

Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group

July 28, 2010 – Conference Call @ 0945 MST

Approved Notes

Present

Jeff Hickerson, NPS (Chair); Clay Templin, FS; Pam Bostwick, FS; Leon Ben, Jr., BIA; Kelly Castillo, BLM, and Dave Behrens, AZ State.

Purpose

To discuss the status of the BIA Smoke Coordinator position and FY10 operating budget, finalize the FY11 AOP, and update everyone on the share radio frequency MOU, etc.

Action Items

Topic	Action Needed	Responsibility	Date
AZ Interagency Smoke Management Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft letter to share with the agency partners to send to the BIA regional director about the vacant Smoke Coordinator position. ▪ BIA needs to sign the FY10 IGO for AZ-BLM transfer. ▪ BIA will confirm transferred funds from FWS can be rolled over into next FY. ▪ FWS needs to sign the DOI Interagency Agreement and send to Leon ▪ Develop a draft MOU to document the partnership/working relationships, activities and operations of the smoke coordinator positions. ▪ Invite AEDQ staff to next AICG Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Templin ▪ Ben ▪ Ben/Lopez ▪ Lopez ▪ Templin/Hickerson ▪ Templin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aug. 18 ▪ ASAP ▪ ASAP ▪ ASAP ▪ Sept. 28 ▪ ASAP
Interagency Frequency Sharing MOU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AZ FS unit will send their consolidated comments to the SWCG Chair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Templin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ASAP

The following is a summarization of the key points discussed.

Status of BIA Smoke Coordinator Position

Position has been vacant for over a year, and the paperwork has been sitting with HR for over a 100 days (after being classified). Leon noted that the HR staffs primary and exclusive focus has been related to ARRA funded announcements and hiring. In an effort to help try to expedite the process, Clay intends to draft a letter to send to the BIA's regional director. BLM and NPS has requested copies, and will also follow suite.

Other Smoke Management Program

Due to budget concerns the AEDQ is downsizing.

BLM has been working on providing some clerical help to help support Ron; however hiring has been delayed due to background check issues.

Interagency Dispatch Improvement Project

Kelly briefed the group on a new interagency task group under NMCG designed to focus on dispatch related issues. He noted the SWA has been targeted for a pilot program to improve known border/interoperability dispatching issues.

AICG Charter Administration

Due to all the vacancies and transition going on with Arizona State Forestry, AZ BLM has agreed to leap ahead of the state and assume the AICG vice-chair position this fall.

Next Meeting

Sept. 28 at 09:00 MST. Ron has reserved Room 3100B (upstairs in the state office). Clay and I (Jeff) will draft the agenda.