

AICG Meeting Notes 4-5-05

Attendees: Lorene Guffey, Susan Lee, Bill VanBruggen, Kirk Rowdebaugh, Don VanDriel, Glen Buettner, Keith Burnette, Bob Lineback, Butch Wilson, Glen Burkhardt, McKinley-Ben Miller,

Carrie Templin and Jim Payne spoke to the group about an interagency media position in AZ and interagency coordination with fire restrictions and closures. The BLM will initially fund the media position with severity funding, (Ken Palmrose – retired FS, AD hire) but will be looking for additional funding from interagency partners as the summer goes on. All agencies should coordinate when restrictions will be implemented with adjacent agencies. Ken may be able to help coordinate these restrictions.

Kirk stated that in the fall the state puts out requests for proposals for the State Fire Assistance and other grant funding including supplemental Hazardous Fuels funding (such as Non-Federal WUI or Stevens). There were 43 projects submitted this year. Requests were from state lands, nonprofit groups and rural fire departments. All projects are evaluated by a collaborative group and ranked. Each project will run 2 – 3 years. These projects are out of sink with the Federal projects. For example, FY 05 state projects have now been selected, while the Federal agencies are working on selecting FY 06 projects. Knowing where the Federal FY 06 projects are located can be added as criteria of where the state projects should go. This will also allow the Federal partners to jointly fund adjacent projects where possible.

Kirk stated that the AZ State Legislature funded the AZ Fire Map project another year. This will allow for funding a dedicated position to continue the mapping project. The Federal agencies were asked to send in GIS polygons or hard copy maps of all fuels projects for FY 05 and FY 06 to Glen so he can enter the polygons in the AZ Fire Map. Eventually, all projects back to FY 2000 and all non-fuels projects that contribute to fuels reduction should be sent to Glen. Kirk asked if the State Fire Assistance projects (SFA) for Forest Service were in NFPORS. Susan thought that FY 03 was in the NFPORS data base, but will check with Elaine Waterbury. If the SFA projects have not been entered, or will not be entered in the future, Kirk would like to manually enter them in the AZ Fire Map so that these projects are also included.

AZ State may allow Wildland Fire Use on their lands if that is the least cost alternative for suppression tactics. The lead agency for fire suppression would have to assume all financial liabilities however.

A good definition of what Collaborators or partners are from the NFPORS data base is needed. Susan and Bob are on the NFPORS user group and will ask. Bob had brought this up with the User group before, with no resolution, but we will ask again.

Updating the Community at Risk list in NFPORS for Arizona was also discussed. Kirk will contact Russ Berry or a member of WFLC to see what the process is.

We then looked at all of the Federal and state fuels projects proposed for FY 06. Each agency discussed their proposed projects, and adjacent projects were looked at. Each agency that had adjacent projects will go back to their local units and discuss collaboration with them.

After the review of all of the projects we went through a “lessons learned” process. The lessons we learned were:

1. There were very few projects that were adjacent for FY 06
2. Collaboration – we don’t know what that means. The partners that are entered in NFPORS have no consistent definition between all of the agencies.
3. Populating NFPORS by the requested time frame to collaborate is very important for all agencies.
4. AZ Fire Map needs polygons back to 2000.
5. A fire history polygon layer is needed in AZ Fire Map
6. We need to get State and Private fuels treatments in NFPORS or in AZ Fire Map
7. Even though we all use the same NFPORS system, it is hard to collaborate at the “last minute”, ie; in April for FY 06 projects when the NEPA work has started as much as two years prior to the projects being entered into NFPORS.
8. We may need to work closer to the May 1 deadline in the future for collaboration, but this is hard to work on the adjacent projects when we don’t have data out in the future
9. The collaboration needs to be documented
10. Much of the collaboration is done at the local unit levels with the adjacent agencies discussing each others projects.
11. The charters of each zone need to be reviewed to see what collaboration language is included, and if needed, it can be added. The AICG can then monitor the collaboration of the zones

The next AICG meeting will be July 28, 2005 with one topic so far on Zone collaboration.