



Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group Northwest Geographic Area Board

To: Cooperating Pacific Northwest Fire Agencies, Agency Administrators,
Incident Commanders, Incident Management Team Members

From: Northwest Geographic Area Board

Subject: Creation of a single governing board

In 2014 the Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group (PNWCG) made the decision to evolve to a single governing geographic board that would have oversight responsibilities for the eleven interagency Incident Management Teams. This decision has led to the consolidation of the Oregon Geographic Board, the Washington Geographic Board and the components of the PNWCG Operations Working Team that had oversight of the two Type 1 teams in the region, into the Northwest Geographic Area Board (the Board). The teams that the Board will have oversight responsibility for are comprised of the two Type I Teams, the five Type II Interagency Teams in Washington and the four Type II interagency Teams in Oregon.

The makeup of the Board as agreed upon by the member agencies of PNWCG is as follows:
(Each agency has one voting member unless otherwise stated)

- USDA Forest Service (two voting members) (USFS)
- USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- USDI Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- USDI National Park Service (NPS)
- Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)
- Oregon Fire Chiefs Association / Oregon Fire Service (OFS)
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources (two voting members) (DNR)
- Washington Fire Service (WFS)
- Washington State Fire Marshal's Office (WSFMO)

The Board will coordinate with the following (non-voting) entities:

- PNW IC Council member
- Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office
- Oregon Emergency Management Services
- Washington Emergency Management Division
- PNWCG Steering Committee (SC) Liaison, Staff Appointed

The charter members representing their agencies are:

Randy Johnson – WFS – Chair
Kevin Martin – USFS – Vice Chair
Dan Foster – NPS
Bill Slosson – WSFMO
Loren Torgerson – DNR
Chuck Turley – DNR
Scott Stanton – OFS
Karen Swearingen – ODF
Carol Benkoski – BLM
Joe Reinarz – USFS/BLM
John Szulc – BIA

Non-voting members

David Summer – USFS – Liaison from PNWCG
Bob Johnson – DNR – Liaison from PNWCG
Carla Schamber – USFS – Facilitator
Bob Allbee – IC Council – Advisory

Operations Committee (Support)

Brian Gales – USFWS
Joe Krish – BLM
Steve Rawlings – USFS

The Board has made the decision to make only the changes necessary for efficient use of the teams in 2015. To that end the Oregon and the Washington team operations guides will remain in effect for 2015. The Board has developed Bylaws for our use and these will replace the individual bylaws sections of the existing operations guides. We will evaluate the operations guides and the best practices of the teams with the intent of developing a single operations guide for all eleven teams in 2016. Any changes in operational issues will be communicated to the teams in a timely fashion. At times the Board may find it necessary to deviate from past practice or to implement new procedures and practices that meet the needs of the current environment. Decisions will be made for the operations of the teams as appropriate for the agencies we represent and that meet the mission of the Board, ***“to coordinate and maintain the Northwest’s eleven Interagency Incident Management Teams to manage complex incidents”***.

The Board commits to the agencies, the incident commanders (ICs) and the citizens we serve to be deliberate in our actions and conscious of the effects of our decisions. We recognize the successes of the previous Boards and will work to build upon those successes. We are interested in gaining efficiencies, standardizing process, and providing for the long-term success and stability of our interagency teams. The primary goal of the Board is to maintain and improve the capacity and capability of the incident management teams within our region. We will strive to accomplish this by working with our ICs on succession planning and being the liaison to the agencies that support or are hosting a team.



Signature

March 30, 2015

Date

Randy M. Johnson
Chair, NWGA Board