

Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group Meeting

January 26, 2010 - Phoenix, AZ

Approved Meeting Minutes

Attendance

AICG members - Jeff Hickerson, NPS (Chair); Bill Hart (for Clay Templin), FS; Butch Wilson, FWS; Scott Hunt, AZ State; Keith Burnette (for Leon Ben, Jr.), BIA; Kelly Castillo, BLM; and Ron Sherron, FS-Smoke Coordinator.

Non-members (task group representatives/other) – Mark Brehl, Firewise Subcommittee; Michelle Fidler, Firewise Subcommittee; and Richard Powsky, BIA.

Review and Approval of the last AICG Meeting Notes

The Oct. 20, 2009 meeting 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 or Updated Action Items are in red. Completed Action Items have been removed.

Topic	Action Needed	Responsibility	Date
AICG Chair Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Check SWCG website at see if charters, AICG member's list, and essential documents are up to date. If not, contact Jay Ellington. ▪ Coordinate meetings and prepares agenda. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hickerson ▪ Hickerson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing ▪ Ongoing
AZ Interagency Smoke Management MOU, Agreement, and AOP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distribute as signed copies of AZ Interagency Smoke Management MOU and the DOI Agreement to each agency ▪ Finalize FY10 AOP; include EBAM part list for NPS to purchase ▪ Draft FY11 AOP and workplan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Smith/Templin, Ben ▪ Sherron/Ben ▪ Sherron 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ASAP ▪ ASAP ▪ 3/1/2010
AZ Smoke Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop Interim WF Guidance document ▪ Need testers to populate the Online Reporting system ▪ Finalize Annual Meeting date and send out announcement to each agency for wide-distribution. ▪ Provide clerical help to Ron (to process 2009 data) ▪ Update press releases to remove old WF terminology ▪ Review and update SWCG's ICS209 fuels data requirement in conjunction with SWCG's adopted new ICS209 reporting timeframe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sherron ▪ ALL ▪ Sherron/ALL ▪ Philbin/Castillo ▪ ALL ▪ Hickerson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5/1/2010 ▪ ASAP ▪ 2/15/2010 ▪ ASAP ▪ Ongoing ▪ 4/1/2010
AZ Fire Education Committee + Firewise and Closure/Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft Charter for AZ Fire Education Committee ▪ Finalize and submit Firewise Charter for AICG approval ▪ Update Firewise Vision Statement, Work Plans, and list of "core" group/members to AICG annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fidler ▪ Brehl then Hickerson ▪ Brehl/Fidler 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4/22/2010 ▪ ASAP ▪ Ongoing
Zone Fuel Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Send Snapshot Memo and template to AICG members for mass distribution to each agency ▪ Update list of Zone Chairs – post on SWCG website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hickerson ▪ Hickerson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ASAP ▪ Ongoing
AZ CAR List/CWPP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Track and report status of CWPP and CWPP equivalent to Glen Buettner (BIA updates requested) ▪ Review existing CWPP to identify communities that are not currently on the statewide CAR list. ▪ Develop process for assessing risk – monitor Western Fuels Assessment products ▪ Follow up with SWCG on the status of the SWA GIS taskgroup 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ALL ▪ Buettner ▪ Buettner ▪ Hickerson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing ▪ Ongoing ▪ Ongoing ▪ ASAP
AZ Forest Resource Assessment & Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide a BIA contact representative/member to Glen Buettner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Philbin/Ben 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ASAP
AZ Master Agreement/2010 AOP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review Master Agreement/2010 Fiscal AOP to address protocol/s trigger points for agency involvement in non-fire (all-risk) mobilizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hunt/Castillo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4/1/2010
Interagency Fuels Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Share/exchange Interagency Fuels Agreement examples (ie. utilizing and funding state resources, etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Castillo/ALL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ASAP

Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group Meeting

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

Arizona Emergency Management/Services Mobilizations (Flooding/Snow) – Scott Hunt

The current situation is nine counties are in a state of emergency from the recent heavy snow and rains in Arizona. Two state Incident Management Teams have been mobilized in response; and a Limit Presidential Declaration (for FS only) was later issued on Sunday evening. Because of the critical nature of these events, Federal Interagency assistance was requested early; however without any agreements responses were delayed and were not well coordinated between the agencies.

In the future, at a minimum agencies should consider requesting SWA MAC or similar for all the partners to share the workload and work more efficiently together. The state also recognizes it needs to be better prepared for such emergencies (ex. food/MRE). AZ BLM and AZ State will review the state master agreement and draft up something to add its 2010 AOP.

AZ Interagency Smoke Management Program Update – All/Ron Sherron

The FS has received signatures from all the agencies (except BIA Navajo) for the AZ Interagency Smoke Management Program MOU. The BIA has finalized and sent out the AZ Interagency Smoke Management Program Agreement for signatures to the Department of Interior Agencies. The FS and BIA should distribute signed copies of the MOU and Agreement as soon as possible.

The BIA has not received its FY10 budget guidance and as a result the DOI Smoke Coordinator position has not been advertised. This position has been vacant going on a year and Ron needs help and support with implementing the Smoke Management Program. The BIA should consider bringing in detailers and/or utilizing SKEP hiring authorities to expedite the hiring process.

AICG reviewed the FY10 AOP/Smoke Coordinators' workplan; Ron will update the AOP to account for increased costs for the service and calibration of the Ebams. The NPS also has volunteered to utilize some of its shared funds to directly purchase additional parts for the maintenance and upkeep of the monitoring equipment (Ebams).

Nancy Wrona, after 25-years, has been promoted and is no longer the AZ Air Quality Director. Ira Domsy is acting in Nancy's place temporarily; the new Director is coming from the Compliance Division. Ira does is not familiar with the state's SMP, and is currently reviewing every burn requests.

The AZ annual Smoke Meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 10, 2010 (½ day); in preparation Ron needs some clerical help (1 day a week) with processing last year's data. The BIA or BLM may be able to assist. Ron will also be attending a Prescribed Fire Council Meeting on Feb. 10 for the "Rim" communities; he is also going to revisit the White Mountain Smoke Management Strategy and ensure proper pre-RX planning is occurring between the BIA and FS.

The system is in place for online burning permit reporting (to replace the current faxing method); however the state is short-handed and has no means to test or populate the system.

Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group Meeting

AICG also reviewed the 2010 ICS-209 SWA reporting requirements document recently adopted by SWCG. AICG agreed that the reporting timelines looked reasonable; however some concern on how smoke emission reporting would work. NM wants smoke emissions data reported daily for all WFs; meanwhile AZ only needs fuels data reported on the final 209 submission. Prior to drafting the SWCG ICS209 Reporting Memo, the Smoke Emissions Reporting Memo SWCG sent out last year will also need to be reviewed and updated concurrently.

Jeff provided a quick update to the New Mexico's Smoke Management Plan revision process and passed out a few related briefing papers. Ron noted the Arizona SMP is also due for revision; however the state would not implement any rule changes unless specifically requested by federal agencies.

Firewise Update and Fire Education Oversight – Mark Brehl/Michelle Fidler/ALL

The Firewise subcommittee distributed copies of their draft charter, vision statement, 2010 work plan, and its list of “core” members. Mark will make a few minor edits and sign the charter and then forward to Jeff. Doloris Garcia was also added to the core members list as the primary BLM representative.

Kelly brought up concern with the coordination of various fire information and education efforts (to include Firewise as well as Closures and Restrictions). Michelle volunteered to draft a charter for a new working team to serve as an umbrella to AICG for the Firewise Subcommittee and the Closure and Restriction Subcommittee; work would focus on coordinating efforts and providing oversight (posting and distributing key messages and materials, as well as coordinating need and funding requests to AICG, etc.).

The state of AZ has received a grant (totaling \$600,000) for conducting risk assessment training and print publications. The Firewise subcommittee may be able to assist and utilize some of these funds.

Zone Fuels Group and Collaboration – Jeff Hickerson

Jeff recently resent out the Zone Collaboration Memo and Snapshot template to the Zone Chairs; he also sent out an example Zone Fuels Group Charter. Northern Arizona Zone has updated their Charter based on the new template; to date AICG has received one Snapshot submittal. In an effort to get more Snapshot submittals, Jeff will send the Collaboration Memo and template to each AICG members to forward for a broader distribution. The FS indicated they have several recently completed projects that should be appropriately documented.

The new Fire Education and Education Group will work with Glen Buettner to get any Snapshot posted to a website and available to the public.

Communities at Risk Update/West Wide Risk Assessment Status – Scott Hunt

The West Wide Risk Assessment is in the process of gathering data from the western states; one of its overarching goals is to objectively evaluate wildfire threats to communities throughout the west. Given this process is underway; AICG has agreed to hold off on making any changes to the existing Communities at Risk (CAR) list.

Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group Meeting

AZ Forest Resource Assessment Strategy Update – Scott Hunt

The Forest Resource Assessment Strategy task group is making progress slowly. All federal agencies are participating, except the BIA. The next meeting is Feb. 3rd in Flagstaff (NAU); a Tribal Workshop is scheduled for Feb. 18th in Pinetop.

Solano WF: AZ Aviation Frequencies and Dispatching Boundaries – Kelly Castillo

State aviation resources dispatched through AZ-ADC have been using 122.925 as their primary victor frequency. However since the other dispatch centers use their own victor frequencies, state and federal aviation resources could be sharing the same airspace and unable to talk with each other. As a result, AZ-ADC has agreed to request contact the appropriate coordination center (except for Phoenix and Prescott) and request the use of their primary or secondary victor frequency to help minimize any aviation mishaps.

For further improvement SWCG is looking into an efficiency study and the geographic boundary of the zones and dispatch center boundaries.

Agency Round Robin

BIA: Appreciative of the help from the state during the recent heavy snow event.

BLM: Lots of interest in the AZ emergency response. The BLM setup a cost-share agreement with the state and was able to provide some support.

FS: Involved with localized and state-wide emergency response efforts, as well as meetings to discuss long-term erosion issues.

NPS: Tried to support the AZ emergency response over the weekend (All-Risk Teams and aviation resources were available); however the NPS response was limited due to no funding agreements in place. Heavy snow has buried handpiles, not much fuels work to report.

Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next meeting will take place on April 22, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. The room location will be announced at a later time.

Upcoming Conferences

- IAWF 3rd Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference
Spokane, WA. Oct 25-29, 2010
<http://www.iawfonline.org/spokane2010/>