

Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group

Meeting Notes: January 22, 2008

Members in attendance were: Leon Ben, Jr. (BIA), Jeff Hickerson (NPS), Mark Fitch (FS), Kelly Castillo (BLM), Butch Wilson (FWS), David Behrens (AZ State), Bill VanBruggen (FS), Emily Irwin (FS)

Guests in attendance were: Sherry Smith (FS), Glen Buettner (AZ State)

Intro of new members and update of membership list

No change in membership list.

Review, modify and approve October 25, 2007 meeting notes

Meeting notes were reviewed and approved.

Nominations for Recording Secretary

Kelly Castillo will check on BLM staff assistant availability for AICG meetings.

Smoke Management Update

Mark Fitch gave an update. The 4th annual ADEQ Smoke Management meeting will be held on March 11, 2008. This is a requirement of the State Implementation Plan (SIP), Regional Haze Group. Items to be discussed include: setting annual emissions goals; participants will work with ADEQ on possible changes; appropriate management response, its impact and role to ADEQ; review of new rules from EPA and State (Mark talked about the Exceptional Events Rule (EER) relating to the impact of wildfire); Mark also discussed the Emergency Response Rule which through EPA allows states to step in and make decisions based on the Air Quality Index. This could impact wildfire activities. States are mandated to apply the rule as this is part of their SIP's.

Reminder from Mark that agencies with ongoing wildfires are required to report them to ADEQ (Arizona Rangeland Rule, Title 18, Chapter 2, Article 15). Mark has asked wildland fire dispatch offices to send reports of wildfires to ADEQ.

Mark met with staff from Prescott and Coconino National Forests and local residents of the Verde Valley to discuss impacts to the Valley from Prescott activities. Field visits occurred and it was agreed to make this an annual event.

Mark reiterated the need to keep lines of communications open between ADEQ and units who are requesting and conducting prescribed burns.

He will be assisting with instructing upcoming classes (S-580, S-290 and RX-410).

FY08 Smoke Funds Transfers – Sherry Smith

Funds from all National Forests are in to Sherry. BLM and NPS have not turned in signed documents; however, both agencies are working on this. Sherry is still waiting on signed document from BIA to FS. The current agreement will need to be renewed in 2010.

Annual Operating Plan

Will need to incorporate agency contacts into the FY09 plan. Agencies will need to forward contact information to Mark Fitch.

Update on Arizona Communities at Risk List

Completed and approved Community Wildfire Protection Plans are on the state website, <http://www.azsf.az.gov/UserFiles/PDF/AZCWPPSt.pdf>. Discussion on how a community is removed from the Communities at Risk List. How will data be collected on Communities at Risk?

Glen Buettner distributed a handout that identified Arizona Community Wildfire Protection Planning and identified communities at risk. The handout identified 192 CAR's in Arizona of which 84 covered by a CWPP document and approximately 49 others included in ongoing CWPP development.

Firewise Committee Update

Leon will contact Steve Campbell, Firewise Committee Chair, and ensure he received a copy of the draft vision statement for the Firewise Committee.

Zone Fuels Collaborative charters and Prioritization Lists

The Group reviewed the Central West Arizona Collaborative Fuels Group Charter. The Charter looked good to the Group. Central West Arizona Coordinating Group Chair will approve charter.

Review and Update of AICG Charter

Leon will complete final edit and forward to Southwest Coordinating Group Chair for review and approval.

Appropriate Management Response (AMR) Talking Points

Reviewed two drafts handed out by Bill VanBruggen. It was suggested to include applicable websites for more information on AMR. Edits of the two drafts are due to Bill by March 1, 2008.

Closures/Restrictions Sub-Committee Update

Kelly Castillo provided a draft charter for this sub-committee. Edits and suggestions were provided to Kelly who will incorporate and email to Leon for charter approval.

Arizona Fire Information Website

Kelly Castillo and Michelle Fidler will be provided access to the website to assist Cliff Pearlberg in updating the website with current fire information.

There is a movement by PLIC to post restrictions.

Next AICG Meeting

April 16, 2008, 9:30 AM Mountain Standard Time. Place to be determined and announced.