



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 - National Association of State Foresters (NASF) and Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) Leadership Priorities Alignment
8:30 - 10:00 a.m.	Federal and State Agency Updates <i>Bill Waln (KS, WSFM Chair)</i> - USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) and U.S. Wildland Fire Service (USWFS) Joint Presentation - <i>Brad Simpkins (Forest Service)</i> - TBC Pending - State to State Collaboration Opportunities
10:00 - 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 - 11:30 a.m.	NASF Policy Update <i>Greg Smith (NASF), Mark Goeller (NASF), and Neil Simpson (CWSF)</i> Federal policy, landscape, and western state implications
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.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
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (served in the Auditorium)



1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC), National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC), and Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) Coordination • Successes and challenges • Communication and decision-making gaps • Outcome: Identified improvements and coordination protocols
2:30 - 3:30 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.
3:30 - 3:45 p.m.	Break
3:45 - 4:45 p.m.	2026 Fire Year Review and Report Out (Cont.) • 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.
4:45 - 5:00 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 - 10:15 a.m.	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

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>

	• For each committee ○ Current work progress and review of taskings from WSFM ○ Required guidance and direction ■ Charters, taskings, goal of the subcommittee ○ Any changes, additions, or removals of tasks, objectives, and priorities
10:30 - 10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Mitigation Workforce Discussion • WF Mitigation Team Member and Leader Roles • Capacity gaps and coordination • Outcome: Strategy for engagement and support across the states
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (served in the Auditorium)
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Strategic Alliance, 2026 Work Plan Progress, and Draft 2027 Work Plan • Cross-cutting issues from all sessions • Identify top WSFM priorities for next year • Consolidate all decisions into actionable tasks
3:00 - 3:15 p.m.	Break
3:15 - 4:15 p.m.	WSFM Charter and Leadership Alignment • Revisit the charter and update with current information • 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