



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, September 18, 2018

Conference Call Line: 888-844-9904 | Access Code 3599209#

Participants:

Board Members:

BIA NW – (Not on call)

BIA GP – (Not on call)

BIA RM – (Not on call)

BLM – (Not on call)

FWS – Mike Granger

IDL – JT Wensman

MT DES – (Not on call)

MT DNRC – John Monzie

Montana State Fire Chiefs – (Not on call)

Montana Fire Wardens – Patrick Lonergan

MT Peace Officers – (Not on call)

ND FS – (Not on call)

NPS – Dan Warthin

USFS – Ralph Rau, Greg Morris

Deputies and Others:

John Monzie, Greg Morris, Tim Murphy, Craig Goodell, Dave Williams, Kathy Pipkin, Coleen Haskell, Julie Polutnik, Pam Jolly

Purpose: Welcome and a reminder that this is a public meeting for the purpose of conducting government business.

NWCG/NMAC Update: (Aitor Bidaburu)

(Aitor Bidaburu not available for call – provided update via Craig Goodell)

Lack of availability for NIROPS / IR; one aircraft is down for the rest of the season due to a part that needs to be manufactured; other aircraft was down yesterday as well due to mechanical. Ongoing maintenance issue with agency owned aircraft. Need to develop plans on how units will map fires and acquire the same level of intelligence. **(Craig Goodell)** While out on fire assignment, incidents relied heavily on the DRTI Bird (Distributed Real Time Infrared - a WA Air National Guard aircraft that has picked up some of the workload due to the lack of IR aircraft availability this season). **(Mike Granger)** In the future, will be looking at multiple options, including UAS. **(Craig Goodell)**

Predictive Services Update:

Meteorological: (Coleen Haskell)

Over the last week have seen generally a westerly pattern, littered with shortwave troughs; giving an opportunity for scattered showers. This did provide breezy and dry conditions over Yellowstone and Southwest Montana. Now will be beginning to turn towards cooler and more humid. Tomorrow night and Thursday will be punctuated by rain showers over generally the entire region, especially on Sunday. Eastern half in particular should receive a significant amount. With this will come a lot of variability in temperatures, especially in areas receiving rainfall. Starting to see some high elevation snow across the geographic region. With the passing on of the tropical activity, models are now in higher agreement.



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, September 18, 2018

Conference Call Line: 888-844-9904 | Access Code 3599209#

GACC Situation: (Julie Polutnik)

Since last call, 30 new fires for 18,929 acres and suspect some of that is catch up acres. Year to Date – 1,929 fires for 123,195 acres. No new large incidents in the last week.

Northern Rockies GACC and Operational Updates:

NRCG Operations (Craig Goodell)

Yesterday Northern Rockies went to PL 2; currently have 3 IMTs assigned. Sampson is transitioning with Goicoechea today; transfer of command at 1800 hours; in brief at 1300 hours. Paola, Whale Butte and Coal Ridge were turned back to the Flathead National Forest yesterday afternoon. They are being managed by a local, T3 organization. Gold Hill – Almas T2 continuing to mop that fire up and working with the unit on a tentative turn back of 1800 on Thursday, with close out on Friday TBD. Do still have 13 active incidents in the Northern Rockies.

NRCC Update (Kathy Pipkin)

Rocky Mountain is having another spurt of activity; Great Basin is up to PL 4. Critical needs for those areas include mid-level management and safety positions. Have been doing a lot of UTF'ing and looking for reassignments. Resources are thin as seasonal fall actives begin to start up. . Do have three loads of jumpers currently and one airtanker remaining in west Yellowstone. Also, some SEATs and Helicopters are still available. CWN aircraft are available as well. Question: Do we still need the weekly afternoon call? **Group discussion and consensus that NRCG will return to a regular, monthly call schedule. Pam will distribute a notification email.**

Contracting Updates: (Tim Murphy)

Still a fair amount of equipment out. 57 pieces of heavy equipment remain on various incident; in addition to a handful of water handling equipment; with a few outside of the geographic area. Would anticipate more leaving with the uptick in other GACC activity. Will be heading into the field in the upcoming days.

Safety Updates: (Dave Williams)

Update on Interagency Strategic Risk Assessment team that went up to Howe – completing a draft and hope to have it out to the board by the next week. Touched based with the safety on Howe and the Flathead National Forest – has been pretty quiet overall.

Follow up on Old Business:

Heavy Equipment Task Force After Action Review (Ralph Rau)

Working with Tim, reaching out to the people that need to be there. Due to availability, **the meeting has been moved to the week of the NRCG Fall meeting and will be held on Thursday, Nov 1st at 1300. Ralph will send email out to the group.**



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, September 18, 2018

Conference Call Line: 888-844-9904 | Access Code 3599209#

Status of Team Trailers (Ralph Rau)

No update at this time – **topic move to the Fall NRCG Meeting agenda.**

New Business:

Montana Evacuation Language (John Monzie)

New language has been adopted by most of the sheriffs in the state. It is not mandatory; however, provides guidelines and recommendations. Would provide a placeholder. **(John Monzie)** Believe that this topic was presented with a desired outcome for the board to issue a memo and endorse it. **(Patrick Lonergan)** How does this apply to Idaho as well? Will we have three separate languages? **(Greg Morris)** Would only be for Montana; does not apply to other states in the Northern Rockies. **(Mike Granger)** Would be good to send a draft out that also highlights what Idaho and North Dakota do; thus keeping it all in one document. **(Ralph Rau)** Will obtain this language and include it in the draft. **(Mike Granger)** Also included in the Northern Rockies geographic area are Wyoming, South Dakota and parts in Washington. **(Kathy Pipkin)** **Pam will work on obtaining each states applicable language.**

IMT Reporting Statistics (Kathy Pipkin / Judy Heintz)

- Proposal to drop zones from the IMT Reporting Statistics

In the past, our teams have been dispatched with the zone concept in mind; have now migrated away from that concept. For ease and staffing workload constraints, recommendation is to remove the breakdown by zone. Did not see where the break down by zone is valuable. **(Mike Granger)** For the local departments, does the zone break down assist with their local stats? Would like to hear from them, if they think it is of value. **(Ralph Rau)** Would think that is a Vern, Rich and Patrick Question. **(Kathy Pipkin)** Can that information be teased out from the other tables? **(Mike Granger)** If one has that skill set, it can be derived from the data. **(Kathy Pipkin)** Do not see a need for the zone breakdown. **(Patrick Lonergan)** **Group discussion and consensus to move forward with the proposal to drop the zone reporting from the IMT Reporting Statistics.**

Review of Action Items: (Mike Granger)

- IC nomination process - any updates? **(Mike Granger)**
 - Discussed at GMAC/NRCG Face to Face meeting; finalization of the documents will be completed. Each agency has their own process for task book initiation; then will have our own Board process for application. Each agency will need to be responsible for which individuals initiate a task book; then will fall on board after application to vet. Still in question a bit is would there be any board interaction for trainees to take assignments. Burden falls on individual agencies to vet as far as initiating a task book. Then once application is made to board, the process will include ensuring the agency is supportive of the individual. **Will be reviewing and fine tuning the applicable documents; should be ready by the fall meeting. Will send rough draft to Pam to send to Mike Granger and Mike DeGrosky.** **(Ralph Rau)**



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

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

Board of Directors Conference Call Agenda

Tuesday, September 18, 2018

Conference Call Line: 888-844-9904 | Access Code 3599209#

- Heavy Equipment Boss issue – will not pursue any further. **(Mike Granger)** Will need to close the loop with operations committee. **(Tim Murphy)** Will accomplish this on Oct 10th during the operations committee meeting. **(Mike Granger)**
- Will not have an October conference call due to Fall NRCG Meeting occurring that month. Please note that it will be a full meeting; please block off all of those days with Friday being a travel day.

Round Robin – Updates from Agency Participants:

BIA NW –

BIA GP –

BIA RM –

BLM –

FWS – back and catching up; appreciate Neal Beetch's assistance. Making transition to prescribed burning season. One individual down in Idaho helping an adjoin region and will continue with a reciprocal approach in the future.

IDL – no further updates at this time.

MT DES –

MT DNRC –

Montana State Fire Chiefs –

Montana Fire Wardens – Did attend the CAT team close out; good assignment. Was a good fit for that team. County has paid for a radio in dispatch that turned out invaluable for communications on that fire. Rapid evacuation task force – brought back as a good best practice; at end of incident decision was made not to force the evacuation. As there was no formal closure in place; near the end, large groups caused an issue looking for lost pets. In the future, will look at only residents.

MT Peace Officers –

ND FS –

NPS – Do still have fire activity in Glacier National Park; continuing with Bacon Rind, sharing with Custer-Gallatin National Forest. Brent is spending a lot of time working on the story board project at Glacier National Park. Looking forward to his product and many thanks to state and other partners for helping out with that.

USFS – Transitioning to prescribed fire work; still have suppression activity in region. Looking forward to the October meeting.

The next scheduled NRCG Meeting is October 30 – November 1, 2018 at 0800 Hours Mountain Time