



# Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

## NRCG Spring Meeting & GMAC Training Notes

**Location:** DoubleTree Hotel, Billings, MT (27 N 27<sup>th</sup> Street) - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor - Room 5 /Virtual: Microsoft Teams

**Audience:** Northern Rockies Coordinating Group and representatives, Northern Rockies Coordination Center Staff

**Tuesday, April 8 and Wednesday, April 9, 2025**

### Participants

#### Coordinating Group Members:

X	BIA – Great Plains	Heath Estey (Virtual)	X	Idaho Department of Lands	Josh Harvey
X	BIA – Rocky Mountain	Bryce Rogers	X	North Dakota Forest Service	Ryan Melin
X	BIA – Northwest Region	Brad Donahue (Virtual)	X	Montana DNRC	Matt Hall
X	BLM – Montana/Dakotas	Aaron Thompson	X	Montana County Fire Wardens	Patrick Lonergan
X	BLM – Idaho	Dennis Strange (Virtual)	X	Montana DES	Brett Lloyd
X	NPS – Intermountain Region	Paul Cerdá	X	Montana Sheriff's & Peace Officers	Steve Holton (Virtual)
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:** Cory Calnan (DNRC), Hunter Noor (North Dakota FS), Kate Holsapple (NRCC), Beau Richardson (NRCC), Alex Brooks (NRCC), Dani Johnson (NRCC), Dan Borsum (NRCC), Aitor Bidaburu (NMAC/NWCG), Craig Howells (BLM)

**Overview of Meeting** – On Tuesday, April 8, 2025, NRCG convened in Billings, MT with full attendance from NRCG members both in person and virtually. From 1300-1400 and 1515-1600, NRCG joined the virtual Northern Rockies Incident Management Team Meeting. The NRCG Leader's Intent address was delivered at 1305 by several NRCG members.

## TUESDAY, April 8, 2025

### NRCG Business

- NRCG Policy/Memo Review** – NRCG reviewed every memo and guide that is displayed on the NRCG webpage for relevancy and currency. Notes and decisions are recorded in **Attachment 1**.
  - ACTION ITEM:** NRCG Facilitator will create a memo outlining the current NRCG memos that will be rescinded as part of the review process. Once the memo is in place, the Facilitator will work with NRCC to update the NRCG website.
- Current Tasking Updates/Status**
  - Training Committee – Dennis shared that committee is meeting next week and will be addressing the tasking. Dennis will report back in May.
  - IC Committee (awards) – no update, the tasking request is unclear to the committee.
  - Dispatch Committee – Craig shared that the committee is working on updating the committee's name, webpage/publishing SharePoint site. The chair plans to have more engagement as a committee.

- **Interactions with WFAA Group** – NRCG discussed the need for biannually meetings with the WFAAs. It was agreed by NRCG members to reach out to their respective WFAA and will discuss the need for a formal NRCG meeting biannually.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** NRCG member will report back to the group during the May NRCG meeting.
- **Agency Delegated Authority documentation** – reminder that NRCG members need to send their most current Delegation of Authority for NRCG business to the NRCG Facilitator.

### **NRCG Expectations Discussion**

- **IMT Meeting Coordination & Delivery:** NRCG is seeking to strengthen coordination and clarify expectations for the annual IMT meeting, reaffirming that it is an NRCG-sponsored event intended for all IMTs. Historically, team planning has been guided by a delegation memo, and NRCG plans to continue issuing an annual memo to Incident Commanders to outline expectations. The goal is a well-facilitated, coordinated IMT meeting informed by lessons learned and recent updates, ideally held in person during the same week as the NRCG Spring Meeting. Plans should include a one-day general session, potential use of a contractor for facilitation and conference support, and forming a subgroup with IMT representatives to assist with planning. While there is interest in maintaining an in-person format, NRCG is also considering what future expectations should look like and how to provide tools and support to empower teams.
  - **DECISION:** April 7, 2026, is proposed as the target meeting date for the 2026 IMT Meeting & NRCG Leader's Intent Address. Calendar invitations have been sent to NRCG members.

**Statewide Operating Plan Discussion:** Chris Johnson provided an update on proposed changes to the Montana Master Cooperative & Fire Protection Agreement, noting that maintenance is delayed due to the state legislative session. Despite new legislation, the agreement and statewide operating plan remain aligned. Sub-geographic plans should reflect current practices, with CJ encouraging zones to proceed despite delays and not wait on pending legislation. Key discussion points included standardizing mobilization practices, mutual aid billing decisions, and using unique job codes to track master agreement costs above the \$5,000 threshold. CJ and Cory Calnan will update mutual aid language in the sub-geo plans and aim to have them signed within the next month. **See Attachment 2.**

- **ACTION ITEM:** Once Sub-geographic Area SOPs are signed/approved, please send a copy to the NRCG Facilitator to post on the NRCG website.

## **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025**

**NRCG – GMAC Exercise:** Meeting participants participated in a three-hour Geographic Multi-Agency Coordinating Group exercise. The exercise included an overview of NR Intel Desk products, MAC plan update discussion, NRCG MAC representative rotation and expectations and lessons learned/action items.

**Dispatch Cost Analysis Tool (DCAT):** Kate Holsapple provided background on the types of reports that can be generated through the DCAT and noted that a sample report will be sent out for review. Key report elements include resource mobilizations; incident management team mobilizations and hosting; additional duties such as training and administration of the AD program; and operational costs associated with running the dispatch center (e.g., facilities, utilities). The intent of the DCAT is to support the development of a comprehensive financial plan by identifying and analyzing dispatch-related costs. A discussion followed regarding the potential pros and cons of standardizing financial planning across centers. One key point raised was the need for a consistent methodology to determine a fair-share approach to consolidated costs.

### **Committee and Zone Liaison Reports**

- **Native American Crew Plan (Bryce Rogers):** The plan has been posted to the NRCG website. There appears to be limited interest in organizing Native American crews in the manner outlined in the current plan.
- **Prevention/Education Committee:** PMS 053 – WUI Mitigation Guidelines have been posted to the NRCG website. The committee is missing representation from several agencies. The vice chair position is currently vacant, with BIA and FWS next in rotation for the role.
- **NW Zone:** No report.
- **Operations Committee:** Next meeting scheduled for April 22.
- **East Zone:** Recent MAC group meeting held; no additional updates provided.
- **Business Committee:** No current updates. Committee is working on plan revisions. An aircraft lend/lease update has been included in the NR Mobilization Guide.
- **Training Committee:** Meeting scheduled for next week. Dennis will report committee updates during the May NRCG meeting.
- **CGAC Notes:** Met on March 26. A working group with NMAC is developing recommendations for the National Rotation. There is a softened stance in the configuration memo—feedback is being requested. Type 3 IMT configuration remains unchanged. Discussion continues around appropriate use of IMTs under national guidance. NICC overhead website is being used to track team assignments.
- **NWCG Updates:** PMS 310-1 updates include changes to CIM positions. The 2025 IRPG is available to order and online. Updates include: nighttime fuel moisture estimation tools; forecasting updates; discontinuation of LAL and Haines Index; and updated chainsaw standards. The Incident Position Training Modernization (IPTM) project has completed 17 of 111 NWCG positions. All completed positions include full packages. An additional 22 positions are scheduled for 2025.
- **IC Committee:** No new updates.
- **Dispatch Committee:** Actively recruiting new members.
- **North Idaho Zone:** No report.
- **Southwest Montana Zone:** No report.
- **Central Montana Zone:** Leadership transition underway; Rich will confirm the new Chair.
- **South Central Montana Zone:** Bob Culbreth is the new Zone Chair.
- **North Dakota Zone:** Held a recent zone meeting. Upcoming S-290 and S-211 courses scheduled for June. Discussions included fire restriction alignment, daily fire danger index use, and updates to the Annual Operating Plan (AOP).

### **Review of 2025 NRCG Goals – Status Check**

1. **Update the NRCG Operating Guide** – complete revisions and ensure alignment with updated charters and policies. *Status: Will be finalized with formatting and routed for signature in May.*
2. **Advance Dispatch Improvement Efforts** – Make dispatch improvement a standing agenda item in zone reports and monthly meetings to track progress and implementation. *Status: has continually discussed current dispatch improvement taskings and continue to move effort forward.*
3. **Implement MAC Exercise and Plan** – Conduct a MAC exercise and finalize an updated plan to improve coordination and functionality. *Status: Completed MAC exercise in April, will be finalizing MAC plan updates by June 1.*
4. **Engage Agency Administrators (AAs)** – Facilitate a meaningful conversation with AAs to address current challenges, ensuring their involvement in finding solutions for IC recruitment and team succession planning. *Status: ACTION ITEM: NRCG will have further discussion on how many teams they would like to support – this includes succession planning and recruitment efforts. Would like to look at data including 10-year average of large fires and assignments within area. Would use information to tell NR's story.*

5. Zone and Committee Taskings – Develop specific taskings, including dispatch-related improvements (post-AA discussions) and a training needs analysis with clear deliverables, targeted for January 2025.

#### **Bin Items Discussions**

- **NRCG Tasking Process:** Karly presented a form 'NRCG Tasking Template' to help NRCG outline committee taskings to outline task, purpose, and end state. **DECISION:** All NRCG members agreed unanimously to adopt the template. It will be added to the NRCG Operating Guide. See **Attachment 3** for approved form.
- **Interactions with WFAA group:** **ACTION ITEM:** Each NRCG member will talk with their respective WFAA and report back on their intent/need to meet with NRCG.
- **Agency Delegation of Authority reminder:** Reminder to send current delegations to Facilitator to keep on file.
- **IC/IMT Recruitment Expectations for 2026:** NRCG will discuss prior to 2026 recruitment.
- **ACTION ITEM:** DNRC and IDL are working to identify a process and POCs for prioritizing EFF (MT) /Casual Hire (ID) hiring for federal employees changing employment status.
- **IMT Support / Operations / SOP (Beau Richardson):** NRCG will make a standing agenda item through the summer to check on IMT health and staffing.
- **Blanket aircraft agreement extensions:** NRCG will task this topic to the Dispatch Committee to develop guidance **(ACTION ITEM)**

**Adjournment** – Special thanks to DNRC and Fire Wardens for procuring the meeting facility.

#### **Attachments**

Attachment 1: Memo Review and Notes

Attachment 2: MT Cooperative Agreement Proposed Changes

Attachment 3: NRCG Tasking Template

## 2025 – NRCG Review of Memos and Website Guides (4/7/2025)

1	Memo / Guidance Title	Memo Link – NRCG Website	Memo Date / Number	Memo Intent	Follow-up / Action / Tasking
1	AIS Recommendations for Decontamination/Prevention	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/AIS-Recommendations-Signed.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/AIS-Recommendations-Signed.pdf</a>	06/23/2022 / 2022-006	Protocol for preventing the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) by wildland aviation & fire equipment	Recommend – PMS 444
2	AIS Species How To Guide	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/AIS-How-To-Guide-NRCG.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/AIS-How-To-Guide-NRCG.pdf</a>	June 2022	How to Guide	No longer in effect
3	ATV / UTV Guidance for Use on Fire in Northern Rockies	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/NR-ATV-UTV-Guidance-With-Forms.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/NR-ATV-UTV-Guidance-With-Forms.pdf</a>	8/8/2019 / 2019-013	ATV / UTV guidance	Tasking to Operations Committee and Incident Business Committee; recommend inclusion in business guide
4	CIMT Mobilization Guidance	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/2023-NRCG-CIMT-Mobilization-Guidance-Signed.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/2023-NRCG-CIMT-Mobilization-Guidance-Signed.pdf</a>	07/05/2023 / 2023-005	Mobilization Guidance	Rescind
5	Contractor Supervision	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/NRCG_Contractor_Supervision.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/NRCG_Contractor_Supervision.pdf</a>	10/20/2017 / no memo #	Use and Supervision of Privately Owned Equipment on Incidents	Send to Brian Webber Contracting Review;
6	Face Coverings Guidelines	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/NRCG-NR-Face-Coverings-Guidelines-Final.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/NRCG-NR-Face-Coverings-Guidelines-Final.pdf</a>	7/15/2020 / 2020-009	Face coverings related to COVID-19	Rescind
7	Fire Suppression Modules	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/NRCG-Fire-Suppression-Modules.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/NRCG-Fire-Suppression-Modules.pdf</a>	5/22/2019 / 2019-009	Standardization across NRGA	Rescind – follow national standard language; in NRC mob guide
8	Geographic Area Briefing	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/NR-Geographic-Area-Briefing-Final.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/NR-Geographic-Area-Briefing-Final.pdf</a>	6/29/2022 / 2022-004	Overview of NRGA	Task to Corey for updates; June 1 deadline
9	GISS Data Standards and Workflows for Wildland Fire	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/2018_NRCG_Data_Standards_Memo_MG.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/2018_NRCG_Data_Standards_Memo_MG.pdf</a>	7/19/2018 / no memo #	2018 GISS Data Standards	Rescind
10	GISS User Guide: Data Standards for Wildland Fire GIS	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/2018_NRCG_Data_Standards_Attch1_NR_GISS_UserGuide_20180607.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/2018_NRCG_Data_Standards_Attch1_NR_GISS_UserGuide_20180607.pdf</a>	2018 Fire Season	User Guide	Rescind
11	Hand Crews – Minimum staffing	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/2021-Hand-Crews-15-Person-Signed.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/2021-Hand-Crews-15-Person-Signed.pdf</a>	04/21/2021 / 2021-007	Minimum staffing for 20 person hand crews	Rescind
12	Incident Commander Path Process	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/2021-IC-Path-Process-Final-Signed.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/2021-IC-Path-Process-Final-Signed.pdf</a>	8/17/2021 / 2021-008	How to become a NR IC	Replace with selection criteria expectations; look to address in IMT SOP – how they apply and the selection criteria
13	IMT Closeout Form	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/NRCG-IMT-Closeout-Form.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/NRCG-IMT-Closeout-Form.pdf</a>	n/a	Closeout Briefing Template	Move to IMT SOP – build expectations to evaluate in GA and OGA NR IMT assignments
14	2023 IMT NRCG-WFAA Leaders Intent	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/NRCG-WFAA-Leaders-Intent-IMTs.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/NRCG-WFAA-Leaders-Intent-IMTs.pdf</a>	April 17, 2023 / 2023-001 (updated in 2024, not posted #2024-005)	IMT expectations	In progress
15	MAC Critical Mission Resource Group (Memo and Form)	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/NR-CMRG.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/NR-CMRG.pdf</a>	08/15/2019 / 2019-014	Northern Rockies MAC Critical Mission Resource Group (CMRG) and template	Task to Incident Business Committee for review and update; POC: Corey Buhl
16	Medical Resource Direction	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/2018_Medical_Resource_Direction_NRCG_with_Attachment_signed.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/2018_Medical_Resource_Direction_NRCG_with_Attachment_signed.pdf</a>	8/16/2018	MT, ID state medical direction and requirements	Rescind; NWCG Risk Management Committee
17	National Emergency Rental Vehicle (NERV) Agreement	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/NERV-Rental-Vehicles-SOP.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/NERV-Rental-Vehicles-SOP.pdf</a>	1/21/2020 / 2020-001	NRCG SOP for NERV Agreement	Rescind
18	NR IMT Organization	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/20220920-IMT-Organization-Joint-Signed-JH-PS.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/20220920-IMT-Organization-Joint-Signed-JH-PS.pdf</a>	9/20/2022 / #2022-009	Future of NR IMTs – supporting and rostering five IMTs	Rescind
19	NRCC Electronic Form Updates for Zone Reports	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/2024_009_MEMO_NRCC_Electronic_Form_Updates_for_Zone_Reports.pdf_signed.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/2024_009_MEMO_NRCC_Electronic_Form_Updates_for_Zone_Reports.pdf_signed.pdf</a>	1/1/2024 / #2024-009	Electronic Form Updates for Zone Reports	Rescind, move to NRCG operating guide; add to NR mob guide
20	NRCG Award Nomination	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/NRCG-Nomination-Template_Approved-508.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrc/nrcg/index/NRCG-Nomination-Template_Approved-508.pdf</a>	n/a	Form – includes <a href="mailto:mtnrc@firenet.gov">mtnrc@firenet.gov</a> and <a href="mailto:Kathy.pipkin@usda.gov">Kathy.pipkin@usda.gov</a> emails	Add form to NRCG SOP, link on webpage; one form with Beau; add deadline

21	NRCG Dispatch Improvements	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/index/2024_008_NRCG_Dispatch_Improvement.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/index/2024_008_NRCG_Dispatch_Improvement.pdf</a>	1/1/2024 / #2024-008	NR Dispatch Improvement and Implementation Effort; including action items	Rescind and reissue after review of accomplishments; POC: Craig Glazier (Add to Action Items)
22	NRCG Operating Guide	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/index/NRCG-Operating-Guide.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/index/NRCG-Operating-Guide.pdf</a>	Signed 5/8/2023		2025 version nearly done
23	PII Data Guidelines	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/index/PII%20Incident%20Security%20Guidelines%202016.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/index/PII%20Incident%20Security%20Guidelines%202016.pdf</a>	Updated 2016	Provides guidelines and expectations for collecting and securing PII data on incidents.	Rescind
24	Private Firefighting Resources – Guidelines	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/index/PrivateFirefightingResourcesGuidelines.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/index/PrivateFirefightingResourcesGuidelines.pdf</a>	6/27/2023 / #2023-004	The following approved guidelines serve as a tool for the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) or Incident Commander (IC) when private resources hired by property owners, insurance companies, or industry are present on a wildland fire incident.	Review and ensure is current; POC: Rich Cowger
25	Rapid Extraction Module Support	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/index/REMS-Guidance-Signed.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/index/REMS-Guidance-Signed.pdf</a>	6/29/2022 / #2022-003	Northern Rockies will move forward in the interim with REMS as a stand-alone extraction unit when required	Rescind, See PMS 552 – NWCG Standards for Rapid Extraction Module Support, <a href="https://www.nwcg.gov/announcement/publications/nwcg-standards-for-rapid-extraction-module-support-pms-552">https://www.nwcg.gov/announcement/publications/nwcg-standards-for-rapid-extraction-module-support-pms-552</a>
26	Rental Vehicles	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/index/NRCG-Rental-Vehicles.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/index/NRCG-Rental-Vehicles.pdf</a>	6/15/2021 / #2021-009	Lack of Rental vehicle availability	Rescind
27	Restrictions and Closures Information	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/restrictions_closures/restrictions_and_closures.htm">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/restrictions_closures/restrictions_and_closures.htm</a>	n/a	Link to NRCG Restrictions & Closures Toolbox	Recommend removing
28	Structure Protection Guidelines	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/index/Structure-Protection-Guidelines.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/index/Structure-Protection-Guidelines.pdf</a>	1/22/2021 / #2021-003	Community Protection guidelines supersede any prior community and structure fire protection guidelines developed by NRCG.	Review – POC: Rich
29	Transitioning IMT to CIMT	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/index/Transistion-IMTs-CIMTs-Signed.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/index/Transistion-IMTs-CIMTs-Signed.pdf</a>	7/22/2022 / #2022-007	Transition from Type 1 and 2 IMTs to CIMTs	Rescind
30	Heavy Equipment Taskforce Supervision	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/index/2024_006_NRCG_HETF%20Supervision.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/index/2024_006_NRCG_HETF%20Supervision.pdf</a>	6/14/2024 / #2024-006	Recission of NRCG Memo #2020-008	Valid
31	IC Committee Lead for S420, S520, M580 Selections	<a href="https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/index/2024_007_NRCG_IC%20Committee%20Lead%20for%20S420_S520_M580.pdf">https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/index/2024_007_NRCG_IC%20Committee%20Lead%20for%20S420_S520_M580.pdf</a>	6/14/2024 / #2024-007	Endorses the NRCG Operations and IC Committee recommendations that the IC Committee take the lead on making selections for S-420, S-520, and M-580	Valid; note when reviewed
	NRCG Communication Workflow		Feb. 2024		Resend this spring
	EMDZ Dispatch Improvement Tasking Confirmation		Informational – 11/22/2024		Not posted on website; no need to post.
	NRCG Supervisor Thank You		1/14/2025 / #2025-001		Post on website
	Support of Proposed Dispatch Organizational Charts		2/12/2025 / #2025-002		Post on website

**2025 Proposed Amendments to Montana Statewide Operating Plan**

(4/2/2025)

<b>Page #</b>	<b>Provision #</b>	<b>Previous Language</b>	<b>Proposed Amendment</b>
33	III. Interagency Cooperation, B. Interagency Resources, 3. Interstate Mobilization:	The Northwest Compact, available on DNRC Agreements, Plans, and Guides website, is an agreement between the U.S. and Canada and multiple states to govern mobilization in support of incident management.	Add a sentence: "NW Compact members can use the compact to exchange funds and resources."
50	2. State Billing by Incident	Paragraph 2, "The State of Montana..." references an agreement that has expired and will not be renewed.	If the update listed above for Interstate Mobilization is adopted, the second paragraph in 2. State Billing by Incident can be deleted, <b>or</b> modified to align with "The State of Montana is a member of the NW Compact. NW Compact member states can use the compact to exchange funds and resources."
38	E. Fire Prevention and Education	"The Agencies will share and jointly work together to deliver fire prevention and education programs. Activities may include joint press releases, Smokey Bear programs, campaigns such as One Less Spark, One Less Wildfire, and local education programs. The Agencies shall share the cost of prevention and education activities as agreed to in Sub-Geographic Area Operating Plans but may not seek reimbursement from the cooperating agency without an executed Supplemental Fire Project Agreement or other written document."	Add a sentence after "...local education programs"  "All parties to this agreement may assist the Protecting Agency responsible for wildland fire suppression to perform wildfire risk assessments on public or private lands."
45	F. Aviation Operations	"Montana state aircraft are not approved for use by federal agencies."	Amend the paragraph to read, " <b>Unless operating under a cooperator letter (as a federally approved aircraft)</b> , Montana state aircraft are not approved for use by federal agencies. Under emergency circumstances, where human life is immediately at risk by wildfire on federal lands under federal protection, a federal line officer can approve the use of non-federally approved aircraft to address the immediate threat. This exemption must only take place when sufficient firefighting aircraft are not readily available to meet the emergency need."
48	Appendix I	MT DNRC's Joanne Marceau has retired and was replaced by Lindsey Greene	Lindsey Greene 2705 Spurgin Road Missoula, MT 59804-3199 Phone: 406-542-4230 Fax: 406-542-4217 Email: <a href="mailto:lgreenie@mt.gov">lgreenie@mt.gov</a>

## Status of Zone Operating Plans - *Context will be shared during meeting*

Zone/Area	Reported Status 3/4	Notes	FS Notes
NW Montana Zone	In-progress. Sent to FS G&A 5/11/23. Zone Chair is lead	All of NW Zone, includes both KIC and KDC centers.  Stuck on Mutual Aid period language for LGFF? Probably needs to be rolled back to the zone for local review and resolution.	Per FS Program Manager, adjust contradictory mutual aid language to align with what is in the statewide. (3/17/25).  FS G&A will route back to local units for final review with most recent edits. Then should be ready for final signatures upon FS Regional Forester approval.
SW Montana Zone	In-progress. Under local review. Nik is lead.	Will include all of SW Zone (pulling in both BRC and MDC). Been a slow process with waiting to see if there would be adjustments to Master/Statewide OP.	FS G&A received most up to date draft (3/12/25). Will review and submit approval form to FS Regional Forester to route for signatures.
Central MT Zone	In-progress. Under local review	Currently working through agency updates. Will include the HDC and former GDC dispatch areas. CLO working to pull in Dillon Area sub-geo as they all operate under a single 3,4,5 DOA anyways. In-progress.	FS G&A waiting on final draft
Dillon Area	Draft complete spring of 24. On hold to combine with Central MT Zone	See above	See above
South Central MT Zone	In-final review process. Under local review. Culbreth is lead POC		FS G&A has provided final edits updates, out for local review  Will submit approval form to Regional Forester to proceed with signatures
Billings	In-progress, reported as 90-95% complete. Under local review		FS G&A – Have not seen a draft will reach out to Forest Unit to touch base.
Lewistown	Signed in 2024. 2025 update in-progress w/ change of GDC and adding RBA and FBA		FS G&A – Have not received a copy
Miles City	Signed in 2024. No changes for 2025	Not posted on NRCG website. Should work on getting that accomplished.	Fully signed and can provide a copy to DNRC if needed.



# Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

## NRCG Tasking Template

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### 1. Tasking Information

Task Title: [Insert Clear Title – e.g., “Fire Program Evaluation Consolidation Pilot”]

NRCG Tasking Number: [e.g., NRCG-2025-01]

Date Issued: [MM/DD/YYYY]

Strategic Alignment: [List strategic plan goals or NRCG priorities addressed]

Assigned To: [Names and/or Agencies]

NRCG Liaison: [Names/Positions of NRCG members sponsoring this task]

### 2. Background and Need

Summary of Current State: Brief description of the current process (e.g., multiple review formats, variable schedules, duplication of effort).

Problem Statement: Outline of issues prompting the need for a task (e.g., lack of standardization, inefficiency, unclear evaluation metrics).

Goal of Tasking: Clearly state the intended outcome of the tasking.

### 3. Scope of Work / Task Statement

- Identify specific program areas to be included.
- Clarify if this is a pilot or full implementation.
- Define the depth of the review (certification-level vs. check-box compliance).

### 4. Deliverables

### 5. Timeline

Start Date: [MM/DD/YYYY]

Key Milestones:

- Midpoint progress check
- Draft recommendations submitted
- Stakeholder feedback incorporated

Due Date for Final Product: [MM/DD/YYYY]

### 6. Approval

Approved by NRCG Chair: \_\_\_\_\_