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

Date: September 3, 2024

To: Southwest Area Fire Community

From: Southwest Coordinating Group

Subject: Priority Trainee Program Implementation for Fire Season 2025

The primary mission of the Priority Trainee Program is developing an interagency workforce by mobilizing trainees to incidents, assisting them in gaining critical experience for Fire Management position requirements and successional planning for Complex Incident Management Teams.

Nationally, Complex Incident Management Teams (CIMs), single-resource overhead, and dispatchers provide the support structure for managing wildfire and all-hazard incidents. We must prepare for the future by training individuals to ensure that key positions remain intact over time. The Southwest Priority Trainee Program (SWPTP), as part of the larger National Priority Trainee Program (PTP) provides an avenue to mobilize priority trainees to incidents in support of interagency succession objectives.

The Geographic Area Training Representative (GATR) is delegated the responsibility of managing the Priority Trainee Program with the GATR/SWPTP Duty Officers, implementing the program during the fire season (April 1st – September 1st) to include coordination with other Geographic Areas to share opportunities for mobilization of priority trainees.

Program Management

Critical ICS positions are identified through the collaboration of the GATR and various Southwest Area Committees with final approval by the Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG).

Applications are received from November 1st through February 1st, with prioritization work occurring shortly thereafter through the collaboration of the GATR and committees with final approval by the SWCG.

Southwest Area Trainee orientation will occur annually.

Mobilization Process

The SWPTP program will be utilized for all trainee mobilizations nationwide.

Mobilization of trainees in the SWA occur in the following dispatch priority order:

1. Trainee within the dispatch zone where the incident resides.
2. Priority Trainees from the SWA Priority Trainee List. If none are available, after confirmation from the GATR/SWPTP Duty Officer, trainees from within the SWA that are not on the Priority Trainee List.
3. Trainees from the National Priority Trainee List.
4. Normal ordering of trainees outside of the geographic area may occur.

The GATR/SWPTP Duty Officer will collaborate with Complex Incident Management Teams (CIMs) to identify training opportunities. Orders received in Expanded from the Ordering Manager, are then to be forwarded to SWCC who will collaborate with the GATR/SWPTP Duty Officer.

Individuals who apply to Primary Trainee positions on CIMs or Buying Teams are required to apply to the Priority Trainee Program. During the team's unavailability period the GATR/SWPTP Duty Officer will work to get rostered trainees on fire assignments for speed to competency. It is also the responsibility of the individual to gain home unit approval prior to self-nomination.

We strongly encourage individuals to apply for the priority trainee program and watch for announcements coming out November 1st.

Please contact the Geographic Area Training Representative for the Southwest Area if there are questions: Elliott Herrera etherrera@blm.gov

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Southwest Area Coordination Group Chair   Date:

This document is an appendix to the Southwest Area Priority Trainee Operating Guide

Approved Priority Trainee Positions						
Command	**Aviation**	**Operations**	**Logistics**	**Planning**	**Finance**	**Dispatch**
ICCM	AOBD	OSCM	LSCC	PSCC	FSCC	CORD
PIOC	ASGS	OPBD	BCMG	DMOB	TIME	EDSP
LOFR	ATGS	DIVS	COML	DOCL	PROC	ACDP
SOFC	HEBM		EQPM	FBAN	COMP	IADP
SOFF	HMGB		FACL	GISS	COST	EDSD
SOFR	RAMP		FDUL	HRSP	INBA	INTS
	SEMG		GSUL	ITSS	BUYL	MCCO
			MEDL	LTAN	BUYM	
			SUPL	RESL	PTRC	
				SCKN	EQTR	
				SITL		
				SOPL		
				TNSP		