

PNWCG Meeting Notes

December 14, 2016

Attendees:

Kevin Martin, USFS

Bob Johnson, WA DNR

Brett Fay, USFWS

John Szulc, BIA

Dan O'Brien, NWCC manager

Jeff Fedrizzi, BLM

Bill Slosson, WA State Fire Marshal

On Phone:

Marianna Ruiz-Temple – Oregon State Fire Marshal

Ron Graham, ODF

Bob Madden, OR Fire Chiefs

Randy Johnson, WA Fire Chiefs

Next meeting: January 18, 2017 at NWCC

Leader's Intent:

All of us are in some level of transition. Many of us do not know who our bosses will be. This is weighing on our minds along with our day-to-day duties. We may be under some pressure to change one way or another. We need to recognize that uncertainty for all of us as we move forward and continue our communication and relationships as PNWCG.

Fire use teams:

On the last CGAC call, an issue was raised about our ability to staff long term fires. It has been recognized that there is an increasing need for more Wildland Fire Management Teams (formerly called Fire Use Management Teams (FUMT)). These teams specialize in managing long duration fires. The IC for the only Fire Use Management Team is retiring. There is a recognized need, but are uncertain if they will be able to staff another team.

The January agenda for the CGAC includes a proposal to include direction in the National Mob Guide regarding what these teams are how to order them (Briefing Paper provided). Does PNWCG support this proposal?

Agency administrators are looking for a different tool in their toolbox. They would like to be able to place a request through the ordering process for a WFMT team with specialized skill sets. One potential solution to meet this need is to incorporate LTANs, SOPLs and WFDSS skills to current teams and take steps to improve communication between AAs and teams. To better meet the needs of the AA's, it may be useful to review how we prioritize resources and include some consideration for long-term fire use objectives.

Decision: PNWCG supports the proposal but believes that there is a need for a more long-term, strategic look at how to meet this need with the limited amount of personnel available to commit to Incident Management Teams.

PNWCG recommends that the Incident Commander Work group or the Fire Use Committee identify additional long term solutions to address the need for these specialized skills.

Task Order 2016-04 - Follow –Up:

The Task is for the Incident Business Committee (IBC) to develop common language or a standard agreement that would allow our Fire Service and other non-traditional partners to participate on IMTS. The IBC has been waiting for the Forest Service to develop a national template for Rural Fire Cooperative Agreement. There is concern from PNWCG this has been a long time coming and it is not a “one-size fits all” scenario. DNR is working on it, but is still struggling with creating/identifying a template that works for all. PNWCG would like the IBC to look at what is being used today and use it to develop a basic standardized template across R6 that is flexible and all agencies could have access. The Deschutes NF and their local partners has a very workable agreement in place for IMT participation. This may be a place to start and potentially it could across the states or geographic area. This is a separate agreement than the local mutual aid agreement. It is specific to IMT participation.

The IBC identified some follow up questions that they would like to hear from PNWCG. They are:

- Determine scope of the workload, specifically, how many RFD employees are needed to participate on IMTs.
- Set limiting factors (ie. Critical positions only)
- Clearly specify that this agreement is for IMT personnel only. Equipment should be hired through other acquisition processes.

Action: Update Task Order 2016-04 to include the Incident Business Committee working with SMEs to build a template based upon existing successful agreements, i.e. the Deschutes NF and Bend Fire Dept. Agreement, the Rocky Mountain Region Agreements and others. It is recommended that the Incident Business Committee work with SMEs that include Randy Johnson, Bob Johnson and Bob Madden. They would develop standard language to include in IMT participation agreements.

2017 Solar Eclipse:

There is an expectation for many thousands of people to come into Oregon and the Northwest to view this event. Many cities have large events planned. Kahneeta (Warm Springs Reservation) is completely booked by a Japanese group. There is an effort to coordinate response from various agencies. PNWCG needs to be aware and prepared. Prepositioning of suppression resources, deployment of prevention teams, etc., should be prepared for the effects of a large number of people in the area during August. The Solar Eclipse occurs August 21, between Sturgis and Burning Man, and coincides with the Rainbow Family gathering in Oregon. There will be a meeting on January 23 with NIMO and agency representatives from across Oregon to coordinate efforts and share information. Central Oregon is doing a preseason simulation based on the eclipse. CPI is aware and looking into prevention team planning.

Committee Updates:

Aviation:

R372 will be sponsored by DNR this year.

Technology:

The committee has lost people from some agencies. This still needs to be identified and addressed.

CPI:

The committee has identified IFPL recommended changes for Oregon. They are out for review. They are preparing for the solar eclipse and the increased need for prevention teams.

Operations:

Moving forward and planning a full program of work in January

Training:

420 was the biggest discussion. There is a January delivery of the Beta course in Redmond. Beams working with LaFave to make sure the course that is being presented in WA meets current curriculum requirements.

Safety and Health:

The committee has been waiting for the SORO (Federal) safety position to be filled. It is not being filled due to the new administration. Bob will work with the committee to identify how to proceed with this new information.

GeoBoard:

IC council will be getting back to the Geo-Board regarding their equipment and technology needs. Chuck Turley is the Chair but is dealing with health issues. Randy Johnson and Rob McWhorter are working together to support him. IMT nominations close Jan. 6. The Geo-Board continues to discuss the use of AD's with the IC's. Jan. 20 is team selections. The Draft agenda for the Spring All IMT meeting will be discussed at the Jan. 17 Geo-Board meeting. PNWCG could look at proposed rosters at January meeting.

Center Managers:

Pulling together a group in first week of January.

Incident Business:

NO other updates except the tasking paper discussed earlier.

Hot Topics:

AK/NW IMTs – Alaska coordinating group met, but didn't make any decisions. The NW is waiting on Alaska to respond to proposals.

WA DNR transitions – there is a new Commission of Lands, Hilary Franz, to be sworn in Jan. 11. She is reviewing her staff and there could be some changes. She indicated that wildfire is her top priority in this position. She is dialed in on many of the topics of interest to PNWCG.

OR IFPL – rules committee tackling some proposed updates, including using similar language to WA state; changes in closure level titles; some changes to feller bunchers and rotary saws (IFPL 2 and 3); some things that deal with power saws and ground based operations, and tethered logging. Lorri will send the proposed changes to PNWCG. The target is for the Board of Forestry to adopt the changes at their June meeting. In 2004, Washington went away from a gray card and added a supplement for motorized carriages. Oregon is looking at going that direction as well. CPI committee asks PNWCG take a closer look to see if WA and OR can come together again under one gray card.

Welcome packet – Liaisons with working groups – please get any updates to Marianna. Would be nice to get an OR medical rules checklist into the welcome packet so out-of-state teams understand how to work through the Oregon law.

BIA: Brian Tohnika's job (GS-12/13) is being advertised today. John is working with HR to fill the meteorologist position at NWCC. The Fire Operations position will be out soon. The vice-Dolly (Dispatch) position should be on the street soon.