

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC NOTES

March 16, 2026

1100-1200

Topic	Presenter(s)	Purpose
IMSR Update	Sean Peterson	Information
Predictive Services Update	Jim Wallmann /Steve Larrabee	Information
Resource Update	Sean Peterson	Information
Agency Business and Geographic Area Update	NMAC Representatives	Information
Administration	Sean Peterson	Information
NMAC Reorganization and Associate Responsibilities	Chuck Russell	Discussion
NMAC Correspondence FMB Memo – Suppression Strategies	Chuck Russell	Discussion

Attendees:

<input type="checkbox"/> Chair: Brian Achziger	<input type="checkbox"/> Co-Chair: Aitor Bidaburu	<input type="checkbox"/> MAC Coordinator:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> USWFS: Chuck Russell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> USFS: Jon Teutrine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> USFA: Aitor Bidaburu
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NASF/RM: Greg Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NICC: Sean Peterson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weather: Jim Wallmann
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fuels: Steve Larrabee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External Affairs: Sheri Ascherfeld	<input type="checkbox"/> IAFC: Erik Litzenberg
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BLM Aviation: Matt Shaddle	<input type="checkbox"/> BIA Aviation: Robert Dodgen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> USFS Aviation: Chris Tipton
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NIIC-D: Mark Hilton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cache: Marcus Medina	<input type="checkbox"/> DoD: Martha Wilkins
<input type="checkbox"/> Crews: Jeremy Sullens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smokejumpers: Hans Ohme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airspace: Kim Owczarzak
<input type="checkbox"/> OWF: Steve Shaw	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rappel: Adam Kahler	<input type="checkbox"/> IR: Rachael Hansen
<input type="checkbox"/> BAER: Lou Ballard	<input type="checkbox"/> NMAC Operations: Kat Sorenson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intel: Scott Mayer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CGAC: Chris Delaney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Note-taker: Nicki Johnston	<input type="checkbox"/> IMTs: Travis Bailey

Additional Attendees: JoeSean Kennedy, Mike Mattfeldt, Megan Kephart, Perry Breitenstein, Jose Munguia, Jason Bruce, Craig Daugherty, Mike Johnson, Penny States, Rhiannon Touchette

NEXT MEETING:

Working Meeting: Thursday, 19 March 2026, 1100-1300



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IMSR Update (Sean Peterson)

PL1, light IA, 212 new starts, 19 uncontained large fires, 2 CIMTs, 16 crews, 301 engines, 1,468 personnel assigned.

Northern Rockies: PL1

Both grass fires now contained.

Southern Area: PL1, 121 new starts, 13 uncontained large fires.

Five – Extreme behavior, grass and timber, structures threatened, 2,000 acres, 50% contained.

Yearling Pasture – Extreme behavior, grass and brush, structures threatened, 5,000 acres, 50% contained.

Boy Scout – Grass and timber, structures threatened, 600 acres, 50% contained.

Salt Fork – Active behavior, grass and hardwood litter, 3,656 acres, 30% contained.

Water Moccasin – OK DOF, extreme behavior, grass and hardwood litter, 750 acres, 45% contained.

Fires in OK and VA.

National – Minimal behavior, southern rough and grass, 35,000 acres, 67% contained.

Turkey Scratch – FS, timber, active behavior, 330 acres, 40% contained.

Rocky Mountain: PL2, 15 new starts, 6 uncontained large fires, 2 CIMTs.

Morrill – RM Team 1, managing Cottonwood, NE, grass and brush, moderate behavior, 573,000 acres, 0% contained.

Cottonwood – NEFS, moderate behavior, grass and brush, 122,000 acres, 0% contained.

Road 203 – RM Team 3, light fuels and timber, minimal behavior, snow and ice, 35,800 acres, 0% contained.

Qury – SD, minimal behavior, timber, evacuations, structures threatened, 7,200 acres, 22% contained.

Range 121 – DOW, moderate behavior, grass, 1,100 acres, 80% contained.



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Predictive Services Update

Weather Summary (Jim Wallmann)

WEATHER SUMMARY

Short-term (through Friday)

- Breezy winds across the northwest Gulf Coast and Puerto Rico creating areas of moderate to high-risk significant fire potential
- Areas of breezy south to southwest return flow winds for the southern Plains tomorrow/Wednesday
- Hot temperatures across the southern half of the West this week, with numerous record highs as temperatures rise 20-40°F above normal, and temperatures will spread across the West and into the Plains late this week
- Very low RH and poor overnight recovery in the southern half of the West this week, with significant fire potential increasing, becoming high-risk in the Southwest Friday
- Drier in the Southeast after a hard freeze early this week, with potential slowly increasing late in the week

Long-term (Saturday through next Wednesday)

- The ridge breaks down in the West, but the details of the breakdown are very uncertain, although the Southwest and southern Plains are likely to remain very warm and dry
- Winds will increase across the West into the Plains with the breakdown, but the locations and durations of the strongest winds are yet to be determined
- Drier weather will continue for the Southeast, as well
- Possibly turning wetter for Washington, but how much precipitation falls in the northern half of the West is unknown at this time



Fuels Summary (Steve Larrabee)

Large fires in Nebraska emerged during high winds last Thursday.

10-year average stats are not “caught up” yet but will probably be over 1 million acres.

Over 400 wildfires reported with Thursday’s outbreak on the Plains and through the weekend.

Guam starting to report wildfires.

ERCs are elevated in abnormally dry areas across the country.

Burning Index has reached the 97th percentile in parts of TX and Gulf Coast, plus Puerto Rico.

Anomalous heat wave in Western CONUS could jump start the rapid onset of “early” fire activity and possibly early/rapid greenup due to warm soils.

Cold weather with freezing temperatures in the Southeast may reset greenup or further slow progress and lengthen the fire season.



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Resource Update (Sean Peterson)

RESOURCE TYPE	# COMMITTED	# AVAILABLE	# OFF
LAT	9		
VLAT			
SCOOPER	2		
AIR ATTACK	9		
LEAD ASM	2		
SEAT	33	43	
HELO TYPE1	7	69	
HELO TYPE2	1	38	
HELO TYPE3	28	38	
LARGE TRANS			
CIMT	2	13	
CREW TYPE 1 (IHC)	2 (1RX)	0	
CREW TYPE 2IA	13	10	
CREW TYPE 2	2	682	
SMOKEJUMPERS (LOWER 48)			
SMOKEJUMPERS (AK)			
RAPPELERS			
CATERERS	0	12	
SHOWERS	0	49	

UTF TYPE	# Resource UTF (10 days)
AIRCRAFT	
TANKER	
HELO	1
AIR ATTACK	
IR	3
UAS	
SCOOPER	
LEAD/ASM	
CREWS	1 IHC, 1 camp crew
ENGINES	
OVERHEAD	69 (TFLD)
PENDING	37 OH, 4 engines, 2 helicopters

26 aircraft, 57 pieces of equipment and 976 overhead assigned to RX.



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Agency Business and Geographic Area (GA) Update

Aitor Bidaburu (USFA and Northern Rockies)

- USFA: FEMA active in 3 regions, approving FMAGs.
- Northern Rockies: Monthly meeting tomorrow.

Russ Long (USFS, Eastern Area and Southwest)

- FS:
- Eastern Area: Ongoing fire activity on the Mark Twain, focused on RX.
- Southwest: Evaluating PLs.

Greg Smith (NASF and Rocky Mountain, Northwest)

- NASF:
- Rocky Mountain: Activity has decreased, expecting increase with anticipated weather. Can roster third CIMT if needed.
- Northwest:

Chuck Russell (USWFS and California, Great Basin)

- USWFS:
- Great Basin: March 26 CIMT becomes available but would like all ICs to be available to attend a service on 3/28.
- NOPs: Uptick in activity.
- SOPs: Uptick in activity.
- Alaska: Spring meetings will occur this week.

Admin Topics

NMAC Reorganization and Associate Responsibilities

Review document and provide comments and suggested changes by 3/18.

Implementation date of 4/1.

Revisit 3/19.

Review 2026 NMAC Operating Plan for suggested edits.

NMAC Correspondence FMB Memo – Suppression Strategies

Megan made changes to reflect IMSR and update plan including application impacts.

Remove FMB-recommended reporting requirements from memo.

Provide comments to Megan by COB 3/17 for distribution to FMB.

Present letter to FMB on 3/18.

