

PNWCG Meeting
April 20, 2017

Attendees:

Jason Loomis, NPS
Chris Kline, ODF
Bob Johnson, DNR
Bob Madden, ORFS
Bobbi Scopa, BLM/FS
Mariah Rawlins, OSFM
Darron Williams, BIA
Dan O'Brien, NWCC
Carol Connolly, Note taker – NWCC
Lorri Benefield, Facilitator

Leaders Intent: After the simulation yesterday, all agencies/Execs seem to be in a pretty good place and concerns are being met. There do not seem to be any serious issues. We need to continue to work toward maintaining open, active and strong relationships.

Exec Sim Review

- Half of PNWCG was in attendance
- The Sim focused on fire season preparedness. There were participants of the sim who were there for the first time in their new role and previous participants in new roles.
- Many of the Exec's learned about what we do in MAC and PNWCG. This was an eye opener for the first timer participants
- ODF confirmed they are part of the big picture and will support and explain decisions that are made based on federal policy/decision
- Discussed lessons learned from 2015 – PNWCG still has work to do, especially with communication of our decisions to internal/external audiences
- States are using the Compact more so they can move resources across state lines
- BIA recognized the need to better communicate decisions that are made and their role in PNWCG
- Need to work on communicating how and why decisions are made within PNWCG/MAC. Agency administrators felt uninformed regarding decisions that happen in MAC/PNWCG
- PNWCG may need to look at disseminating their decision information down to the field level through Agency Administrators. It would be valuable to look at new/better ways to assure the decisions made by MAC are communicated through each of the agencies – up the chain of command, to all Agency Administrators and to the field personnel.

How do we communicate the PNWC/MAC message?

- Multi Agency – how do we interact as a unit? We need to collectively coming together to inform the Agency Administrators and Execs.
- One method of sharing information with the Exec's has been to have a daily/few times a week Executive phone calls. PNWCG feels it is the responsibility of each agency to pass the information to other within their organizations (ex. Agency Administrators, field level staff etc.). The Exec calls have provided information

regarding the status of the fire situation and provide an opportunity to have the Exec's to talk with each other. It was discussed by the Exec's at the Sim that they need to include more agencies in those call.

- It would be valuable to all to clarify the Executive roles in the process of communicating the decisions and outcomes of MAC and PNWCG.

Next Steps:

- PNWCG will develop Unified talking points/messages regarding their priorities and responsibilities. They will provide this information to the Exec's and ask them to deliver this information to their Agency Administrators and the field. Each PNWCG rep will work with their Exec to clarify how the message impacts people within their agencies.
- PNWCG is interested in providing MAC "training/education" to the agencies, Execs, Agency Administrators and the field. There are multiple ways to get the message out.
- PNWCG would like to schedule a Pre-Season/information sharing meeting with the Exec's
- PNWCG reps are responsible for getting the message to Exec's and Agency Administrators about the decisions that are made by the MAC group and helping them understand "how it affects us". A "MAC 101" training/information sharing program was recommended.

Action: Develop a Unified Message for PNWCG for 2017. Each PNWCG representative will submit talking points to Lorri by COB on May 5. Lorri and Dan will draft an email with guidance.

Jim Pena – Execs would like to have another meeting with PNWCG as an information sharing session and not a simulation.

- Develop a preseason conference call or in person meeting with Execs
- Identify the talking points/information to be shared in May and bring it to the June meeting
- By the June meeting, the Mac exercise will have been completed and we could continue the MAC discussion with them
- Provide information that the Execs can take into the 2017 Fire season
- The May PNWCG meeting will include committee report outs. This information can be provided to the Execs at the June meeting

Action: Lorri and Bob will draft a letter to the Execs to invite to a conference call on June 21. They will be invited to attend in person or on the conference call.

PNWCG will continue to examine the tools/techniques/processes that we use to convey information to the Execs. The Execs are interested in information such as results from the Exec. Sim, lessons learned from the Central Oregon Sim etc. They are looking for ways to facilitate information sharing and how to convey ideas/information that come from activities hosted by units when they are not present.

PNWCG could be the filter for communication/information sharing from these type of simulations/trainings to Execs. PNWCG members would need to make a concerted/focused effort to bring information back to the larger group regarding any information they learned from attending "events" within their agency. PNWCG would need to develop a purposeful process of communicating what has been learned.

Spring FALT meeting – This is an opportunity for Kevin & Jeff (FS and BLM) to inform field personnel about the avenues they have to communicate information back to agency Execs and PNWCG.

ACTION: Continue discussion at the May PNWCG meeting about how to have a more deliberate process or purposeful conversations regarding information gathering that each PNWCG rep brings back to the group. There are ongoing activities now that PNWCG members could participate in that would start that purposeful information gathering sharing process.

AK IMT Rotation

A confirmation letter was received from AK indicating that they are ready to move forward with the joint AK/PNW Type 1 team rotation.

- As we enter into the agreement, there will need to be a great deal of open communication between the two Geographic Area coordinating group chairs. It will require ongoing discussions on the process and its implications.
- The GeoBoard will be asked to offer trainee IC's and other available IC's to assist with helping AK fill their team. The PNW could offer up an IC and not send an entire team if AK has a need.
- Communication will be critical between the two Coordinating Group chairs regarding rostering, rotation, T1 or T2 teams and draw down and any other aspects of this agreement that come up during the season.
- The Draft letter should become final and sent out to PNWCG executives, NW IC's, PNWCG Membership.
- The actual rotation rules, agreed to by PNW and AK, will go into the MOB Guide. The rotation schedule rules were drafted to match the national rotation rules. AK will be available from May to June and will decide on a case by case basis if they are available outside of those times.
- The PNW will be the first contact for all T1 team orders. The orders will be passed to AK as appropriate.

ACTION: Dan will finalize the letter and submit it to PNWCG Members and the GeoBoard. PNWCG reps will share it with their agency Execs and field personnel.

2016-04A Response

The Incident Business Committee (IBC) Chair submitted a response letter to the original Task Order. The recommendation was based on current agreements that are in place within the GACC. The agreements in place do not cover All-Risk, but they do need to add coverage for single resource assignments. Single resource assignments may need to be added to the master template. This agreement is about people, not equipment, etc.

- An Interagency template needs to be developed and used by all agencies

Action: PNWCG agrees with the recommendations provided by the IBC, with the addition of single resource assignment language. PNWCG would like to move forward with the changes and agreement template. Bob Madden will provide the single resource language. The IBC liaison will provide the information to committee to move forward with development of a standard template.

IFCA Crew Dispatching

Dispatching of IFCA crews is done by use of the Best Value concept except in specific situations. ODF proposes that during fire season, dispatches out of the GACC use closest forces instead of Best Value. The definition of "fire season" was discussed. ODF recommends the "Fire season" would begin when the first region/area goes into fire season and end until the last region/area goes out of fire season. Before and after fire season, it would go to the Best Value regardless of host center. There are opportunities within the contract to change this as we go. Dispatching procedures within the GACC is based upon best value by closest force. Out of the GACC it is now best value. If a change is the dispatching procedures are based upon the declaration of fire season, it will be critical for ODF and DNR to communicate. The federal agencies do not have a declared fire season – it is fire season year round.

ACTION ITEM:

- Declaration of the start and end of fire season is needed for the MOB guide.
 - Recommendation: Complete an interagency conversation on when to declare the start and end of fire season and have that message come out through NWCC.
- PNWCG will decide when to declare the start and end of fire season – for MOB guide language. The Sideboards will be set by PNWCG

2017 Program of Work

- Changes were addressed from March minutes
- Strategy 1, Objective 2(b) i & ii – Dan will take the lead for the first steps
- Strategy 1, Objective 3(c) – Dan and John Szulc will draft

At the March meeting an organizational tool for PNWCG to plan for the year ahead and capture new or ongoing events was disseminated. It included a proposal for committees to report out quarterly with a template provided by PNWCG.

The effort will be launched with the first committee report in May.

ACTION: Dan will draft letter to committees, will package and send to Bob for distribution. A call will be set up for the May meeting to discuss further. Chairs of the working group to call in and it goes with the 1st quarter report out. If the Chair isn't able to call in then the PNWCG Liaison should have the information to report.

NW Operating Plan

Request for signatures. Changes were highlighted and documented. Cover sheet was handed out for signature. Lorri will send the signed page back to LuAnn to finalized master agreement. Lorri will get FWS and send to Luanne for signature for Northern Region.

IFPL Response

Brett to present but he was unable to attend. The notes from the meeting were handed out. There are proposed changes to NFDRS that will affect IFPL. Still work to do to ensure the system stays accessible and it would be a product agencies can stand behind.

ACTION: PNWCG members to get briefed from their staff and gather additional information for a conversation at the May PNWCG meeting.

Hot Topics:

Media Day: May 18, 2017 at NWCC

A presentation on this season's fire potential will be given at 10 a.m. by John Saltenberger, Coordination Center Fire Weather Program Manager. Fire managers are requested to attend and be available from 10 a.m. to noon for interviews about the upcoming fire season.

ACTION: PNWCG leads please inform Carol Connolly by May 15 at cconnoll@blm.gov if your agency representative will be in attendance.

Update: Safety & Health Committee – The committee has met and is working on the outstanding Task Order that addresses the peer support group. They will report out at the next meeting with a request involving the potential funding of a peer support group and what agreements are already in place.

FS Study - The FS has funding to conduct a study with a sociologist on the ability to recruit and retain a diverse workforce. They will be attending trainings throughout region and will be distributing a questionnaire with a follow-up survey monkey questionnaire. The FS is hoping for some preliminary information for the fall and will be doing listening sessions with some small groups.

Agency Updates

FS – there is an ongoing effort to go fully staff engines 7 days a week. They have not hired enough people to cover 7-day staffing and there are a many budget concerns. They agency may not get there this year, but are working toward it for 2018. In 2018, the Forest Service will be going away from P code reliance/savings. Additional funds to make up some of the difference between current funding and what was spent on P codes savings will be added to the preparedness budget. In 2018 there will be no program savings if you send people on fire. This is a nationwide FS effort. The intent is not to reduce staffing.

BIA – DOI received a memo that any 2017 grants or agreements that are \$100,000 or greater will have to go to the Director for approval. This will impact cooperating agencies.