate with.

- Josh Harvey – Support this proposal.
- Dennis Strange – Support as well.
- Ryan Melin – Support and would suggest a year rotation, with an option to extend.
- Aaron Thompson – Spoke with Craig Glazier and he volunteered to take the first rotation.
- Chad Pickering – Support a one-year rotation, with an option to extend.
- Aaron Thompson – Suggestion to formalize at November meeting.
- Action Item - Aaron Thompson will compile a draft rotation for BOD review. Craig Glazier will attend the November CGAC meeting. Kathy Pipkin and Corey Buhl will ensure that Craig Glazier receives an invite.
- Josh Harvey – Formal vote not required.

WFAA Tasking – List of needed Key and Critical Support Positions for Incident Management Teams (IMTs) – Informational – Josh Harvey

- From the joint WFAA/NRCG BOD meeting:
 - WFAA's are requesting this list be derived from roster supported data.
 - Tasking for Kathy Pipkin and Corey Buhl.
 - Intent is to identify the need in order to move forward with increasing the number of Northern Rockies (NR) Incident Management Teams (IMTs) in future years.
- Kathy Pipkin and Corey Buhl will be tasked with this item; however, need exists for a formal tasking outlining clear intent.
- Action Item - Josh Harvey will issue a formal tasking.

Joint WFAA/NRCG BOD Direction Memo – IMTs for FY23 – Informational Topic – Josh Harvey

- Originated during WFAA IMT briefing that occurred on September 06, 2022.
- Joint memo will be signed and distributed soon.

CIM Memo Clarification – Informational – Josh Harvey

- Melissa Wegner brought to Craig Glazier's attention that the NRCG CIM memo is not in alignment with the NWCG CIM memo.
- Discrepancy revolves around the field evaluator language. NRCG memo is more restrictive.
- Action Item – NRCG memo will be edited and re-issued to bring into national alignment.

NRCG Pre-Use Inspection Process – Informational Topic – Ryan Patrick

- (See pre-reading materials.)
- Update on previous tasking.
- Provided briefing paper to the board earlier this spring that provided three alternatives to current process.
- Will need follow up with clear direction regarding intent with pre-use inspection.
- Currently responsibility is with dispatch centers to coordinate this process.



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- Pre-award inspection has since been eliminated from historical process.
- Recommendation to have dispatch centers continue the coordination of pre-use inspections.
 - Acknowledged this is unpopular with dispatch centers; however, all alternatives have capacity issues.
- Kathy Pipkin – centers do not have inspectors.
- Corey Buhl – centers don't have the personnel or capacity for this workload either.
- Jordan McKnight – recommendation protects both the contractors and the agency administrators to some degree. Acknowledged that there is not a surplus of individuals to accomplish this work. Determining the route will help prioritize the workload. Desired end state would be a memo from the Board outlining expectations and process.
- Kathy Pipkin – this is not a dispatch issue; is a shortage issue. Inspectors are an ordered resource, just like any other resource. Agency issue to get individuals trained. Dispatch does not have this capacity. Historically have better success filling inspector positions on incidents.
- Corey Buhl – other GACCs do not always accomplish pre-use inspection and when that occurs, it is listed in documentation.
- Chad Pickering – for the greater Missoula area, have built an inspection site at the AFD. Does come down to who operates. Do need that capacity. Will be a nice site, if can staff.
- Aaron Thompson – would like more information regarding what other GACCs are doing and clarification on the minimum that must be done.
- Ryan Patrick – Changes occurred to the process when IBPAs went to a national level. Important to note associated Lessons Learned that noted a better inspection process was needed. Need exists to do more than the minimum acceptance. Recommendation to have dispatch centers coordinate and work together as a group to build capacity. Desire is for direction from the board as to where the GACC wants to be moving forward.
- Jordan McKnight – if BOD would like to see any follow up, or changes, or more information added to the briefing papers, that would help to fine tune those documents. Ryan Patrick has accepted a new position and his current position will be vacant.
- Action Item - Re-distribute briefing papers for BOD review and place on the October agenda for more focused discussion.

Review of Action Items: (Josh Harvey)

- Differed in the interest of time.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is October 18, 2022 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time



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Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

PARTICIPANTS:

Board Members: Heath Estey, Bryce Rogers, Aaron Thompson, Tate Fischer, Matt Hall, Rich Cowger – Vice Chair, Steve Holton

Deputies and Others: Adriane Beck, Chad Pickering, Jordan McKnight, Pam Jolly, Corey Buhl, Brian Webber, Kathy Pipkin, Amanda Boatright, Jeni Jerezek, Melissa Wegner

Purpose: Welcome and a reminder that this is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

- Unable to participate due to scheduling conflict.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl)

- Tasking Update – WFAA List for Critical IMT Positions
 - Ultimately came down to two questions that have been distributed in a survey.
 - Are there critical holes consistently found in rosters?
 - Do those change over the season?
 - Report out on survey next month.
- Tasking – T3 IMT Process
 - Progress occurring; will have draft work to share in November.
- Trail Ridge Fire utilizing aviation support.
- Prescribed fire activity occurring throughout the GACC.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

- Nationally, the last two T2 IMTs received assignment to Oregon.
- No IMTs or crews available in the Northern Rockies.
- Within GACC, prescribed burning support is occurring for USFS.
- Are back to five-day coverage.

Old Business

IMT Support – Informational Topic – Kathy Pipkin

- Need exists to identify true amount needed.
- Historically, each team is provided \$2,000 by an individual agency sponsor.
- If are going to have T3 IMTs, those will require fiscal support as well.
- More realistic figure may be around \$5,000.
- Agencies that have fiscal responsibility have been showing that as contribution to cost share.
- Aaron Thompson – need to have an accounting as to what those funds are utilized for, per team, prior to any decision making.



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- Rich Cowger – do need to have a clear delineation between IMTs that pull trailers.
- Tate Fischer – are there opportunities to joint sponsor teams, since the overall number of teams is being reduced?
- Bryce Rogers - CPO is issue as well for accountable property. Are sure all have different rules on purchases and limits. Agree still need to support the teams.
- Kathy Pipkin – suggest tasking to ICs to submit needs assessment per team.
- Jeni Jeresek - request for this decision to be made by December or January so it can be put it in the Financial Plan by February. With the workload of Grants and Agreements staff, would like the Financial Plan to be voted on earlier, if possible.
- Chad Pickering – encourage all supporting agencies to be communicating with sponsored IMT and ensure needs are being submitted for consideration.
- Matt Hall – have only received small requests from sponsored IMT.
- Tate Fischer – see the wisdom in letting the IMTs request what they need from the sponsoring agency.
- Bryce Rogers - teams also need to get requests in early, with the understanding that agencies have a process to go through in order to purchase.
- Aaron Thompson – suggest needs submission could be a component of the Fall IC Report out.
- Kathy Pipkin – suggestion for a base minimum amount per team, and then have IC's request additional needs individually through Board liaison.
- Rick Cowger – would be willing to work with Kathy Pipkin and ICs to develop a list of accountable needs to develop more information prior to reaching a decisional point.
- Aaron Thompson – suggestion to maintain \$2,000 as base for draft fiscal proposal for now, while detailed informational needs piece is being developed.
- Action Item – Rich Cowger will work with Kathy Pipkin and ICs to develop a list of accountable needs to develop more information prior to reaching a decisional point. This information will be provided to the BOD for review prior to the December meeting for discussion, with a vote on the specific amount scheduled for the January meeting. This timeframe allows for any changes to be included in the proposed DRAFT fiscal plan review proposed timeline.

NRCG Pre-Use Inspection Process – Decisional Topic – Rich Cowger

- *(See briefing papers in pre-reading materials.)*
- Per Ryan Patrick's previous presentation - desired end state would be a memo from the Board outlining expectations and process.
- Aaron Thompson – current process in the Northern Rockies of having this is nice; however, after further research, it seems to be a duplicate effort as this equipment is re-inspected upon arrival. Reservation around setting expectation to determine this as a mandatory requirement due to ongoing staffing challenges at dispatch centers. Is a good “best management practices” and endorse when possible; however, not supportive of making this mandatory.
- Chad Pickering – in agreement with above summation. Dispatch supporting the inspections is not viable moving forward. Do have a nice inspection area created at the AFD.
- Matt Hall – follow up with operations needed that this function may not occur moving forward.
- Bryce Rogers - Agree lack of depth and capacity is affecting the way it is now from how it was historically.



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- Brian Webber – recommendation to leave as is and establish as a best practice moving forward.
- Action Item – Per Rich Cowger, no change; no NRCG memo will be issued. NRCG intends to follow above recommendation.

CGAC Representation – Decisional Topic – Aaron Thompson

- Vote on Proposal
- Proposed Verbiage:
 - “The Northern Rockies Coordinating Group rep to CGAC will be appointed to a one-year term during the Fall NRCG meeting. The representative can agree to annual extensions based on interest and participation, if the NRCG Board agrees to it. The expectation of the rep is to attend all the CGAC monthly meetings and the annual in person meeting. It is the expectation of the Board that if the rep can't attend a meeting, they find a replacement. The Northern Rockies Operations Officer is encouraged to stay engaged with the NR CGAC rep as that is the logical support for the NRCG.”
- Need to address what document proposed language will reside in.
- Need to address if there is a need for a rotation.
- Not all agencies on the Board have stakeholder interest in CGAC representation.
- USFS, Craig Glazier, is taking this first rotation.
- Northern Rockies Operations position would also have an expectation to be participatory in those meetings as well; however, the BOD member would be the representative.
- Matt Hall – support how it is written; support reviewing as a standing topic at Fall meetings and identifying who will represent for the next year.
- Tate Fischer – support above also.
- Recommendation to include in DRAFT NRCG Operating Handbook.
- Action Item - Rich Cowger – no need for independent formal vote, as will be voting on approval for final DRAFT Ops later on. Item will be a standing topic at Fall meetings and incoming representative for the next year will be identified. Above language will be included in the DRAFT NRCG Operating Handbook.

NRCG Charter Update – Informational Topic – Craig Glazier, Aaron Thompson, Tate Fischer, Rich Cowger

- Craig Glazier and Aaron Thompson met with Kathy Pipkin and identified a path moving forward.

IC Selection Criteria – Decisional Topic – Rich Cowger

- Potential Criteria Items:
 - Agency/Cooperators over Non-Agency
 - In GACC versus out of GACC
 - Years of service - three or six years as IC versus over six years
 - Willingness to participate on National rotation versus In GACC rotation
 - Character
 - Communication with NRCC, NRCG and the NR fire community



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- Vision and futuristic thoughts
- Kathy Pipkin – think the supplemental questions do cover all these items.
- Aaron Thompson – suggestion that Board will only be selecting ICs and the Deputies and Trainees will then be selected by those chosen ICs and the Board would approve those selections.
- Rich Cowger – move to vote to accept above listed criteria items.
- Vote:
 - BIA – Support
 - BLM – Support
 - FWS – Support
 - MT DNRC – Support
 - MT State Fire Chiefs' Association – Support
 - MT County Fire Wardens Association – Support
 - MT Sheriffs and Peace Officer Association – Support
 - USFS – Support
 - Approved – unanimous consent.

New Business

Progress Update – ACDP Policy Requirements – Informational Topic – Kathy Pipkin

- Dispatch community was given a one-year extension regarding ACDP qualifications.
- Are still planning on implementing full policy in the future.
- Next May, Northern Rockies will be putting on a course to train enough individuals to be able to meet that policy.
- Center turn-over makes retaining enough qualified individuals challenging.

Review of Action Items: (Rich Cowger)

- Differed in the interest of time.

The next scheduled NRCG meeting is the NRCG FALL Meeting that will occur November 8-9, 2022.

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Tuesday November 08, 2022 – General Session**National Report / Update Aitor**

- Significant Investments at the National Level:
 - AAR Performed on CIM in October
 - Training Systems Improvement Project – utilizes some of the BIL funding and is moving forward. Taking existing competences and taking a deeper dive into how those are identified and supported in the future. More will come on how competencies and training are evaluated in the future. Currently SME groups are breaking down by functional areas. Multiple products will result from this effort. Goal is less duplication and efficiency increase.
 - Stepped up investment in Learning Management System
 - Emergency Medical Committee is actively engaging in multiple aspects as well.
 - Fuels Committee is working on Escape Fire Commonalities. Analytics are being compiled.
- Multiple Leadership Changes are also occurring.
- NMAC memo issued regarding evolution of Area Command.

Northern Rockies Operational Updates – Corey Buhl

- Tasking Update – List of Critical Support Positions for IMTs - Reviewed survey results regarding challenging positions to fill. White Paper will be distributed for full BOD review.
 - Josh Harvey will present this information to the WFAA group later this week.
 - Aaron Thompson – noted that the need exists to explore different ways of conducting business moving forward, particularly given the national lack of some qualification capacity.
- Tasking Update – T3 SOPs – any created should not vary a great deal from other types of team SOPs. Will present at next months meeting.

NRCC Fall Report – Kathy Pipkin

- Both experienced and were challenged by multiple traumatic events this year. (Health, loss of family members to natural disaster/event, loss of staff to medical, and an active shooter) Staff commended for performing exceptionally.
- Had detailers in the Center Manager position for most months.
- Fire Analyst position assisted greatly as well.
- Appreciated detailed meteorologist as well. BLM meteorologist position now filled.
- Administrative position is now filled as well.
- Working with HR to fill permanent Coordinator position.
- USFS is working on a permanent Fire Analyst position that would also assist NRCC.
- Working to fill the FWS meteorologist position still.
- Reviewed Volume of Business report.
- Would like feedback from NRCG regarding new prioritization process.
- Taking forward several issues to agency leadership:
 - Lack of consistency across agencies with dispatch PDs.
 - Technology does not allow for what business needs require.

- Consolidated Dispatch training will occur at the end of March. Will include aviation dispatcher training and WildCad-e. (New WildCad will be coming online soon after that time.)
- Aaron Thompson – noted that the BLM is standing up a National Dispatch Committee.
- Craig Glazier – WFAA group working on a proposal to continue Dispatch Review work.

Northern Rockies Contracting Update – Brian Webber and Jordan McKnight

- (Reviewed [Contracting Updates PowerPoint](#))
- Worked through the summer with two detailers.
- With changes in the contracting group, were unable to have the CO inspectors look over the water handling inspections.
- Changes in process may soon allow for pick up of new equipment during the season. More to come on that later.
- Contracting positions are still working through the hiring process. Hoping for certs in November.
- Noted shortage of inspectors and ICPIs. Inspector workshops are greatly needed.

NRCG Financial Plan Review – Jeni Jeresek

- Reviewed a [draft plan](#) compiled with historical formulas.
- Ask moving forward is to schedule a meeting for early February to vote on final plan.
- Will distribute the cost by agency for individual BOD review and verification.
- AFD Operating Plan (Agreement) expires at the end of May and requires updating. Will distribute this for BOD review as we.
 - Kathy Pipkin has begun editing the agreement regarding positions. Discussions needed around included positions.
- Draft does list \$2,000 for IMTs.
- **Action Item:** Pam Jolly will schedule a meeting on February 7 2023 from 1000 – 1200 hours for both financial plan and agreement review. NRCG BOD, Kathy Pipkin and Corey Buhl will attend.

Complex Incident Management (CIM) Efforts Update – [Jesse Bender](#), IWDG Manager

- [IWCG Story Map](#)
- Committee is finalizing positions and task books regarding CIM.
- January [PMS 310-1](#) update will include these positions.
- Field Evaluation will continue to be an option through 2023. Will also provide more guidance and best management practices on how to complete those evaluations. Inclusion of this was based upon received feedback.
- Working on revised [PMS 236](#) as well. Emphasis on drilled down complexities.
- WFDSS for 2023 will remain the same.
- Also working on recommendation for National CIM rotation and guidance on when to order. Rationale is to increase work/life and IMT/day job needs.
 - NMAC will be drafting a memo on this shortly.
 - Full rotation process will be implemented in 2024.
- Also working on a recommendation around team configuration and incident scaling needs. Will come out in correspondence with implementation in 2024.
- NMAC is discussing all CIM IMTs being offered a place on the rotation.
- Implementation for 2024 for all CIM teams.

- Recognized that there are many questions remaining and acknowledge everyone's efforts.
- Will be critical moving forward to speak with a unified voice.
- Noted the interest and collaboration with FEMA regarding these teams.
- Vision is slimmer core teams with additional positions pulled from the pool. One benefit would be standardized operations across the areas. Requires agreed upon, standardized way of doing business and products produced. This would lead to more efficient and more seamless transitions.
- IWG will eventually recommend every area add IMT Coordinator Positions.
- Kathy Pipkin – Northern Rockies does have two full teams CIM qualified.
- Aaron Thompson – important to socialize this concept with Agency Administrators that soon may be utilizing out of area teams more frequently.

NRTC Update / Trainee Priorities - Melissa Wegner

- Two vacancies throughout the summer. Filled one and do have approval to fill another training specialist. Not a new position; rather one that has been on the organization chart for some time without filling.
- BIA filled a position with a temporary promotion.
- Priority Trainees – previous decisions by BOD worked well throughout the season. Did receive pushback from other GATRs. Are looking for national feedback on future of this program.
- Worked with IMTs on field evaluations with CIM.
- Two 520 sessions are being hosted by NAFRI and were able to get five individuals into each session. In addition, were able to get two finance sections chiefs into these sessions.
- Will have more courses on the next schedule. Did extend the nomination deadline.
- Are about a 50/50 ratio for in person and virtual courses.

NRK Fall Update - Anthony Krause

- 107 separate incidents worked this season. End of Year report will be forthcoming.
- Supply Chain issues seem to have eased just a bit.
- Have had some success with hiring; however, vacancies do still exist.
- Were unable to utilize contract worker assistance this season.
- Did lose one vehicle to an accident this year.
- Fell back on a diminished AD driver pool for the majority of shipments.
- Success with weekly logistics chiefs' call; helpful to maximizing resources and associated transportation issues.

NRCG Operating Plan / Handbook - Kathy Pipkin

- Reviewed the two separate pre-reading documents.
- Template version may be more suited to a handbook.
- Suggestion to concentrate effort on template version.
- NRCG Recognition Awards – do have FWS listed twice. Is inclusive of all agencies on the Board, rather than just those on the cost share.
- Include IMT Meeting Facility Payment Rotation.
- May need to add in representatives and liaisons.
- Aaron Thompson – Moved to adopt template as a living document.
 - Motion seconded.
 - Vote:
 - BIA NW – Support

- BIA RM – Support
- BLM MT/Dakotas – Support
- FWS – Support
- IDL – Support
- MT DNRC – Support
- MT State Fire Chiefs' Association – Support
- MT County Fire Wardens Association – Support
- NPS – Support
- USFS – Support
- Motion passed unanimous consent.
- **Action Item:** Per Josh Harvey, Kathy Pipkin will complete final revisions to template version and provide final document to Pam Jolly for distribution and website posting. Timeline – goal of two weeks.

CIMTs Path Forward – Action Item – Pool Resources – Josh Harvey

- How does a resource look going forward and how will it be outreached to IMT members moving forward?
- Aaron Thompson – pool concept was received in a lukewarm fashion nationally. Currently, team composition is being reviewed nationally. A larger question, is who will be responsible for enforcement of business rules? Initially, any not in the core positions would then apply to the pool in ICAP.
- Craig Glazier – noted that it may be prudent to take a slower approach and see how much of the unknown components turn out. May make sense to explore more after the holidays; after the command and general staff are firmed.
- Aaron Thompson – support above; additionally, do feel support for NRCC is needed regarding IMTs that may attempt mobilization without a solid roster.
- Kathy Pipkin – pool concept will be a workload impact.
- Aitor Bidaburu – acknowledge that some items nationally will first need to be solidified and some work still needs to be done around what is representative of the intent. More framework moving forward is needed.
- **Action Item:** Per Josh Harvey, this item will be tabled until the spring.

Update BOD Zone, Committee & IMT Liaison Representation – Josh Harvey

- See Updated [NRCG Board Liaisons to Committees and Zones](#)
- **Action Item:** Pam Jolly will update the information in the associated email groups.

Bin Items

- Patrick Lonergan – Suggestion to have Rich Cowger review the Private Contract Resources memo and bring update recommendations to the BOD for review.

Meetings for Next Year

- Spring – Week of April 17-21, 2023 in person, in Missoula
- Fall – Week of November 6, 2023 in person, in Missoula
- IMT Meeting – group consensus for permission on preference; will most likely need a hybrid component. For 2023, BLM in charge of payment for facility for IMT meeting.



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

PARTICIPANTS:

Board Members: Bryce Rogers, Aaron Thompson, Tate Fischer, Matt Hall, Rich Cowger – Vice Chair, Paul Cerda, Craig Glazier

Deputies and Others: Adriane Beck, Jason Jarrett, Corey Buhl, Jay Mcallister, Morganne Lehr, Billy Phillips, Aitor Bidaburu, Jeni Jeresek, Tara Dana, Pam Jolly

Purpose: Welcome and a reminder that this is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

- CGAC/NMAC meeting will be the third week in January. There is one tasking out to the GACCs regarding number of CIM teams for 2023.
- Rotation and updates for NMAC representatives reviewed.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Corey Buhl)

- Conducted AAR at the coordination center last week. Good session with positive outcome.
- Will be attending the CGAC meeting.
- Chief Mountain crew is working to maintain T1 crew status; however, may drop down to a type 2 crew.

NRCC Update (Jay Mcallister)

- Successful seasonal AAR last week with proactive staff putting forth good future recommendations.

Old Business

T3 IMT SOPs Tasking Update – Informational Topic – Corey Buhl

- Discussions with ICs resulted in proposal not to create a new document, but rather incorporate the T3 IMTs into the main Team Plan document.
- NR IMT recruitment expected to be distributed later today.
- Group consensus to support this proposal; no opposition expressed.
- Team Plan expected to be completed in May.

NRCG Financial Plan – Reply Due – Informational Topic – Jeni Jeresek

- See previously distributed email requesting updates. Please return the reply due by December 31st.

New Business

RIST Briefing – Informational Topic – Morganne Lehr and Billy Phillips

- Good season this year. Operated as a national RIST.
- Reviewed RIST organizational changes from past season.
- Having RIST Coordinators for the duration was critical to the success of the season.



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- Were able to build consistencies and efficiencies.
- Developed business practices for funding RIST positions across multiple GACCs.
- Program increases the ability to tap into a diverse workforce that can provide added capacity.
- Demand continued to reinforce the need for this model.
- Maintain a roster of almost 800 individuals that are primarily only available to provide remote support to incidents.
- Future of RIST is uncertain. Current staffing solutions are not sustainable. Unsure if will be able to provide future national support.
- Effort underway to present at CGAC meeting. Aitor Bidaburu is working on getting this on the CGAC agenda.
- Aaron Thompson – need to address on both a short term, in GACC and long-term national support level. Support Craig Glazier and Corey Buhl requesting this as an agenda item for CGAC.
- Rich Cowger – suggestion to draft a letter on importance of RIST for submission up the line.
 - Morganne Lehr – was advised from a national level that demonstrating how program is adding to capacity (by tapping into resources that can only support in a remote capacity), increasing efficiencies, reducing costs, and reducing UTFs is key to gaining national momentum support.
 - Rich Cowger – will work with Aaron Thompson to draft this letter.
- Aitor Bidaburu – confirmed that this item is on the agenda for the CGAC meeting. Will be important to emphasize both referenced agreements and future asks.

Re-assign IMT Liaisons – Decisional Topic – Rich Cowger

- Bryce Rogers – BIA is willing to sponsor a liaison.
- Item tabled until January meeting.

Review of Action Items: (Rich Cowger)

- In the interest of time, item tabled till January meeting.

The next scheduled NRCG Monthly Conference Call is January 17, 2023 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time