

NMICG Notes from 1/8/09

In Attendance: Hal Luedtke BIA, Jennifer Myslivy BLM, Chris Wilcox FWS, Don Kearney FWS, Emily Irwin USFS, Jeanne Hoadley USFS, Donald Griego NMSF, Jeff Hickerson NPS, Claudia Standish BLM, Lisa Bye BLM

Group reviewed noted from 10/28/08 – all ok.

Smoke Update

USFS will be using an existing grant to transfer money to NMSF to pay for the smoke facilitator. Claudia has written a draft agreement and has been advised that each individual DOI agency should do their own agreement to transfer money to NMSF. Monies need to be transferred ASAP. Donald will cover the cost of the contract with his money to keep the process moving along.

There were questions about the public meetings – who can attend, who should attend, etc.? Jeanne will write a draft briefing paper so all federal agencies are on the same page with the issues. This paper will be provided to the agency reps that will be attending the meetings. All agreed we need to educate the public more on various aspects of fire and burning methods. The big three issues are: aerial ignition, public notification, and AMR.

Action Item – Draft briefing paper sent to all by 1/16/09

Annual smoke meeting currently set for 2/11/09.

Updated ICS 209 letter and guidance document have been posted to the SWICC website. Claudia will present this to the IMTs at the February meeting. Jay Ellington has been tasked with reviewing all incoming 209s to make sure they contain the smoke information.

Claudia is having problems getting year end tracking from some folks. She will work with the individual NMICG agency reps to resolve any issues.

Folks are also asked to double check any burns that they carryover and update them before clicking on the submit button.

Claudia is available to attend any agency fire meetings or to work one on one with folks to explain the smoke management program. Claudia and Jeanne will work together on attending the USFS spring fire meetings.

Jennifer updated the group on the state fire planning task force. There are 52 CWPPs completed, 21 were signed off in December and 5 were sent back for revisions. Butch Blazer remains the chair of the group. The group has also drafted a letter in support of burning to help the smoke cause. The NMSF website will be updated with the 2008 CWPP info very soon.

Chris Lopez, NMSF, is working on a RFA letter. The application will still go out even though DI has not funded the program for this year.

Last year there were issues with the list that was sent to NIFC – it was prioritized by agency not as the whole state and BIA was not on the list. The BIA has their own program and they are not aware of the tribes that take advantage of any state programs.

There will be \$220,000 in VFA this year. Elaine Waterbury with the USFS is gone – not sure who will be the contact for the USFS for this program.

Fuels collaboration tables are due to the zone chairs by May 1st. Lat and Long will be added to the tables so NMSF can make a statewide map.

Smoke collaboration lists will follow the following timeline:

DOI Smoke Specialist will perform a data dump of the smoke database on 1/15/20XX.

This will be sent to the chair of the NMICG.

The chair will distribute this to the NMICG agency reps by 1/20/00XX.

NMICG agency reps will sort the list by their agency and zone and distribute to the appropriate zone chair by 2/1/00XX.

For calendar year 2009 the DOI smoke specialist will perform a data dump by 1/31/09 and forward to NMICG chair. The NMICG chair will forward to the NMICG agency reps by 2/2/09. NMICG agency reps will sort the list and send to zone chairs by 2/13/09.

Action Item - Lisa will draft a cover letter for review by all to accompany the smoke lists by 2/13/09.

Everyone is to encourage their agency burners to carry over all burns starting on 12/1/20XX and to enter new burns after 1/1 but before 1/15 in order to get the data dump as accurate as possible.

Lisa will work with Jay Ellington to get the NMICG website updated.

Jennifer explained how the PLIA will work for this year.

The 2009 PLIA/PLIC agreement has been agreed upon by the SWCG to continue with the restriction/closure website. \$7500 will be the operating cost for the year and each agency will be contributing a dollar amount..The agreement has been posted on the SWCG website..The site runs all year long..

\$2000 - USFS

\$1500 - AZ BLM

\$1500 - NM BLM

\$1000 - NPS

\$500 - BIA

\$500 - FWS

\$500 - NM State Forestry

\$500 - AZ State Forestry

Next meeting 2/17/09 @ 10:00 in Albuquerque at the USFS regional office.