



Western State Fire Managers Committee 2026 Annual Meeting

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

Attendees: Western State Fire Managers, Western State Fire Business Managers, and Invited Partners

Attire: Business Casual

Tuesday, October 6 - Western State Fire Managers (WSFM) Room: Auditorium	
	Breakfast (On Your Own)
8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Welcome and Meeting Objectives <i>Bill Waln (KS, WSFM Chair)</i> • Opening Remarks • Review of Agenda and Expected Outcomes • Introductions
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Agency Update <i>Brad Simpkins (USFS)</i> A Forest Service representative to share national updates and fire-related news with the WSFM.
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	NASF Policy Update <i>Greg Smith (NASF), Mark Goeller (NASF), and Neil Simpson (CWSF)</i> An update on recent Federal policy, landscape, and western state implications.
10:30 - 10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 - 11:15 a.m.	National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Committees and NASF Slot Coordination <i>Bill Waln (KS, WSFM Chair) and Greg Smith (NASF)</i> Representation alignment and ensure all vacancies are filled. Outcome: Assignments and nominations for committee representation
11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC), National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC), and Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) Coordination <i>Vaughn Jones (CO) and Greg Smith (NASF)</i>



	Discussion on the successes and challenges for the year and identify any communication and decision-making gaps. Outcome: Identified improvements and coordination protocols
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch (served in the Auditorium)
1:00 - 1:15 p.m.	Southern Group of State Foresters Update <i>Jim Prevette, Fire Director</i> Regional report out and fire year review from Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF) Fire Chiefs.
1:15 - 1:30 p.m.	Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance Update <i>Chris Robertson, Maryland Fire Supervisor</i> Regional report out and fire year review from the Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance (NMSFA) Fire Supervisors.
1:30 - 2:15 p.m.	Agency Administrator Qualification <i>Norm McDonald (AK)</i> Identify a process, designate and certify Agency Administrator for states.
2:15 - 2:30 p.m.	Break
2:30- 4:30 p.m.	2026 Fire Year Review and Report Out Lightning round for each state to provide a report out of the fire year 2026 fire statistics, challenges, successes, watchouts, shoutouts to other states/regions, etc.
4:30 - 4:45 p.m.	Wrap-Up - Key decisions recap - Task assignments

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 - 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 Grant Accomplishment Reporting Portal (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 Fire Managers (WSFM) Room: Auditorium	
	Breakfast (On Your Own)
8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Day 3 Meeting Objectives <i>Bill Waln (KS, WSFM Chair)</i> • Day 3 agenda overview • Day 1 and 2 recap and outcomes review
8:30 - 10:30 a.m.	WSFM Subcommittees <i>Bill Waln (KS, WSFM Chair)</i> Report out and review of each committee. The current work progress and review of taskings from WSFM, required guidance and direction (charters, taskings, goal of the subcommittee), and any changes, additions, or removals of tasks, objectives, and priorities. • Mental Health and Wellness • Wildfire Resilience • Workforce Development
10:30 - 10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Mitigation Workforce Discussion <i>Daniel Beveridge (CSFS)</i> Discussion on the Workforce Mitigation team member and leader roles, and identify capacity gaps and coordination. Outcome: Strategy for engagement and support across the states
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch (served in the Auditorium)
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Strategic Alliance, 2026 Work Plan Progress, and Draft 2027 Work Plan <i>Halie Miyazawa (CWSF) and Bill Waln (KS, WSFM Chair)</i>



	Overview and discussion of the current WSFM workplan and planning for the 2027 workplan. Cross-cutting issues from all sessions, identify top WSFM priorities for next year, consolidate all decisions into actionable tasks, and identify the incoming leadership position.
3:00 - 3:15 p.m.	Break
3:15 - 4:15 p.m.	WSFM Charter and Leadership Alignment <i>Halie Miyazawa (CWSF)</i> Revisit the charter, update with current information, and ensure deliverables meet NASF and CWSF expectations.
4:15 - 4:30 p.m.	Wrap-Up and Closing Remarks ● Review of action items ● Confirm responsibilities ● Establish follow-up cadence ● Summary of accomplishments ● Next steps
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Optional: Great Plains Compact Information Meeting This is an optional informational meeting for the current and interested states in the Great Plains Compact.

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