



ROCKY MOUNTAIN COORDINATING GROUP

Bureau of Indian Affairs (Southwest, Rocky Mountain and Great Plains Regions)

Bureau of Land Management (Colorado and Wyoming)

Fish and Wildlife Service (Mountain/Prairie Region)

Forest Service (Rocky Mountain Region)

National Park Service (Intermountain and Midwest Regions)

State Agencies in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas

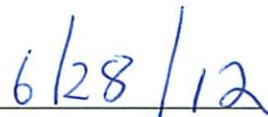
2012 MAC Plan



This plan has been approved by



Robert J. Jones
RMCG Chair 2012



Date

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I. Introduction

The Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center serves 10 dispatch centers in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming. On an ongoing basis, this Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) and RMACG Duty Officer coordinates the priority setting and allocation of resources for fire management within the Rocky Mountain Area in the most cost effective and efficient manner. When the number or complexity of fire management activities and competition for resources increases significantly within the Area and/or on a national scale, the Rocky Mountain Multi-Agency Coordinating (MAC) Group may be activated.

A. Mission Statement

The Rocky Mountain MAC Group is formed in order to set priorities for incidents and / or Area Commands, and to direct, control, allocate and reallocate resources among or between Area Commands and Incident Management Teams when the character and intensity of the fire management situation significantly impacts the geographic area.

B. Membership

The MAC Group is comprised of managers representing the various agencies within the Rocky Mountain Geographic Area. Typically, this would include representation at the Regional Director/Fire Director level for the U.S. Forest Service, Fire Management Officer level for State agencies, State Fire Management Officer level for the Bureau of Land Management, and Regional Fire Management Officer level for the National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Members must be delegated in writing the authority to represent and make commitments on behalf of their agency. A list of current members and advisors is included in Appendix A of this plan.

Under certain circumstances, MAC Group members may also include representatives from other agencies with jurisdictional responsibilities not represented by one of the MAC agencies. The need for these additional representatives will be reviewed by and agreed to at the time of activation of the MAC Group or as the situation warrants.

II. Operating Procedures

A. MAC Group Activation

At Preparedness Levels below III, the Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group has a rotating Duty Officer that serves to assist the RMACG Center Manager to prioritize incidents and facilitate Inter-Agency business on a as needed basis.

At Preparedness Level III, the Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group Duty Officer and Geographic Area Coordination Center Manager will discuss and consider the need to activate the MAC Group. The decision to activate the MAC Group will be based on the number of large/complex/IMT incidents, fires managed for resource benefit, prescribed burns scheduled, predicted weather, percentage of area crews and initial attack resources committed, and the level of competition for resources between units and/or Geographic Areas.

The Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group and the Geographic Area Coordination Center Manager will also decide where the MAC Group should be physically located. The MAC Group will usually be located in the Coordination Center but can be located where fire activity is the most severe. MAC Group business may also be addressed via conference calls. Once activated, the MAC Group may determine to reposition itself.

B. Roles and Responsibilities

The MAC Group does not direct the Incident or Area Command(s), who retain the authority and responsibility for on-the-ground management of the incident organization.

The roles and responsibilities of these Rocky Mountain agency MAC representatives are as follows:

1. Prioritize fire management incidents.
2. Provide guidance on the allocation or re-allocation of scarce/limited resources among incidents and/or local/zone level MAC Groups to assure safe, productive, wildland fire management activities commensurate with the priorities identified. The MAC group at times may directly re-allocate scarce/limited resources
3. Interact with local/zone level MAC Groups to assess priorities for resource allocation, and with the national level MAC Group to support the Area's resource needs through the NMAC Liaison.

The following are other items that may be appropriate to address within the framework of the MAC group. These issues include but are not limited to:

1. Anticipate future resource needs.
2. Review policies/agreements for resource allocation.
3. Recommend staffing extension guidelines for available resources.
4. Review the need for involvement by other agencies.
5. Determine the need for activation of national military resources.
6. Determine the need for and designate location(s) of mobilization and demobilization centers.
7. Provide information and perspective to agencies wishing to manage an incident for multiple benefits as indicated on the go/no-go checklist.
8. Provide disaster coordination at the State and Federal levels.
9. Improve political interfaces.

C. Support Organization

1. MAC Group Coordinator

Initially, the duties of the MAC Coordinator are carried out by the Rocky Mountain Center Manager and/or the Duty Officer. If desired, a qualified MAC Coordinator may be brought in to relieve this workload. The MAC Coordinator's roles and responsibilities are as follows:

- a. Coordinates with the Center Manger to assure that required information is being provided to the MAC Group within the time frames specified.
- b. Arrange for and manage the facilities and equipment necessary to carry out the MAC Group functions.
- c. Assists the MAC Group decision process by facilitating the group's conference calls and/or meetings. MAC Group Coordinator may also be asked to facilitate RMCG issue discussions following completion of prioritization and allocation.
- d. Documents the MAC Group's decisions and coordinates with the Rocky Mountain Geographic Area Coordination Center Manager to assure their prompt implementation.

Once MAC is activated the MAC Coordinator will contact the Center Manager to arrange the initial staffing to support the MAC Function. These resources will be tracked on a RMA MAC support order.

The MAC Coordinator will receive a delegation of authority from the chair of the RMCG.

2. GACC Intelligence Coordinators

In order to support the MAC Group's requirements that situation, resource status, and fire behavior information is accurate and current, the GACC Predictive Services Sections will expand as needed. This may involve splitting the function into separate Situation, Resource and Fire Behavior Units under the Center Managers direction, or bringing in additional personnel within the existing organization.

All information will be collected via existing dispatch/coordination channels by the GACC Predictive Services Sections, and given to the MAC Coordinator for consolidation and presentation to the MAC Group. Unless constrained by extremely tight time frames, any requests for information in addition to the required products listed below will flow back down through the MAC Coordinator to the Center Manager for collection. Conversely, the MAC Group will keep the Center Manager informed of any individually collected information.

The RMCG may task the MAC Coordinator with other responsibilities. This could include the supervision of the Information function, public information and education, coordination with FAST teams, etc. Any further responsibilities will be added to the MAC Coordinators delegation of authority.

3. MAC Support Organization

The complexity of the total fire situation will guide the staffing utilized and supervised by the MAC Coordinator. At a minimum the MAC Coordinator should ensure there is adequate staffing to maintain the status summary for MAC meetings, capture MAC decisions and prepare the documentation package for the MAC. Several positions utilized in the past include MAC Plans, MAC documentation, MAC Operations, MAC Aviation, Information/External Affairs, Safety Coordinator, and Situation/GIS support. Job aids have been developed

and are included at the end of the MAC Master Guidance document that provide information on the mission of each function, how to ramp up to meet the needs of the MAC, daily operations schedules, descriptions of special activities that have occurred in the past, and guidance on when and how to scale down the function. A brief description of responsibilities follows:

a. MAC Plans – The primary functions of MAC plans include maintaining the status summary for current project fires requiring prioritization, provide administrative support to the MAC coordinator and group, provide maps of incidents for MAC support, and to maintain the MAC group documentation package. As conditions warrant additional personnel can be supervised by MAC Plans which could include a documentation unit leader, a situation unit leader, and Decision Support Group (DSG).

b. MAC Operations – The primary function of MAC Operations is to work with MAC plans and the RMCC Center Manager to obtain the most current information on resource commitments, needs and availability and to then make recommendations to the MAC Group on how to allocate or re-allocate critical resources.

c. MAC Safety Coordinator – The primary function of the MAC Safety Coordinator is to monitor the overall safety situation for the geographic area. The Safety Coordinator also makes recommendations to the MAC Coordinator or the RMCG Chair on the activation of FAST Teams, Aviation Safety Teams, etc. The Safety Coordinator will serve as the point of contact for any teams activated and the MAC Coordinator or RMCG Chair.

D. Intelligence Requirements

1. Resource status (available and committed) by agency (source - SIT Report/other data bases).
2. Summary of outstanding resource requests and critical resource needs (source - Incident Intelligence Summary and resource orders).
3. Resources coming available for reassignment from incidents approaching containment (source - Demob Plans/Resource Availability Lists).
4. Incident status information:
 - a. Incident Intelligence Summary (ICS-209) for each incident.
 - b. Incident Information report for Geographic Area (source - SIT Report).
 - c. Incident Action Plans and maps (if available).
 - d. Summary of updated information (by incident) collected from calls to Incident Management Teams, Fire Management Officers, Information Officers, etc.
 - f. GACC list of priorities.

5. Specialists may use any of the following when appropriate to determine an assessment of current/potential fuel situation and fire behavior predictions: (source - RERAP, FARSITE, BEHAVE, NDVI Maps, NFDRS, Firefamily+ programs, etc.). The Decision Support Group (DSG) may be utilized to assist with the decision support technologies used to perform the analysis and development of a Decision Analysis Reports (DAR).
6. Short and long-range weather forecasts (source - National Weather Service).

E. Meeting/Conference Call Protocol

The agenda for MAC Group meetings/conference calls will be as follows:

1. Roll call. A checklist format to be used in taking roll for each call is included in Appendix B of this plan.
2. Rocky Mountain Report
3. Fuels/Fire Behavior Assessment (when MAC is formed).
4. Weather Briefing
5. Prioritize Incidents
6. Allocate Resources
7. Document Decisions and transmit to the field.
8. RMCG Issues Discussion
9. Evaluate the need to Continue MAC

F. MAC Group Products

The flow of information regarding MAC Group decisions is from the MAC Coordinator through the dispatch/coordination system or through individual members to their agencies for implementation by the Center Manager.

On a daily basis, the MAC Group can be expected to issue an Incident Situation Summary that will provide a short overview of the situation within the Rocky Mountain. When the GACC is experiencing numerous complex fires the Decision Plus Criteria Matrix may be used to document the priorities of the fires.

1. Prioritized list of fires and additional resources to be assigned (as they become available). A blank form is included in this plan as Appendix D.
2. Any other work products produced will be those specifically assigned to the MAC Coordinator by the RMCG. These could include:
 - a. Double-crew helicopters, engines, and/or water tenders.
 - b. Solicit list of available contract resources.
 - c. Activate Aviation Safety Teams.
 - d. Activate portable FAA Tower operations.
 - f. Change pilot duty limitations.
 - g. Require adequate notice before release/reassignment of resources (minimum of 48 hours).
 - h. Train local workforce and/or hire more AD fire crews.
 - i. Bring in ADO payment teams.
Maintain supporting documentation.

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APPENDIX C

PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

National MAC Priorities

When competition for Wildland fire resources occurs among Geographic Areas, the National Multi-Agency Coordination Group (NMAC) at NIFC will establish national priorities and confirm drawdown levels.

When requested, Geographic Areas will establish priorities for their incidents and Wildland fires and report them to NICC.

The single overriding suppression priority is the protection of human life-both, that of our firefighters and of the public.

In setting national priorities and drawdown levels, the following criteria should be considered:

- A. Protecting communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources.
- B. Maintaining initial action capability.
- C. Limiting costs without compromising safety.
- D. Meeting agency suppression objectives
- E. Support to National Response Framework (NRF) taskings.

Rocky Mountain Area MAC Priorities

1. Maintaining initial attack capability
2. Life Safety/Threats to Life
3. Threats to Property
 - a. Community Infrastructure
 - b. Historical significant cultural resources
 - c. Principle residence
 - d. Non-principle residence
 - e. Out buildings
 - f. Forest/Range Improvements
4. Threats to Natural Resources
 - a. High-value (\$) resources
 - b. T & E Habitat
 - i. Critical Habitat
 - ii. Key Habitat
 - c. Sensitive Species Habitat
 - d. Critical Winter Range
 - e. Other
5. Limiting costs without compromising safety.
6. Meeting agency suppression objectives.
7. Support to National Response Framework (NRF) taskings.

APPENDIX E

Conference Call – Rocky Mountain Area MAC Group

Weather Briefing –

Fuels and Fire Behavior Briefing –

Coordination/Dispatch Center Briefing –

Approve Incident Priority List-

Determine allocations-

Distribute Decisions

Re-evaluate the need to continue MAC

RMCG Issues

DATE/TIME OF NEXT CONFERENCE CALL

APPENDIX F

Sample Delegation of Authority

Delegation of Authority Chair, Rocky Mountain Coordination Group

As of 1800 hours, June 4, 2003, I have delegated the following authorities to _____, who is assigned as MAC Coordinator for the Rocky Mountain Geographic Area.

1. The authority to sign MAC decision documents that have been developed by the MAC Group.
2. The authority to re-prioritize or re-allocate resources as necessary between scheduled MAC meetings. Any re-prioritization or re-allocation will be presented to the MAC Group at the next scheduled meeting.
3. Supervision of the Public Information Function for the MAC and the Geographic Area.
4. Provide Guidance to the Prevention/Education Team operating in the Area.

Chair, Rocky Mtn. Coord. Group

Amendment to Delegation of Authority

5. Serve as the point of contact for the FAST Team lead by _____ representing the RMCG.

Chair, RMCG

**APPENDIX G
PRIORITY DECISION MATRIX**

Incident Name				Unit			
Date		Time		Prescribed Burn		Wildland Fire	
Active Suppression		Selective Holding		Monitoring		VA x WF = TP	
Ranking Element	Value of 1	Value of 3	Value of 5	Value Assigned	Weight Factor	Total Points	
Firefighter Safety	Low exposure with simple hazards easily mitigated. One or no aircraft assigned.	Moderate exposure with several hazardous conditions mitigated through the LCES worksheet.	High exposure which requires multiple strategies to mitigate hazards. Multiple aircraft types assigned.		5		
Public Safety	Exposure to hazard can be mitigated through public contact. No known air quality violations at sensitive receptors.	Public must be managed to limit hazard exposure. Air quality is degraded and approaches NAAQ violation thresholds.	Closures of highways and evacuations likely. Air quality at sensitive receptors violates NAAQs. Public exposure to hazard is imminent.		5		
Objectives	Objectives are difficult to achieve. Several conflicts between objectives and constraints exist.	Objectives are moderately difficult to achieve.	Objectives are easily achieved.		4		
Duration of Resource Commitment	Eight Days	Four to Seven Days	One to Three Days		4		
Improvements to be Protected	No improvements within or adjacent to the fire.	Several improvements to be protected are within or adjacent to the fire. Mitigation through planning and/or preparation is adequate. May require some commitment of specialized resources	Numerous improvements within or adjacent to the fire. Severe damage is likely without commitment of significant specialized resources with appropriate skill level		3		
Cultural and Natural Resource Values	Impacts to resources are acceptable.	Several resource values will be impacted or enhanced.	Resource benefits are significant or the likelihood of negative impacts is great.		4		
Social, Economic, and Political Impacts/ concerns	No controversy or media interest. No impacts to neighbors or visitors.	Some impact to neighbors or visitors generating some controversy. Press releases are issued, but no media presence on fires.	High impacts to neighbors results in media presence during fire operations. High internal and external interests and concerns exist.		3		
Economic Considerations	Values to be protected or treated are less than costs of management action.	Values to be protected or treated are equal to costs of management action.	Values to be protected or treated exceed costs of management action.		2		
Threats to Boundaries	Low risk of fire escaping established perimeter and active suppression or holding is required.	Moderate risk of fire escaping established perimeter and active suppression or holding is required.	Fire is certain to exceed established perimeter without aggressive suppression or holding actions and will result in a much more complex situation.		3		
	WFDSS				Yes	No	
	Critical Resources on Incident				Yes	No	
	TOTAL PRIORITY POINTS				Revised 6/2011		
	MAC Group Priority Ranking						