

Issue Paper

Prepared for: Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group

Submitted: November 14, 2011

Title: Function of the RMCG Fuels and Prescribed Fire Committee

Issue:

- Poor/inconsistent agency representation and participation
- Role of Fuels Committee in wildland fire is unclear (what was Wildland Fire Use)
- Multiple websites exist for the Committee each with different information (RMCG and BLM Wyoming).
- Lack of commitment from Interagency Partners in regards to proper planning and execution of the Annual Burn Boss Refresher.
- Funding commitment from Interagency Partners in support of the annual workshop.

Background/Status:

- Since 2008 the Committee membership has dwindled. Meetings have been poorly attended and lack consistent participation.
- This Committee has the responsibility of planning, scheduling and facilitating the Annual Burn Boss Workshop/Refresher. While the yearly workshop has been well attended and the subject matter has been well received; planning and execution of the workshop, which is mandatory for USFS, has traditionally fallen to one or two individuals and has become a drain on those individuals and a logistical challenge.
- Historically, this committee had the responsibility of dealing with Wildland Fire Use. Policies have changed, more and more fuels are being managed through wildland fire. Currently implementation practices and responsibility for these managed fires is falling under the Operations Committee. Consequently, there is no mechanism for the Fuels Committee to interface with the Operations Committee.

Recommendation:

- Task this committee with developing a process for coordination of Interagency fuels treatment implementation (i.e. joint projects, resource sharing, intelligence sharing of scheduled or planned projects).
- Establish a mechanism or format for distributing new fuels treatment technologies to the field as well as into presentations at the annual workshop.

- Develop a process to coordinate, share and track “critical” leadership trainee positions on fuels treatment projects, which will enhance the qualifications base of all agencies.

Alternative:

- Temporarily Disband committee until specific Agency/RMCG focus and guidance can be provided.

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Date

Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group

Explanation: (if needed)