



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Monthly Conference Call – Meeting Agenda Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Participants

Coordinating Group Members:

x	BIA – Great Plains	Heath Estey	x	Idaho Department of Lands	Josh Harvey
x	BIA – Rocky Mountain	Bryce Rogers	x	North Dakota Forest Service	Ryan Melin
	BIA – Northwest Region	<i>v. Williams</i>	x	Montana DNRC	Matt Hall
x	BLM – Montana/Dakotas	Aaron Thompson		Montana County Fire Wardens	Patrick Lonergan
	BLM – Idaho	Dennis Strange	x	Montana DES	Brett Lloyd
x	NPS – Intermountain Region	Paul Cerda		Montana Sheriff's & Peace Officers	Steve Holton
x	USFS – Region 1	Craig Glazier	x	Montana Fire Chiefs Association	Rich Cowger
x	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Tate Fischer	x	Facilitator	Karly DeMars

Deputies and Others: Marty Adell (BLM Idaho), Aitor Bidaburu (NWCG/NMAC), Corey Buhl (NR Ops), Kate Holsapple (NRCC), Cory Calnan (MT DNRC), Jason Jarrett (MT Sheriff's & Peace Officers), Jeni Jerecek (USFS), Beau Richardson (NRCC)

Standing Reports

- **NWCG/NMAC Update** – Aitor Bidaburu noted a scheduling conflict with NWCG but shared several key training updates, including a successful HECM test course held in Helena and ongoing progress on next-generation Position Task Books and training design, with materials to be shared soon. NMAC is currently focused on pushing resources—primarily aircraft—into the Southern Area due to continued elevated fire activity, with several states activating their State Compacts in response. Final revisions are being made to team roster information in the National Mobilization Guide, with some language adjusted from “mandatory” to “recommended,” though Command and General Staff positions remain mandatory. Over 75 position requests have been submitted. Work on balancing the national team rotation is underway this week, with final decisions to be made by the Geographic Areas. Leadership transitions at NMAC include the retirement of the current Chair at the end of the month, a Vice Chair shift from FWS to NPS, and Russ Long detailing in behind Chair Haston. The spring NMAC meeting will be held in Boise.
- **CGAC Report Out** (Dennis Strange) – Have not met since the in person meeting.
- **NR Operations** - Corey Buhl reported that, nationally, resource availability is looking strong. Hotshot crews are beginning to come on with only minor delays. There are currently 41 Type 2 Initial Attack (T2IA) crews and approximately 700 Type 2 crews under contract. Work is ongoing to coordinate a face-to-face GACC meeting.
- **NRCC Update** Kate Holsapple shared that fire activity remains minimal, with most resource orders—primarily equipment and around 100 overhead—being filled by the Southern and Rocky Mountain areas. The Communications Advance Team had seven respondents, all willing to continue, with Vance stepping up as this year's lead and planning to speak at the IMT recording. Updates to the MAC Plan are underway, and hiring efforts continue, including interviews for an assistant aircraft coordinator, though other vacancies are progressing slowly. The Northern Rockies Mobilization Guide remains open for change requests until April 3, and a dispatch workshop is scheduled for the week of April 28. Concerns were raised about meteorologist workload, particularly for Dan, and the need for a second meteorologist will be brought forward again to Fire Leadership.

- **NRCG Committee Updates:**
 - **Mitigation/Education Committee (Matt Hall)** - Meeting today and continuing all day tomorrow. The focus is on an interagency approach to firefighter awareness and prevention campaigns. The committee is reviewing the new NWCG WUI Mitigation Field Guide and continuing efforts to support mitigation work at the zone level.
 - **IC Committee (Patrick Lonergan)** - Emphasized the need for continued engagement and support from the Coordinating Group. Provided updates, including progress on the proposed IMT award program (action item).

Old Business

- **DECISION | 2025 NRCG Financial Plan** - Jeni Jeresek presented the 2025 NRCG Financial Plan, noting updated figures were emailed earlier that day. Key changes include an update to Alex Brooks' salary, a janitorial contract for the AFD complex, and a \$170K obligation for the year. The plan includes \$4.9 million in total funding, with costs allocated per agency and \$6,000 in administrative fees tracked for each employee. Jeni highlighted the need to determine when to finalize the financial "snapshot in time," proposing that any changes to the methodology be drafted by November, discussed in January, and finalized by February. The plan now uses actual work costs, and Jeni recommended that the Coordinating Group approve a Table of Organization before filling associated positions. She also asked the group to consider whether there's a need for more discussion around the timing of adding positions to the plan. Approval will be completed when all NRCG financial agencies sign the document. Jeni will be routing the final for signature in the coming months.
- **DECISION | Approval of NRCG Operating Guide** - Karly DeMars presented the updated NRCG Operating Guide. No substantial changes, mostly formatting and updating contact lists. NRCG members approved the updated operating guide unanimously. Karly will finalize the document and route for signatures.

New Business

- **DECISION | Approval of 2025 IMT Rosters** - Beau Richardson shared that the IMT recruitment effort opened in mid-December, resulting in 240 applicants, with 215 new participants across all IMTs for 2025. Quick summary of NR IMT Rosters:
 - All CIMT's meet minimum configuration requirements based on the 2025 standards/guidance.
 - Team 1: 140 total members. No qualified COMT or COML; COMT trainee expected to qualify early in the season.
 - Team 2: 156 total members. No qualified SPUL.
 - Team 3: 186 total members. One qualified FSCC, AOBD, and COML; no EQPM or GSUL.
 - Team 5: 123 total members. One qualified FDUL; no qualified COML, COMT, or RCDM.
 - Team 6: 128 total members. One qualified AOBD, ASGS, FSCC, and COML/COMT; no qualified RCDM.
 - All IMT3's meet minimum configuration requirements for within Geographic Area mobilization. Additional positions may be necessary for national support.
 - Team 8: 56 total members. One qualified SOF3, one FSC3/Limited Finance Unit Leader, and one COML and AOBD.
 - Team 9: 26 total members. No qualified SOF3 or FSC3; limited Logistics and Planning Unit Leaders.

Discussion: The full composition of IMT rosters may remain uncertain until the impacts of VERA/VISP/DRP are known. There is general awareness that some teams could experience significant changes. While fire positions are exempt from these workforce reduction efforts at this time, the broader deferred resignation process may still affect overall staffing.

DECISION - A quorum was reached and all agencies in attendance supported the approval of the 2025 IMT Rosters as submitted by NRCC (Supported by: BIA, BLM, FWS, IDL, MT DNRC, NDFS, NPS, USFS, State Fire Chiefs, MT Sheriff's/Peace Officers).

- **DISCUSSION | WFAA/NRCG – IMT Expectations Memo** – no update at the meeting, still being updated.
- **DISCUSSION | Talking Points for IMT Meeting** – no update at meeting, will be completed prior to the IMT Meeting on April 8, 2025.

NRCG Business

- April NRCG Meeting – Logistics and meeting information are forthcoming, but meeting will be held in Billings, MT.
- Review of Action Items
- Round Robin:
 - BIA – AD rules and changes to hiring process may impact BIA's ability to support camp crews
 - DNRC – Matt will be taking a detail outside of the organization for a few months – Cory Calnan will be detailing in while he is out.

Next Meeting: April 8-9, 2025 in Billings, MT