# Southern Area Coordinating Group Charter

# 2016

The Southern Area Coordinating Group (SACG) is established to provide agency management policy interpretation/support, to improve interagency cooperation, communications and coordination, and to provide interagency fire and appropriate all-risk (incident management) direction within the boundaries of Forest Service Region 8.

# SOUTHERN GEOGRAPHIC AREA COORDINATING GROUP CHARTER

The Southern Area Coordinating Group (SACG) is established to provide agency management policy interpretation/support, to improve interagency cooperation, communications and coordination, and to provide interagency fire and appropriate all-risk (incident management) direction within the boundaries of Forest Service Region 8.

The purpose of the SACG is to:

1. Provide interagency leadership and safe, coordinated, implementation of current agency policies, directions and standards for interagency fire management and appropriate all-risk management activities.
2. Instill professionalism in all elements of fire and appropriate all-risk management activities and maintain a full partnership, trust and mutual assistance among the member agencies.
3. Recommend a unified course of action to agency administrators, promote safety and provide oversight in all aspects of fire management and appropriate all-risk management activities.
4. Serves as a geographic area forum for the exchange of ideas to identify problems and propose solutions to appropriate interagency issues.
    a. Support and promote interagency cooperation in:
        i. Safety
        ii. Preparedness/Pre-suppression
        iii. Wildland/Urban/Rural Interface
        iv. Education and Prevention
        v. Fuels and Resource Management
        vi. Incident Management
    b. Coordination of interagency aviation issues.
    c. Establish task groups/teams as needed to address these and other area wide issues.
5. Serves as a geographic focal point for requests for interagency action to and from the national and local level.
6. Provide a communication link between local, state, tribal, and federal entities.
7. Facilitate the following operations:
    a. Selection and management of incident management teams.
        i. National Type I Teams
        ii. Area Type II Teams
        iii. Nominate Area Command Team candidates
    b. Oversight of the following area interagency committees:
        i. Training Working Team
        ii. Fire Environment Working Team
        iii. Dispatch Working Team
    c. Oversight of jointly funded operations budgets.
    d. Encourage establishment of local or state MAC Groups to provide operational direction as needed.

e. Provide oversight and approval of the Southern Area Mobilization Guide updates.
f. Provide oversight for interagency severity planning.
g. Other tasks as assigned by agency administrators.
h. Supervises the Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC) , Center Manager and provides oversight of Southern Area Coordination Center operations. The principal mission of SACC is to provide the cost-effective and timely coordination of emergency response for all incidents within the Southern Geographic Area. SACC is also responsible for determining needs, coordinating priorities, and facilitating the mobilization of resources from the Southern Area to the other Geographic Areas. SACC prepares an intelligence report that consolidates fire and resource status information received from each of the State Dispatch Centers in the Southern Area. This report is sent to the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC), and to the State Dispatch Centers, Caches, and Agency Managers in the Southern Area.

**MEMBERSHIP**

The SACG membership will consist of:

1. United States Forest Service, Region 8
2. National Park Service, Southeast Region
3. United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region
4. Southern Group of State Foresters
5. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Region

   *** BIA representative is expected to provide opportunity for tribal governments to participate.*

6. The Southern Area Coordination Center Manager will serve as a non-voting ex officio member.

**MEETINGS**

The SACG will meet at a minimum once a year. There will be a formal agenda for each meeting. All items for the agenda will be presented to the chair for inclusion. Decisions and recommendations will be made by consensus of the membership. The Center Manager is responsible for recording the minutes of each meeting, and will ensure that all records related to the SACG will be stored at the Southern Area Coordination Center with copies being forwarded to the membership.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The Chairperson will serve a two year term (calendar year), and will be succeeded by the Vice Chairperson.

Rotation of the Chair will be in the following order:
*U.S. Forest Service {February 2015 – January 2017}
National Park Service {January 2017 – January 2019}
Southern Group of State Foresters {January 2019 – January 2021}
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service {January 2021 – January 2023}
Bureau of Indian Affairs {January 2023 – January 2025}

**Indicates current Chairperson*

Approved:

FOR Shardul Raval, U.S. Forest Service, Fire Director, Southern Region

Vince Carver, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chief, Division of Fire Management, Southeast Region

Shawn Nagel, National Park Service, Fire Management Officer, Southeast Region

Reese Kerbow, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fire Management Officer, Eastern Region

Jim Prevette, Southern Group of State Foresters, Fire Director