

# Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group

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Dec. 16, 2008 – Conference Call @ 1000

**Present**

Jeff Hickerson, NPS (Chair); Clay Templin, FS; Sherry Smith, FS; Mark Fitch, FS; Leon Ben, Jr., BIA; Ron Sharron, BIA; and McKenley-Ben Miller, BLM.

**Purpose**

To discuss the status of the 2009 AOP as well as the vacancy of the FS Smoke Coordinator position, and where we are heading with agreements/AOPs in the future.

**Action Items**

Topic	Action Needed	Responsibility	Date
AOP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Finalize/sign 2009 AOP and distribute copies to each agency. Fax to Sherry Smith.</li> <li>▪ Complete 2009 payment obligation to the FS (BLM and NPS).</li> <li>▪ DRAFT 2010 work plan and budget</li> <li>▪ Determine if BIA has the ability to waive Administrative Fees (if all DOI funding was routed directly to them) for the 2010 AOP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hickerson</li> <li>▪ Castillo/Hickerson</li> <li>▪ Fitch/Sharron</li> <li>▪ Ben</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ASAP</li> <li>▪ Early Jan.</li> <li>▪ Jan. 21</li> <li>▪ Jan. 21</li> </ul>
Air Quality/Smoke Coordinator Workload Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A workload analysis is needed for the Vice Mark Fitch's position to see if the emerging/increasing Air Quality issues/workload may require additional funding/positions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ FS</li> <li>▪ BLM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> </ul>
AZ Interagency Smoke Management Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The AZ Interagency Smoke Management Program Agreement expires Sept. 2010 – seek efficiencies for a new Interagency Agreement.</li> <li>▪ Need to determine the best document tool (agreement/MOU) for the Smoke Coordinators to occupy office space at ADQ. Keep simple.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Smith/ALL</li> <li>▪ Templin/Ben</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> </ul>

*The following is a summarization of the key points discussed.*

**2009 AOP Status**

The current AOP needs to be signed, and the FS needs to receive payments from the BLM and NPS or the administrative fees may increase. The BLM and NPS both verbally agreed to pay, although BLM's payment maybe delayed until after Jan. 1 due to a change in their accounting system.

**Vice Fitch's Smoke Coordinator Position**

Clay is working on getting advertising Mark Fitch's vacating smoke coordinator position. He has drafted a new ladder (GS-11/12) position description and is waiting for it to be classified. He hopes to have the position EOD around April 1. This position will continue to support all federal land management agencies for smoke related issues and will continue to support the BLM and FS as their primary Air Quality representative. Additional discussion focused on the potential need to cover the increasing air quality duties.

It was noted the ADQ are heavily vested in the Smoke Coordinator positions and have a long history with the selection process. It was also noted that the current ADQ director will be leaving with the change in Governorship, and a change in leadership is coming.

**AICG Master Agreement Status**

The current AICG Agreement does not expire until the fall of 2010 and is still valid. If the federal agencies agree to a different payment/in-kind arrangement it can be documented in the next AOP. Tonto NF will continue to serve as the agreement coordinator.

For future planning purposes, a "Service First" Agreement will not work, as the BIA is excluded and it only applies to specific provisions that are not applicable.