

BRIEFING PAPER



National Fire Line Officer Team (NLOT)

Topic: NLOT Website

Objective: To identify the most efficient and effective way of sharing NLOT information internally and externally.

Background: Over the past two years, the NLOT has evaluated the merits of sharing its content externally (internet) or internally (sharepoint). Meeting notes and other pertinent information is typically shared by NLOT members within their respective Regions. However, information is not always shared consistently or in a timely manner.

The NLOT currently has a webpage hosted by the Washington Office (WO) Fire and Aviation Management (FAM) staff area [<http://fsweb.w.o.fs.fed.us/fire/fam/lot.htm>]. Information on this site includes the NLOT charter and history, a membership roster, meeting notes, and links to various Line Officer resources. Unfortunately, this content has not been updated since 2009.

In addition to the WO FAM website, the Wildland Fire Management Research, Development, and Application (WFM RD&A) program hosts Line Officer Resources for Agency Administrators and Line Officers [http://www.wfmrda.nwcg.gov/line_officer_resources.php]. The WFM RD&A staff works closely with NLOT and this content is updated often, and as needed, by WFM RD&A content managers.

Alternatives:

1. Update and manage current WO FAM website.
Pros: This website is established and is adequately formatted to meet the needs of NLOT. The potential to reach a broader audience exists.
Cons: This would require someone from NLOT and/or WO FAM to manage the content.
2. Work with WFM RD&A to add a link to current Line Officer Resources webpage.
Pros: This website would provide a central location for all NLOT related information and NLOT would have a dedicated content manager in WFM RD&A. The potential to reach a broader audience exists.
Cons: NLOT's identity as a group representing the interest of FS Line Officers and Agency Administrators may be diminished – could be seen as a subgroup of WFM RD&A.
3. Develop a Sharepoint site.
Pros: Sharepoint sites are also a viable means of sharing information with Forest Service Line Officers. NLOT would have better control of content (limit access to certain individuals or groups). Additionally, NLOT could post more, sensitive information – less editing/revising for certain documents.
Cons: Sharepoint sites are intended for a limited number of people belonging to the same group. NLOT would need to identify a content manager, update content, and maintain a list of authorized users.

Recommendation(s)

I recommend Alternative 2. This alternative will help NLOT meet its goal of efficiently and effectively sharing information with Agency Administrators and Line Officers, both internally and externally.

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