



# National Wildfire Coordinating Group

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) provides leadership to the wildland fire community regarding training, standards, equipment, firefighting qualifications, and other wildland fire functions. NWCG was chartered in 1976 to provide a means for agencies to coordinate programs, constructively work together, and avoid duplication of efforts. Members of NWCG include representatives of the Department of Agriculture's U. S. Forest Service; the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the National Association of State Foresters; the Department of Homeland Security's U. S. Fire Administration; and the Intertribal Timber Council.



The NWCG organization includes the Executive Board, the NWCG staff called the Program Management Unit (PMU), 14 chartered committees, multiple subcommittees, and various other units and task teams.

The Executive Board leads the wildland fire program by establishing standards and developing policy for interagency fire management. They set priorities, assign tasks, and approve all NWCG products based on the NWCG strategic vision.



The NWCG committees include representatives from different agencies and geographical areas. They draw upon the technical expertise of their members to address issues and concerns affecting the wildland fire community.

The NWCG PMU helps streamline NWCG processes and improve coordination, communication, and governance between NWCG committees and the Executive Board. The PMU includes a Program Manager, three NWCG Branch Coordinators, a Training Branch Manager, support staff, and wildland fire architects. The architects provide a long-term view of the full scope of wildland fire data, processes, systems, and technologies. Together the NWCG organization facilitates a consistent fire management program across agencies to promote a safe and productive wildland fire workforce.

Organizationally, each of the NWCG committees falls under the scope of one of three NWCG branches: *Policy, Planning, and Management*; *Equipment and Technology*; or *Preparedness*. The fourth branch is *NWCG Training* which supports national wildland fire training development.

## ***Policy, Planning, and Management Branch***

Focuses on interagency fire planning and policy implementation, fuels and smoke management, mitigation, prevention, and education.

## ***Equipment and Technology Branch***

Focuses on aviation, firefighting equipment, information resource management, and predicting when and how fires will burn.

## ***Preparedness Branch***

Focuses on incident business practices, managing occupational risks to firefighters, operations, workforce development, and all hazard support.

## ***Training Branch***

Develops 100- thru 400-level national interagency wildland fire training courses to meet the needs of the wildland fire community.





# National Wildfire Coordinating Group Committees

## ***Policy, Planning, and Management Branch Committees***

### *Fire Policy*

Provides direction and coordination to ensure proper implementation of national inter-agency fire policy.

### *Interagency Fire Planning*

Facilitates a collaborative planning approach at the local, state/regional, tribal and national level, while assisting and providing guidance to ensure compliance with statutes and regulations affecting wildland fire management.

### *Fuels Management*

Provides leadership and coordination to unite the interagency wildland fuels management programs under the common purpose of reducing risks of wildfire to communities while improving and maintaining ecosystem health.

### *Communication, Education, and Prevention*

Promotes a better understanding by public and internal audiences regarding wildland fire through communication, education, prevention, and outreach.

### *Smoke*

Provides a forum for air resource and wildland fire management programs to discuss technical, regulatory, and policy matters concerning fire emissions and air quality impacts on firefighter and public safety and health from planned and unplanned fires.

### *Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation*

Provides coordinated leadership and recommendations for the achievement of fire-adapted communities in the wildland urban interface.

## ***Equipment and Technology Branch Committees***

### *Information Technology*

Provides interagency oversight to development and use of integrated information resource management solutions.

### *Equipment Technology*

Coordinates chemical and fire equipment needs, development, and implementation between federal and state agencies.



### *Fire Environment*

Provides interagency oversight to measuring and predicting the wildland fire environment.

### *National Interagency Aviation*

Realizes opportunities to enhance safety, effectiveness, and efficiency in aviation related operations, procedures, programs, and coordination.

## ***Preparedness Branch Committees***

### *Incident Business*

Coordinates business practices for wildland fire and non-fire emergency responses among cooperating agencies.

### *National Response Framework (NRF)/National Incident Management System (NIMS)*

Provides leadership, and expertise for the establishment, implementation, maintenance, and communication of policy, standards, and guidelines related to the NRF and NIMS for NWCG agencies.

### *Risk Management*

Improves firefighter health and safety by establishing and promoting sound risk management principles.

### *Operations and Workforce Development*

Provides strategic management of operational, qualification, and training standards, as well as workforce succession planning for NWCG member agencies in compliance with National Incident Management System.

