

# Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group Meeting

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January 21, 2009 - Phoenix, AZ

*Approved Meeting Minutes*

## Attendance

AICG members - Jeff Hickerson, NPS (Chair); Butch Wilson, FWS; David Behrens, AZ State; Clay Templin, FS; Ron Sharron, BIA-Smoke Coordinator; Leon Ben, Jr., (BIA); and McKinley-Ben Miller, BLM (for Kelly Castillo).

Non-members (task group representatives/other) - Sherry Smith, FS (Agreements Specialist); Glen Buettner, AZ State (GIS and CAR list), Ron Melcher, AZ State, Michelle Fidler, NPS (Firewise subcommittee); Beth Nehring, AZ State (Firewise Liason); and Christine Buda (Recorder).

## Review and Approval of the September 26, 2008 AICG Meeting Notes and the December 16, 2008 Conference Call Notes

The September 26, 2008 meeting notes were unanimously approved as distributed, and will be posted on the Committee's website by Jeff. The December 16, 2008 conference call meeting minutes were distributed and approved.

## AICG Action Items

*The following is the updated AICG Action Item and Assignment List. New Action Items are in red. Completed Action Items have been removed.*

Topic	Action Needed	Responsibility	Date
AICG Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Check SWCG website at see if charters, AICG member's list, and essential documents are up to date. If not, contact Jay Ellington.</li> <li>▪ Coordinate meetings and prepares agenda.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hickerson</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> </ul>
AZ Smoke Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Finalize AZ Smoke Management Meeting date and location</li> <li>▪ Email AZ Smoke Management Meeting Announcement to AICG agency members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sharron</li> <li>▪ Sharron</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ASAP</li> <li>▪ ASAP</li> </ul>
AZ Interagency Smoke Management Agreement and AOP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Scan and email signed FY09 AOP</li> <li>▪ Draft FY10 Work Plan (Smoke Coordinators)</li> <li>▪ Begin initial negotiation with BIA on establishing a set burden rate for DOI agencies</li> <li>▪ Review and submit comments for the DRAFT AZ Interagency Smoke Management Agreement to Sherry Smith</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Smith</li> <li>▪ Sharron</li> <li>▪ Ben/Hickerson</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ASAP</li> <li>▪ 2/15/2009</li> <li>▪ 4/1/2009</li> </ul>
Firewise Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Charter submit and AICG to approve</li> <li>▪ Finalize Vision Statement and Work Plan</li> <li>▪ Provide AICG list of members</li> <li>▪ Link the Myfirewisecommunity.net to the SWCC website</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Brehl/Fidler</li> <li>▪ Brehl/Fidler</li> <li>▪ Brehl/Fidler</li> <li>▪ Fidler/Hickerson</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 4/16/2009</li> <li>▪ 4/16/2009</li> <li>▪ 4/16/2009</li> <li>▪ 4/16/2009</li> </ul>
Zone Fuel Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prepare a checklist/spreadsheet for FY09/FY10 WUI Treatments Prioritization and Zone Collaboration (also need AZ Strip BLM's)</li> <li>▪ Review Zone Charters (for fuels collaboration language)</li> <li>▪ Update list of Zone Chairs – post on SWCG website</li> <li>▪ National MOU status</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Buettner/Hickerson</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 4/16/2009</li> </ul>
AZ CAR List	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review and update annually                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Send out 2009 announcement to request communities to be added to the CAR list.</li> <li>▪ Review completed CWPPs that identify communities that are not on the current CAR list and send to each agency.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Track and report status of CWPP and CWPP equivalent (BIA/NPS) to Glen Buettner.</li> <li>▪ Develop process for assessing risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ALL</li> <li>▪ Buettner/ALL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> <li>▪ 1/30/2009</li> </ul>
AZ CAR List	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review completed CWPPs that identify communities that are not on the current CAR list and send to each agency.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Buettner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2/15/2009</li> </ul>
AZ CAR List	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Track and report status of CWPP and CWPP equivalent (BIA/NPS) to Glen Buettner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ALL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> </ul>
AZ CAR List	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop process for assessing risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ALL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> </ul>
AZ Statewide Strategy Scorecard Matrix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide feedback to Glen Buettner on the scorecard elements and rating criteria.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ALL (esp. Firewise)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ASAP</li> </ul>

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*The following is a summarization of discussions for each existing issue or topic.*

## **ADEQ Smoke Management Program Update – Ron Sharron**

The Annual AZ Smoke Management Meeting has been tentatively set for Wednesday - March 25th (updated 2/3/2008) and will be held at the state office in Phoenix. Ron and ADEQ's Brad Busby are working on the agenda and will include emissions reporting and a 2008 annual accomplishments overview. They are also planning to do an AAR (After Action Review) of the Nov. 17th prescribe fire smoke event involving the Coconino and Tonto National Forests.

ADEQ has hired a new contractor to work on the online reporting system. ADEQ has made getting the system operational a high priority, although there is no timeline for when the system will be available online. Reporting units will need to continue to use the old fax system until the online version is up and ready.

In April the EPA will release a new Interim Air Quality Policy for Wildland Fires that will include agriculture and open burning.

There is a new Air Quality Index (AQI) standard for PM2.5. Each state is responsible for drafting an Emergency Plan for exceedances to the new standard under the Episode Rule.

The statewide Smoke Implementation Plan (SIP) for Regional Haze is past due. ADEQ is working on the "Reasonable Progress" phase of the plan. Arizona's Smoke Management Plan (SMP) is also due for its next revision/update in the coming year.

SWCG has issued a memo and instructional letter in Dec. 2008 for reporting wildland fire emissions. Arizona and New Mexico will both use the same reporting process to gather fuels and fire behavior data through completed ICS209s. Claudia Standish, New Mexico Interagency Smoke Coordinator will present the report process to the SW Interagency Management Teams at the Team Meetings in Albuquerque, NM.

The vice-Mark Fitch FS Smoke Coordinator position description has been re-classified at the GS-11/12 level. The FS is working on the Recruitment Outreach and is hoping to have the position filled in time for spring burning (April).

## **AZ Smoke Management Annual Operating Plan & AZ Interagency Smoke Management Program Agreement – Clay Templin/Sherry Smith**

The FS is having troubles completing the IPAC FY08 funds transfer to the BIA for Ron's position.

The FY09 AOP Addendum for funding the Smoke Coordinator positions has been signed. The FS has received FY09 funding documents from FWS and NPS, and is waiting for BLM's.

The current AZ Smoke Management Program Agreement is set to expire September 2010. However a new agreement may be needed to help foster the DOI agencies (BLM, FWS, NPS) negotiation for payment and the burden rate to the BIA. It was agreed upon by the group to initiate the process for developing the next interagency agreement. Sherry Smith will begin the process by making some edits that were discussed. Agencies should submit additional comments to Sherry.

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## **AZ Master Agreement Update – Dave Behrens**

The new statewide Master Agreement is undergoing final editing and should be sent out for agency signatures soon.

## **Firewise Committee Update – Michelle Fidler/Beth Nehring**

Michelle and Mark Brehl are the new co-chairs to the committee. Meeting next month and will work on the assigned AICG action item list.

## **Zone Fuels Collaborative and Prioritization Lists – Glen Guettner**

The Northern Arizona Zone was the only zone to provide any feedback related to the FY09 fuels collaborative data call sent out from AICG last fall. NAZ provided three separate lists (from each agency) rather than a consolidated list. We need to clarify what we want. Glen and Jeff will work on developing a letter/spreadsheet consisting of checklists and data needs to best demonstrate collaboration is taking place.

Jeff will also work on a letter to be mailed in April addressing 2009 and 2010 projects. Jeff will also review the Zone charters and see what information as well as timelines that maybe already listed.

## **Update on Arizona Communities at Risk List – Glen Buettner**

Glen updated AICG on the current CAR/CWPP list and reviewed the process for updating and/or adding new agency sponsored communities. Any new submittals will be reviewed during the next AICG meeting. Glen noted there are CWPP that identify communities at risk that are not on the statewide CAR list. Glen will review and try to identify these communities.

It was also asked is there any means to show progress on treatments after the CWPPs have been signed and/or any reduced risk to the community assessment level.

## **AZ Statewide Strategy Scorecard Briefing – Glen Buettner**

Feedback on the matrix was received from the FS and NPS. Other agencies should review the draft and provide feedback directly back to Glen. The Firewise committee might be able to gather educational information (internal/external surveys). The Firewise Committee should also review the document and see what they might be able to provide.

## **Next Meeting/ Adjournment**

The next meeting will take place on April 16, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. The room location will be announced at a later time.

## **Upcoming Conferences**

- Effective Communication for Smoke Management in a Changing Air Quality Environment, [http://www.cnr.udaho.edu/wildlandfire/regional\\_workshop.htm](http://www.cnr.udaho.edu/wildlandfire/regional_workshop.htm)  
Omaha, NE - Feb. 24-26, 2009
- 10th Wildland Fire Safety Summit, <http://www.iawfonline.org/>  
Phoenix, AZ - April 28-30, 2009