



Western State Fire Business Managers Subcommittee 2026 Annual Meeting

October 6-8, 2026 | Utah Wildland Fire Operations Center | South Salt Lake, UT

Attendees: Western State Fire Business Managers (WSBM), Western State Fire Managers (WSFM), and Invited Partners

Attire: Business Casual

Tuesday, October 6 - Western State Fire Business Managers (WSBM)	
Room: Beagle Room	
	Breakfast (On Your Own)
8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Welcome, Housekeeping, and Introductions <i>Susan Dowler (MT, WSBM Chair)</i>
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Election of Officers <i>Susan Dowler (MT, WSBM Chair)</i> Develop a protocol for the Chair and the Vice Chair rotation and document in the Charter. Review committee taskings from Western State Fire Managers (WSFM).
10:00 - 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Fire Business After Action Review (AAR) - State Report Outs <i>Susan Dowler (MT, WSBM Chair)</i> Lightning round for each state to provide a report out of the fire year 2026 highlights, challenges, successes, watchouts, shoutouts to other states/regions, etc.
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (served in the Auditorium)
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Fire Business AAR - State Report Outs (continued) <i>Susan Dowler (MT, WSBM Chair)</i> Lightning round for each state to provide a report out of the fire year 2026 highlights, challenges, successes, watchouts, shoutouts to other states/regions, etc.
3:30 - 3:45 p.m.	Break



3:45 - 4:45 p.m.	National Updates <i>Brenda Pysher (USFS) and Julie Bennet (DOI - USWFS)</i> Updates and report outs from Subject Matter Experts from the USDA Forest Service and U.S Wildland Fire Service.
4:45 - 5:00 p.m.	Closing/Overview/Action Items

Wednesday, October 7 - Joint Session Western State Fire Managers (WSFM) and Western State Fire Business Managers (WSBM) Room: Auditorium	
	Breakfast (On Your Own)
8:00 - 8:45 a.m.	Joint Session: Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Overview <i>Bill Waln (KS, WSFM Chair) and Susan Dowler (MT, WSBM Chair)</i>
8:45 - 9:15 a.m.	U.S. Wildland Fire Service (USWFS) Agency Update <i>Annie Benoit (USWFS Senior Advisor, Intergovernmental Affairs)</i> A Wildland Fire Service representative to share national updates and fire-related news with the WSFM and WSBM.
9:15 - 9:45 a.m.	Technology and GARP Update <i>Keith Smith (NASF)</i> An update and review of recent information about GARP and NASF technology.
9:45 - 10:45 a.m.	GACC Boundary Overview <i>Russ Lane (WA)</i> Overview and discussion on the current structure and challenges faced this year, and impacts to mobilization and coordination. Outcome: Recommendations for boundary alignment or adjustments.
10:45 - 11:00 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) and Declaration Process Updates <i>Brett Ostler (UT)</i> Overview of recent changes and the impacts that the changes have had on the states. WSBM perspective on the challenges, barriers, and successes. Outcome: Shared understanding and coordinated state approach.



12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (served in the Auditorium)
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	Agreements Overview <i>Matt Sully (CA)</i> Discussion about the Master Agreement covering the current status, identified barriers, and the path forward. Discussion on Compact to Compact and State to State Agreements covering reimbursements (portal to portal) and the legal and operational implications.
2:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Cost Shares <i>Matt Hall (MT)</i> Discussion on the current challenges and successes for the year.
3:30 - 4:15 p.m.	WSBM Subcommittee Report-out and Priorities <i>Susan Dowler (MT, WSBM Chair)</i> Overview of the accomplishments and successes, challenges, and barriers for the year. Discussion on the alignment with WSFM priorities and additions or changes for this subcommittee for the upcoming year.
4:15 - 4:30 p.m.	Day 2 Wrap-Up • Action Items • Key Takeaways

Thursday, October 8 - Western State Business Managers (WSBM) Room: Beagle room	
	Breakfast (On Your Own)
8:30 - 8:45 a.m.	Welcome and Agenda Overview <i>Susan Dowler (MT, WSBM Chair)</i>
8:45 - 9:30 a.m.	Incident Procurement / EPSO <i>Susan Dowler (MT, WSBM Chair)</i> Discussion and round robin for states to share experiences, pros and cons, and lessons learned.
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Gold Systems <i>Jenny Foster (Gold Systems)</i> Demonstration of the new system features.



10:30 - 10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 - 11:30 a.m.	National Incident Business Committee (IBC) Updates <i>Julie Bennett (NWCG IBC Chair)</i> A representative from the U.S. Wildland Fire Service (USWFS), will provide a national update for the National IBC.
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	2027 Annual Meeting Discussion <i>Susan Dowler (MT, WSBM Chair)</i> Discussion on plan of action for future meetings • Pros and cons with current plan of joint meeting with WSFM • The planning of topics and discussions
12:00 - 12:30 p.m.	Training Needs <i>Susan Dowler (MT, WSBM Chair)</i> Discussion on what training is needed for states or individual staff.
12:30 - 1:00 p.m.	Closing/Overview/Action Items <i>Susan Dowler (MT, WSBM Chair)</i>

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