

# New Mexico Interagency Coordinating Group Meeting

January 27, 2011 – Santa Fe, NM

*Approved Meeting Minutes*

## Attendance

Jeff Hickerson, NPS (Chair); Emily Irwin, FS; Jason Riggins, FWS; Donald Greigo, NM State Forestry; Lisa Bye, BLM; Claudia Standish, NM Smoke Coordinator (BLM); Susanna Ehlers, FS Air Quality; Jeanne Hoadley, BLM Air Quality; Jake Nuttall, FWS; Butch Wilson, FWS; and Pam Bostwick, FS.

## Review and Approval of the last NMICG Meeting Notes

The Dec. 13, 2010 meeting notes were reviewed and approved as distributed, and will be posted on the Committee's website by Jeff.

## NMICG Action Items

*The following is the updated NMICG Action Item and Assignment List. New or Updated Action Items are in red. Completed Action Items have been removed.*

Topic	Action Needed	Responsibility	Date
NMICG Chair Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Check SWCG website at see if NMICG's membership list, and essential documents are up to date. If not, contact Jay Ellington.</li> <li>▪ Coordinate meetings, prepares agenda, and distribute meeting notes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hickerson</li> <li>▪ Hickerson</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> </ul>
AZ Interagency Smoke Management MOU and Charter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review and update Charter, as needed.</li> <li>▪ Begin Process to replace existing MOU, which expires in Aug. 2012</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hickerson/ALL</li> <li>▪ Hickerson/ALL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> <li>▪ Fall 2011</li> </ul>
NM Smoke Management Rule Revision/Working Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Request ABQ post/distribute all the SMP draft document (rule, appendices, guidance document) for review</li> <li>▪ Request the SMP Rule revision effective date to be negotiated to be Jan. 1, 2012.</li> <li>▪ Distribute final cost spreadsheet for the contracted facilitator to each agency.</li> <li>▪ Invite ABQ (Rita) to our next meeting, and add her to the NMICG mailing list.</li> <li>▪ Begin process of drafting Talking Points/Power Point to send to units/burners about the SMP rule revision/changes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bye</li> <li>▪ Bye</li> <li>▪ Greigo</li> <li>▪ Hickerson</li> <li>▪ ALL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 3/1/2011</li> <li>▪ 3/1/2011</li> <li>▪ ASAP</li> <li>▪ ASAP</li> <li>▪ 4/20/2011</li> </ul>
NM Smoke Management Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Weekly Smoke Coordination Call</li> <li>▪ If there are issues with burn registrations, work with the agency's NMICG representative to get the issue resolved.</li> <li>▪ Schedule a call to field questions related to the Feb. 22 planning meeting.</li> <li>▪ Prepare briefing standards/expectations for the Feb. 22 planning meeting for field units.</li> <li>▪ Follow up on NWS letter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Standish/Hall</li> <li>▪ Standish/ALL</li> <li>▪ Standish/Hall</li> <li>▪ Irwin/Stadish/Hall</li> <li>▪ Hickerson</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> <li>▪ ASAP</li> <li>▪ ASAP</li> <li>▪ ASAP</li> <li>▪ ASAP</li> </ul>
Interagency Fuels Agreement to Exchange Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pursue Interagency Fuels Agreement to utilize and fund federal and state resources on fuels projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Irwin (lead)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 4/20/2011</li> </ul>

*The following is a summarization of discussions for each existing issue or topic.*

## NMICG Charter/NM Interagency Smoke Management Program MOU Update - Hickerson

The Group briefly discussed the NMICG Charter and the NM Interagency Smoke Management Program MOU. The Charter was signed in Nov. 2006. The MOU was signed in Aug./Sept. 2008 and expires in 2012. Known issues or concerns that may need to be addressed include: should the MOU be replaced as an Agreement; and does the NM State Forestry need to be

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signatory partner to the MOU. NMICG will make it a priority to review and begin the lengthy process to update these documents.

### **New Mexico Smoke Management Plan Revision/Work Team Update - Bye**

The working team met on Jan. 19, 2011; this will likely be their final organized meeting. ABQ staff reviewed the comments provided to them to the statewide smoke management draft rule, and then presented their prepared responses (see handout) to each concern/comment. In general, there were only a few changes adopted from the comments/feedback provided.

After NMICG reviewed all the feedback comments that ABQ provided, agencies still have a couple of questions related to: 1.) an established appropriate feedback timetable (when will ABQ respond to burners if they have issues/concerns) and 2.) NM State Forestry has several concerns related to wildland fires, public notification, etc. (It was noted that ABQ plans to meet with the State's Land Office and State Forestry in the near future; although State Forestry has not been contacted).

It was also noted the new governor recommended members to the NM's Environmental Improvement Board (EIB). The timeline for the board to be organized is sometime in April. If that happens ABQ may be able to bring the smoke rule revision before them in July and the rule could become after 30-days of their approval. NMICG recommends that the laws effective date be negotiated to Jan. 1, 2012.

Donald noted the contracted facilitator completed their obligations in December, although he has not seen any prepared draft rule documents from them. He also stated that there is about \$1,200 of federal agency funds remaining from the contract, which no agency wanted to pursue getting it returned (State Forestry will try to cover Trent's salary with the extra funds).

### **New Mexico Smoke Management Program Update - Standish**

Claudia and Josh will monitor the data base and determine when prescribed fire activity is increasing and when the weekly coordination calls will need to resume (BLM is targeting March burn windows).

Units are starting to get their burns registered into the system. There are few issues with FWS, NPS as well as private burners not submitting their final tracking documentation need to carry over projects.

The NM annual Smoke and Planning Meeting is planned for Feb. 22. Claudia and Josh have distributed some basic information, however ABQ has not sent out a formal announcement. Claudia and Josh are working on some tools to help the burners prepared for the planning meeting. The FS is also going to download all registered burns in the system (after Feb. 8) and will be able to graphically display each burn on Google Earth during the planning meeting; units will have the ability to visually show drainages, communities, etc.

### **Agency Round Robin**

BLM: Spring FMO Meeting, the week of Feb. 22 in Albuquerque.

FS: Registration is open for the SW Ecology Workshop, March 8-10 in Flagstaff, AZ. A Lessons Learned from Escaped RX Fire Reviews will be held April 26-27 in Tucson, AZ –

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looking for 12-25 people to participate. S-482 (the old S-580 course) will be held the week of April 11 at the BIA Training Center (ABQ) – the target audience is SOPL, as well as ICT3/4s positions.

NPS: Len Dams, NPS-Intermountain Region FMO passed away in early Dec. after battling cancer. Mike Davin is current acting RFMO; the vacancy announcement could be out next week (GS-14 stationed in Lakewood, CO).

### **Next Meeting/Adjournment**

The next meeting will take place on April 20, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. The Forest Service will host the meeting at the regional office in Albuquerque; the room location will be announced at a later time.