

Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group Charter (AICG)

I. Purpose and Authority

Successful implementation of *the National Fire Plan, the 10-year Implementation Plan, and the Cohesive Fuels Treatment Strategy* is a top priority for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Department of Interior, the Governor of Arizona, and Arizona tribes. The Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group (AICG) is committed to collaborative and cooperative approaches and processes to implement the common purposes articulated in the *Implementation Plan* and the National Fire Plan. AICG is organized to ensure collaboration and cooperation among the Federal, State, and tribal partner agencies within the state of Arizona.

AICG will report to the Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG). The SWCG Chair will keep the Southwest Regional Executives briefed as needed.

II. Objectives

1. Facilitate collaboration, cooperation and communications on statewide air quality and smoke management issues affecting the fire management agencies.
2. Provide a forum for discussing and resolving issues affecting wildland fire management programs in Arizona as requested by SWCG or as identified by the Arizona Interagency Fire Management Zone Boards.
3. Facilitate collaboration and cooperation, priority setting and implementation of *the National Fire Plan, and the Implementation Plan* as they pertain to wildland fire, hazardous fuels, and ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation on Federal, State, tribal and private forest and range lands in Arizona.

III. Specific Actions

- Support the interagency air and smoke management liaison program. The AICG representatives will develop and maintain an interagency agreement with annual operating plan (AOP). The AOP will discuss funding and determine the annual program of work for the shared air and smoke management positions, in coordination with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ).
- Facilitate resolution of interagency issues related to the Group that arise at the statewide level that are not reserved for SWCG;
- Identify efficient and effective procedures to assist field offices and eliminate ongoing or potential duplications of effort;
- Encourage partner agencies to “speak with one voice” in coordinated public information and education efforts;

Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group Charter (AICG)

- Keep the Arizona Interagency Fire Management Zone Boards, the SWCG, and the Arizona Governor's Forest Health and Fire Plan Advisory Committee apprised of progress in implementing the National Fire Plan, and 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy.
- Facilitate fuels project collaboration.
- Coordinate with the state of Arizona to update and/or make any changes to the Communities at Risk list.

IV. Committee Structure/Membership

The membership of the AICG shall consist of Federal and State of Arizona representatives, and the Intertribal Council of Arizona with statewide responsibilities for implementing the National Fire Plan and 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy. Each agency/entity will appoint a formal member of the Coordinating Group, but may send another representative to meetings when the formal member is unable to attend. The primary membership is one representative from each of the following agencies:

Arizona State Forestry
Bureau of Land Management – Arizona State Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs – Western Regional Office
National Park Service – Intermountain Regional Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Southwest Regional Office
U.S. Forest Service – Southwest Regional Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs – Navajo Regional Office

The Arizona Interagency Smoke Management Program Manager, the Zone Board Chairs from each Arizona Interagency Fire Management Zone, and other interested groups may send a representative to AICG meetings as needed or to facilitate collaboration and cooperation.

V. Subcommittees/Task Groups

Subcommittees and/or Task Groups will be identified and created by AICG, as needed. Each group will submit a program of work and regularly report to AICG. AICG will appoint a member as a liaison to each such group.

VI. Administration

The Coordinating Group will meet quarterly. However, special meetings may be called as necessary, at the request of any member. Polling members in advance of meetings will identify agenda items.

The Chair will be held for two years with a rotation occurring during the fall meeting in even number years. Chair rotation will be as follows: Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs - Western, National Park Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs – Navajo,

Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group Charter (AICG)

Arizona State Forestry, Bureau of Land Management. The Chair is responsible for convening Group meetings and preparing any records and reports.

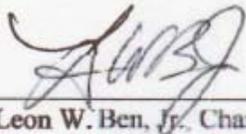
The Chair is responsible for the AICG webpage on the SWCG website including posting of current work and showing current AICG charter and membership

The Vice-chair will be the agency representative following the Chair on the membership list above and will fulfill the duties of the Chair as needed. The Vice-Chair will advance to the Chair at the conclusion of the Chair's term in office.

Costs associated with individual agency travel, per diem, communications, supplies, and equipment will be the responsibility of each agency.

The term of this Charter will be five years, from signing by the SWCG chair. Amendments or revisions to this charter may be made at any time, subject to the written concurrence and approval of member agencies.

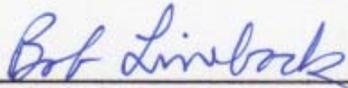
Recommended by:



Leon W. Ben, Jr. Chair
Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group

May 23, 2008
Date

Approved by:



Bob Lineback, Chair
Southwest Coordinating Group

May 27, 2008
Date

Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group Charter (AICG)

References

A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment, 10-year Implementation Strategy - Dec. 2006

This updated *Implementation Plan* focuses anew on the collaborative framework essential for success, and as to the Strategy's four goals, sets forth desired outcomes, performance measures, and responsibilities for tasks identified. The goals are interrelated and mutually reinforcing: restoring fire-adapted ecosystems and reducing hazardous fuels will reduce risks to communities and provide economic benefits, as well as improve fire prevention and suppression. This updated *Implementation Plan* emphasizes:

- Information sharing and monitoring of accomplishments and forest conditions to improve transparency,
- A long-term commitment to maintaining the essential resources for implementation,
- Landscape-level vision for restoration of fire adapted ecosystems,
- The importance of using fire as a management tool, and
- Continuing to improve collaboration consistent with the vision of the *10-Year Strategy* and this *Implementation Plan*.¹

PROTECTING PEOPLE AND NATURAL RESOURCES, A COHESIVE FUELS TREATMENT STRATEGY – Feb. 2006

The mission of the strategy is to lessen risks from catastrophic wildfires by reducing fuels build-up in forests and woodlands and by reducing threats from flammable invasive species on rangelands in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible. The strategy will result in fewer large, catastrophic fires and less damage from those that do occur than would otherwise be the case, vegetative conditions in which some fires will be used to fulfill appropriate ecological functions, and the establishment of viable infrastructure capable of improving and maintaining desired land conditions over the long term. By providing a succinct and integrated presentation of policy and management objectives and methods, the strategy will help relevant parties achieve risk reduction and resource management goals.