

Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group

Meeting Notes: April 16, 2008

Members in attendance were: Leon Ben, Jr. (BIA), Jeff Hickerson (NPS), Mark Fitch (FS), Butch Wilson (FWS), David Behrens (AZ State), Clay Templin (FS), and Helen Graham (BLM)

Intro of new members and update of membership list

No change in membership list.

Review, modify and approve January 22, 2008 meeting notes

Meeting notes were reviewed and approved.

Nominations for Recording Secretary

Helen will look into providing a Recording Secretary.

Smoke Management Update – Mark Fitch

The annual ADEQ Smoke Management Program meeting was well attended, 25 – 30 people. There were some good discussions going on. Roy Hall (FS) presented a discussion on Appropriate Management Response. The meeting also covered a summary of the previous year's prescribed burn activity and data. Discussion on future annual emission goals. Good percentage of approved burn requests. ADEQ is still in support of prescribed burning. Nancy is ready to visit a project out in the field.

The S-290 course went well. The course was attended by fire department and rural fire department personnel. RX-410 was cancelled due to the annual smoke meeting. S-580 is scheduled for next week in Tucson, AZ. Note: Mark is covering courses he is involved with as an instructor or presenter.

Mark moved into a discussion about wildfire reporting. He requested reports for grass fires larger than 250 acres and timber fires larger than 100 acres be sent to ADEQ. Mark would like to see the information captured on the smoke management program's accomplishment report forms using the same reporting mechanism for prescribed burns. The 209's for each fire were an acceptable format.

**Leon will prepare a letter to Center Managers requesting 209's be sent to ADEQ

Prescribed fire reporting is as low as Mark has seen it in awhile – accomplishment reporting is not happening.

Mark brought up an issue with getting permits signed. Even if a request is approved but no burning occurs, the accomplishment report for that planned burned needs to be submitted.

Online request is moving forward. Arizona State University and ADEQ are working on a system to submit burn requests online. The 2008 fall burn season will be used to test the site. Target for system to be on-line is January 2009. The advantage for online submissions is that units will be able to submit requests up to one week in advance. The disadvantage is that accomplishment reports will not be submitted which can lock out an ongoing project.

Mark is working with Blue Sky, a smoke dispersion prediction program, and attending WRAP meetings.

Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Operating Plan – Forest Service and National Park Service are still working on funding documents. Should be all finished soon.

Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Operating Plan – Need to make changes, sign, PDF and send out. Will need to add an operations timeline.

Arizona Communities at Risk List Update

Need BIA information on CAR's. CAR's should be covered by a CWPP or equivalent. NPS submitted their information to the State so they're good to go.

Firewise Committee Update

The new DVD is going through final editing. Training is scheduled for Assessments and Firewise in Show Low, AZ. 6 Firewise members are instructors for 40 trainees. Next meeting of committee is scheduled for some time in May this year. Question on if there is a charter for the Firewise Committee (**Dave Behrens will check on this). Steve Campbell will send a list of committee membership to AICG members. Steve will also look at the draft vision statement. Deadline for comments on the vision statement is two weeks from April 30, 2008.

Zone Fuels Collaboration Groups Update

Central West Zone still needs to meet on 2009 projects. AICG Chair will follow up with status from other zones. Dave Behrens will follow up on expired MOU which is directing the collaboration groups.

AICG Charter Update

Leon will update edits and send to SWCG Chair for review. Leon will work with SWCG Chair on approval of the charter.

Appropriate Management Response

Clay will take a look at finalizing the AMR talking points and will send out to the group for review and comments.

Closures/Restrictions Sub-committee Update

All new fire restrictions will be sent to PLIA/PLIC for posting.

Next AICG Chair and Vice-Chair

The next AICG Chair is Jeff Hickerson (NPS). Jeff will start as Chair at the next AICG meeting. The next AICG Vice-Chair is Clay Templin (FS).

Next AICG Meeting

September 26, 2008, 10:00 AM Mountain Standard Time. Arizona State Forestry, 1110 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007. Room C145.