

Conference Line: 1-888-844-9904 Access Code: 3599209# Host Code: 5649345#

Tuesday, May 8 – MAC Exercise, RMAT & Reports

This is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

MAC Exercise – Craig Goodell

(See Handouts – three total)

First Bullet

- First bullet is the root cause of all the other bullets. **(Mike DeGrosky)** Common vision and understanding is foundational. **(Craig Goodell)** Lack of an understanding of the constituents on what the role of the MAC truly is. **(Mike Granger)** Revised MAC plan addresses some of the issues that lead to this bullet. There is a need to follow this revised plan. **(Mike DeGrosky)** Revised plan incorporates new language that includes clear definitions and definitive marks on timelines. **(Mike Granger)**
- Group discussion on the role of the MAC. **(Craig Goodell)** Always acknowledge that the MAC is a function of the NRCG. Second, role of the MAC is to operate at a strategic level. **(Mike DeGrosky)** Role of NRCG is viewed as an administrative one and the MAC moves into an operational mode of making decisions at a strategic level. NRCG and the MAC are one in the same. **(Mike Granger)** NRCG functions year round as the business model of the whole; when it goes to MAC we operate as function of the Agency Administrators to operate at a strategic, decision making level. **(Greg Morris)** Another responsibility of the MAC is during these decision making times is to go back to our Agency Administrators and communicate those issues. Also, relational issues at all levels are a component of this function. Need of the NRCG/MAC to define and communicate to all what standing up is and entails. **(Ralph Rau)** Lesson Learned: When MAC is activated – it will be defined and communicated this year. **(Mike Granger)** Operating at a strategic level was discussed; believe the role would include in brief and close out. **(Mike DeGrosky)** Saw last year where, in the field, lines were blurred on who makes the decisions and when. **(Rob Miramontez)** Would like to see Board / Zone Representatives discuss the convening of the MAC and how it relates to each of those zones. Timing component should also be a topic of this discussion and communications effort. **(Mike Granger)** When the zone MACs are operating effectively, there is often less need to for area MAC. **(Craig Goodell)** Are there ways we can facilitate having area command work effectively with zone MAC. **(Mike Granger)** Group discussion on use of area command during 2017 season. There is not agreement that functioning MACs eliminate the need for area command. **(Mike DeGrosky)** There is certainly a place for area command; however, often if the zone MAC is functioning fluidly; as much of a gap is not seen. **(Craig Goodell)** Group discussion on traditional ordering and usage of area command. Zone MAC allocates resources within the zone; Area Command consolidates command functions across the area – two separate responsibilities. **(Mike DeGrosky)** Lesson Learned: Need for MAC to assert role of addressing agencies needs as a whole, instead of addressing individual parts or desires of a particular agency or unit. **(Mike Granger)** Individual teams performing at different levels during 2017 season discussed as a component of 2017 season. **(Greg Morris)** Agency Administrators seem revitalized and serious, a positive aspect. Need to remember there is a responsibility to advise Agency Administrators if a need is observed by the MAC, but not recognized by a zone, and report that information back to the Agency Administrators. **(Mike DeGrosky)**

Second Bullet

- Revised MAC plan provides new clarification on this topic. **(Craig Goodell)** Lesson Learned: Revised MAC plan definition of convening will assist with movement between preparedness

levels. (Mike Granger) One item to discuss - MAC representative need no longer exists once MAC is seated. Definition of a MAC chair, at that point, would eliminate this duplication. Discussion on if the Chair goes with the agency. (Mike DeGrosky) New timeline in revised plan discussed. If a position in the NRCG is not available to perform in the MAC – does it go to the vice or does it go to the alternate for that agency? Discussion on if a separate chair of the MAC (a seated member, preferably) would be an option? (Mike DeGrosky) If an individual on the Board is not available to perform on the MAC, then the alternate will be able to represent the agency but not represent that position on the board. (Mike Granger) Unless they are delegated in that capacity. (Ralph Rau) And confirmed by the board. (Mike DeGrosky)

- Any time a Type 1 or Type 2 team is activated in the Northern Rockies, the IC call will be activated. The NRCG members will call in and be provided with good Situational Awareness. (Craig Goodell) Group discussion on this topic and who all should be on the call given experiences from 2017 season. There is a need for MAC to remember what their role is – to listen. (Mike DeGrosky) Would discourage MAC from asking questions; view this as Operations Position responsibility to brief the MAC. (Bruce Suenram) If kept to a listing role, supportive of this. (Ralph Rau)
- Continued discussion on revised MAC timeline. New timeline provides MAC members ability to concentrate on agency duties during the bulk of the day. (Craig Goodell) Need to recognize that there is no “one size fits all” expectation for MAC members due to differences in agency duties. (Mike DeGrosky) Emphasis needs to be placed on representation for all agencies and continuity of work. (Greg Morris) Group discussion on need for thorough briefing for any alternates that may participate. Group agreement that briefing should include both MAC and agency specific issues. If this timeline is incorporated into the MAC plan, it should provide that clarification. (Bruce Suenram) Difficulties and challenges of the logistics, particularly the conference phone, of participating remotely discussed. (JT Wensman) MAC Representative verses MAC Coordinator discussed. If MAC Representative seated, no need for MAC Coordinator. (Kathy Pipkin) MAC Coordinator is a qualification, MAC Representative is not. (Greg Morris) If MAC is truly not seated, then a MAC Representative is what is needed. (Kathy Pipkin) With new timeline, there is improved opportunity for MAC participation. Is there still a need for a MAC Representative? (Mike Granger) Yes, to incorporate the daily events – especially during preparedness level four situations. (Kathy Pipkin) Lesson Learned: Standing up both decision support and MAC Representative proactively and in a timely manner. (Group agreement) If decision support is stood up initially by an individual agency and then transitioned to provide interagency support, needs of the individual agency still need to be met. (Ralph Rau) Also, needs to be a clean transition at that time. (Kathy Pipkin) Will depend upon Kathy Pipkin and Craig Goodell to keep the NRCG advised proactively if there is a need for a MAC Representative. When the MAC is seated, there will no longer be a need for the MAC Representative. MAC Representative and MAC Coordinator will not be the same individual; two separate roles. (Mike Granger)

Final Bullet

- 2017 Season experiences discussed, in particular use of National Guard. Group consensus that this topic went fairly well. However, was identified as an item in feedback responses from the field. (Craig Goodell) Might have been some confusion, particularly around compact or agency specific policies. This may have led to perception of resistance to some events. (John Monzie) Time also needed to ensure decisions are in line with agency policy. (Ralph Rau)

Team Building Exercise – Matt Gibson

(See Handouts – two total)

Ladder of Inference – 70 year old organizational science. Discussed perceptions and relations. Discussed importance of outside perspectives.

Exercise – Move, Follow, Oppose, By stand: using common terminology to remove personal attachment during group decision making; and utilizing all four action behaviors to facilitate group effort and efficiency.

Award Presented to Melissa Wegner from NRCG

Certificate of Appreciation for Priority Trainee Program during the 2017 season.

Incident Prioritization Exercise and Review – Kathy Pipkin and Julie Polutnik

(See Handouts & PowerPoints from Kathy)

Weather Briefing – Mike Richmond

Intelligence Briefing – Julie Polutnik

Question: Is there a Fire Behavior briefing provided? **(Dan Warthin)** Answer: Will be part of Decision Support and one will be brought in. **(Kathy Pipkin)**

Prioritization – Criterion DecisionPlus; group discussion on individual factors and values assigned

- Discussed need for agency leaders to emphasis clarification on terminology on 209s
 - All levels of leadership are looking at these – important to accurately define and describe our situation in the Northern Rockies during national competition for resources **(Julie Polutnik)**
- Discussed need for Critical Resources listed on 209 to align with what is on order and to align with what is discussed on the IC call.
- Discussed the need to also list on the 209 both critical resource needs and short statement of how utilization of those resources goes towards potential accomplishment results; thus representing the Northern Rockies picture in greater detail at a National Level during national competition for resources.
 - **This expectation from the coordinating group will be put forth to the ICs. (Dan Warthin, Craig Goodell)**
- **MAC will depend upon our Decision support group to provide the prioritization; resources that need to be allocated will be done by Operations position (Craig Goodell) upon approval of prioritization. (Mike Granger) Would like for the MAC to be involved in the prioritizations periodically. (Mike DeGrosky) If MAC is seated, this will certainly occur. (Kathy Pipkin)**

Risk Advisory Group Briefing (RMAT) – Becki Heath / Dave Calkin

(See PowerPoint)

Q: Some of the products shown look like they require a lot of data. Where does the data come from? **(Mike DeGrosky)**

A: All 209 data. Reality of accuracy discussed. Drop recording requires manual data mining from contractor provided information. **(Becki Heath)** Do have some more research that is more complex that looks across the landscape, bringing in a historical analysis component. Full cycle of learning - before incident, during incident and after incident. **(Dave Calkin)**

Q: This is a Forest Service process that is striving to engage cooperators. How successful have you been? **(Mike Granger)**

A: Yes, it is provided for Forest Service decision makers; however, those decisions are not made in isolation. Issues from last season are being addressed and actions will be derived. **(Becki Heath)** Temporal risk, in addition to other risk transference, are being looked at to reduce those factors. **(Dave Calkin)** Developing tools that help overcome differing agency missions would be useful to the interagency community. **(Mike DeGrosky)**

Q: With these Risk Assistance opportunities for the line officers, they are merging from being strategic to tactical – what qualifications, as far as tactical, does that line officer have to dictate to that Incident

Management Team that specializes in tactics? Have been hearing this from some of our Incident Commanders. Concern is that this has become the new normal and when did this occur? **(Mike Granger)**

A: There is no intent to influence Line Officers; role is to assist them with decision making assessment.

Want those agency administrators to engage in strategies, not tactics. Being clear about roles continues to be important. **(Becki Heath)** It is a concern and a real issue; was expressed multiple times at the Incident Management Team meetings.

(Mike Granger) There is variability amongst teams, this component can be measured and tracked over time. Agency has a responsibility for oversight and educating the Agency Administrators. **(Dave Calkin)** One improvement was Incident Commander and operational individuals were added to the team core. Also, improved preseason communications. **(Becki Heath)** Recognition given that there is a need to be more engaged with the Incident Management Teams. **(Dave Calkin)**

Q: When discuss firefighter safety, how is that being quantified? **(JT Wensman)**

A: All relative at this point; comparison analysis and statistical components. **(Dave Calkin)**

Zone Reports

North Idaho – Mike Behrens

(Information from Mike Behrens presented by JT Wensman)

- No major personnel changes except Bob Lippencot retiring in September
- CDC will be fully staffed. GVC had difficulty hiring dispatcher positions but I understand they received permission to hire outside of Firehire
- NIZ is planning on a MAC exercise in June
- Standing up a 3rd type 3 team which looks like it will predominately be staffed out of GVC zone. This year using a team application process for the Type 3 teams.

Northwest Montana – Mike DeGrosky

- Tim Flint acting Spotted bear FMO June 4th
- Plains DNRC FMO retired
- Flathead will be staffed; with a few GS-5 filled with seasonals
- NW Zone meeting earlier this spring
- Flathead IHC on May 19th
- DNRC dispatch shifting to Kalispell Dispatch center; continuing well
- Some zone members at “Hands Across the Border” in Canada
- Agency Administrator workshop at the end of the month

Southwest Montana – Mark Wilson / Kate Holsapple

Personnel changes:

- Lolo:
 - Detailed Forest Supervisor: Sarah Mayben
 - New Fire Staff: Chris James
 - Detailed Forest AFMO: Matt Young
 - New FAO: Ward Hiesterman
 - Detailed Engine Captain at Seeley Lake
- DNRC - Southwestern Land Office:
 - New AFMO/Missoula Unit: Beau Maciag
 - New IADP/Missoula Dispatch: Trina Wade

- New ACM/Missoula Dispatch: interviews scheduled for tomorrow
- Bitterroot:
 - Acting FMO @ Stevensville: Isaac Karuzas
 - New Center Manager: Kelly McKee (offered and accepted 5/7/18)

Vacancies:

- Lolo:
 - Some seasonal fire fighters positions
 - 1 vacant GS-5 PSE (Missoula Dispatch) UTF Fire Hire

Issues/Concerns:

- Zone Wide
 - Looking forward to the updated GMAC Plan so the zone can work to communicate better with them.

Significant Events:

- Missoula Dispatch Zone
 - Some changes coming in the dispatch structure as we look to consolidate a couple of 4th tier centers.
 - In 2019, Plains/Thompson Falls and Superior Ranger Districts of the Lolo and the Clearwater Unit of the SWLO will be dispatched out of Missoula Dispatch. Plains Unit of the NWLO will be dispatched out of Kalispell.
 - Helena will be dispatching the Lincoln Field Office of the Clearwater Unit beginning this year.
- Zone Wide:
 - Developed a draft template Delegation of Authority for Area Command after Lessons Learned from last season
 - All agencies with in the zone have been burning this spring (no current updates on acres).
 - Lolo IHC Available National 5/12/18 0600.
 - Spring Meeting Scheduled for Thursday that will include an exercise on communication expectations during cross boundary fires with FMO's and Line Officers

Central Montana – Greg Archie

- Marty Mitzkus – Detailed District Ranger for Helena/Townsend zone
- Annual operating plans being worked on; combining some
- Dispatch Centers – Lincoln DNRC will be dispatched out of Helena. Last year's moves worked out well.
- Staffing looking good across agencies.
- Working on meetings with agency administrators and FMOs

South Central Montana – Craig Campbell

Not on call

Eastern Montana – Rob Miramontez

- Training has switched to Andy Shell, new training rep
- Lewistown Aviation dispatcher – hoping to fill soon; challenging to fill (housing an issue for seasonals)
- AFMO position – few detailers;
- FWS – engine captain flown;

- MCC – seasonal hiring; hoping to get the numbers back up to historical seasonal numbers
- Billings BIA – got approval from WO to fill regional position
- East Zone MAC – still deciding on several components

North Dakota – Ryan Melin

- Annual Operating Plan review; some verbiage was changed
- Some interagency trainings have now been accomplished
- Fire Danger Map – last year was not aligning due to drought; review was conducted
- Adding a RAWS station – possibility there will be private land involved
- FWS has extended an invitation for a long fire scenario; upcoming
- Ray Hart is the new Chair for the North Dakota Fire Council

Review NRCG Board Contact for each Zone

Conducted and Confirmed (**Mike Granger**)

- Native American Crew – Chair – change to Rob Miramontez; (change made and posted.)

Team Close Outs – Ralph Rau

Rangers requested NRCG to look at workload associated with Team Close Outs. Possible governance item; desire is to look at expedited approach to close out. There has been a trend towards large numbers of individuals attending close outs and detailed, high end formatted summary reports. Perhaps an Executive Summary type format? (**Ralph Rau**) Good item to go to IC Committee. **Tasking to the IC Committee for streamlining close out procedures and expectations. Will draft a tasking and send out.** (**Mike Granger**)

Would like to discuss this issue also during an agency administrator in person meeting; will compose a Doodle Poll to establish an availability timeline for an in person meeting with the agency administrators meeting. (**Mike Granger**)

Committee Reports

Prevention and Education – Christopher Barth

Tasked with looking at fire restrictions; three questions:

- Task Group developed survey; over 200 respondents across GACC
- Survey questions addressed the three tasked questions
- Results were distributed; can share with the BOD

Highpoints

- Apparent from this study, there is a need to look at the prescription areas and see how it matches up with expectations that are out there.
- Providing the results information to the specific restriction areas was the goal; with a larger push in 2019.
- North Dakota had the most discrepancy; will need to look at narrative data results to assess the root reasons.
- Ryan Melin discussed the varying perceptions of burn bans and historical tracking and implementation. North Dakota was not the only area with varying degrees of discrepancy.
- Provides reflection for conversation going forward.
- **Will share the results of the survey with the Board.** (**Christopher Barth**)

Business – Tracey Nimlos

- NR Supplements to the NWCG Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management posted April 1, 2018
- Courses completed over the winter and spring include Advanced Cost, INBA, Finance Unit Leader, Finance Section Chief and e-Isuite; as well as an intensive review day at the finance breakout of the IMT meetings
- Incident Business Workshop completed last week; over 125 attendees, 13 instructors, and breakout sessions for Personnel Time, Contract Administration, Buying Team, Procurement, Basic Cost and Comp/Claims. Very well received by attendees with overall extremely positive evaluations.
- Planning for a webinar for new to fire micropurchasers later this month or early June.
- Current Task Groups:
 - Working on an NRCG Land Use Guide for logistics and procurement officials. Challenges with state trust lands, tribal trust and allotted land.
 - Task group formed to draft NRCG Donation Guidelines.
 - Rental cars: continue to deal with known issues and educate about when to use GARS vs. NR completed agreement.
 - Task group formed to look at portable toilets going to a commercial item instead of a solicitation.
- Updated charter to add language regarding the expectations of zone representatives and agency leads.
- Major update to NRCG Business Committee webpage. All Business Committee tools were reviewed and updated as necessary.
- Northern Rockies Cost Share – pre-season are done. During season, notify Business Representatives.

Dispatch Steering – Kathy Pipkin

- This year integrated the Dispatch Workshop with the IMT meeting. Feedback was positive from the dispatch community; ADs felt it was a bit more of a challenge.
- Training continues; majority of courses will occur in June primarily to accommodate those who come on later.
- New aviation manuals are being proposed for policy that will affect the dispatch community; therefore, adding more aircraft training sessions since training calendar was established. This increases the logistical workload.
- Conducting ROSS practice sessions on Wednesdays through May and a portion of June.
- Webpage Update – current server has security issues. Drupal platform ready to go; however, so far, agencies not are supporting going live at this time. CIO involvement and coordination continues.
- Will postpone Dispatch Team formation until a later time.

Equipment / Logistics – Warren Appelhans

- Equipment Inspector workshops are currently being conducted.
- Task of combining charter with logistics – tabled due to proximity of fire season.
- Did get a good mix of new member participation.
- Request from Mitch Dana to host medical information on NRCG web page; follow up will occur.
- Members have been working on aquatic invasive communications with the agencies.

- ATV / UTV Update – still waiting on recommendations; will follow up with Cory and finalize on the next conference call. (Mike Granger)

Fuels – Ryan Melin

- Discussed sharing of resources for multi-unit support.
- Discussed budgeting aspect of prescribed fire and cost agreement options.
- Looking at tasking's from the Board
 - Facilitate agreements across the agencies – any leeway made with that? (Mike Granger)
 - Discussed that agreement; did not have a representative from DNRC available at that time. Was new to the group – will distribute template that may be an option to the Board.
 - Question will need to be answered on what direction to take any future agreements towards.
 - Small dollar agreements work great; however, when get to the larger state level more aspects of the agreements need to be assessed.
 - Also, a name will be provided to follow up on as being DNRC representative for this topic. (Mike DeGrosky)

Incident Commander – Dan Warthin

NRICC meeting timeline:

2/20/18

1315 – Judy reports on incident medical specialist, medical moved under safety in R1

1320 – IMT spring meetings update

1415 – Committee business

*Rick Connell elected vice chair of committee.

*Review action items from summit – IMT SOPs document

1430 – IC trainee discussion

*see below

1500 – Finance discussion

1515 – Aviation/Risk transfer discussion

1530 – ATV/UTV proposal from Ops committee discussion

1540 – NR OPS discussion with Craig Goodell

*all agree to move IC call to 0800

*Connell suggests having EGP updated for IC call

2/21/18

0800 – IMT rotation discussion

*teams will keep numbers established on NRCG IC approval letter

* T1 & T2 rotation is straight-up, no 2 hour. WFMT is 2 weeks on 2 off

0815 – Roster analysis

0900 – National IC meeting update – Turman

0930 – Open topic discussion

1300 – Join NRCG board meeting

Current Organization:

Chair – Joe Sampson

Vice Chair – Rick Connell

Members – Mike Goicoechea, Greg Poncin, Doug Turman, Mike Almas, Bob Habeck, Bob Fry, Jay Winfield, Rick Connell, Brian Jenkins, John Thompson, Mike Gagen, Diane Hutton, Ken Parks, Dave Hamilton, Rod Weeks

Zone Reps:

NW - Connell
 SW - Goicoechea
 SC - Fry

N. Idaho - Almas
 Central – Thompson
 Eastern – Shuster

Committee Reps:

Operations – Thompson
 Training – Goicoechea
 Aviation – Almas

Business - Turman
 Equip/Logs - Winfield
 Dispatch - Gagen

Issues to report to NRCG:

AAs

- Clearly defined structure protection protocols
- Prioritize values @ risk
- Risk aversion, strategic vs tactical
- Revolving door of AAs last season

Succession

- 3-4 current ICs gone within 3 years, currently 1 within GACC trainee identified
- Unclear if NRCG approved “other” IC trainees. Need clearly defined application and selection process going forward that is agreed upon by NRICC and NRCG, with predefined implementation date.

Aviation & Differed Risk

- NRICC does not agree with R6 paper, using aircraft appropriately does not automatically transfer risk. R1 statement or response, if warranted, needs to come through aviation committee.

Medical

- NRICC does not agree with direction to move medical under logistics.
- Issue is inordinate number of medical staff being ordered for what-if scenario.
- NRICC believes in prompt extrication to definitive care, not bringing definitive care to fire line. Many crews are highly staffed with EMTs and these resources are not being utilized.

Northern Rockies Incident Commander Trainees

Jay Winfield (Fry) – OGA
 Scott Shuster (Turman)
 Mike Davin (Sampson) – OGA
 Brian Jenkins (Connell) – OGA
 Troy Phelps – in ICAP, status unknown

Potential Incident Commander Trainees (1-3 years out)

Brent Olsen (Goicoechea)
 Reggie Day (Almas)
 Andy James (Goicoechea) – OGA
 Rich Cowger (Fry)
 Corey Buhl (Sampson)
 Andy Huntsberger (Goicoechea)

Native American Crew – Rob Miramontez

- Updating NAC Plan verbiage to match the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations.
- Working on establishing a full-fledged committee; limited members at this point.
 - Working on making contacts to this effort currently.

Aviation – Bob Flesch

- Changes and additions for resources
 - DOI & DNRC agencies will have the same resources

- USFS will have an extra Sherpa this year
- Trying to do a modified CWN contract for an additional two platforms
- SEATs Update given
- FWS no longer has a pilot in the Northern Rockies. (**Mike Granger**)
- Idaho helicopters – hover-step information; can do on DOI but not USFS land (**JT Wensman**)

Training – Jesse Best

(Not on call)

Team Liaison Report Outs

- Ralph Rau – Goicoechea – Team 1 – in good verbal communications; Team recently set up half day scenario for Forest Service Regional Leadership Team meeting; was well received and heard positive feedback. Also, was invited to the IC IMT breakout
- Mike DeGrosky – Fry – Team 6 – attended IMT meeting; already worked through an internal issue.
- Mike Granger – Doug Turman – Team 2 – good interaction and communications; especially related to succession. Recommendations regarding Task, Purpose and End State are being reviewed and focused on to ensure national suggestions are being incorporated. Opportunity for the Board to work with team vacancies.

Exercise Follow Up – Craig Goodell

In the Southwest, exercise combined with M-581. May be a potential for the future? Discussed if space would be an issue. May also be an opportunity to include the Agency Administrators; would provide inclusions and ensure engagement in the interagency environment.

Spring Meeting Discussion

Spring Meeting broken into two meetings this year – worth continuing for the future? Is there a better way to do business? (**Mike Granger**)

Wednesday, May 9

Award presented to Anthony Krause – Certificate of Appreciation in support of Northern Rockies 2017 Fire Season

Governor's Briefing – Mike DeGrosky

Scheduled this year for June 14th in Helena 1500 - 1700 hours; meteorologist from predictive services invited. Typically offer one or two seats per agency. Uniforms are traditionally worn. An official invitation will soon be distributed.

Aquatic Invasive Species Document – Kate Wilson

Would like to finalize the “How To” document. Working on some training slides as well that go hand in hand with the “How To” guide. Training video will be ready for next season. Have had a couple of vendors that have been more aggressive in their approach on procedures. Vendor putting forth criticism on 444 guide; team has been taking a discerning look at the specific criticism. Hoping to have letter turned back by next week to NRCG for review and approval. Consolidate response approach verses independent agency responses is preferable. Would like to see it come from the Agency Administrators; however, if it needs to come from the Board that will suffice. Want to emphasis best available science basis and would like to be proactive. **(Mike DeGrosky)** NRCG has authority to determine what is used in the Northern Rockies; it is appropriate that it come from NRCG. **Kate will submit to Mike Granger and will have signed by next Friday.** Need to ensure the agency administrators are fully advised and aware of this particular issue. **(Ralph Rau)** Procedure stickers have been developed at Yellowstone National Park; perhaps could expound upon this idea at a later time. **(Dan Warthin)**

List of PIOs to Reach Out to During Fire Season NRCC/NRCG – Christopher Barth

Emphasis that this will not be Chris or Chrystal; they are working on a list. Will order in PIOs; this will be done when possible. There is a need to be flexible about who the PIO for the NRCG will be. **(Mike DeGrosky)** The MAC plan is not reflective of what is currently being discussed. **(Ralph Rau)** Appreciate that being day lighted. Adamant that public affairs is not a MAC function. **(Mike DeGrosky)** Group discussion on communications section of MAC plan. Thought the agency administrators had resolved that public affairs was an NRCG and / or NRCC function. **(Mike DeGrosky)** There is a need for a public information role at the Geographic Area level. **(Christopher Barth)** Concern over attracting media attention to the MAC. **(Mike DeGrosky)** Want to ensure that if PIO is moved out of the MAC plan and moved under NRCG, that it will be supported by all agencies. **(Greg Morris)** Either way, leader’s intent is needed for this issue. **(Mike Granger)** **Have asked Christopher and Crystal to develop that leader’s intent.** **(Mike DeGrosky)** **This issue will be pulled out of the MAC plan and put under the NRCG/NRCC plan and when these resources are brought in, they will be working for the NRCG/NRCC and not working for the MAC group.** **Christopher Barth and Kathy Pipkin will take the lead on this issue.** **(Mike Granger)** Agencies will check resources to see if they have individuals they could contribute to this effort. **(Mike Granger)**

Sage Grouse – Sarah Lee

No changes to the best practices; still a high national resource priority. BLM will continue to justify use of Large Air tankers by way of sage grouse habitat.

Formalization of a Helitack Subcommittee Aviation Group – Bob Flesch

Was approached by the interagency helitack community on this item. Other geographic areas have similar structure in place; charter mirrors those others. Subcommittee would report to the Aviation Group. **Approval to stand up the subcommittee granted.** **(Mike Granger)**

UTV Guidance – Mike Granger

Suggested originally from the Business committee; more about the approval and oversight of the IMT. Significant amount of damage on these have been reported; this follows Great Basin in accountability procedure issues. (Sarah Lee) Can only be more restrictive than individual agencies policy. (Greg Morris) ATV / UTV Update – still waiting on recommendations; will follow up with Cory and finalize on the next conference call. (Mike Granger)

Action Item Review

(See Updated List)

Wildland Fire Agency Administrators Tasking – Larry Kotcham

Wanted to share some information on behalf of the Agency Administrators; two documents were distributed for review earlier.

Task Assignment Memo

Primary reason reached out with this memo was the result of previously conference calls and meetings. Discussed strategies for strengthening Northern Rockies in a variety of areas; including unified messaging. Want to identify timeframes for a potential face-to-face meeting with Agency Administrators.

Conversation on Strategies for Increasing Team Support

Emphasis on the team succession planning and modernization – addressing both equity needs and including a feedback loop. Memo lays out some modernization techniques. Tasking for drafting some modernization questions. Wish to ensure integrity of the system while improving efficiency. Reviewed taskings within the memo. Identification of positions within the GACCs seems to already be done through Melissa. (Mike DeGrosky) This information needs to be shared with the agency administrators and be incorporated into a written incident management team succession plan. Also would like to know more from Board about how agency administrators can engage more with this process. (Larry Kotcham) In the succession plan itself, there is a role for both the incident commanders and the Board members as well. Individual teams shortage and succession needs analysis needs to be conducted; incident commanders can help with the development of this. (Mike Granger) Also looking for feedback on the task assignments. Also, it is realized that the dates listed are subject to adjustment. (Larry Kotcham)

With this fire season approaching, most likely can work on these taskings prior to the Fall NRCG meeting. (Mike Granger) Emphasized importance of the agency administrators to be involved with the incident commander selection process. (Ralph Rau) Group discussion on agency specific incident commander qualifying, mentoring and ultimately being supported to lead a team in the Northern Rockies; and the various interaction between both the Boards roles and the agency administrators roles. Group discussion on agency administrator's support of out of area incident commanders. Currently three individuals that are IC trainees from outside the geographic area that are being mentored on Northern Rockies teams. Those names would still need to be brought to the board for recommendation at a later time. (Mike Granger) Move that we accept these three and recommend them to the agency administrators. (Mike DeGrosky) Application will be put with a letter from NRCG and put forth to Agency Administrators later today. (Mike Granger)

Speed to Competency Memo

Reviewed memo and discussed as a group. Would like to bring the memo to a final form and distribute. (Larry Kotcham) Memo will need to come from the individual line officers from each agency and distributed down the organizational structure. (Ralph Rau) Yes, wish to ensure wide distribution. (Larry Kotcham) At the top of page two, recommend verbiage change from fire staff to all employees. (Greg Morris)

Communications and Unified Messaging

Acknowledged there has been a shortage of resources; would like to do more and have some help accomplishing. Would like to tie this to the MAC and would like to see an information officer engaged earlier rather than later. Wish to ensure that communications needs are always part of the agenda. **(Larry Kotcham)** This ties back with a prior conversation, PIO actually works for the NRCG and not for the MAC. **(Mike DeGrosky)** Minutes of this meeting will be sent to Larry Kotchman. **(Mike Granger)** There is a need for an Agency Administrator and NRCG joint workshop. Would like feedback on if this is possible prior to fire season? **(Larry Kotcham)** IDL – unrealistic; NPS – will make an effort; DNRC – not realistic; USFS – will be tight scheduling; FWS – not realistic. Group discussion and consensus that it would be extremely difficult to have a majority of the NRCG in attendance. Larry Kotcham will take this message back to the agency administrators. Group discussion of early June, if agency administrators are adamant. Option to add an additional half day at Fall NRCG meeting in November discussed. This option may be more productive and valuable.

National Cohesive Strategy – Craig Goodell

(See Handout)

Each region has a regional strategy; re-tooled strategy committees to implementation. There are four co-chairs on the western regional committee. Two face to face meetings a year; meeting last week in Utah. BLM is now embracing the cohesive implementation in a more progressive manor. Discussed cross boundary activities. Alignment with vision and strategy of all agencies amongst all levels for support for implementation at the ground level. Grass roots efforts proved the most effective. There is no policy associated with the cohesive strategy; it is a framework. Outcomes of large wildfires are not necessary desired ones; cohesive strategy provides a framework and philosophy for change. Three goals of cohesive strategy are interconnected. Cannot be effective in a holistic stance without advancing all three fronts. Involves managing both short term and long term risk; increase long term benefit across the landscape to produce resilient landscapes. Invites collaboration and working at the grass roots level across multiple partners and cooperators. Opportunities in the Northern Rockies to advance implementation. **(Craig Goodell)** There is a need to be careful of how we generalize the value of “more fire on the landscape” when addressing protection lands. Legal mandates dictate this caution. **(Mike DeGrosky)** Localized implementation provides this flexibility. **(Craig Goodell)** One of the things to be cognizant of, many of these cohesive strategy meetings are dominated by one tenet of “fire resilient landscapes”. This is a hurdle to overcome as part of the long term success is being upfront and honest with all parties involved with beneficial fire use management. **(JT Wensman)** Key is those partnerships at the local level and building a plan. Availability and utilization of new scientific risk management technology is also a useful component. Will be continuing as co-chair for cohesive strategy. **(Craig Goodell)**

CGACC Update – Craig Goodell

Still continuing discussions on Type 3 Incident Management Team “local” definitions. **(Craig Goodell)** National leadership has presented this as a finalized issued at meeting two weeks ago. **(Greg Morris)** Have not received the final word on this officially as of yet. **(Mike Granger)** All our Northern Rockies existing Type 3 teams are comfortable with where there qualifications are standing in regards to meeting the timeframe. **(Kathy Pipkin)** Department of Homeland Security is moving the communications section out of logistics and put it under general staff. There was a proposal for this to be done under NWCG as well. Did not receive much traction. NAFRI is going to put on a 620 course in early December this year. An announcement will come out after the dates are established. Effort to make ICAP program a bit more user friendly and solid, possibly re-building the platform. Aircraft dispatch certification and qualifications also discussed at length. USFS national leadership is advising that it is a mostly finalized issue.

Bin Items

Fish Strainers – Greg Morris

It is a Forest Service item; however, working with our fisheries individuals on how to work with drafting operations, applicable across all land ownerships. Prevents both suctioning and pinning of fry. Working on these procedures and protocols. Several different types. This is a directive from the Fish and Wildlife service down to USFS to minimize our takings. Increasing awareness of this issue across the geographic area. Applicable to bull trout habitat. USFS issue on USFS lands and working on processes and procedures when bringing in outside resources.

Chainsaws – Greg Morris / Tony Petrilli

Fuel geysering – USFS has come out with a letter advising we are no longer allowed to purchase Stihl chainsaws. Not being told to convert. **(Greg Morris)** Husqvarna do not meet EPA standards; however, waiver issued for exception device. Field trial will occur this season for this device. One issue is with ethanol fuel use. **(Tony Petrilli)**

Fall Meeting – Dates & Location

Week of October 29th - pencil in for Fall Meeting; Missoula Location

Breaking Spring Meeting Into Two Meetings

Group consensus to return to one Spring meeting.

Northern Rockies is in rotation to send someone to L-580 Staff Ride.

Operations Committee put together a rotation of teams, will get with that committee and follow up. **(Mike Granger)**

The next NRCG Conference Call will be held June 19, 2018 at 10:00 hours Mountain Time