## NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP 72ND MEETING MINUTES June 1998

The 72nd meeting of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group was held in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, June 16-17, 1998.

Members attending: Don Artley, Chair, Montana Division of Forestry Rick Gale, National Park Service Roger Erb, Fish and Wildlife Service Ed Shepard, Bureau of Land Management Denny Truesdale for Mary Jo Lavin, Forest Service Bill Sommers, Forest Service Research Steve Haglund, Bureau of Indian Affairs Jim Hull, NASF, Texas Forest Service Jim Stumpf, Executive Secretary

Guests Attending: June 16, 1998

Don Motanic, Intertribal Timber Council John Skeels, USFS, ROSS Project Manager Neal Hitchcock, USFS-NIFC, ROSS Project Bill Leenhouts, FUWT Gerry Day, FWWT Jim Smalley, NFPA Steve Hill, USFA Roger Tucker, Forest Service, Fire Weather Program Manager Paul Stokols, U.S. Weather Service Suz Rittenhouse, Forest Service, NIFC Mike Funston, IRMWT, Forest Service

June 17, 1998:

Neal Hitchcock, USFS-NIFC, ROSS Project Bill Leenhouts, FUWT Arch Wells, BIA Jim Smalley, NFPA Don Motanic, Intertribal Timber Council **SUBJECT**: Approval of minutes from 71st NWCG meeting.

**DISCUSSION:** The final 71st meeting minutes were mailed after member review and acceptance.

**MOTION:** Approve the 71st minutes as corrected and distributed March 27, 1998.

**SUBJECT:** Smoke Management Guide.

**DISCUSSION:** The guide (in the process of development) is a revision of the 1985 publication based on current needs. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is participating in the current revision. The Fire Use Working Team (FUWT) has developed the outline for the revision. The smoke management techniques section is where EPA will provide input for the document. There are some terminology changes that may be needed based on current activities and information on terminology. Denny Truesdale and Rick Gale will work with FUWT to make the appropriate corrections. The FUWT expects completion and publication by spring 1999. EPA will probably use the Smoke Management Guide as a reference document. If EPA adopts the publication, new rules or changes may need to go through the Federal Register process.

**SUBJECT:** Wildland Fire and Air Quality Modeling and Data Systems.

**DISCUSSION:** This is a strategic plan intended to foster efficient development and implementation of models and data systems used to manage air quality impacts of wildland and prescribed fires. The National Strategic Plan and Workshop Report was provided to members for review prior to the September meeting. FUWT will request conceptual approval by NWCG at the next meeting. There is probably no need for NWCG funding, but NWCG approval is desirable.

**SUBJECT:** Prescribed Fire Training Center.

**DISCUSSION:** This is a carryover from our winter meeting and request for the FUWT to provide staff work and recommendations for prescribed fire training centers. Following is information provided by FUWT: Hands-on training is desirable to supplement the current NWCG prescribed fire training and position task book sign-off. The training centers in Florida do not provide any NWCG training; the Southwest Training Center does. Most of the training is gained through experience on the ground in burning. Personnel attend work in various prescribed fire positions to gain field experience.

It is unknown at this time how many prescribed fire training centers would be needed until agencies conduct their workload analysis to cover representative fire regimes in the United States. The result of this analysis will provide closer insight to the number of training centers needed.

Funding of training centers also needs to be resolved. The current centers rely on contributions from participating interagency partners to cover fixed costs. Agencies sending participants pay their own employees' travel and per diem. Some tuition-based system could be established to defray costs if other centers are established.

**MOTION:** Table the discussion until NWCG gets a better handle on the issues that need to be addressed between the Florida and Southwest academies. The Fire Use and Training Working Teams will jointly review the entire spectrum of prescribed fire centers to develop recommendations for the following issues by the January 1999 NWCG meeting:

- 1. Numbers and locations, both currently established and future needs.
- 2. Levels of training and experience currently provided.
- 3. Levels of training and experience anticipated to be needed.
- 4. Standardization of training and experience needs.
- 5. Funding source, current and anticipated.
- 6. Prescribed fire program management perspective needed.

## SECONDED AND CARRIED.

**SUBJECT:** Placement of ICS training materials on the Internet.

**DISCUSSION:** The Publications Management System Unit (PMS) is prepared to do this work, but needs funding to reformat the existing text. PMS has requested funds in the FY 1999 budget request and will complete the work if this funding is approved.

**SUBJECT:** Incident Operations Standards Working Team (IOSWT) update on the Position Task Book (310-1) revision.

**DISCUSSION:** The IOSWT recommends the updates to 310-1 be completed and sent out without further review. Field and agency comments have been received from the review process that began in October 1997. Workshops have been held involving interagency subject matter experts to validate the Position Task Books for each functional area and development of new training curriculum for the Wildland Fire Qualifications System. Both the Training Working Team (TWT) and the FUWT have been involved in the revision and will provide concurrence for the final document.

**MOTION:** Accept the IOSWT recommendation that once concurrence is received with the Training and Fire Use Working Teams, 310-1 be published without further field (agency) review. NWCG requests that the new document be field user friendly in the final publication. Modified motion - IOSWT needs to ensure the final document is reviewed by all levels of field users to ensure it is easy to understand and use.

# SECONDED AND CARRIED.

SUBJECT: University of Idaho/WIIdland Fire Education Working Team (WFEWT).

**DISCUSSION:** A copy of this report was passed out to the members present. If others want copies of the report they should contact Maureen Brooks, WFEWT Chair, with their request.

**SUBJECT:** U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) position with NWCG membership.

**DISCUSSION:** The USFA recognizes the need to be a full partner, including payment of their fair share of monies to support the work of NWCG. The official position at this time is that USFA will participate as an associate member because budgetary restrictions cannot provide funding. A formal request for USFA full participation will be made to James Lee Witt, FEMA. Don Artley has sent a letter to James Lee Witt voicing our concerns with not having the USFA as a full partner. The copy of this letter will be hand carried to FEMA by the Forest Service to be used as a starting point of discussion with a planned meeting between the Forest Service and FEMA.

**MOTION:** USFA can continue their work with NWCG as an Associate Member. Tom Minnich will represent USFA.

# SECONDED AND CARRIED.

**SUBJECT:** Fire Equipment Working Team (FEWT) recommendation for engine standards/typing.

**DISCUSSION:** An ad hoc group including representatives of FEWT, IOSWT and the dispatch community was formed to develop the following recommendations: 1) Engine typing system to better categorize existing engines across the country and to establish some baseline performance standards for water tenders. 2) Establishment of a basic set of standards for engines and water tenders operating in the interface. Text of the recommendation will be located in the NWCG public web site within the specific FEWT and IOSWT areas. It is proposed that this standard be implemented starting January 1, 1999.

**MOTION:** Accept FEWT/IOSWT recommendations.

# SECONDED AND CARRIED.

**SUBJECT:** Storage needs.

**DISCUSSION:** Four of the Working Teams (IOSWT, FEWT, IRMWT, FUWT) requested NIFC storage space for files and records. NWCG Liaisons will follow up with their teams and get information back to the Executive Secretary for total needs.

#### SUBJECT: Narrowband Radio Advisory Group.

**DISCUSSION:** This group was formed at the winter NWCG meeting to provide staff assistance on the impact of narrowband radio conversion on the wildland fire agencies. This group will keep all NWCG member agencies informed on the changes in radio banding and the impacts to anticipate. They presented an advisory group charter, have designated a work group, and are planning to meet in July. The group plans to make recommendations to NWCG at the September NWCG meeting.

**MOTION:** Accept the charter with modifications discussed. Ed Shepard, BLM, will take these changes back to the RNAG Chair for correction.

## SECONDED AND CARRIED.

**SUBJECT:** Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy - Implementation Procedure Reference Guide.

**DISCUSSION:** Not having all agencies buying into the process leaves State agencies somewhat confused when they want to become participants in this policy. Local governments in some States are confused as to how the policy will be implemented. The Bureau of Land Management agrees with the document in concept, but feels that they are not far enough along with internal planning to support the reference guide. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) feels that approximately 90 percent of the document details wildland fire use and may be contrary to some of the detailed information in the current document. Some of the information (terminology, etc.) is not well edited and does not meet FWS standards and policies. FWS would like an opportunity to review the document in the draft state. They plan to conduct a review, and if changes need to be made will make recommendations for those changes. FFALC or NWCG needs to take a look at the document and see what differences need to be worked out and establish some time table to get this done. This issue is tabled for now but should be brought up at the September meeting to determine if there are any status changes.

**SUBJECT:** Update on fire weather communications and issues with the National Weather Service.

**DISCUSSION:** Follow-up activities dealing with viability of Fire Weather Service modernization and the fire agency needs are increasing, primarily because of the increasing use of prescribed fire. The Weather Service Director has been very

responsive to correspondence from NWCG on wildland fire needs for accurate and timely weather information. The Weather Service initiated a team of weather specialists to report back with recommendations on where the fire weather program should be.

Director Kelly, National Weather Service, recognizes the needs of the wildfire community as one of the leading problems associated with weather forecasting. He agrees that they are part of fire weather issues, and they will remain part of the process. The goal of Fire Weather Service is to have trained and qualified forecasters in all western Weather Service offices.

The Fire Weather Working Team (FWWT) has done excellent work with the wildland agencies and the NWS on resolutions to these problems. Gerry Day, Chair, will keep NWCG informed on changes and progress with the Fire Weather Service.

**SUBJECT:** Weather stations and the weather network.

**DISCUSSION:** The FWWT is proposing three broad projects it feels need attention. Their preliminary thoughts are: 1) What will it take for us to proceed from current Fire Danger Rating System (FDR) to updated system? 2) Infastructure available to support the updated FDR system, network availability for collection and disseminination of information? 3) Weather station standards are needed. A position and proposal paper will be disseminated to NWCG for review before the September meeting. This proposal should be coordinated with the Fire Danger Rating Advisory Group.

**SUBJECT:** Information Resource Management (IRM) Infrastructure (NWCG IRM Program Manager).

**DISCUSSION:** The title of the position has changed from IRM Lead to IRM Program Manager to prevent confusion. The position has been classified and a vacancy announcement will be out soon. Program oversight, supervision, and management will be done by the IRMWT Liaison. The person who fills this position will be jointly funded by NWCG, but the position will be a BLM position.

**SUBJECT:** NWCG Home Page.

**DISCUSSION:** The NWCG Home Page (http://www.nwcg.gov/) is up and running. There will be three sites within the Home Page, one public, one partitioned within the public site for the fire community at large and a private (http://www.nwcg.gov/nonpub/), password-protected area for work in progress from NWCG and the Working Teams. The public partitioned area will require a password for entry and will be set up to monitor and evaluate the need to have this section. The private area will be available only to members who have the access and password. Changes to the public page will be made with the concurrence of the Executive Secretary. Dottie Miller, BIA, will be the Webmaster for corrections, modifications and maintenance. **MOTION:** Provide password protection on a partitioned area in the public page with password protection needed for all fire personnel. The private area will also require password protection issued by the Working Team/Advisory Group Chairs.

## SECONDED AND CARRIED.

**SUBJECT:** Electronic messaging and integration status.

**DISCUSSION:** The IRMWT has several recommendations for the improvement of an emergency messaging system. They suggest that messaging needs be managed as a component of the ROSS project. In addition, they want to conduct a pilot test using NICC and in all dispatch offices in two adjacent geographic areas. There was no motion made for approval and we would expect a follow-up report on the status of their pilot testing during our September meeting.

**SUBJECT:** Fire Time Accounting System.

**DISCUSSION:** The Forest Service in California has developed a system for time accounting and time reporting at an Incident Base. This has not been adopted by the IRMWT and is brought forward for informational sharing. This may have national application but needs to be coordinated between the IRMWT and Incident Business Practices Working Teams (IBPWT).

**MOTION:** IBPWT/IRMWT need to follow up with the Forest Service in California to see if there are applications for interagency use. Recommendations should be made to NWCG on outcomes of this proposal to see if it has national interagency application. The IBPWT will have the lead on this project.

#### SECONDED AND CARRIED.

SUBJECT: Resource Ordering and Statusing System - ROSS/MIRPS Project.

**DISCUSSION:** A business/technical requirements analysis has been completed, and the ROSS group recommends continuation of the project to complete the application build-up. MIRPS teams and ROSS have consolidated applications. MIRPS will continue their limited application in California until ROSS is operational.

The IRMWT provided a decision document with their presentation to aid NWCG to follow the process. The following items, with comments, follow: (1) NWCG agrees conceptually with implementation of the project and the ROSS life cycle. (2) Identify personnel who are available to paticipate in the ROSS Project. Assistance from other agencies will help offset direct financial contributions. There is agreement with this, but

NWCG members need a position description that outlines the type of individuals and skills needed. The ROSS Project Lead will provide this information to members by July 15. NWCG members will get back to the Lead within 30 days if they can offer personnel to assist. (3) Agencies will estimate financial contributions to the project for FY99, and will provide hard cash considerations for 2000 by October 1. NWCG concurs, but there is a need to look at the entire issue and balance everything out. (4) The tracking of a decision document may require ROSS charter modification.

MOTION: Accept the ROSS Project decision document as modified.

## SECONDED AND CARRIED.

**SUBJECT:** National Interagency Fire Statistics Information Project (NIFSIP) and Interagency Fire Information Reporting System (IFIRS).

**DISCUSSION:** The analysis phase of the NIFSIP Project is completed. The IRMWT recommends that work be stopped at the end of phase one and coordinate the NIFSIP project with the IFIRS system. There is a need to update wildfire terminology, air quality issues, and fire cause codes to improve uniformity of the project.

**MOTION:** The IRMWT will develop a charter for work that remains to be done on the IFIRS project. The charter should include funding and personnel needs with alternatives to meet the charter and remaining work to be done. NWCG requests this charter update and information by the September meeting.

## SECONDED AND CARRIED.

**SUBJECT:** Blue Ribbon panel.

**DISCUSSION:** There have been some recent questions raised that USFA may serve a role or be needed. James Lee Witt, FEMA, will put together a Blue Ribbon panel to review the activities and needs of the USFA. Does NWCG need to be involved in this panel for review of the USFA? NWCG should have input on the outcome of the committee because of our need for interaction between USFA and NWCG.

**MOTION:** NWCG needs to make a request to James Lee Witt that we would like to be involved with the Blue Ribbon Panel that reviews USFA. It is suggested this request be combined in the same letter to Mr. Witt requesting that USFA be involved with NWCG. The Forest Service will furnish a representative to provide NWCG input to the committee.

#### SECONDED AND CARRIED.

## **SUBJECT:** Four-letter mnemonics.

**DISCUSSION:** Currently NICC has the responsibility to monitor the mnemonics for agency designators and the incident qualification system. NICC no longer has time to update and remain up to date with changes. NICC has asked that we find a new repository for maintenance and updating of the mnemonics. This could be done with greater efficiency in several areas. The IRMWT will provide some technical guidance for the development of mnemonics. The IOSWT could do position and qualification system mnemonics. Fire qualification position mnemonics will continue to go into the Mobilization Guide. Geographic Area Coordinating Groups will take the responsibility for State level agency mnemonics.

**MOTION:** The IRMWT will provide standard advice for the IOSWT. The IOSWT is responsible for the mnemonics used for wildland fire positions. The GACGs will be asked to develop State and local level agency mnemonics within their respective geographical areas. NICC will retain the responsibility to see that current information is placed in the Mobilization Guide.

# SECONDED AND CARRIED.

**SUBJECT:** FY 1998 budget.

**DISCUSSION:** The FY 1998 budget amended at our winter meeting was provided to all members. There was a \$65,000 shortage to what was agreed on at the 71st meeting. This has been corrected by Andrea Wojtasek, Forest Service and will be distributed when copies are available.

SUBJECT: FY 1999 budget.

**DISCUSSION:** NWCG reviewed budget requests submitted by the Working Teams and Advisory groups. The following modifications were made:

- 1. Delete the Fire Use Working Team request to research potential for national advertising, including the \$100,000 for the project.
- 2. Delete the Incident Business Practices Working Team request for \$200,000 to develop a second generation system for automation of Incident Bases. More information on the scope of this project needs to be provided.
- 3. Increase the Radio Narrowband Advisory Group budget request by \$3,000 to a total of \$9,000 to provide more realistic State traveler costs.
- 4. Increase the NWCG State travel budget by \$3,000 to total \$9,000.

The total tentative budget for NWCG for FY 1999 is \$1,083,900.

**MOTION:** Approve budget as modified.

## SECONDED AND CARRIED.

**SUBJECT:** Fire shelter specification.

**DISCUSSION:** No new information is available on fire shelter specifications from our San Antonio meeting. It is recommended we carry this over to the September meeting.

**SUBJECT:** Resource Allocation Task Group.

**DISCUSSION:** A task group was formed at our winter meeting to establish guidelines for the allocation of fire resources between wildland fire and prescribed fire. A draft proposal was provided to NWCG; however, there was insufficient time for review prior to the meeting. Copies of the preliminary draft were to be reviewed for discussion at a conference call July 1, 1998, 0800 MDT. Once ratified, the final document will be sent to the GACGs for implementation and action this fire season.

**SUBJECT:** Should the spring NWCG meeting include GACGs?

**DISCUSSION:** NWCG had agreed to look at a periodic joint meeting that may involve GACGs. Members are asked to consider the possibility of doing this in the spring of 1999. We will follow up at our September 1998 meeting.

SUBJECT: Working Team Chair replacements.

**DISCUSSION:** Because of job transfers, tenure or retirements, several Chair vacancies have occurred. NWCG is responsible for appointing Working Team Chairs, while the Teams have responsibility for replacing their members. Alice Forbes, Forest Service, was nominated to FEWT. She has been in an acting role for about a year. Maureen Brooks, State of Maryland, was nominated to replace Jennifer Jones on the WFEWT. Tory Majors, Forest Service, was nominated to replace Bill Bradshaw on the IBPWT. Mike Funston, Forest Service, was nominated to replace John Gebhard on the IRMWT. In addition, a replacement NWCG Liaison for Wildland/Urban Interface Advisory Group is needed since the Fire Administration is no longer an NWCG member. Don Artley volunteered to do this.

**MOTION:** Accept recommendations above.

#### SECONDED AND CARRIED.

**SUBJECT:** Replacement of State representatives on Working Teams.

**DISCUSSION:** Working Team Chairs with agency concurrence are responsible for replacing members on their Teams when vacancies occur. There is one minor

exception when it comes to State representatives. When a State person leaves a Team, an effort will be made to ensure that a balance be made from all States desiring representation. Don Artley will canvas western States and Jim Hull will canvas eastern States for replacements

#### **SUBJECT:** The future of NWCG.

**DISCUSSION:** What lies in the future for NWCG? We need to take a look at where we want to be in the year 2000+ with wildland fire. It was concurred that a facilitated meeting to brainstorm and develop future activities would be appropriate. A facilitator would help keep us on track; only the futuring topic should be on the agenda. Members will contact facilitators to determine the best recommendation for pre-work that needs to be accomplished. Table this discussion until we receive a recommendation from facilitators in September.

#### **SUBJECT:** Future meetings.

**DISCUSSION:** The next meeting is scheduled for September 30 to October 1, 1998, in Yellowstone National Park. The Vision meeting will take place in Seattle December 16-17. Subsequent meetings are scheduled for Albuquerque January 26-27, 1999, and Milwaukee June 9-10, 1999.

**SUBJECT:** Firefighter fatigue and length of fire assignments.

**DISCUSSION:** A recommendation emerged from the Wildland Firefighter Safety Awareness Study to change fire assignment length from 21 to 14 days. This recommendation is based on the study and input from over 1,000 firefighters. In addition to shortening the length of assigned duty time, one guaranteed day off at the end of the assignment was recommended. Length of assignment on fire incidents was identified as a key factor affecting safety. A positive response to the safety issues identified is needed.

**MOTION:** The Safety and Health Working Team will be asked to report back to NWCG on assignment length/fatigue issues at the September 30, 1998, meeting. NICC will provide alternatives and mechanics of a system from a coordination standpoint on how this reduction of tour would work.

#### SECONDED AND CARRIED.

**SUBJECT:** Alaska Geographic Area Letter (Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AWFCG).

**DISCUSSION:** There appears to be a lack of understanding about the GACG's role and responsibility relative to the Type I Interagency Hot Shot Crews (IHC). The AWFCG perception is that IHCs must receive sponsorship and be recommended by the respective GACG. There seems to be some confusion over the term "sponsorship" in formation of an IHC. It was agreed that Don Artley will respond to the AWFCG, clarifying roles of the GACG in designation of IHCs.

**SUBJECT:** National Fire Aviation Coordinating Group (NFACG) request.

**DISCUSSION:** Elmer Hurd (Office of Aircraft Services/NFACG) is requesting a contact within NWCG to better coordinate fire aviation policy and training issues between agencies. The NFACG deals with a broader spectrum of aviation training than just fire activities so the role in NWCG is different. We suggest that TWT be assigned the task of Liaison and establish coordination between NWCG and NFACG for training issues.

**SUBJECT:** A nominating committee is requested for NWCG officers.

**DISCUSSION:** It is requested that a nominating committee be established to develop a slate of officers for election of new officers at the September 30, 1998, NWCG meeting. Rick Gale and Bill Sommers are the nominating committee and will report at the September meeting.

**SUBJECT:** Wildland/Urban Interface Advisory Group.

**DISCUSSION:** The Group has a new Home Page (Firewise) that is used for the dissemination of information on group activities. The Home Page is getting about 1,000 hits daily; it provides considerable information for homeowners on safety issues that can be initiated by property holders. *Wildfire News and Notes* will be going to four issues this year. The fourth issue will be available only from the Web. If this is successful, then they should be able to extend the budgeting for publications in the future. The group is in the process of developing a community action kit for homeowners, planners, insurance companies, and others. The *Community Action Guide* should be completed in the year 2000. Workshops for living within the interface are planned for all types of people who have interest in insurance, planning, infrastructure, escape routes, etc.

**SUBJECT:** Intertribal Timber Council.

**DISCUSSION:** The Council consists of several people who task groups and others to assist in accomplishing tribal goals. They are interested in establishing a wildland fire group as part of the Council. Don Montanic will provide a report to NWCG from their planned annual council meeting. The ITC assists and serves as a conduit to get the word on NWCG activities out to all tribal agencies. **SUBJECT:** Meeting critique.

**DISCUSSION:** Following are member comments made as a wrap-up to the meeting: 1) Start on time. 2) More and/or better presentations from WTs for high-ticket budget

items or new starts. 3) We may want to include the Forest Service budget person if we are dealing with agency distribution matters. They are probably not needed during the preliminary presentation. 4) Need to have advanced information on presentations for review prior to a presentation at a meeting. The IRMWT decision document was helpful to clarify just what is expected for a decision as a decision approval document. 5) Continue to attempt to hold the line on agenda item cut-off schedules so NWCG members have sufficient time to review materials prior to the meeting. 6) Consider highlighting a WT or specific group to make periodic presentations to NWCG. 7) Consider scheduling important or complex issues for specific times to allow for presentations and discussion (i.e., ROSS).

# 72nd NWCG MEETING SUMMARY AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

Issue	Action	Responsibility	Accomplishment Date	Status
Wildland Fire and Air Quality Modeling and Data Systems	Review the National Strategic Plan and Workshop Report for conceptual approval.	NWCG members	9/30/98	
Prescribed Fire Training Center	Review spectrum of prescribed fire training centers and make a recommendation to NWCG.	Fire Use and Training Working Teams	1/26/99	
Placement of ICS training materials on the Internet	Reformat existing text and provide information on the Web site.	PMS/Roger Erb	1/26/99	
Update on Position Task Book (310-1) revision	Ensure final document is reviewed by all levels of field users so it is easy to understand and use.	IOSWT/Rick Gale	1/26/99	
U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and NWCG membership	USFA can continue their work with NWCG as an Associate Member.	Letter sent to the USFA approving their request for Associate Membership	Completed	
WT storage needs	Follow up with Teams to determine total needs.	NWCG Liaison	9/30/98	
Radio Narrowband Advisory Group	Complete Charter modifications and obtain approval.	Ed Shepard, BLM	9/30/98	
Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy - Implementation Procedure Reference Guide	Review document and ensure all portions are edited to provide consistency.	Tabled	9/30/98	
Weather stations and the weather network	A position and proposal paper from FWWT will be disseminated to for review and approval at the next meeting.	FWWT/Gerry Day	8/30/98	
NWCG Home Page	Provide password protection on a partitioned area in the public page with password protection needed for all fire personnel.	Executive Secretary	7/31/98	
Fire Time Accounting System	Follow-up with the Forest Service in California to determine if there are applications for interagency use.	IBPWT & IRMWT	9/30/98	

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Resource Ordering and Statusing System	<ol> <li>Identify agency personnel to assist with the project.</li> <li>Estimate financial contributions to the project for FY 99.</li> <li>Determine if a ROSS charter document modification is needed.</li> </ol>	ROSS Project Lead NWCG Members	7/15/98
Interagency Fire Information Reporting System (IFIRS)	Develop a charter for work that remains to be done on the IFIRS project.	IRMWT/ Steve Haglund	9/30/98
Blue Ribbon panel	Request participation on this panel slated to review the USFA.	Don Artley/Forest Service	Letter sent/Forest Service meeting pending
Four-letter mnemonics	Provide standard advice for IOSWT and the GACGs for development of mnemonics.	IRMWT/ Steve Haglund	9/30/98
FY 1998 budget	Distribute amended final budget to all WTs and NWCG members.	Executive Secretary	8/1/98
Fire shelter specifications	Provide current specifications on shelters.	SHWT	9/30/98
Spring NWCG meeting - include GACGs?	NWCG had agreed to look at a periodic joint meeting that may involve GACGs. Is it time for another joint meeting?	NWCG members	9/30/98
NWCG futuring	Determine needs and agenda for the futuring meeting based on facilitator recommendations.	NWCG members	9/30/98
Firefighter fatigue and length of fire assignments	Recommendation from the Wildland Firefighter Safety Awareness Study to change fire assignment length from 21 to 14 days.	SHWT/Jim Hull	9/30/98
Alaska Geographic Area correspondence	What is GACG's role and responsibility relative to Type I Interagency Hot Shot Crews (IHC)? The direction in the Mobilization does not appear clear.	Don Artley will send response	7/30/98
National Fire Aviation Coordinating Group (NFACG) request	Assign a Liaison and establish coordination between NWCG and NFACG.	Don Artley	Completed

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