



Arizona State Forestry Division
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: May 21, 2013
To: Art Gonzales
From: Chair, Southwest Coordinating Group
Subject: Task Order, Implementation of Flagstaff and Williams Dispatch Centers Merger

The SWCG requests your participation as the leader of a team to implement the decision to merge the Flagstaff and Williams Dispatch Centers into one Dispatch Center and determine the feasibility of incorporating the Hopi BIA, Truxton Canyon BIA, and Navajo BIA Dispatch Centers into this consolidated center, as identified in the Southwest Interagency Dispatch Optimization Pilot Project Executive Summary which was issued in September of 2012. You will be working directly for the SWCG to manage the merger of these centers. Our expectations are that you will:

- In coordination with involved agencies, determine the appropriate location for the consolidation of the dispatch centers;
- Once the site is agreed upon, utilize the guidance outlined in the Executive Summary of September 2012 to guide implementation;
- Utilize the implementation checklists that have been developed to ensure that all aspects of fire and aviation dispatch are considered prior to the actual merger of the centers;
- Provide the SWCG with updated cost estimates as they are identified in planning so that the Coordinating Group can make timely funding decisions to support the merger;
- Continue to keep all agency Administrators and NFFE Union Representatives involved throughout all aspects of the merger;
- Apprise the SWCG as soon as possible of any impediments encountered that need to be addressed by the Coordinating Group;
- And provide updates of progress at scheduled SWCG meetings.

We will leave the size and makeup of the implementation team to your discretion. It may be possible to get one of the NIMO teams to assist you. Our intent is that this planning be completed and actual center consolidation begins by the spring of 2014 but understand that this target date hinges upon successfully locating an appropriate location for a consolidated center. The target for a complete and operational center will be prior to fire season 2015.

The SWCG recognizes that these are ambitious target dates. These dates convey our earnestness in implementing these consolidations to become as efficient as possible with available future funding. However, implementing the consolidations correctly is just as important as implementing them quickly.

This includes the full consideration of affected employee's ideas and concerns. We are open to extending the implementation target dates if more time is needed to accomplish center consolidations correctly.

If you have any questions please contact Carl Gossard (Chair, SWCG) or Kelly Castillo (IDOP Lead).



Carl W. Gossard
Chair, Southwest Coordinating Group