

National Wildfire Coordinating Group Charter

September 2023

Introduction

This Charter establishes the membership, vision, mission, and basic organizational structure of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG).

Vision

To be a trusted leader in the wildland fire community by developing innovative training and standards.

Mission

The NWCG provides national leadership to enable interoperable wildland fire operations among federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial partners.

Primary Objectives

- Establish national interagency wildland fire operations standards. ¹
- Establish wildland fire position standards, qualifications requirements, and performance support capabilities that enable implementation of NWCG standards. ¹
- Participates in the development of operational standards and procedures for non-fire incident and emergency management to ensure consistency and interoperability.
- Support the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy goals: 1) restore and maintain resilient landscapes; 2) create fire adapted communities; 3) respond to wildfires safely and effectively.
- Recommend information technology capability requirements for wildland fire.
- Ensure all NWCG activities contribute to safe, effective, and coordinated national interagency wildland fire operations.

Membership

- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- Intertribal Timber Council
- National Association of State Foresters
- US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
 - Fire and Aviation Management
 - Wildland Fire Management Research, Development, and Application
- US Department of Defense

- US Department of Homeland Security
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency, US Fire Administration
- US Department of the Interior
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Fish and Wildlife Service
 - National Park Service

Associate Members

- US Department of the Interior
 - Office of Wildland Fire
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 - National Weather Service

Governance

NWCG is accountable to, and receives direction and guidance from, the Fire Executive Council (through the Fire Management Board), the Department of Defense, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Intertribal Timber Council, and the National Association of State Foresters. These entities may jointly adjudicate any NWCG related issues that cannot be resolved by the NWCG. The decision to adopt standards is made independently by the NWCG members and communicated through their respective directives systems.

Executive Board

The NWCG Executive Board is comprised of appointed representatives from the member entities. Day to day NWCG Executive Board business practices are located on the NWCG website. These practices are to be reviewed and approved by the NWCG Executive Board annually.

Committees and Subgroups

The NWCG Executive Board establishes, organizes, and directs standing and ad hoc committees and other groups to support the NWCG mission. Entities desiring to assign work to NWCG committees and subgroups must first coordinate through the NWCG Executive Board.

Executive Board Chair and Vice Chair

The NWCG Executive Board Chair will rotate among the members, serving a two-year term beginning in January of each even numbered year.

NWCG Staff

The NWCG Executive Board organizes and directs an executive staff to support the accomplishment of the NWCG mission. The NWCG staff is funded through an interagency shared funding agreement.

Decision Making

A quorum for conducting NWCG Executive Board business shall be a minimum of two-thirds of the primary members. Decisions will be based on a consensus of those primary members present or their designated acting. All decisions will be recorded.

NWCG Executive Board Standard Operating Procedures

Prior to February of each year the NWCG Executive Board shall review their Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) as an addendum to this Charter.

These SOPs shall:

- Define roles and responsibilities of the NWCG Executive Board, Committees, and NWCG staff.
- Articulate standardized NWCG Business Practices.
- Not conflict with the terms in this Charter.
- Be signed by the NWCG Executive Board members.

NWCG SOPs can be found at: <https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/executive-board/nwcg-executive-board-sops-08-24-2023.pdf>

Charter Approval

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

The decision to adopt standards is made independently by the NWCG members and communicated through their respective directives systems.



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP CHARTER

JEROME PEREZ

Digitally signed by
JEROME PEREZ
 Date: 2023.07.28
 08:18:58 -04'00'

Jerome E. Perez, Department of Agriculture Co-Chair, Fire Executive Council Date

JEFFERY RUPERT

Digitally signed by
JEFFERY RUPERT
 Date: 2023.09.14
 07:25:20 -04'00'

Jeffery R. Rupert, Department of the Interior Co-Chair, Fire Executive Council Date

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MCGHEE.MICHAEL.F.10517913
 Date: 2023.08.24 17:10:01 -04'00'

24 Aug 2023

Michael F. McGhee (Acting) Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Environment and Energy Resilience – Department of Defense Date

7/17/2023

George Geissler, NASF Wildland Fire Committee Chair, Forest Fire Protection Committee – National Association of State Foresters Date

9/5/2023

Cody Desautel, President, Intertribal Timber Council Date

J. Robert Brown, Jr.

Digitally signed by J.
Robert Brown, Jr.
 Date: 2023.08.01
 11:51:10 -04'00'

8/01/2023

J. Robert "Rob" Brown, CEO/Executive Director, International Association of Fire Chiefs Date