



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 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 - Chair and Vice Chair Rotation (Develop protocol/document in Charter) - 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 - 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) - 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 (Forest Service) and USWFS representative TBC Pending</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
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Wednesday, October 7 - Joint Session Western State Fire Managers (WSFM) and Western State 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 - 10:15 a.m.	Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) Boundary Overview • Current structure and challenges • Impacts to mobilization and coordination • Outcome: Recommendations for boundary alignment or adjustments
10:15 - 10:30 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) & Declaration Process Updates • Overview of changes • Impacts to states • WSBM- led discussion of challenges, barriers, successes • Outcome: Shared understanding and coordinated state approach
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (served in the Auditorium)
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Agreements Overview • Master Agreement ○ Current status, Identified barriers, and path forward • Compact to Compact vs. State to State Agreements ○ Reimbursement (portal to portal) discussion ○ Legal and Operational Implications
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	WSBM Subcommittee Report-out and Priorities • Overview of WSBM • Accomplishments and successes, challenges and barriers • Alignment with WSFM priorities • Additions or changes for the subcommittee



4:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Day 2 Wrap-Up • Action Items • Key Takeaways
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Thursday, October 8 - Western State Business Managers (WSBM) Room: Beagle room	
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 • Discussion and round robin for states to share experiences, pros & 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 Updates <i>Julie Bennett, NWCG IBC Chair</i>
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	2027 Annual Meeting Discussion • 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 • 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>