

Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group



Updated Jan. 31, 2010

TO: Arizona Zone Chairs, Fire and Fuels Managers, etc.

FROM: Chair, Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group

TOPIC/ISSUE: Zone Fuels “SNAPSHOT” Reporting Procedures (REPLY REQUESTED)

In 2005 the Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG) directed each zone to establish a Zone Fuels Collaborative Group (Group) with the intent to discuss and prioritize fuels projects locally as well as provide local smoke management coordination. This memo can be found on the SWCG website at: http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/swcg/operations/memorandums/documents/az_zone_fuels_collaborate.pdf

The Arizona Coordinating Group (AICG) was also tasked at that time with ensuring that local and interagency fuels collaboration is occurring at the local levels and in accordance with the Interagency *10-Year Strategy Implementation Plan* (updated Dec. 2006). Each zone was asked to charter its own fuels group, with the responsibility to reporting back to AICG and SWCG annually. However the AICG has received very little response from the zones, and we are concerned that fuels collaboration is not taking place as required by national policy.

It is extremely important that we can demonstrate that our fuels dollars are being spent on the highest priority projects to reduce the risk of wildland fires in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and to protect/restore our sensitive ecosystems. Congress continues to hold agencies ever more accountable, and the 10-year anniversary of the *National Fire Plan* is rapidly approaching.

AICG understands your time is important and has put the request for detailed listings on hold. Instead, AICG is asking for fire managers to work with your zone chair to provide us with a couple “Snapshot” examples annually of projects that demonstrate effective and/or successful Interagency collaborative efforts in your area. To help facilitate this exchange and to encourage more interaction with AICG, the following AICG members have been identified as the point of contact for each zone:

- Central West Zone – Leon Ben, Jr.
- Northern Arizona Area – Jeff Hickerson
- Southeast Zone – Butch Wilson
- White Mountain Zone – Clay Templin

As a general guide, each Snapshot should be limited to a one-page outline and may include pictures. The primary focus should illustrate Interagency collaboration. Specific examples may include a planned cross-boundary treatment, or several coordinated treatments designed with a common purpose that involved multiple partners. Completed examples should be sent electronically to your assigned Zone Representative for review.

Finally, as a reminder, the Zone Chair is responsible for ensuring zone fuels project collaboration is taking place within your local zone. The Zone Chair should work with its Interagency partners and to review the fuels group charter annually and update them accordingly; the Zone Chair should then forwarded it to me for AICG review. I am including a basic charter example for your consideration to help provide better understanding and direction to these established groups.

Thanks for your cooperation. Feel free to call me or any AICG agency representative if you have any questions.

/s/ Jeffrey L Hickerson

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CC: Clay Templin (FS), Butch Wilson (FWS), Leon Ben, Jr. (BIA), Scott Hunt (AZ State), Kelly Castillo (BLM), Glen Buettner (AZ State)

Attachments: AICG Snapshot Template,
AZ Fuels Group Charter_draft example