

# Wildland Fire Governance

## Approval

This governance structure is effective on the date of approval and shall remain in effect until revised or revoked by the Chair, Wildland Fire Leadership Council.

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Wildland Fire Leadership Council Co-Chair, DOI

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Date

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Wildland Fire Leadership Council Co-Chair, DOA

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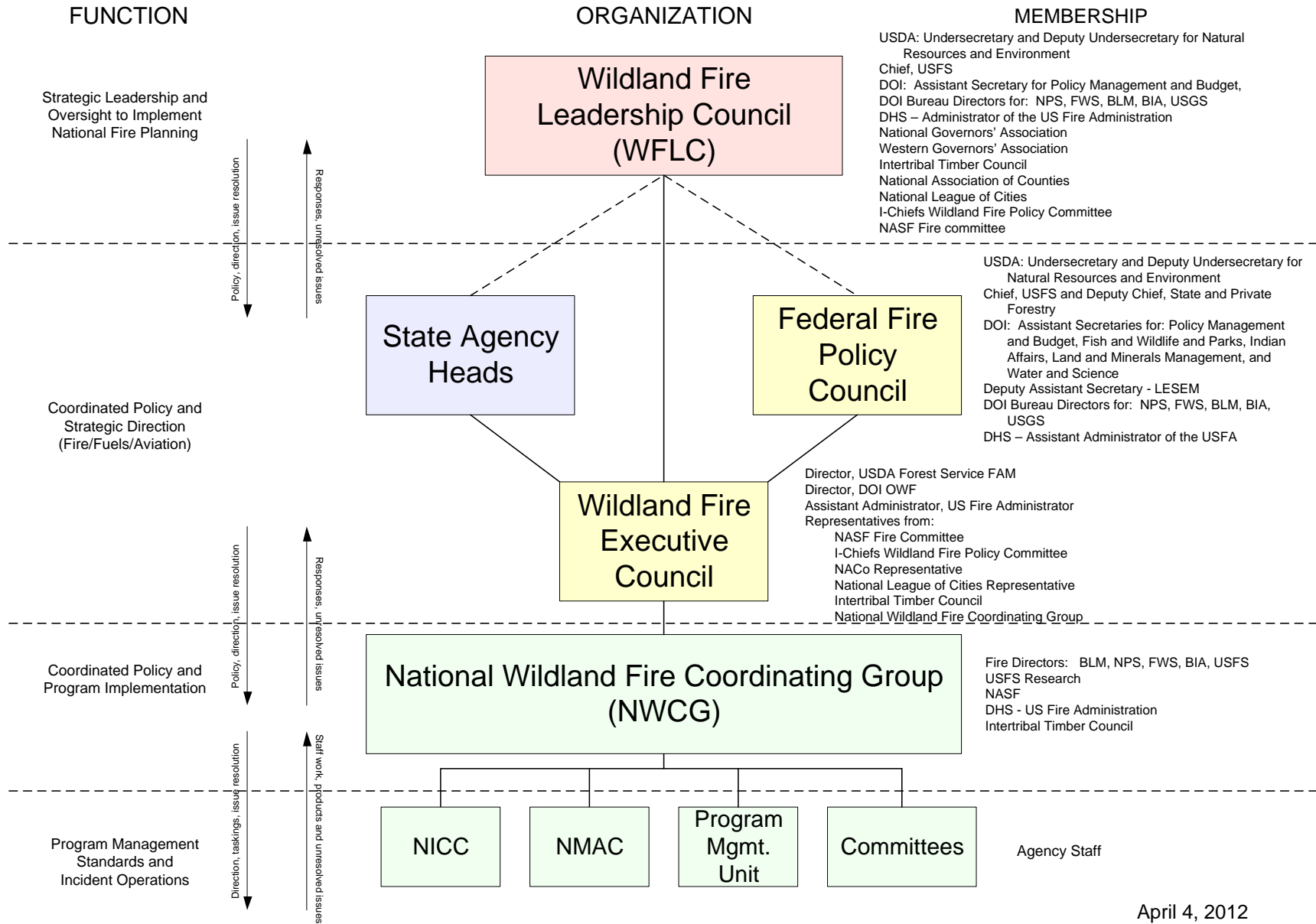
Date

## **Wildland Fire Governance Organizations**

This document describes the organizations involved in developing and implementing the strategic direction for the country's wildland fire activities. Within these organizations all levels of government are represented. It is through this inclusive collaborative environment that our nation's communities, forests, and rangelands are protected.

The organizations described below are the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC), the Federal Fire Policy Council (FFPC), the Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC), and the National Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (NWCG). The following table identifies the formalized organizations, their respective governance role and membership.

# Interagency Wildland Fire Governance Structure



April 4, 2012

## **Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC)**

### **Purpose:**

The WFLC is an intergovernmental council of federal, state, tribal, county, and local government officials convened by the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior dedicated to consistent implementation of wildland fire policies, goals, and management activities. The WFLC is structured in accordance with its authorizing memorandum of understanding.

### **Membership:**

Federal membership on the Council includes the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Undersecretary and Deputy Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment, and the Chief of the Forest Service; the U.S. Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Policy Management and Budget, and the Directors of the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S. Geological Survey. The Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration represents the Department of Homeland Security.

In addition to the federal officials, the Council includes seven non-federal members comprised primarily of senior elected officials of state, tribal, county and municipal governments, including a State Governor representing the National Governors' Association, a State Governor representing the Western Governors' Association, the President of the Intertribal Timber Council, a County Commissioner representing the National Association of Counties and a Mayor representing the National League of Cities. These elected officers, along with a State Forester (NASF) designated by their governor and a Fire Chief (I-Chiefs) designated by their elected official, are invited to participate in the Wildland Fire Leadership Council because of their interest in and statutory responsibility for wildland fire management.

### **Primary Responsibilities:**

- Provide strategic leadership to ensure policy coordination, accountability, and effective implementation of wildland fire management policy
- Provide strategic oversight of long-term strategies to address wildfire suppression, assistance to communities, hazardous fuels reduction, habitat restoration, and rehabilitation of the Nation's forests and rangelands

### **Relationship to Other Groups:**

WFLC provides direction to the Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC). The WFEC provides support to accomplish the strategic goals and objectives of WFLC.

### **Group Leadership:**

Chair rotates annually between USDA and US DOI.

### **Decision Making:**

Decisions are made by consensus only.

## **Federal Fire Policy Council (FFPC)**

### **Purpose:**

The primary purpose of the Federal Fire Policy Council is to carry out the federal component of wildland fire management.

### **Membership:**

The Federal Fire Policy Council shall be composed of the USDA Undersecretary and Deputy Undersecretary – Natural Resources and Environment, the Chief of the Forest Service and the Deputy Chief of State and Private Forestry, and for DOI the Assistant Secretaries for Policy, Management and Budget, Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Indian Affairs, Land and Minerals Management, and Water and Science; the Bureau Directors of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and the US Geological Survey; the Deputy Assistant Secretary – Law Enforcement, Security & Emergency Management, and the Assistant Administrator of DHS-US Fire.

### **Primary Responsibilities:**

- Establish national policy guidance
- Formulate, coordinate, and integrate wildland fire policy
- Provide policy direction for the formulation of the wildland fire budgets
- Provide a forum to consider and resolve inter- and intra-departmental policy issues
- Ensure that program goals are identified and that results are measured for wildland fire
- Maintain national level fire activity situational awareness

### **Relationship to Other Groups:**

FFPC provides a forum for federal issues only, through interfacing with both WFLC and WFEC.

### **Group Leadership:**

The FFPC is co-chaired by the DOI Assistant Secretary-Policy, Management and Budget and the USDA Deputy Undersecretary for National Resources and Environment.

### **Decision Making:**

The FFPC seeks to agree upon mutually acceptable policy and strategic decisions and direction to govern federal fire program activities. However, in the event that the FFPC cannot reach consensus about a significant fire policy issue, a member of the FFPC may elect, without prejudice, to raise the issue with the Secretaries for resolution.

## **Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC)**

### **Purpose:**

The Wildland Fire Executive Council provides coordinated interagency executive level wildland fire policy leadership, direction, and program oversight.

### **Membership:**

The Wildland Fire Executive Council is composed of the Director, USDA Forest Service FAM; Director, DOI OWF; Assistant Administrator, U.S. Fire Administrator;; and representatives of the NASF Fire Committee; I-Chiefs Wildland Fire Policy Committee; Intertribal Timber Council; National Association of Counties; The National League of Cities and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

### **Primary Responsibilities:**

- Provide coordinated recommendations and advice to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture through the Wildland Fire Leadership Council
- Facilitates the development and implementation of a National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy
- Provides advice on wildland fire policy and program direction to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group

### **Relationship to Other Groups:**

WFEC is the focal point for supporting the accomplishment of WFLC's strategic direction. WFEC responds to requests from WFLC by directly engaging their staffs and through taskings to NWCG. NWCG elevates wildland fire issues that cannot be resolved within the NWCG organization structure to WFEC for resolution. WFEC elevates unresolved issues to WFLC.

### **Group Leadership:**

WFEC is chartered as a discretionary advisory committee under the authorities of the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture. The WFEC is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The Deputy Director for the Office of Wildland Fire is the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and will approve or call all WFEC and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the Secretaries.

### **Decision Making:**

Decisions are made by consensus. In the event that consensus cannot be reached, the issue will be elevated to the WFLC.

## **National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)**

### **Purpose:**

- NWCG provides national leadership and establishes, implements, maintains, and communicates policy, standards, guidelines, and qualifications for wildland fire program management.
- NWCG provides a forum in which issues, both short and long term, involving standards and program implementation can be coordinated, discussed, and resolved. Serves as a clearinghouse and provides a forum for discussion of short and long-term wildland fire management issues and initiates actions to improve coordination and integration of state, tribal, and federal wildland fire programs while recognizing individual agency missions.

### **Membership:**

The NWCG Executive Board is composed of representatives of the Forest Service, Forest Service Research, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, the National Association of State Foresters, the Intertribal Timber Council and DHS-US Fire Administration.

### **Primary Responsibilities:**

- Provide leadership in establishing and maintaining consistent interagency standards and guidelines, qualifications, and communications for wildland fire management
- Provide a formalized system for standards of training, equipment, qualifications, and other operational functions
- Provide coordinated policy and program implementation

### **Relationship to Other Groups:**

NWCG responds to taskings from WFEC. NWCG accomplishes their work by engaging their interagency committees and sub-committees through the NWCG governance structure which is made up of the Program Management Unit and its Branch Coordinators and enterprise architects as well as its interagency committees. NWCG elevates wildland fire issues that cannot be resolved within the NWCG organization structure to WFEC for resolution.

### **Group Leadership:**

The NWCG chair rotates amongst its membership on a two year rotation.

### **Decision Making:**

Decisions are made by consensus.

## **Interior Fire Executive Council (IFEC)**

### **Purpose:**

The Interior Fire Executive Council (IFEC) provides coordinated interagency executive level wildland fire policy leadership, direction, and program oversight. IFEC is the focal point for discussing wildland fire policy issues that affect the Department of Interior (DOI) and provides a forum for gathering the interests of the DOI bureaus to formulate a DOI recommendation and/or position to be taken forward to the Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC).

### **Membership:**

The IFEC is composed of the Director, Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC), the four DOI fire directors and their respective senior executive. Associate members include the Director, Aviation Management Directorate and a representative from USGS.

### **Primary Responsibilities:**

- Provide coordinated interior executive level wildland fire policy leadership, direction, and program oversight
- Provide coordinated Department of the Interior recommendations and advice to be given to WFEC
- Provide a forum for DOI to ensure strategic policy and program integration with resource management, aviation, and other related program areas.
- Support the fire budget formulation and allocation activities for DOI

### **Relationship to Other Groups:**

The Director, OWFC is responsible for representing all of the bureau's interests to the WFEC and the Federal Fire Policy Council (FFPC).

### **Group Leadership:**

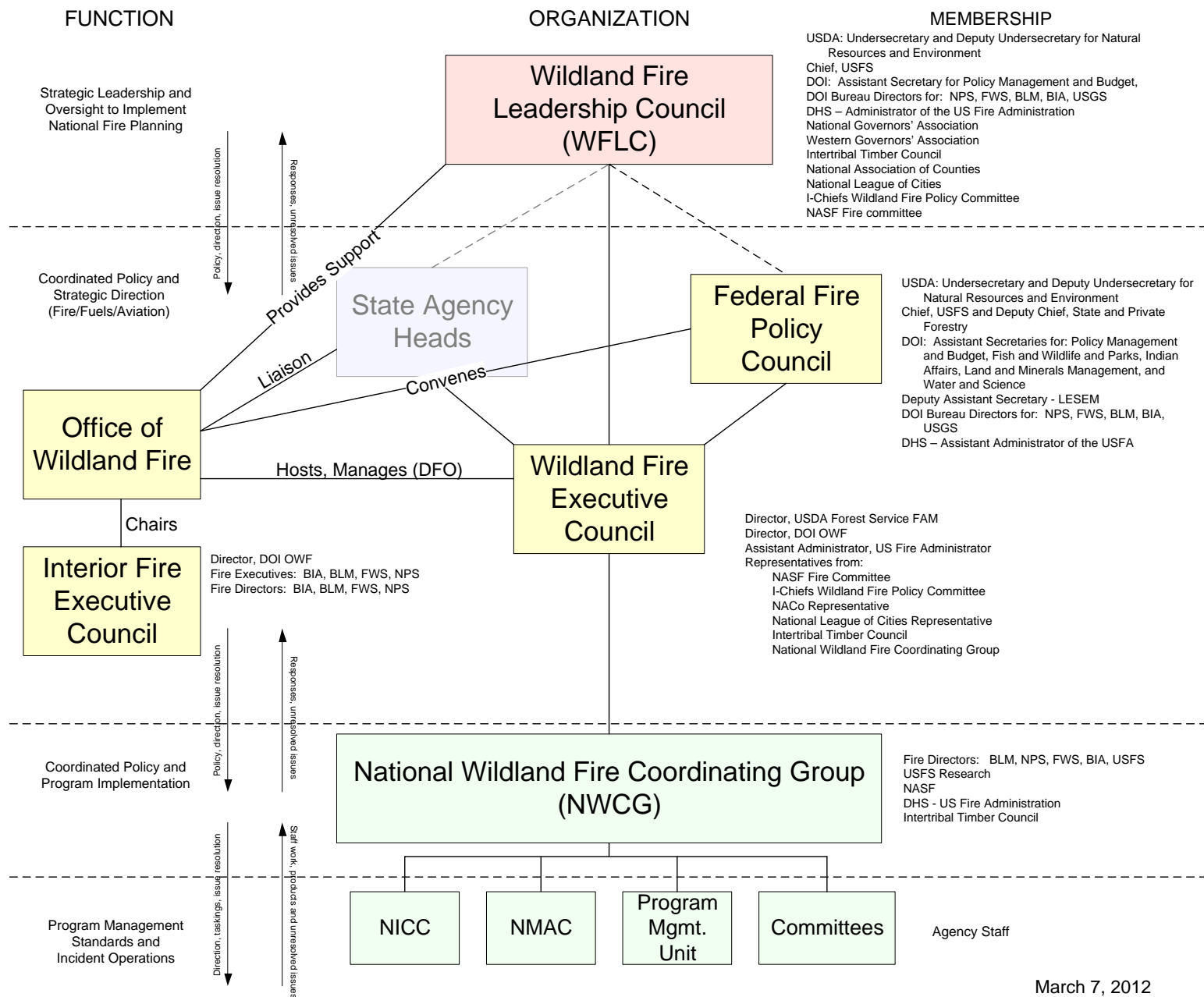
The IFEC is chaired by the Director of the OWFC.

### **Decision Making:**

The IFEC seeks to agree upon DOI budget formulation and allocation activities as well as develop mutually acceptable positions and recommendations to be taken forward to WFEC and/or FFPC.



# OWF's Role in Interagency Wildland Fire Governance



March 7, 2012



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## **Memorandum of Understanding Wildland Fire Leadership Council**

This Memorandum of Understanding by the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Homeland Security authorizes the Wildland Fire Leadership Council, an intergovernmental committee supporting the implementation and coordination of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy.

### **Mission**

The Wildland Fire Leadership Council (Council) is an intergovernmental committee of Federal, state, tribal, county, and municipal government officials convened by the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, and Homeland Security dedicated to consistent implementation of wildland fire policies, goals, and management activities. The Council provides strategic oversight to ensure policy coordination, accountability, and effective implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and related long-term strategies to address wildfire preparedness and suppression, hazardous fuels reduction, landscape restoration and rehabilitation of the Nation's wildlands, and assistance to communities.

### **Goals**

The Council, through its members and pursuant to relevant statutory authority, works strategically to develop, review, update, and monitor implementation of:

- Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy;
- Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Act of 2009 (FLAME Act);
- A Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy (2009 Quadrennial Fire Review);
- 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy (August 2001) & Implementation Plan (December 2006); and
- Other policies, procedures, and program management activities designed to protect communities and natural resources from wildfires, reduce hazardous fuels, restore fire-adapted ecosystems, and assist communities in their efforts to reduce loss from wildfires.

## **Organization and Operations**

Membership on the Council includes the following Federal officials:

- **U.S. Department of Agriculture** – the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, the Deputy Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment, and the Chief of the Forest Service.
- **U.S. Department of the Interior** – the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget and the Directors of the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S. Geological Survey.
- **U.S. Department of Homeland Security** – the Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration.

In addition to the Federal officials, the Council includes seven non-Federal members comprised primarily of senior elected officials of state, tribal, county, and municipal governments, including a state governor who is a member of the National Governors' Association, a state governor who is a member of the Western Governors' Association, the President of the Intertribal Timber Council, a county commissioner who is a member of the National Association of Counties, and a mayor who is a member of the National League of Cities. These elected officers, along with a state forester and a fire chief, at the request of the Senior Elected Official to whom they report, are invited to participate in the Wildland Fire Leadership Council because of their interest in and statutory responsibility for wildland fire management. The elected officials making designations may delegate alternatives in writing to attend in their absence.

## **Governance**

Responsibility for chairing the Council will alternate between the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture annually. The Council will meet regularly to monitor progress on implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and other stated goals. Additional business protocols may be adopted by the Council to facilitate its efficient operation.

The Council Chair will provide at least 30 days written notice to Council members of meeting dates, location, and preliminary agenda items. Council members are encouraged to bring strategic topics requiring intergovernmental coordination before the Council and to invite interested individuals to present information to help inform the Council's deliberations.

The actions and obligations of the Agencies and Bureaus under this Memorandum of Understanding are subject to the availability of appropriations. Each party will carry out its activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner. The Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Homeland Security will manage their own activities and utilize their own resources including the expenditure of their own funds, in pursuing these objectives.

This Memorandum of Understanding takes effect upon the signature of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, and the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, and shall remain in effect for 5 years from the date of execution. This Memorandum of Understanding may be extended or amended upon written request of any of the Secretaries and the subsequent written concurrence of the others. Any Secretary may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding with a 60-day written notice to the others.

## Collaboration and Public Participation

The Administration and Congress have directed the Federal Agencies to work collaboratively with tribal, state, and local governments and with citizens to develop and implement strategies for dealing with wildfire preparedness and suppression, hazardous fuels reduction, landscape restoration, and rehabilitation of the Nation's wildlands (e.g. rangelands, forests, and wetlands) as well as assistance to communities. In the collaborative spirit of this direction, and pursuant to provisions of law, including the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act exemption to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Council is an intergovernmental committee established to exchange views, information, and advice relating to the management and implementation of Federal programs in wildland fire management, hazardous fuels reduction, and natural resource management, and to integrate these activities with other Federal, state, local, and tribal programs.

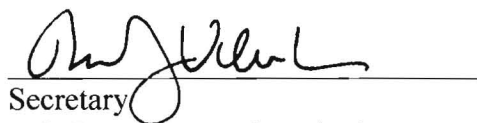
Meetings shall be open to the public and exchange with individual members of the public in attendance will be encouraged through designation of "public comment" time on the agenda or by other informal means. The Council Chair, with the consent of the members present, may declare a portion of the meeting as an "executive session." An executive session may include routine administrative duties, ministerial tasks, or discussion of highly sensitive or confidential matters. The Council will strive to keep its meeting open to the public to the fullest extent possible.

## Approval

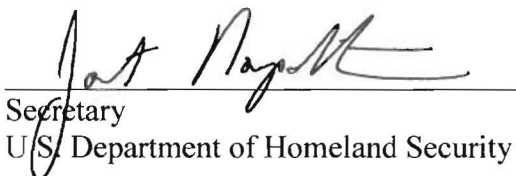
The undersigned approve this Memorandum of Understanding.



Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture



Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

DATE: APR 12 2010

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WILDLAND FIRE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
CHARTER

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** The Committee's official designation is the Wildland Fire Executive council (WFEC).
2. **Authority.** The WFEC is a discretionary advisory committee established under the authorities of the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture, in furtherance of 43 U.S.C. 1457 and provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a-742j), the Federal Land Policy and management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 *et. seq*), the National wildlife Refuge system Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee), and the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 *et. seq*). The WFEC is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.
3. **Objective and Scope of Activities.** The WFEC provides advice on the coordinated national level wildland fire policy leadership, direction, and program oversight in support to the Wildland Fire Leadership Council.
4. **Description of Duties.** The duties of the WFEC are solely advisory, and include:
  - Providing coordinating recommendations and advice to the Wildland Fire Leadership Council;
  - Facilitating development and implementation of a National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy;
  - Providing advice on wildland fire policy and program direction to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group;
5. **Agency or Official to Whom the committee Reports.** The WFEC reports to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture through the Wildland Fire Leadership council, which is comprised of, in part, the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget and the Directors of National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S. Geological Survey for the Department of the Interior, and for the Department of Agriculture, the Under Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment, the Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, and the Chief of the Forest Service.
6. **Support.** The Department of the Interior's Office of Wildland Fire Coordination will provide support for the WFEC.

7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the WFEC's activities are estimated to be \$95,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and .25 staff years.
8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The Designated Federal Officer (DFO) is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will approve or call all WFEC and subcommittee's meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the Secretaries.
9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The WFEC will meet approximately 6-12 times a year, and at such other times as designated by the DFO.
10. **Duration.** Continuing
11. **Termination.** The WFEC is subject to biennial renewal and will terminate 2 years from the date the Charter is filed, unless, prior to that date, the Charter is renewed in accordance with Section 14 of the FACA. The WFEC will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.
12. **Membership and Designation.** Members of the WFEC shall be composed of representatives from the Federal Government, and from among, but not limited to, the following interest groups.
  - Director, Department of the Interior, Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (DOI OWFC)
  - Director, United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Fire and Aviation Management (USDA FS FAM)
  - Assistant Administrator, U.S. Fire Administration (USFA)
  - Representative, National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG)
  - Representative, National Association of State Foresters (NASF)
  - Representative, International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)
  - Representative, Intertribal Timber council (ITC)
  - Representative, National Association of counties (NACO)
  - Representative, National League of Cities (NLC)
  - Representative, National Governors' Association (NGA)

Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary and are appointed on a staggered term basis for terms not to exceed 3 years. A vacancy on the WFEC is filled in the same manner in which the original appointment is made.

Members of the WFEC and its subcommittee members serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, WFEC and subcommittee members engaged in WFEC, or subcommittee business, approved by the DFO, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the

same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under Section 5703 of Title 5 of the United States Code.

- 13. Ethics Responsibilities of Members.** No WFEC or subcommittee members shall participate in any specific party matter including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct financial interest.
- 14. Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees may be formed for the purpose of compiling information or conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full WFEC for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. The Council Chair, with the approval of the DFO, will appoint subcommittee members. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.
- 15. Recordkeeping.** The records of the WFEC, and formally and informally established subcommittees of the WFEC, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, item 2 or other approved Agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Interior

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

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Secretary of Agriculture

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Filed



# Interior Fire Executive Council

## Charter

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### **Name**

The name of this group is the Interior Fire Executive Council, hereinafter referred to as the IFEC.

### **Purpose**

The Interior Fire Executive Council provides coordinated wildland fire policy leadership, direction, and program oversight for the Department of the Interior (DOI).

### **Functions**

- Provide coordinated DOI positions, recommendations and advice to the Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC) through the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC) Director as the primary DOI representative to the WFEC
- Provide coordinated DOI executive level wildland fire policy leadership, direction, and program oversight
- Provide wildland fire policy and program direction to the fire organizations within the Department of the Interior.
- Ensure strategic policy and program integration with resource management, aviation, and other related program areas.
- Provide a collaborative forum for Interior Fire Budget formulation, justification and allocation

### **Decision Making**

- IFEC produces coordinated DOI decisions and positions for internal DOI wildland fire programs and issues, as well as consolidated DOI input for WFEC decisions. Decision making for IFEC is by consensus, with a unanimous vote documenting the concurrence. If consensus cannot be reached, the Director, DOI OWFC or acting will convey this position on the issue to WFEC.

### **Membership and Organization**

#### Members:

- Director, DOI OWFC
- Fire Executives from:
  - Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
  - National Park Service (NPS)
  - Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
- Interior Fire Directors

#### Associate Members:

- Representative, United States Geological Survey (USGS)
- Director, Aviation Management Directorate (AMD)



The IFEC will invite the participation of representatives from other agencies or program areas as needed and appropriate.

As necessary, members of the IFEC may be represented by a deputy or similar senior official with the authority to represent and speak for the member.

The IFEC will be chaired by the Director, OWFC. In the absence of the Director, OWFC, the Deputy Director, OWFC will act as chair.

## **Responsibilities**

### **Chair:**

The Chair is responsible for setting agendas, conducting meetings, and representing the IFEC at the WFEC and Federal Fire Policy Council (FFPC).

### **Executive Secretary:**

The Chair will designate an Executive Secretary from outside the IFEC membership. The Executive Secretary is responsible for recording the actions and decisions of the IFEC, for distributing and communicating information about the IFEC, and for keeping and securing permanent records of the IFEC. The Executive Secretary will assist the Chair with organizing and preparing for meetings.

### **Members:**

Each member is responsible for keeping their respective organization informed of IFEC proceedings and decisions. Members who are unable to attend will ensure that their designated representative attends with their full authority.

The IFEC will rely upon staff from its member offices. The IFEC may utilize existing committees to carry out the Interior fire business of IFEC. From time to time, as necessary, the IFEC may create *ad hoc* committees to address specific issues.

## **Meetings and Reports**

The IFEC shall meet monthly prior to the scheduled WFEC or FFPC meetings or as necessary to conduct its business.

A quorum for conducting business shall be more than 50% of the members unless otherwise determined by the Chair. All meetings shall be preceded by a written agenda. Each meeting will be documented with minutes recording members in attendance, major issues discussed, actions taken, and decisions made.

Reports provided to the IFEC by its permanent and *ad hoc* committees or other groups will be made a part of the permanent records of the IFEC. As it deems necessary, the IFEC may issue reports, which shall be made part of its permanent records.

**Approval**

This Charter is effective on the date of approval and shall remain in effect until revised or revoked by the approving official.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Secretary,  
Office of Policy, Management, and Budget

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

National Interagency Fire Center  
3833 S. Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

## Charter

### **Name**

The name of this group is the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, hereinafter referred to as the NWCG.

### **Purpose**

- NWCG will provide national leadership and establish, implement, maintain, and communicate policy, standards, guidelines, and qualifications for wildland fire program management.
- NWCG provides a forum in which issues, both short and long term, involving standards and program implementation can be coordinated, discussed, and resolved. Serves as a clearinghouse and provides a forum for discussion of short and long-term wildland fire management issues and initiates actions to improve coordination and integration of state, tribal, and federal wildland fire programs while recognizing individual agency missions.

### **Functions:**

- Develops and maintains standards, guidelines, training, and certification in interagency wildland fire operations.
- Implements the wildland fire program.
- Participates with and responds to wildland fire policy and program guidance and direction.
- Ensures strategic policy and program coordination between fire, resources, aviation, and other related program areas.
- Participates in the development and supports the National Response Plan, as well as the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as required.

### **Guiding Principles:**

- Safety is the core value and consideration throughout all NWCG activities.
- Wise and efficient use of funds is a high priority consideration in planning and implementing NWCG objectives.
- Interagency communication, coordination, and cooperation are vital to the effective and efficient use of the nation's wildland fire management resources. Actions are based on the collective needs and capabilities of the interagency community.
- Effective wildland fire management is a result of leadership at all levels.

- Trust and integrity are inherent to the success of NWCG. Deliberations are open and transparent.
- Differences in member organizations' responsibilities, missions, and capabilities are recognized and mutually respected.
- Responding to change through a deliberative process and member accountability for all actions contributes to excellence.

### **Membership and Organization**

Membership is limited to one individual organization representative, except the Forest Service will be represented by two representatives – one from Fire and Aviation Management and one from Fire Research.

Member Organizations:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- Forest Service, Fire and Aviation Management
- Forest Service Fire Research
- U.S. Fire Administration
- National Association of State Foresters
- Intertribal Timber Council

NWCG will include a Chair, Co-Chair, and Executive Secretary. The Chair and Co-Chair will each be elected from within the NWCG to serve a minimum term of two (2) years.

The Chair may establish working teams or other temporary ad hoc committees to carry out the functional work of the NWCG. The Chair for any working team shall be selected by a vote of the NWCG. Membership shall be invited from member organizations and other organizations having the expertise and interest in the particular subject matter. Working team reports and recommendations shall be submitted to the Group for review, approval, and further action.

### **Responsibilities**

#### **Chair:**

The Chair may call and conduct meetings, establish working teams, and submit NWCG recommendations to member agencies and other entities for action, and sign NWCG correspondence. In addition, the Chair will represent the Group at Fire Executive Council Meetings, National Association of State Foresters Fire Committee Meetings, and other meetings and events as appropriate. When the Chair is absent from a Group meeting or incapacitated, the Co-Chair shall assume the full authority and responsibility of the Chair.

#### **Co-Chair:**

The Co-Chair is responsible for serving as Chair in his or her absence and for performing delegated duties.

**Executive Secretary:**

The Chair will designate an Executive Secretary from outside the NWCG membership. The Executive Secretary is responsible for recording the actions and decisions of the NWCG, for distributing and communicating information about the NWCG, and for keeping and securing permanent records of the NWCG. The Executive Secretary will assist the Chair with organizing and preparing for meetings.

**Operating Principles, Guidelines, and Procedures**

The NWCG shall have an operating plan to provide protocols and procedures for conducting NWCG business.

**Meetings and Reports**

The NWCG shall meet monthly or as necessary to conduct business. Quarterly meetings will be held at locations to be determined by the member organizations through their representatives. The Group shall also meet upon the call of the Chair at a location to be determined by the Chair. The Chair shall submit necessary reports and have minutes prepared for each meeting and distributed to the members.

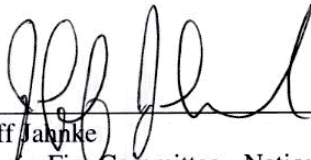
Monthly meetings shall focus on program implementation. Three times annually, meetings shall focus on standards, guidelines, and training and certification issues in interagency wildland fire operations. A quorum for conducting business shall be a minimum of two-thirds of the members.

This Charter is effective on the date of approval of undersigned officials and shall remain in effect until revised or revoked by those officials.


**Approval:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Beighley  
Chair, Fire Executive Council

10/11/07  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Janke  
Chair, Fire Committee - National Association of State Foresters

10/11/07  
Date

for   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nolan Colegrove  
President, Intertribal Timber Council

10/11/07  
Date

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
for  
**THE NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP**  
among the  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Land Management  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
National Park Service  
and the  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Forest Service  
and the  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
U.S. Fire Administration  
and the  
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS,  
and the  
THE INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL.

BLM No. – FA-MOU08-0001

NPS No. – F9560080001

BIA No. – 2007-K00441-MOU-004

ITC No. – N/A

USDA FS No. – 07-MU-11130206-073

FWS No. – 93252-7-MOU-004

USFA No. – N/A

NASF No. – N/A

**I. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFITS AND INTEREST.**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made by and entered into among the following entities:

- A. Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs—all agencies of the United States Department of the Interior, hereinafter collectively referred to as “DOI agencies;”
- B. United States Forest Service hereinafter referred to as “Forest Service,” an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture;
- C. United States Fire Administration of the United States Department of Homeland Security, hereinafter referred to as “USFA;”
- D. Intertribal Timber Council hereinafter referred to as “ITC”; and
- E. National Association of State Foresters hereinafter referred to as “NASF,” a non-profit organization whose members are the Directors of the state forestry agencies of participating states, U.S. territories and former territories, and the District of Columbia.

These entities share the common goal of effective and efficient wildland fire management. They recognize that each organization’s mission can be better accomplished through cooperative efforts and through the sharing of talents, information, and resources. A charter will be implemented which guides the operations of the participants in meeting their common goals.

The Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior entered into Memoranda of Understanding—dated, respectively, January 28, 1943, and February 21, 1963—to provide adequate wildfire management and protection to the lands under their respective jurisdictions.

In addition, the bureau and agency directors for the land management agencies for the above Secretaries, which includes the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service, also entered into an Interagency Agreement for Fire Management that is rewritten every five years and commonly referred to as “the Master Fire Management Agreement.” This agreement provides a basis for cooperation among the agencies on all aspects of wildland fire management and as authorized in non-fire emergencies.

## **II. PURPOSE.**

The purpose of this MOU is to create a framework for the ongoing work of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, hereinafter referred to as “NWCG,” as a national group whose function is to provide national leadership and establish, implement, maintain and communicate policy, standards, guidelines, and qualifications for wildland fire program management and support the National Incident Management System.

NWCG provides a forum in which issues both short and long term involving standards and program implementation can be coordinated, discussed and resolved. Serves as a clearing house and provides a forum for discussion of short and long-term wildland fire management issues and initiates actions to improve coordination and integration of state, tribal, and federal wildland fire programs while recognizing individual agency missions.

## **III. AUTHORITY.**

The signatory entities are authorized to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding under their respective authorities:

- Reciprocal Fire Protection Act of May 27, 1955, 42 U.S.C. § 1856a (2000);
- the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. § 1701, *et seq.* (2000);
- National Park Service Organic Act of August 1916, 16 U.S.C. § 1, *et seq.* (2000);
- National Wildlife Refuge Administrations Act of June 27, 1998, 16 U.S.C. § 668dd (2000);
- Disaster Relief Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C. § 1521 (2000);
- National Indian Forest Resources Management Act of 1990, 25 U.S.C. § 3101 (2000);
- Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. § 2101, *et seq.* (2000);
- Public Law 93-498, 93<sup>rd</sup> Congress, S.1769, October 29, 1974.

This Memorandum of Understanding upon full execution supersedes the existing MOU signed by Secretary of Agriculture, Earl Butz, and Secretary of the Interior, Thomas Kleppe, dated March 16, 1976, which originally established the NWCG.

#### **IV. MEMBERSHIP.**

NWCG membership consists of representatives from governmental agencies, the National Association of State Foresters, and the Intertribal Timber Council with national responsibilities for wildland fire management.

#### **V. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND AMONG THE PARTIES THAT:**

- A. This MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds among the parties to this MOU will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures including those for Government procurement and printing. Such endeavors will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be made in writing by representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This MOU does not provide such authority. Specifically, this MOU does not authorize or commit the cooperating agencies or cooperators of any contract or other agreement to noncompetitive awards. Any contract or agreement must fully comply with all applicable federal requirements for competition.
- B. No individual member information provided as part of the NWCG business shall be disclosed to any individual or other organization that is not within the NWCG membership without prior written consent of the member or working team that provided the information, unless such disclosure is required by law. Any information furnished to, or shared among, the member federal agencies through their participation in the NWCG is subject to request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, *et seq.* (2000) (the "FOIA"), consistent with its exceptions and limitations. The non-federal members are not, through their participation in the NWCG, subject to the FOIA.
- C. This MOU in no way restricts the member organizations from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, or individuals.
- D. Nothing herein is intended, or shall be construed, as affecting or obligating the signatories to the expenditure of funds or as involving the United States in any contract or other obligations. The member federal agencies may not obligate the expenditure of funds (or provide services requiring the expenditure of funds) through their participation under the terms of this MOU unless such funds are available. For federal member agencies, funds expended to implement the activities of NWCG must be appropriated by the Congress of the United States or be otherwise available to the member agencies.
- E. The Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior, Department of Homeland Security, the Intertribal Timber Council and the National Association of State Foresters and their respective member agencies, offices, officers, and employees are responsible for their own activities and costs, and will utilize their own resources, including the expenditure of their own funds, in pursuing these objectives. Each party will endeavor to carry out its separate activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner. Notwithstanding this provision, nothing in this MOU shall prevent the payment by one or more of the federal member agencies of expenses incurred by non-federal personnel in participating in NWCG activities, provided that





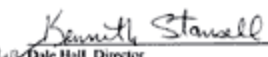




funds for that reimbursement are available within the federal agencies' appropriated funds and authorities.

- F. The terms of this MOU shall become effective with and upon execution of the final signature by the participating agencies and shall remain in effect for a maximum period of five-years from the date when the final signature was placed on the approval section or until such time as the MOU is dissolved by mutual agreement. The MOU shall be reviewed by all participating entities to determine its suitability for renewal, revision, or dissolution. Any signatory may withdraw from participation in this MOU thirty (30) days after providing written notice to the other signatories. Following such withdrawal, the remaining approving signatories may continue the provisions of this MOU as long as all such remaining signatories agree to the continuance.
- G. Modifications to this MOU may be initiated by any participating agency. Suggested modifications shall be reviewed and acted upon within sixty (60) days of receipt of the requested modification. Changes shall not take effect until documented and signed by all approving signatories. The Forest Service is designated as the agency responsible for all administrative oversight of modifications to this MOU.
- H. This MOU does not by itself create any contractual right or other right of action by one member organization against any other member organization for compensation for any loss, damage, personal injury or death occurring as a consequence of the performance of this MOU.
- I. This MOU is not intended to, and does not create, any claim, right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by any party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or against any member organization or any other person. The members acknowledge and agree that any effort to impose liability upon any member for its activities undertaken while participating in or otherwise acting to further the purposes of the NWCG would thwart, impede, and impair (1) the functioning of the NWCG; (2) the exercise of discretion in the execution of its functions; (3) the purposes underlying this MOU; (4) the federal, tribal, and state interests that the NWCG was created to further and promote; and (5) the federal policies and congressional purposes of the legislation listed above.
- J. The publications issued through the work of the NWCG shall be printed by the federal government and shall be publications of the federal government only and not of the non-federal member organizations. Member organizations, and other organizations and persons, shall each decide independently whether to distribute or to follow NWCG publications and policies, and each is solely responsible for its own implementation of those policies. No member may delegate to any other member its responsibility to determine which policies or publications to follow or implement within its own organization or jurisdiction. No party to this MOU and no individual employed by or appointed by any member agency or by the NWCG shall be liable or otherwise responsible for claimed deficiencies in the policies or publications of the NWCG.
- K. The use of the names and emblems of the parties to this MOU shall be allowed only in the case of particular projects undertaken pursuant to the prior express written consent of the parties to this MOU, and when such projects are in conformity with the parties to this MOU's regulations.

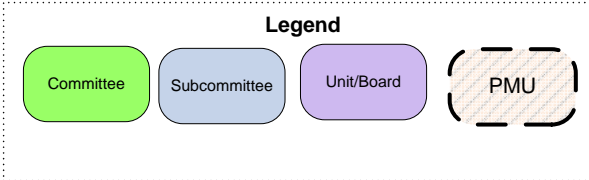
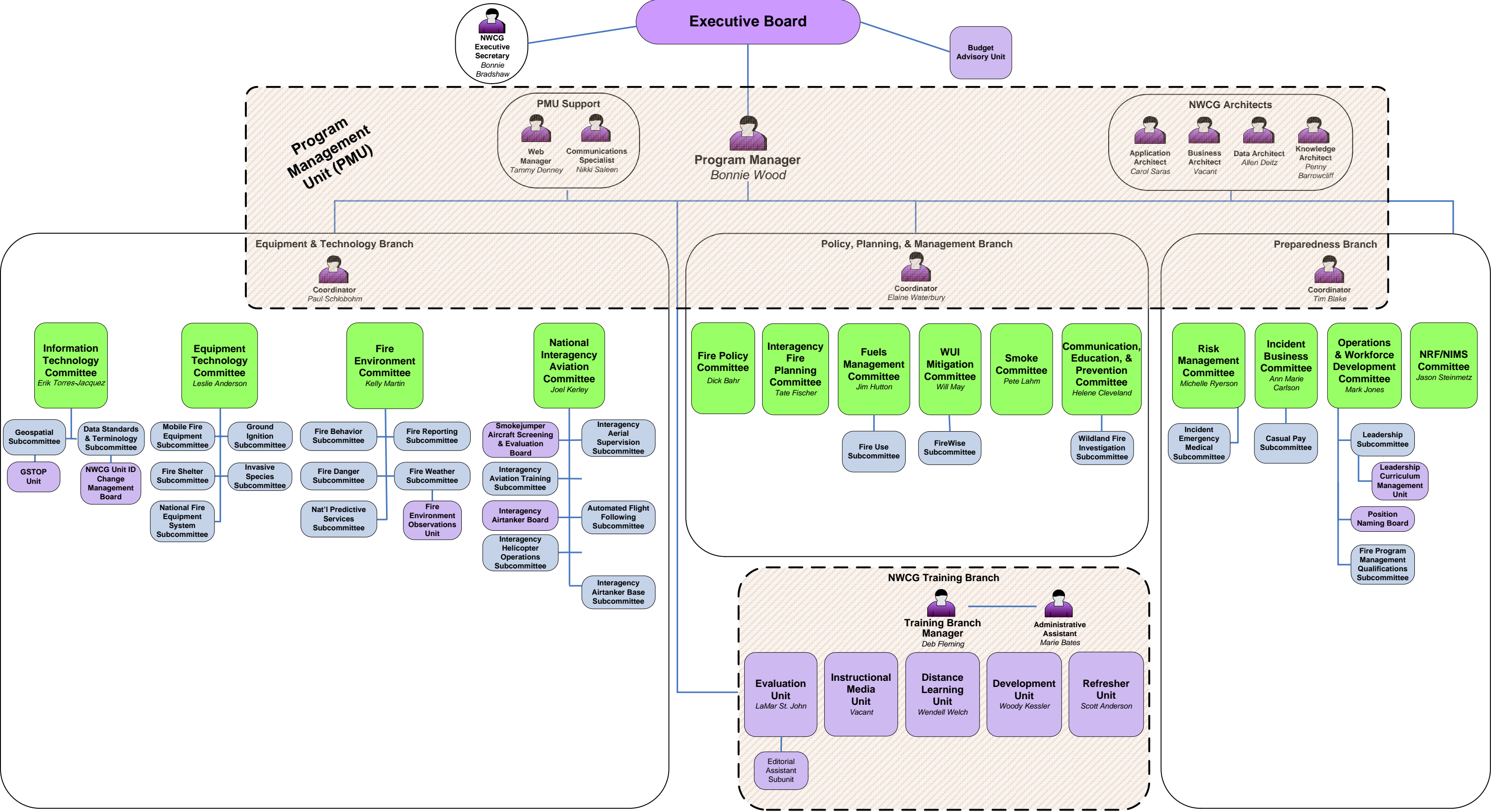
## VI. RESOLUTION OF DISAGREEMENT.

Should disagreement arise regarding the interpretation of the provisions of this MOU, or amendments and/or revisions thereto, that cannot be resolved at the operating level, each party shall state the area(s) of disagreement in writing and present them to the other party for consideration. If agreement on interpretation is not reached within thirty (30) days, the parties shall forward the written statements of the disagreement to the Wildland Fire Leadership Council, which may make a non-binding recommendation to the parties to resolve the disagreement.

### APPROVALS:

 James Caswell, Director DOI-Bureau of Land Management	<u>10/11/07</u> Date
 Jerry Gidner, Director DOI-Bureau of Indian Affairs	<u>10/11/07</u> Date
 Dale Hall, Director DOI-Fish and Wildlife Service	<u>10/11/07</u> Date
 Mary Bomar, Director DOI-National Park Service	<u>10/10/07</u> Date
 Abigail Kimbell, Chief USDA, Forest Service	<u>10/11/07</u> Date
 Gregory Cade, Administrator DHS, U.S. Fire Administration	<u>10/11/07</u> Date
 Kirk Rowdabaugh, President National Association of State Foresters	<u>10/11/07</u> Date
 Nolan Colegrove, President Tribal Timber Council	<u>10/11/07</u> Date

# National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)



## Wildland Fire Governance Comparison Chart

	WFLC	FFPC	WFEC	IFEC	NWCG
<b>Purpose</b>					
Purpose	<p>The WFLC is an intergovernmental council of federal, state, tribal, county, and local government officials convened by the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior dedicated to <b>consistent implementation of wildland fire policies, goals, and mangagement activities.</b> The WFLC is structured in accordance with its authorizing memorandum of understanding.</p>	<p>The primary purpose of the Federal Fire Policy council is to <b>carry out the federal component of wildland fire management.</b></p>	<p>The Wildland Fire Executive Council provides <b>coordinated interagency executive level wildland fire policy leadership, direction, and program oversight.</b></p>	<p>The Interior Fire Executive Council (IFEC) provides <b>coordinated interagency executive level wildland fire policy leadership, direction, and program oversight.</b> IFEC is the focal point for <b>discussing wildland fire policy issues</b> that affect the Department of Interior (DOI) and provides a forum for gathering the interests of the DOI bureaus to <b>formulate a DOI recommendation and/or position to be taken forward to the Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC).</b></p>	<p>NWCG <b>provides national leadership and establishes, implements, maintains, and communicates policy, standards, guidelines, and qualifications for wildland fire program mangement.</b> NWCG provides a forum in which issues, both short and long term, involving <b>standards and program implementation</b> can be coordinated, discussed, and resolved. Serves as a <b>clearinghouse</b> and provides a forum for discussion of <b>short and long-term wildland fire mangagement issues</b> and <b>intiates actions to improve coordination and integration of state, tribal, and federal wildland fire programs</b> while recognizing individual agency missions.</p>

<b>Membership</b>					
	WFLC	FFPC	WFEC	IFEC	NWCG
DHS US Fire Administration Administrator	Ernie Mitchell	Ernie Mitchell			
DHS US Fire Administration Assistant Administrator			Glenn Gaines		
DOA Deputy Undersecretary - NRE	Butch Blazer	Butch Blazer			

## Wildland Fire Governance Comparison Chart

DOA Undersecretary - NRE	Harris Sherman	Harris Sherman			
DOA USFS Chief	Tom Tidwell	Tom Tidwell			
DOA USFS Deputy Chief - State and Private		Jim Hubbard			
DOA USFS Director FAM			Tom Harbour		
DOA USFS Fire Director					Karen Woods
DOA USFS Research					Mike Hilbruner
DOI Assistant Secretary - Fish, Wildlife and Parks		Rachel Jacobson			
DOI Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs		Larry Echohawk			
DOI Assistant Secretary - Land and Minerals Management		Marcilynn Burke			
DOI Assistant Secretary - PMB	Rhea Suh	Rhea Suh			
DOI Assistant Secretary - Water and Science		Anne Castle			
DOI BIA Bureau Director	Mike Black	Mike Black			
DOI BIA Fire Director				Lyle Carlile	Lyle Carlile
DOI BIA Fire Executive				Bryan Rice	
DOI BLM Bureau Director	Bob Abbey	Bob Abbey			
DOI BLM Fire Director				Howard Hedrick	Howard Hedrick
DOI BLM Fire Executive				Tim Murphy	
DOI Depty Assistant Secretary - LESEM		Kim Thorsen			
DOI FWS Bureau Director	Dan Ashe	Dan Ashe			
DOI FWS Fire Director				John Segar	John Segar
DOI FWS Fire Executive				Jeff Rupert	
DOI NPS Bureau Director	Jon Jarvis	Jon Jarvis			
DOI NPS Fire Director				Bill Kaage	Bill Kaage
DOI NPS Fire Executive				Steve Shackleton	
DOI OWF Director			Kirk Rowdabaugh	Kirk Rowdabaugh	
DOI USGS Bureau Director	Marcia McNutt	Marcia McNutt			
I-Chiefs Wildland Fire Policy Committee	Bob Roper		Donglas MacDonald		
Intertribal Timber Council	Tony Harwood		Jim Erickson	Jim Erickson	
NASF Fire Committee	Jeff Jahnke		Jim Karels	Aitor Bidaburu	Dan Smith

## Wildland Fire Governance Comparison Chart

National Association of Counties	Dan Shoun		Ryan Yates		
National Governor's Assoc.	Governor Beverly Purdue (Wib Owens)		vacant		
National League of Cities	Mayor Mary Hamann-Roland		Mary Jacobs		
National Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (NWCG)			Bill Kaage		
Western Governor's Assoc.	Governor Kitzhaber (Ann Walker)				

### Primary Responsibilities

	WFLC	FFPC	WFEC	IFEC	NWCG
Primary Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provide <b>strategic leadership</b> to ensure policy coordination, accountability, and effective implementation of wildland fire management policy.</li> <li>✓ Provide <b>strategic oversight of long-term strategies</b> to address wildfire suppression, assistance to communities, hazardous fuels reduction, habitat restoration, and rehabilitation of the Nation's forests and rangelands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Establish <b>national policy guidance</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Formulate, coordinate, and integrate wildland fire policy</b></li> <li>✓ Provide <b>policy direction</b> for the formulation of the wildland fire <b>budgets</b></li> <li>✓ Provide a forum to consider and resolve <b>inter- and intra-departmental policy issues</b></li> <li>✓ Ensure that program <b>goals are identified</b> and that <b>results are measured</b> for wildland fire</li> <li>✓ Maintain national level fire activity <b>situational awareness</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provide <b>coordinated recommendations and advice</b> to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture through the Wildland Fire Leadership Council</li> <li>✓ Facilitates the development and implementation of a <b>National Cohesive Wildland Fire Mangement Strategy</b></li> <li>✓ Provides <b>advice on wildland fire policy and program direction to the National Wildfire coordinating Group</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provide coordinated interior executive level <b>wildland fire policy leadership, direction, and program oversight</b></li> <li>✓ Provide coordinated Department of the Interior <b>recommendations and advice to be given to WFEC</b></li> <li>✓ Provide a forum for DOI to ensure <b>strategic policy and program integration</b> with resource management, aviation, and other related program areas.</li> <li>✓ <b>Support the fire budget formulation and allocation</b> activities for DOI</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provide <b>leadership in establishing and maintaining consistent interagency standards and guidelines, qualifications, and communications for wildland fire management</b></li> <li>✓ Provide a formalized <b>system for standards of training, equipment, qualifications, and other operational functions</b></li> <li>✓ Provide coordinated policy and program <b>implementation</b></li> </ul>

## Wildland Fire Governance Comparison Chart

Relationships					
	WFLC	FFPC	WFEC	IFEC	NWCG
Relationship to WFLC		Interfaces with WFLC to identify areas of federal concerns only.	WFEC is the focal point that provides support to accomplish the strategic goals and objectives of WFLC. WFEC responds to requests from WFLC. WFEC elevates unresolved issues to WFLC.	none	none
Relationship to FFPC	none		none	Chair of IFEC represents the Bureau's interests to FFPC	none
Relationship to WFEC	Provides direction to WFEC	Interfaces with WFEC to identify areas of federal concerns only.		Chair of IFEC represents the Bureau's interests to WFEC	Responds to taskings from WFEC. Elevates wildland fire issues that cannot be resolved within the NWCG structure to WFEC for resolution
Relationship to IFEC	none	Chair of IFEC represents bureau's interests to FFPC	Chair of IFEC represents Bureau's interests to WFEC		none
Relationship to NWCG	none	none	Responds to Wildland Fire issues brought forward from NWCG	none	