Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Monthly Conference Call – Meeting NOTES

Tuesday, August 18, 2026 – 10:00 AM MDT

Participants

Coordinating Group Members:

X	DOI – 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
X	North Dakota Forest Service	Ryan Melin	X	Montana Fire Chiefs Association	Rich Cowger
X	Montana DNRC	Matt Hall	x	Facilitator	Karly DeMars

Other participants: Corey Buhl, Kate Holsapple, Craig Howells, Beau Richardson, Dave Williams, Cory Calnan, Brian Nickolay

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Welcome / Opening Remarks | Ryan Melin, Chair

Standing Reports

- **NWCG/NMAC Update (Aitor Bidaburu) -** No report.
- **NR Operations / Associate NMAC Representation (Corey Buhl) -** Conditions have moderated considerably from the previous week, with reduced fire activity despite temperatures forecast near 90 degrees. Current incident activities include the Bobcat Lakes, Moose, and Skillet incidents. NMAC discussions were focused on the national CIMT rotation and efforts to bring the rotation back into alignment.
- **NRCC Update (Kate Holsapple) -** The Northern Rockies will drop in preparedness level, and NRCC was returning to a weekly operational cadence.
- **NRCG Committee Updates -** Looking ahead to fall, NRCG members discussed the need for intentional committee work to review membership, charters, workload, and expectations. Clear leader's intent and consistent information sharing will be important as committees update their work and structure.
    - ACTION ITEM: Add NRCG committee review and expectations to the September agenda.

Unfinished Business

- **NRCG BUSINESS | NRCG/GMAC Representative Schedule**
    - August 16–22 – Craig Glazier, USFS
    - August 23–29 – Ryan Melin, NDFS
    - August 30–September 5 – Brett Lloyd, MT DES
    - September 6–12 – Aaron Thompson or Craig Howells, USWFS
    - September 13–19 – Matt Hall, MT DNRC
    - September 20–26 – Ryan Melin, NDFS

New Business

DECISION | PL 4/5 Entrance and Exit Process/GMAC Plan Update (Craig Glazier, Kate Holsapple) The group reviewed the process used to communicate entry into PL 4 and discussed whether additional steps are needed in the GMAC Plan. Current practice includes an activation letter/memo and a rescinding communication when conditions no longer warrant activation. Members favored keeping the process simple while ensuring Geographic Area partners and zones understand when GMAC coordination is activated or deactivated. The group also noted the importance of the NR Operations/NRCC role at PL 4 and 5 for resource allocation and the value of timely communication with zones.

- ACTION ITEM: Develop standardized activation and deactivation letters that are not tied to a specific Preparedness Level.

- **DISCUSSION | CIMT Rotation (Corey Buhl, Beau Richardson)** CIMT availability was trending upward, and NMAC was seeking Geographic Area support to bring the national rotation back on track. Northern Rockies Team 2 was the only NR team that had not received a second assignment. The group reviewed current national requests, NMAC rotation considerations, and Team 2's willingness and availability to remain at the top of the Northern Rockies rotation.
  - DECISION: Keep Northern Rockies Team 2 at #1 in the NR rotation beyond August 20 until a second assignment is received. Following that assignment, Team 2 will return to the normal Northern Rockies rotation. Support was recorded from USWFS, MT DNRC, NDFS, USFS, MT DES, Montana Fire Chiefs Association, and Montana County Fire Wardens.

- DISCUSSION | IMT Evaluation Review / Discussion *(pre-reading - Evaluations)*
  - NR 1 – Upper Smith, Elder 1
  - NR 2 – Kaiser Canyon
  - NR 3 – Modrite
  - NR 6 – Aspen Acres
  - NR 8 – Ant Park
  - NR 9 – Moose, Upper Smith
  - ACTION ITEM: Continue to send evaluations in – if anyone wants to take a look on the NRCG Firenet Site – IMT Evaluations

- **iCAP Process** – The group discussed next steps for the new iCAP application process for IMT recruitment and selection. The application is similar to the form the Northern Rockies has been using successfully. The new process appears to allow continuous open recruitment, which will require Northern Rockies sideboards for how applications are received and considered throughout the year.
  - ACTION ITEM: Consolidate Northern Rockies feedback on the iCAP process by August 27.
  - ACTION ITEM: Develop sideboards for managing continuous/open IMT recruitment under iCAP.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 15, 2026