



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
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N.C. Forest Service



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NORTH CAROLINA FIRE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE CHARTER

I. NAME

The name of the Committee is the North Carolina Fire Environment Committee (FEC) hereinafter referred to as the Committee.

II. BACKGROUND

The Committee was previously known as the Fire Environment Working Group (FEWG). The FEWG was established in the mid-2000s to achieve an integrated, programmatic approach to activities that were formerly the responsibility of the NC Forest Service Fire Danger Working Group. These former groups were asked to provide guidance in fire danger, weather, use, effects, behavior and research, as well as RAWs network management and smoke management. The FEWG became a standing committee in 2016.

The Committee continues to develop active associations with other groups of like interest, such as the Southern High Resolution Modeling Consortium and the Southern Area Geographic Coordination Center Predictive Services Group. The commonality of the groups is that they are focused on some aspect of the "fire environment" by measuring, predicting and/or providing guidance for decisions made for wildland or prescribed fire.

III. AUTHORITY

This Committee may make recommendations to its member organizations and others involved in the realm of "Fire Environment." It does not have the authority to establish policy or require any member organization or other group to follow its recommendations.

IV. MISSION

The purpose of the Committee is to provide the strategic direction and vision to its members relating to measuring and predicting the wildland fire environment.

V. GOALS

- A. Ensure the capability to monitor environmental conditions concerning wildland fire or prescribed fire as well as those aspects pertaining to the protection of NC's natural resources.
- B. Ensure the organizational structure exists to feature emerging technologies that further our understanding of the wildland fire environment.
- C. Ensure the wildland fire fighting agencies and the National Weather Service have the capability to predict the future characteristics of the wildland fire environment.
- D. Provide an interagency forum to collect, address, and make recommendations on application, training, and enhancements to the models and systems of the wildland fire environment.
- E. Actively solicit information to ensure agency and public needs are assessed and prioritized.

- F. Get the latest and best information to our constituent base.
- G. Ensure interdisciplinary strategy coordination and collaboration.
- H. Provide a forum for input into research priorities.
- I. Request and coordinate funding and in-kind contributions to wildland and prescribed fire environment research initiatives.

VI. ORGANIZATION

The Committee is modeled on the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Fire Environment Committee. The Chairman of the Committee is the NC Forest Service Fire Environment Forester, or designee of the NCFS Fire Chief. Membership will consist of agencies that are active in prescribed burning and/or wildfire suppression and strategic partners that have a focus in measuring, predicting, or providing guidance in the "fire environment." A member of the NCFS Management Team will serve as Sponsor and liaison to the Management Team concerning the Committee's activities, as well as the needs and requests of the Management Team. Subcommittees (standing or ad hoc) can be established and operate under the direction of the Committee. Each subcommittee will be represented by a chairperson. If needed, an approved charter and operating plan under the Committee will be prepared. The subcommittee will have a clearly defined mission & objectives focused on an aspect of Fire Environment in NC.

VII. MEMBERSHIP

- A. NCFS: Fire Environment Forester (Chair), 3 representatives from each Region (appointed by the Regional Forester), and a Management Team Sponsor
- B. NC State Parks
- C. NC Wildlife Resources Commission
- D. NC Division of Air Quality
- E. US Forest Service
- F. US Fish and Wildlife Service
- G. National Park Service
- H. Bureau of Indian Affairs
- I. Department of Defense
- J. National Weather Service
- K. The Nature Conservancy
- L. NC Prescribed Fire Council

Vacancies should be filled as quickly as possible by the agency represented.

Other groups or agencies wishing to be members of the Committee may submit a request to the Committee, in writing. The request should state the name of the group/agency, their activity in the realm of Fire Environment, and why they wish to be a member of the Committee.

VIII. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Chairman-Solicit input from the members, prepare meeting agendas, and disseminate to members; propose dates for meetings and make logistical arrangements for meeting locations; appoint a recording secretary for each meeting; preside over meetings.
- B. Recording Secretary (rotates): Take minutes at meetings, consolidate and send to Chairman via email.
- C. Members: Solicit issues and agenda items from the agency they represent prior to each meeting and present them at the meeting; attend and engage in the meetings or locate a suitable substitute, disseminate information to constituents and agencies.
- D. Sponsor: Bring Committee recommendations to the Management Team for consideration; bring Management Team requests to the Committee.

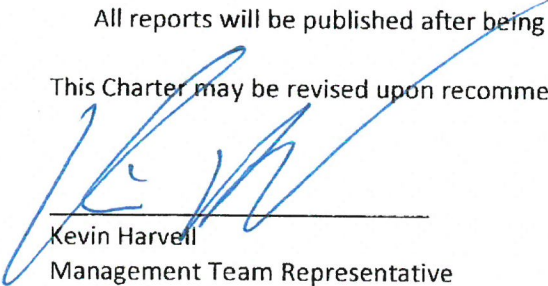
IX. MEETINGS

At least 2 meetings will be held annually. Meetings will be scheduled and agendas provided in advance to members. Meeting locations and times will be scheduled by the Chairman with input from the members. Minutes are to be taken at each meeting and disseminated to members in draft within 30 days after the meeting. They will be reviewed, corrected (if necessary) and approved at the following meeting.

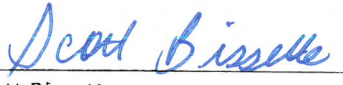
X. REPORTS

All reports will be published after being reviewed and approved by the Committee.

This Charter may be revised upon recommendation of a majority of the Committee's members.



Kevin Harvell
Management Team Representative



Scott Bissette
Assistant Commissioner