



Forest Service (Southwestern Region)
Bureau of Indian Affairs (Southwest, Navajo, Western Regions)
Bureau of Land Management (Arizona, New Mexico)
Fish and Wildlife Service (Southwest Region)
National Park Service (Intermountain Region)
Arizona State Forestry Division
New Mexico State Forestry

Southwest Area Wildfire Decision Support (WFDSS) Subcommittee

CHARTER

I. Background

The Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG) was established in a Memorandum of Understanding in 1991 to provide a forum for understanding and implementing interagency policy, direction, and coordination to the Zone Management Groups and to the Southwest Coordination Center (SWCC) for fire and incident management activities.

In 2008, SWCG re-charted the Memorandum of Understanding, which reauthorized the establishment of committees and task groups.

II. Name

The name of this subcommittee, hereinafter referred to as the Subcommittee, is the Southwest Area Wildfire Decision Support Subcommittee of the Southwest Area Fire Planning Committee.

III. Authority

This charter sets forth the direction from SWCG to the Subcommittee, to ensure effective coordination and advocacy for wildfire support to perform interagency fire and incident management in the Southwest, pursuit to the authorities granted in the Fire Planning Committee Charter.

IV. Mission and Purpose

The mission of the Subcommittee is to efficiently and effectively assist the SWCG in promoting and coordinating the efforts of all member agencies engaged in the establishment, application, distribution, and education of the new decision support technologies in alignment with the modifications to the Federal Fire Policy Implementation Guidelines (2009).

V. Goals and Objectives

- a. Evaluate available WFDSS protocols and develop Southwest Area WFDSS protocols.
- b. Design, develop and distribute protocols for a Southwest Area Decision Support Group.
- c. Communicate with the National Fire Decision Support Center to ensure Southwest needs are promoted at the national level.
- d. Provide training and technical assistance to field units.
- e. Formulate plans to assist with GIS operations.
- f. Interface with Predictive services (service center).

VI. Membership

This Subcommittee will be composed of Agency Representatives, Technical specialists, and a SWCG liaison. Configuration of membership can change. New members may be added by quorum vote. When participant leaves, they must help facilitate appointment of new agency representative.

Agency representatives will be selected by the participating agencies and will serve for a minimum of 2 years. Technical Specialists will be appointed, as needed, by the Subcommittee; and will serve on an ad hoc basis for a maximum of 1 year. The selection of the participants and technical specialists will be subject to approval by the SWCG.

VII. Organization

The Subcommittee shall select a chair and vice-chair from the membership. The Subcommittee will rotate the chair between agencies every 2 years.

The Chairperson will be responsible for identifying issues, setting the agenda, scheduling and conducting group meetings and reporting accomplishments to the SWCG at their scheduled meeting and /or via SWCG conference calls and coordinate with other SWCG standing committees.

The Vice Chairperson will assume the duties of the Chairperson during any absence of the Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson prepares to assume role of chair on next rotation.

Members are responsible for accomplishing work assigned, attending meetings, and participate in the review of material. Members must ensure that agency personnel are briefed on the Group's activities and business. Each member is responsible for representing their agencies interests in matters brought before the Subcommittee.

VIII. Meetings

Meetings will be scheduled by the Chairperson. Meetings will be held at least bi-annually: either in person, conference calls or tel-net meetings.

IX. Approval

This charter is effective as of the date signed and approved by the SWCG Chairperson. This charter may be amended upon recommendation by quorum vote of the Subcommittee and approval of the SWCG.



Chair, Southwest Coordinating Group

03/04/2011
Date