



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

Conference Call Line:

1-888-844-9904

Access Code: 3599209

Participants:

Board Members: Ray Hart, Ken Schmid, Mike Granger (Chair), JT Wensman, Jake Ganieany, Mike DeGrosky (Vice Chair), Rich Cowger, Vern Burdick, Ryan Melin, Dan Warthin, Ralph Rau

Deputies and Others: Darron William, Rick Seidlitz, Michael Odell, Craig Goodell, Tim Murphy, Kathy Pipkin, Michael Richmond, Melissa Wegner, Dave Williams

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

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

(Conflict with an NMAC meeting; unable to be on the call. Provided the following update :)

Nationally holding steady at PL3, still good availability of most types of resources with the exception of Type 1 crews. T1 crews mostly committed to large fire or are in GACC's that aren't willing to let them go due to drawdown levels. NIFC jet brought out its first jet load of T2 IA crews out over the weekend. More plans in the works to bring down crews from AK towards the end of this week. The monsoon is expected to deepen in the SW and with that more of their T1 crews should be available in the next week or so. Other than that it's business as usual and feeling fortunate to still be at PL3.

Predictive Services Update: (Michael Richmond / Coleen Haskell)

Lightning moving across southern portion of region; dry strikes on Nez Perce – Clearwater and Bitterroot. Cluster of intense strikes between Helen and Great Falls and a bit north; expect increased initial attack. More lightning is expected over Yellowstone and Missouri River Breaks. Warm and dry to the north and west – fuels dryer in those areas. No change in forecast; dry pattern continuing. Isolated lightning and a fire weather watch in effect for PSAs 10,11, and 13. Dry and breezy on the west side with warm temps and low humidity. Friday will be the warmest day of the week for the west side, progressing into the east. Saturday of next week a trough is expected to come down from the north; looks to be dry, not a lot of associate precipitation. On the eastern side and North Dakota, there is a large footprint of wet thunderstorms expected overnight tonight. Overall, this pattern is forecast to persist.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

Over the last 24 hours have mobilized two IHCs to a fire on the Kootenai National Forest. Currently, one IHC crew is available; one is at "Stand Up" training today; will have two IHCs available tomorrow. Currently available - one T2IA crew and two loads of smokejumpers. Grangeville is currently out of jumpers, as they were sent as ground resources to a fire on the Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forest. NICC agreed that NRCC will keep what initial attack resources it has now.



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

NRCG Operations (Craig Goodell)

Zulu Fire on the Kootenai National Forest is 20+ acres; committing the Lolo IHC and Helena IHC to that fire. Blackerby Fire on the Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forest has smokejumpers from Grangeville staffing it; initial attack from this morning. Currently receiving lighting in the GACC; expect to see hold overs and additional initial attack. On the bigger picture, north Great Basin took a lot of lighting and is reporting a lot of new initial attack. Expect heavy competition of resources, as other GACCs are experiencing increasing activity. Would like to discuss moving to Planning Level 2. Group consensus that the discussion will occur towards the end of the meeting.

Contracting Updates: (Tim Murphy)

All agreements are in place; there are a few pieces of heavy equipment that responded out of area that triggered some of issues with contract compliance (illegal substances, temper, etc.). Expect that there is the possibility that our region will be able to get approximately 75% out of the agreements in place, due to the job market. Video project in conjunction with Montana Logging will continue next week.

Safety Updates: (Dave Williams)

Cal Fire suffered a dozer roll over fatality last weekend. Preliminary information is on the Lessons Learned site.

Communication Needs for Agency Administrators and the Northern Rockies Geographic Area: (Mike Granger)

This topic is to ensure that information going out to the public is consistent and presented with one voice. Earlier this week, the Restrictions conference call provided a good example of this.

In addition, last conference call the topic of getting together at the fall meeting for the purpose of constructing a visioning / futuring document for the IMTs was batted around. General consciences was to have this at the beginning of the week of the fall meeting in October. The first part will involve sitting down with the Agency Administrators and working on a document with the intent of getting them more involved with both the mentoring and futuring of IMTs and also engaging them in the IC recruitment process. This process will also include the third action item on the Action Item list of identifying PIOs.

Follow up on Old Business:

Montana National Guard Training Update (Jake Ganieany)

Training was contracted; rigorous recruitment of soldiers occurred. First training began on the 23rd and the next will occur on July 30th, with each session having 50 individuals. Working with partners to provide shelters and tools. Training, with DES assisting – should have 100+ trained soldiers by Aug 4th.

We are hearing through the grapevine that DeWayne would like help with training CRWBs; however, we would need an official request from the DES to MT DNRC. We would like to request that Jake be the conduit and single point of contact. **(Mike DeGrosky)**

This is the first we have heard of it; will follow up. **(Jake Ganieany)**



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

On getting the tools to the training through the cache - this cannot involve a Pcode; however, it can be done and we will supply tools to the guard. Greg can provide more information on this. Kathy will get with Tam.
(Ralph Rau)

Wildland Fire Agency Administrator Discussions (Lead will be an Agency Administrator)

Memo was distributed and reviewed by the board.

Development of an IC Vetting Process Update (Ralph Rau / Mike Granger / Craig Goodell)

Drafts were distributed and reviewed by the board. Request feedback on edited document be submitted to Pam; she will distribute to the working group. Feedback Due back by next conference call.

A second component to this process is that internal agency vetting must also occur, be managed and documented.

Received an email from Curtis Heaton in R2; he sent back outstanding support of Almas team representation in their region. Will share that email with the board. **(Ralph Rau)**

Shortage of HEQBs – Operations Committee Tasking (Mike Granger)

Draft memo was distributed for review by the board; standards to be issued upon approval.

NWCG and the 310-1 call a heavy equipment boss a single resource; when put together two pieces of equipment together, it usually requires a strike team leader. **(Tim Murphy)** The committee looked into this and believes the latitude exists. **(Mike Granger)** As long as this is only in times of shortages, not utilized as a standard. **(Ken Schmid)** Will ensure that last sentence is in there and will sign and distribute. **(Mike Granger)**

Northern Rockies Geospatial Working Group Update (Mike Granger)

Mike Granger is continuing to follow up with Mark Slaten to head up this group.

Remote Situation Unit CGAC Tasking (Mike Granger)

Had a small opportunity to stand this up due to what was occurring in Colorado; however, during the procedures to obtain a PCode, the need was met and ultimately, stand up did not occur. It was, however, a good exercise for the future.

New Business:

Mobilization of Local Government Forces (Mike DeGrosky)

Document was distributed to the board for review.

In the past, NRCG has provided courtesy review and feedback on this DNRC document. Clarification stated that it is not an NRCG document. Any input or concerns? **(Mike DeGrosky)** Group discussion occurred on where this document was posted and how it was linked on the NRCG site. Discussion also over adjustment of the cover to reflect DNRC more and de-emphasize the NRCG.



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

Montana Sheriff's and Peace Officer's Evacuation Recommendations (Rick Seidlitz)

Documents were distributed and reviewed by the board. Fire wardens had a big conference last year and got their association involved and these documents are what they came up with; also they are now finally approved. Purpose was to ensure consistency throughout the state. These are recommendations only; there is no mandatory enforcement. It was a large endeavor; resulting in to good progress.

Gettysburg Staff Ride (Melissa Wegner/Mike Granger)

Coming up in October; Northern Rockies has been selected for this portion of the staff ride and NWCG will pay for the tuition. **(Mike Granger)**

Direction is that Northern Rockies has 12 individuals from our IMTs. This is put on by a contractor and NWCG pays for tuition. Would like to focus on our Unit Leaders and Mid-level operations positions. This training can help influence leadership for the future. **(Melissa Wegner)**

Spoke with the ICs and they will provide names that will meet the intent listed above. Class is coming up in October; deadline not available as of yet. Agency only individuals; no ADs. **(Mike Granger)**

Would like to consider some of the T3 ICs as a thought; there is an opportunity that exists there. **(Ralph Rau)** Have not reached out to them as of yet; however, it is a good thought. **(Mike Granger)** National Rotation is typically 3-4 years; for NWCG pay. **(Melissa Wegner)** What is the tuition per person? **(Mike Granger)** Don't have it readily available; however, L-300 & L-381 are approximately \$1200. **(Melissa Wegner)** I went to San Diego last fall and it was approximately \$2000. **(Ryan Melin)** We can think about that for the future. **(Mike Granger)**

Preparedness Level Discussion (Craig Goodell)

Group discussion centered on increase of preparedness level from PL1 to PL2. ERCs and Fire Dangers are moving from Moderate to High across the region. **Group consensus to move to PL 2.**

Review of Action Items: (Mike Granger)

Mike Granger and Pam Jolly will review Action Item list for revisions post call.

Round Robin – Updates from Agency Participants:

BIA NW – Mission Valley ship in the Northwest region helping BIA units there.

BIA GP – ND slow; no fires region wise. RTRL position will be advertised, GS-11 Fuels.

BIA RM –

BLM – Light initial attack; roughly half a dozen 50-100 acre fires; resources currently returning from out of area; things are drying out.

FWS – light initial attack; resources have returned from out of area; tremendous fuel loading across the landscape; poised to take off and run.

IDL – Northern area light initial attack; majority of fires so far have been human caused; Southern Idaho experienced increased activity yesterday. Currently sending resources down to assist; anticipate activity picking up to the north. Loaning out SEATs to fire on Kootenai National Forest.



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

MT DES – Will be following up on both the CRWB and tools.

MT DNRC – Activity may possibly increase rapidly here pretty soon; Northwest corner of state may take off at the same time as the eastern part of the state. Rural Fire Coordinator, Doug Williams, is retiring this month. Possibly will be filling external recruitment.

Montana State Fire Chiefs – Seeing an increase in local initial attack; state wide – burning well in green grass along the interstate. Program rolled out by MT Chiefs that is similar to ROSS; for resources not intended for ROSS. Program is designed to talk to ROSS; however, is for local capacity use only.

Montana Fire Wardens – Similar conditions to what has already been stated.

MT Peace Officers – Severity has begun - Northeast Land Office; headed out to help DNRC. Also helping CAT team as a Safety Trainee. In addition, helping with STAR program which will be more streamlined this year. Will be in the field most of the summer; call cell if needed.

ND FS – Pretty quiet; minimal fire activity; severe storms with high winds and tornadoes; exporting resources; certified national guard ship; thank you to Ray Hart

NPS – Northwest Montana dry; of particular note, Glacier National Park. One small fire in Yellowstone National Park. New Regional FMO, Jay Lusher, will be in the office on the 25th.

USFS – (Ralph had to drop off the call earlier due to RLT meeting.)

The next scheduled NRCG Meeting is August 21, 2018 at 10:00 Hours Mountain Time