

Executive Summary Southwest Area Multi-Agency Coordination Group

The Southwest Area Multi-Agency Coordination (SWA MAC) Group is made up of agency representatives who have a jurisdictional, functional, or significant supportive involvement in incidents. The SWA MAC Group members are fully authorized to commit their agency funds and resources.

The cooperating agencies are the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the States of Arizona and New Mexico. The Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG) members function as the Southwest Area MAC as defined by the SWCG Handbook.

The SWA MAC Group establishes and sets priorities when there is competition for resources between southwest zone dispatch centers. Standard procedures to guide the operations of multi-agency incident support activity are published in the National Mobilization Guide and the Southwest Area Mobilization Guide.

The general criteria to be used in establishing priorities are as follows:

1. Firefighter and Public Safety
2. Initial Attack
3. Community Protection
4. Threats to Other Structures and Improvements
5. Natural, Cultural, and Historic Resource Protection

As numbers of wildfires or complex incidents increase, it is necessary to expand day-to-day coordination and management organizations to ensure efficient and effective use of critical personnel and equipment.

Multi-Agency Coordination will ensure for coordinated:

- Incident prioritization
- Resource allocation, acquisition, and movement
- Contingency planning
- State and federal incident response
- Information provided to media and agency heads
- Identification and resolution of issues common to some or all agencies

A MAC Support Organization facilitates the operation of the SWA MAC Group. The support organization consists of a MAC Group Coordinator, and situation, resource, documentation, and fire information functions as needed.

The SWA MAC Group is convened when incident resources become few due to the number of incidents, usually at PL-IV or V. Notes documenting decision and discussions are being forwarded to a mailing list of agency administrators, fire management officers, and MAC group members.