



NWCG Substructure Update

October, 2008

National Wildfire Coordinating Group Organization Objectives:

- Meet the needs of the wildland fire community, including federal and state partners
- Simplify governance
- Be more efficient, effective, and responsive
 - Reduce duplication
- Provide clarity of roles, responsibilities, functions, and relationships
- Provide improved coordination for
 - Policy
 - Standards
 - Operations
- Improve communication among parent groups and their various sub-groups

History:

January 2008: The NWCG invited the chairs of the various sub-groups of the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC), NWCG, National Fire and Aviation Executive Board (NFAEB), and the National Multi-Agency Coordination (NMAC) group to create a new organization structure for the re-chartered NWCG.

NFAEB which managed the interagency wildland fire program beyond wildland fire operations standards and guidelines was merged with NWCG. Additionally, other wildland fire management programs such as fuels, and operational groups like predictive services.

The purpose of this update is to provide timely information about the progress of the National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG) decisions and restructuring activities about the NWCG substructure organization.

Managing Change: There is always a perception that when change occurs it is because something is not working right. While that may be true in some instances it does not apply to the NWCG working teams. "The working team concept has had the greatest effect of NWCG in that it has provided a means for the exchange of knowledge about all dimensions of fire management". (*Jack Wilson and Jerry L. Monesmith, The National Wildfire Coordinating Group - Then and Now*)

The NWCG substructure reorganization is an extension of that progress into a more effective way of managing our complex workload.

Recent NWCG Decisions relative to substructure:

- Part-time communication support
- The support of three Branch Coordinator positions
- Branch Coordinators become the liaisons between the NWCG Executive Board and the old NWCG/NFAEB subgroups as well as the new NWCG committees
- The transition and metamorphosis from the old NWCG/NFAEB subgroups into the new NWCG committees

Part-time communication support: Venetia Gempler, Fire Program Analysis' Communication Director, will be working part-time to assist the newly structured NWCG to develop and distribute information and updates about substructure reorganization activities.

Branch Coordinators: Job announcements have gone out to fill two permanent, full-time positions. The third will be filled by a half-time detailer at this time.

Branch Coordinators are needed to view the substructure organization

from a broader scope and facilitate interaction between and amongst all subgroups. Branch Coordinators will be subgroup advocates and assist them as needed. They will be involved in managing and monitoring change across the NWCG organization as members of the Change Management Unit. This is a new dimension to the NWCG organization and the Branch Coordinator roles and responsibilities are evolving and require subgroup involvement.

Background NWCG team/group chairs and reorganization staff leads helped define a more efficient framework for responding to the needs and priorities of the new NWCG. **The result:** The current NWCG/NFAEB subgroups will transition into fourteen committees organized into three branches. The branches are "**Policy, Planning, and Management; Equipment and Technology; and Preparedness.**" Interim Branch Coordinators have been appointed to work with the subgroups to manage the transition and the scope and complexity of the subsequent workload.

Stay tuned for more!