



**Bureau of Land Management: Arizona, New Mexico  
Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2  
Bureau of Indian Affairs: Southwest, Navajo, Western Regions  
National Park Service: Intermountain Region  
U. S. Forest Service, Southwestern Region  
Arizona State Forestry Division  
New Mexico State Forestry**

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Date April 1, 2015

**To:** SW Geographic Area Agency Administrators, Fire Management Officers, and Incident Management Teams

**From:** Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG)

**Topic/Issue:** Northern New Mexico Interagency Dispatch Optimization Pilot Project

**Background:**

The Southwest Area's Interagency Dispatch Optimization Pilot Project (IDOPP) has been ongoing since January 2011. This pilot project includes federal, state, tribal, and local government stakeholders as determined by the Southwest Executive Oversight Group (SEOG). The sub-team for the Southwest pilot area developed dispatch consolidation alternatives that have been reviewed by the SEOG.

The IDOP Project in the Southwest includes three phases relative to northern New Mexico:

- Phase 1 – Consolidate Taos and Santa Fe Dispatch Centers by Spring 2013.
- Phase 2 – Consolidate Taos/Santa Fe/ Albuquerque Dispatch Centers by Spring 2016.
- Phase 3 – Consolidate down to two centers in New Mexico—North and South—with sites to be determined by Fall 2018.

The Santa Fe and Taos Dispatch Centers began implementation of Phase 1. Line officers, fire management officers, and dispatchers from Santa Fe and Taos Zones have developed several alternatives. In December 2014, the Southwestern Regional Forester of the USDA Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management's Arizona and New Mexico State Directors met with their respective regional and state fire management staff and highlighted the need for a communication plan outlining the goal of a final recommendation for Phase 1 and Phase 2 by June 2015.

An independent IDOPP recommendation team from outside the Southwest Geographic Area was assembled in early March to provide further specific recommendations. Their focus is on improving program delivery of dispatch services in northern New Mexico while meeting mission needs of the Forest Service, USDI agencies, and state and local cooperators. A group of subject matter experts is assessing current business and organizational models, reviewing IDOPP recommendations, identifying issues and user requirements, and developing an implementation plan to consolidate the three dispatcher centers.

**Key Points:**

- The Interagency Dispatch Optimization Pilot Project (IDOPP) Recommendation Team spent the week of March 2-5, 2015, in New Mexico, touring Taos, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque Dispatch Centers . They interviewed representatives from all agencies that would be affected by possible consolidation.
- The IDOPP Recommendation Team then met with respective Southwest Coordinating Group members for a close-out on March 6.
- *The IDOPP Recommendation Team needs to gather further information, including:*
  - the capacity of routing all radio communications at the Taos, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque Dispatch Centers into one stand-alone center. The Southwest Area Communications Committee has been assigned this task.
  - verifying FireOrg data runs.
  - collecting General Services Administration facilities costs.
- The IDOPP Recommendation Team will meet again once this data is collected and/or verified. After that meeting, they will report back to the Southwest Coordinating Group on the status of their report.
- Focus of the IDOPP effort is improved safety, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness in the national interagency dispatch and coordination system for wildland fire, law enforcement, and resource management personnel.

  
Chair, Southwest Coordinating Group