

# Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group Meeting

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October 20, 2009 - Phoenix, AZ

*Approved Meeting Minutes*

## Attendance

AICG members - Jeff Hickerson, NPS (Chair); Clay Templin, FS (Vice Chair), Rod Lopez (for Butch Wilson), FWS; Scott Hunt, AZ State; John Philbin (for Leon Ben, Jr.), BIA; and Ron Sherron, FS-Smoke Coordinator.

Non-members (task group representatives/other) – Brain Lauber (SEZ Chair).

## Review and Approval of the last AICG Meeting Notes

The April 16, 2009 meeting notes and the May 28, 2009 conference call notes were approved as distributed, and will be posted on the Committee’s website by Jeff.

## 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> <li>▪ Hickerson</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> </ul>  |
| AZ Interagency Smoke Management MOU, Agreement, and AOP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Sign and return the AZ Interagency Smoke Management MOU</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Finalize AZ Interagency Smoke Management Agreement and distribute for signatures</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Once Agreement is signed, update as needed and sign the FY10 AOP</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Review authority language for signing AOP</b></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>ALL</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Ben</b></li> <li>▪ Hickerson</li> <li>▪ Hickerson</li> </ul>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>ASAP</b></li> <li>▪ <b>11/15/2009</b></li> <li>▪ TBD</li> <li>▪ ASAP</li> </ul>               |
| AZ Smoke Management                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Develop Interim WF Guidance document</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Remind everyone to submit/fax their RX paperwork as required and on time</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Email purchase/technical information for Ebams</b></li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sherron</li> <li>▪ ALL</li> <li>▪ Sherron</li> </ul>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 5/1/2010</li> <li>▪ ASAP</li> <li>▪ 11/1/2009</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 “core” group/members</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Brehl/Fidler</li> <li>▪ Brehl/Fidler</li> <li>▪ Brehl/Fidler</li> </ul>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> </ul>   |
| Zone Fuel Committees                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Review Zone Collaboration Memo and resend to Zone Chairs</b></li> <li>▪ Review Zone Charters (for fuels collaboration language)</li> <li>▪ Update list of Zone Chairs – post on SWCG website</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hickerson</li> <li>▪ Hickerson</li> <li>▪ Hickerson</li> </ul>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 11/15/2009</li> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> </ul>                                      |
| AZ CAR List/CWPP  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review and update annually</li> <li>▪ Track and report status of CWPP and CWPP equivalent to Glen Buettner.</li> <li>▪ Review existing CWPP to identify communities that are not currently on the statewide CAR list.</li> <li>▪ Develop process for assessing risk – monitor Western Fuels Assessment products</li> <li>▪ <b>Follow up on the status of the SWA GIS taskgroup, needs to include state involvement (SWCG)</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ALL</li> <li>▪ ALL</li> <li>▪ Buettner</li> <li>▪ Buettner</li> <li>▪ Hickerson</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> <li>▪ Ongoing</li> <li>▪ 1/26/2010</li> </ul> |

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

## **Smoke Management Program Update – Clay Templin, Ron Sherron**

The FS has finalized the AZ Interagency Smoke Management Program MOU. This new MOU outlines the shared working relationship between all the federal land management agencies and the smoke coordinator positions. The MOU has been distributed to the DOI agencies for signatures.

The BIA is in the process of finalizing the AZ Interagency Smoke Management Program Agreement. This new agreement will be used by the DOI agencies to fund and support the DOI Smoke Coordinator position in Phoenix, AZ. The BIA will continue to host the position (FTE). Currently this agreement is being reviewed by the BIA's solicitor.

The DOI Smoke Coordinator position is presently vacant; the BIA is in the process of planning to advertise the position soon and is hoping to have the position filled after New Years.

Ron Sherron submitted the FY10 AOP/Smoke Coordinators' workplan this past June. The AOP remains unsigned pending the signage of the new agreement. The FY10 AOP budget remains unchanged at this time; however adjustments may be need considering the DOI's smoke coordinator's position vacancy.

Ron mentioned if extra money is available that additional emission monitoring devices (Ebams) are needed. Currently, the state of AZ has three that are available plus the FS own three others. It was also suggested that Grand Canyon National Park purchase one, and have a couple more available to be checked out as needed. Ebams list for \$16,000 each.

The EPA is reviewing the Ozone standard, and the threshold is likely to be reduced. If reduced the entire state of Arizona will be listed as a non-attainment area. For the most part, Ozone is seasonal and will not affect the peak burning season; however Grand Canyon NP's in season burning could be impacted. The EPA's guidance to SMPs is due out any day; additionally the EPA is also likely to review other air regulatory standards in the near future.

Ron has proposed to ADEQ to remove all wildfires from the state rule (SMP). Currently the state rule addresses only "Fire Use" fires and has reporting requirements for them. The governor has imposed a hold on reviewing any policy, so at this time Ron is planning to develop an interim guidance document to streamline the process and force agencies personnel/administrators to talk about long duration/managed wildland fires.

Ron shared document notes he submitted for the WF Policy AAR in Denver, CO this week. Key issues focused on WF Prioritization, Resource Benefit/209 reporting, WFDSS and air quality objectives, and defining "Emergency Ignitions."

## **AZ Master Agreement Update – Scott Hunt**

The new statewide Master Agreement is signed. Ron Melcher is drafting a template for Zone AOPs, local/Zone AOPs are due April 1, the state is also drafting a 1-page Cost-Share Agreement for smaller incident (verses the master agreement's 3 pager, page 47)r should be sent out for agency soon for final review and signatures.

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## **Zone Fuels Collaborative and Prioritization Lists – Scott Hunt, Jeff Hickerson**

SEZ has signed their Fuels Group Charter.

Glenn Buettner has not received any “Snapshot” submittals documenting collaborative projects. Jeff Hickerson will review the Memo sent out last spring and redistribute.

## **AZ Forest Health Council Update – Scott Hunt**

AZ has determined the scorecard is too much, and is holding off for now.

The state’s Forest Health/Strategic Plan is due June 2010. Scott provided a handout outline goals and objectives for the plan. Glen Buettner is the project coordinator. The next meeting is Dec. 2 at the AZ Fish and Game Office. The team is looking for NPS and BIA participation.

## **Next Meeting/Adjournment**

The next meeting will take place on January 26, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. The room location will be announced at a later time.

## **Upcoming Conferences**

- Wild9 International Fire Conference, Merida, Mexico Nov. 6-13, 2009
- Fourth International Fire Ecology & Management Congress: Fire as A Global Process, Savannah, GA Nov. 30- Dec. 4, 2009  
<http://www.fireecology.net/Congress09/Home>