Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Monthly Conference Call – MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, June 16, 2026 – 10:00 AM MDT

Participants

Coordinating Group Members:

	U.S. Wildland Fire Service	~~Aaron Thompson~~		X	Montana County Fire Wardens	Adriane Beck
	USFS – Region 1	~~Craig Glazier~~		X	Montana DES	Brett Lloyd
	Idaho Department of Lands	~~Josh Harvey~~			Montana Sheriff's & Peace Officers	~~Steve Holton~~
	North Dakota Forest Service	~~Ryan Melin~~		X	Montana Fire Chiefs Association	Rich Cowger
X	Montana DNRC	Matt Hall		X	Facilitator	Karly DeMars

Other participants: Kate Holsapple (NRCC), Corey Buhl (NR Operations), Marty Mitzkus (USFS acting), Craig Howells (USWFS acting), Brian Nickolay (MT Fire Chiefs Association alternate)

Standing Reports

- **NWCG/NMAC Update** - Aitor Bidaburu provided a written update highlighting discussions on federal supplement position recommendations, IMT course steering committee efforts, National Weather Service reorganization, Red Flag Warning standards, and EMT reciprocity and medical transport legislation.

- **Associate NMAC Representation / NRCC Operations -** Corey Buhl reported minimal national activity and emphasized maintaining local initial attack capability while balancing resource export. Dave Williams has assumed the USFS Deputy Operations role and will provide additional capacity when Corey is in need during the 2026 season.
    - **ACTION ITEM:** Corey Buhl and Dave Williams will discuss future operational delegation and provide an update at the July NRCG Meeting.

- **NRCC Update** - Kate Holsapple reported staffing progress, including filling the Overhead and IMT Coordinator and Meteorologist positions, with start dates still pending.

- **Committee Reports**
    - Incident Business Committee (Aaron Thompson) – No report/update; committee charter was signed by NRCG chair and returned to the committee for posting.
    - Training Committee / NR Training - Marty Mitzkus reported ongoing coordination among agency training representatives to build training capacity and develop future pathways. The 2027 training schedule is expected by September 1.
        - **ACTION ITEM:** Identify an NRCG Training Committee liaison during the July NRCG Meeting.

Unfinished Business

- ***REPORT*** | Feedback/Response from NMAC Regarding Resource Rostering: NRCG discussed follow-up to previous correspondence. While no formal written response has been received from NMAC, NRCC has encouraged dispatch centers to continue reporting identified issues.
    - **ACTION ITEM:** Maintain as an active item until official NMAC response is received.

- ***APPROVAL*** | NR Incident Management Team Plan - NRCG approved the IMT Plan with updates to the NRCG Agency Liaisons to NR IMTs list on page 7 of the plan. Montana DES will serve as Team 9's liaison, DNRC will tentatively provide financial support for Team 9, and WFS will Liaison and financially sponsor Team 2.

- ***REPORT*** | Operations Committee Report Out – Craig Howells reported that recruitment for a Type 3 Incident Commander will begin shortly (next week). The IMT Capacity Survey received approximately 420 responses and will inform future recommendations regarding Type 3 IMT capacity.
    - **ACTION ITEM:** Request that Morganne Lehr provide a detailed IMT Capacity Survey report at the July meeting.

New Business

- **2026 Northern Rockies Interagency Standards for Resource Mobilization (NRISRM)** – Kate Holsapple presented updates to align the Northern Rockies Mobilization Guide with recent national guidance and terminology changes. Additional agency review was requested prior to final approval and will occur via email in the next few weeks.
    - ACTION ITEM: Kate will update NR plan to ensure alignment with the National Resource Mobilization Standards and will distribute proposed changes electronically for additional review before final email vote request.

- **NRCG GMAC Representation Calendar** – NRCG members signed up to serve as NRCG/GMAC Representatives to NRCC during periods of elevated preparedness, providing coordination and support prior to activation of a formal GMAC. Dates identified are below. A follow up email will be sent to NRCG members to fill in the remaining open spots. The NRCG/GMAC Representative calendar can be viewed here: https://teamup.com/ksbs51934ubjtx7ibk

    - June 21 – 27 – Adriane Beck / MT County Fire Wardens
    - June 28 – July 4 - Rich Cowger / MT Fire Chiefs Association
    - July 5 – July 11 – Aaron Thompson or Craig Howells / USWFS
    - July 12 – July 18 – Craig Glazier or Marty Mitzkus / USFS
    - July 19 – July 25
    - July 26 – August 1
    - August 2 – August 8 – Aaron Thompson or Craig Howells / USWFS
    - August 9 – August 15
    - August 16 – August 22
    - August 23 – August 29
    - August 30 – September 5
    - September 6 – September 12
    - September 13 – September 19
    - September 20 – September 26

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 – 1000 hours MDT