



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

Minutes of Conference Call August 1, 2013 – 0930 MST

In Attendance:

Members

- Chair** Ken Kerr
- Vice Chair** Ron Graham
- Jay Esperance
- Rocco Snart
- Kyle Cowan
- Bill Ott
- Willie Thompson
- Mike Davin
- Kevin Weaver (for Bob Jones)
- Dave Carter
- Cal Pino

- Dave Martin (for Dave Hall)
- Earl Imler
- Ross Hauck
- Dan Smith
- Jim McMahill
- Facilitator** Jim Fletcher
- Business Manager** Brooke Malcolm

Ex-Officio

- Chad Ray

Guests

- Kim Bang
- Cliff Hutton

I. Review of Dutch Creek Protocols

Kerr/All

- A. Need decision regarding whether current Incident Management Team SOPs meet requirements for Dutch Creek Protocols.
- B. SOPs for Teams A, B and Type 1 Team were collected and distributed in June.
 - 1. Team C, in coordination with Team A, made improvements to mitigation processes to better address identified issues.
 - 2. Many members of RMCG have not had opportunity to review SOPs for adequacy.
- C. IMT emergency medical plans have been successfully implemented and tested this season.
 - 1. Big Meadows fire - Team A completed successful medevac of heart attack victim according to team SOPs, and within the Golden Hour.
 - 2. Several fires relied on National Guard helicopters on standby for hoist capability.
 - 3. NPS helicopters also available for medical short-haul and extraction capability on several incidents.
 - 4. Pre-planning was key to preparedness for emergencies.
- D. Consensus that current IMT protocols are sufficient; no further improvements are necessary unless problems are identified, but all SOPs are works in progress.
 - 1. May need to re-address in light of upcoming national movement to standardize protocols among all teams.
 - 2. Ray will assist with state coordination for military cooperation with emergency protocols.

3. Smith reinforced that national preference is for consistent protocols among all teams; important to continue improvements, pending further direction from NWCG about specific requirements.
- E. Issue will be re-addressed at Fall Meeting, including standardization, SAT/ASTAT findings on the topic (firefighter safety), National Guard support and other aspects. Agenda items due by Sept. 1 to Business Manager.

II. SAT/ASTAT Issues

Kerr

- A. Planning for how to address ten topics from SAT Report findings and SAFENET commitments for follow-up.
 1. Thompson supports addressing all findings in report, not just those highlighted in the SAFENET.
 2. Consensus that RMCG should create action items for all issues addressed in SAT Report.
- B. Continuity of Command
 1. USFS convening AAR for West Fork to include Forest Supervisors and ICs (including Area Command).
 - a. Consensus that Chairs of RMCG and Operations Committee, as well as DFPC representative(s) should participate.
 - b. Kerr recommends also including Brian Ferebee as USFS Executive.
 - c. Thompson will coordinate invitations for interested parties when AAR meeting details are determined.
 - d. Request from Thompson for an uninterested party to facilitate AAR; recommendations include MAC Coordinator or equivalent.
 2. Carter supports USFS efforts to evaluate NIMO program, especially evaluations of scenarios where NIMO Teams are most effective.
- C. Dual Mobilization of State Resources
 1. Governor's LEAN Team addressing issue in Colorado currently.
 2. General support for work to evaluate and improve cohesion between parallel mobilization processes; dual system will likely be a continuing way of doing business, and best approach is to improve cooperation between two systems, not attempt to combine them.
 3. Carter: State mobilization process greatly impacted continuity of command at West Fork Complex, so issue should also be addressed at AAR.
 - a. Consensus to accept Kerr's recommendation to keep Continuity of Command AAR focused on that issue only; separate meeting may be necessary to address mobilization issues.
- D. Kerr recommends appointing volunteers or an *ad hoc* task group to address remaining topics from SAT Report; follow-up discussion on September RMCG conference call to assign tasks to volunteers or task group(s) for outstanding items.
 1. Medical Emergency Plans
 - a. Largely addressed by Review of Dutch Creek Protocols agenda item.
 - b. Summary of minutes from this conference call should be included in write-up to outline RMCG's actions on this issue.
 2. Preparedness – pending assignment
 3. Policy – pending assignment
 4. Initial Attack – pending assignment
 5. Communications – pending assignment

6. Incident Issues – pending assignment
7. Dispatch – Assigned to Fletcher
8. Environmental – pending assignment

III. MAC/RMCG AAR Taskings & Approval of Notes

Malcolm/Kerr

- A. Consensus to approve notes from meeting, with one change: Carter will be replaced by Kelton in attendee list.
- B. All taskings are included in most recent version of Action Log, dated August 1.
 1. Many require pre-work before Fall Meeting.
 2. Topics will be included on Fall Meeting agenda for detailed discussion and action.

IV. Edge-Matching for RMCG & MAC Documents

Graham (lead)

- A. MAC AAR identified need for improved consistency of names, titles, and functions between RMCG Charter, Attachment 1 (Operating Plan), MAC Plan and Mob Guide.
- B. Graham will take lead for coordinating document edits.

V. State Billing with USFS

Graham

- A. Original memo from NWCG came out in January instructing states to bill DOI directly whenever cooperative agreements were in place with DOI agencies.
 1. Caused problems due to some states not being prepared to do so within their current cooperative agreements.
 2. Some states (including WY) modified cooperative agreements to bill directly.
- B. Newest memo implements same policy as previous memo, but allows for USFS to continue to process DOI bills right now until agreements are modified.
 1. May also require some modifications to cooperative agreements, but all state representatives on call indicated that their processes are working.

VI. South Dakota Executive

Esperance

- A. Chief of Staff and SD Secretary of Agriculture appointed Dep. Secretary of Agriculture Jon Farris as executive representative and Esperance as RMCG representative.
 1. Farris no longer with State of South Dakota, and new Secretary of Agriculture has taken office.
 2. Esperance will temporarily be covering both Executive and RMCG representative duties until new Dep. Secretary is hired and ready for responsibilities as executive.

VII. Priority Trainees to Date

- A. Moved 72 trainees in and out of RMA to date in 2013.
- B. National Priority Trainee Pilot still being fine-tuned.
 1. Positive results so far, including more IMT Delegations of Authority that allow more extensive use of trainees.
 2. Working with Jason Baldwin on ATGS positions.
 3. Daily priority trainee lists being distributed to ICs (and roster managers) and RMACC to maximize placements.
- C. Fletcher requested similar prioritization for dispatch trainee positions.
 1. Bang confirmed that dispatch positions are already on priority trainee list, so when they become available, she works on placements for them also.

- D. Critical positions include those in Finance, Logistics, Plans and Aviation due to overall shortages.
 - 1. Jason Baldwin working with National ATGS Committee to improve movement of ATGS trainees.
- E. Operations positions are most difficult to place due to the highly competitive nature (due to number of trainees) of the positions.
- F. RMCG recognizes outstanding work done by GATR and others to improve placement of trainees and garner support for the use of trainees overall.
 - 1. Kerr gave example of BLM District Manager who directed his line officers to utilize trainees whenever possible and to allow IMTs to use trainees to the maximum extent possible, regardless of cost. Kerr will distribute letter from District Manager as requested.

VIII. Colorado Dispatch AOP Update

- A. Currently being worked on by Gill Fay (BLM) and Monica Cordova (USFS).
- B. Trying to get money through agreement process for the new RMACC webpage.
 - 1. May not be able to meet FWS deadline for funding. John Morse is FWS contact for Monica to coordinate.

IX. Fall Meeting Planning

- A. Currently scheduled for week of October 21, with travel days on Monday and Thursday.
- B. Suggested locations include Colorado Springs, Pueblo and Denver.
- C. Recommendation to hold meeting in Denver due to travel restrictions and proximity of several RMCG members.
- D. Consensus to hold Fall Meeting in Denver, CO – specific location TBD.

X. Updated Action Log

- A. Newest version date 8/1/2013 distributed to all RMCG members. Will be posted to RMCG webpage also.
- B. Follow-up on outstanding items and updates made. Business Manager will continue follow-up with non-RMCG members on their action items.
- C. Reminder for all RMCG members to review their commitments from July 8 MAC/RMCG AAR.

XI. Round-Robin

Chad Ray – No report

Willie Thompson – No report

Dan Smith – Offline

Earl Imler – Offline

Dave Martin – Encountering problems with state billing.

- o Problems with FBMS transition and late billing from states—just now receiving bills for some fires in 2012.
- o Other agencies/areas are also experiencing the same problem.
- o Causing BIA fires to request federal resources only because of billing complications for state resources.
- o Recommendation to coordinate with Dan Smith to address at NWCG level. Martin & Smith will return to RMCG for more action if necessary.

Cal Pino – Prefer Colorado Springs for meeting, but like Denver for cost savings.

Dave Carter – Prefer meeting in Denver for cost savings.

Kevin Weaver – No preference on meeting location.

Jim McMahon – Offline

Mike Davin – No preference on meeting location.

Currently only unit in severity is Dinosaur National Park.

Kyle Cowan – Prefer Denver for meeting.

Successful Mob Center operation in Camp Guernsey, WY. Thanks to all who helped.

Rocco Smart – Prefer Denver for meeting.

Jay Esperance – No preference on meeting location.

Indices for entire zone currently below 50th percentile.

Ron Graham – No preference on meeting location.

Ken Kerr – Denver ok for meeting.

Next Conference Call September 5 at 0930 MST