



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Monthly Conference Call – Meeting Notes

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

Participants

Coordinating Group Members:

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

Deputies and Others: Adriane Beck (MT County Fire Wardens), Marty Adell (BLM Idaho), Kate Holsapple, Corey Buhl

Standing Reports

- **NWCG/NMAC Update** (Aitor Bidaburu) – Focus remains on supporting operations. NWCG will not meet this month; meetings resume in September. Ongoing work to restructure committees continues; listening sessions are completed, and direction now being developed.
 - **NMAC:** Meets daily M-F, ad hoc Sat/Sun. Currently at PL 4. Several GACCs are out of CIMTs: South Ops (prep in Salt Lake), NR, RM, SW, GB. Teams should start becoming available later this week. Good coordination—NR should adjust internal rotation. Strong emphasis on exercising all teams; nationally, all have had assignments. Back on national rotation; operations normal. Resource coordination is solid with good team availability, though crews remain tight (T1/T2IA). ~200 T2 crews are still available. State compacts have provided strong support, significantly increasing capacity.
- **CGAC Report Out** (Dennis Strange) – CGAC almost always after NMAC. Send out notes on August 31. Key discussions/issues:
 - MAFFS – consideration of turning them back.
 - Unplanned call the next day where NMAC decided to activate the NR team (no change in rotation); all teams have been out.
 - NMAC has not changed the rotation but continues to make case-by-case decisions.
- **NRCC Operations** (Corey Buhl) – Operations are going well with strong NMAC support and adequate resources. IC calls continue. IMTs are still settling in, with efforts to build capacity and support within the GACC. Working to establish a critical mission task group. Knowles will need a replacement team by Monday.
- **NRCC Update** (Kate Holsapple)
 - Activity: light to moderate IA, spiking on certain days when conditions align. Solid PL 3 with anticipated weather; recommend staying at PL 3.
 - Resources: receiving strong crew support.
 - Vacancies: Assistant Aircraft, Assistant Coordinator (DNRC), FWS Meteorologist.
 - Jay McAllister announced retirement; position will need to be filled.

- **NRCG Committee Updates:**
 - Dispatch Committee (Craig Glazier) – No report
 - Operations Committee (Tate Fischer) – No report, the current chair took another position.

Old Business

- **NRCG Communications Chat Update/Feedback** – Karly DeMars updated the group on limitations and issues of the communications chat. Overall, the process is working well, and the group is finding value in the increased communications.

New Business

- **REPORT OUT | Incident Close Outs**
 - Bear Creek Group – AK (NR Team 8) – Good reviews. Brad's team had a healthy roster.
 - Turner Gulch – CO (NR Team 2) – Tate – sat in on closeout. Seemed everything went well. Happy with CIMT/AA workings; agency admins highlighted that their concerns were taken seriously and dealt with in a swift manner including Uranium abandoned mine lands. CIMT worked with the federal wildland fire health and wellbeing group.
 - Lightning Creek – MT (NR Team 9) – no report/issues
 - Pomas – WA (NR Team 8) – no report/issues

Round Robin / Agency Updates

- Cory Calnan – MT DNRC – Matt Hall has returned to Montana and will resume representation to the group. Serving as GMAC rep this week, coordinating with Corey and Kate. Compact resources flexing: airtanker in region from AK through September, CWN airtanker from WA, and an AA platform in Ronan—all with cooperator letters and available for federal use. State of MT IAA aircraft are also available; agencies should reach out if needed. California and Nevada have been added to the NW Compact.
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/17/us/wildfire-firefighters-masks-smoke.html>

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 16, 2026