

SW Prevention and Information Meeting

Minutes

Nov. 3rd and 4th – Phoenix, AZ

Wednesday, November 3rd

- Introductions of attendees both in PHX and those on the conference call line. (List of attendees will be attached)
- Review of the SW Prevention and Information Committee Charter – There were no comments on changes, below will be the 2011 Officers:

2011 Committee Chair, Co-Chair, and Secretary:

Chair Cam Hunter – AZ State

Co-Chair Val Christenson – BIA

Secretary Jennifer Myslivy - BLM

- Reviewed the Agency Rep list and updated that with the current information. This is posted on the SWCC website under SWCG committees (Prev-Info), along with the charter: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/swcg/committees/committees.htm>
- **AZ/NM FIREWISE Update**

AZ: Dolores Garcia – BLM-AZ

- ✓ Just recently had their FIREWISE committee meeting and this group are looking to incorporate the following other program elements: smoke, prevention, mitigation and education.
- ✓ AZ State Forestry has a large grant that will be working with 5 counties and their FIREWISE programs.
- ✓ Provide information of the after effects of fire – talking points to community member – general public- using BAER information
- ✓ CLUE Report-“C.L.U.E. Home Seller's Disclosure Reports provide a five-year insurance loss history for a given address, without divulging personal and private information about a property owner.” On the Coconino National Forest homepage and Coconino County webpage.

NM: Dan Ware – NM State Forestry

- ✓ 15 FIREWISE communities in NM; there are a few communities that have let their recognition lapse due to folks leaving or just keeping up with the maintenance side of the house.
- ✓ 599 CARs within 33 counties

CARs list is available at the following websites:

AZ: www.azstatefire.org

NM: www.nmstatefire.org

- **NM WUI Summit: Jennifer Myslivy – BLM-NM**

The NM WUI summit has been tentatively set for March 23 and 24, 2011 in Ruidoso, NM. The planning committee will be having their first meeting on Nov. 10th so additional information will be sent out on the upcoming conference call in December. The 2010 WUI Summit was in January and was very successful. There were 95 participants from Federal, State, Local and County in addition to VFD, CAR etc.

- **Ready, Set, Go: Dolores Garcia, BLM-AZ**

The International Association of Fire Chiefs debuted their Ready Set Go program in March at their annual WUI conference in Reno, NV. There has been a lot of concern with some portions of the program but it is something that can be tweak to fit the different geographic locations.

- Dolores showed the RSG video clips and offered to anyone if they would like the information she has then let her know and she can get it to them.

Talking points can be developed for the SW area to address the issues that we have, for example, just because you see smoke in the SW doesn't mean there is a need to evacuate like is does in CA...

A discussion developed on who had the authority to handle the evacuation order if one did come about from an ongoing wildfire... Most folks commented that either the county sheriff or State police would be the ones that would send out the order, but they would coordinate with the on scene Incident Management Team (IMT) assigned to the wildfire.

Link: <http://fire.countyofventura.org/Prevention/WildfirePreparedness/tabid/231/Default.aspx>

- **Fire Restrictions/PLIA Website: Richard Atkinson – PLIA and Jennifer Myslivy – BLM-NM**

Richard went through the PLIA site for both NM & AZ, and discussed how the site works and why the site was established. There were concerns on duplicating and accuracy of the information that was being posted. Richard explained that he does nothing to the body of the information accept copy and paste into the programs format. The sender's information is deleted from the

webpage but the contact information at the bottom of the news release is still available. This site was developed to provide Recreational type information to the public for all agencies and fire restrictions and fire information was just incorporated into the site to better help the public.

Very few questions or concerns were expressed by the audience. As always, there was interest in our use of the terms “Fire News” and “Fire Alerts” in PLIA’s stated goal of providing information useful to recreationists as separate from agency efforts to inform the public (and each other) about active wildfire management. The following note has been added at the top of both Arizona and New Mexico FIRE NEWS pages to clarify the difference.

NOTE: This page and the [PRESS SECTION](#) are intended for recreationists who might be concerned with how government and tribal agencies' Fire Restrictions and Closures, as well as prescribed burning, can affect camping, hiking, hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. For information about active wildfires, scroll to the bottom of this page and use the links.

A change in Arizona law which now allows the use of some fireworks within the state necessitated a minor change in the wording of this cautionary note:

BE CAREFUL with fire year round. And remember, though Arizona law regarding fireworks is changing, **USING ANY TYPE OF FIREWORKS (EVEN SPARKLERS) ON PUBLIC LANDS IN ARIZONA IS JUST NOT REAL SMART!!**

It was also suggested that PLIA establish a notebook with PIO, PAO and External Affairs Officers’ contact information for referencing when contacted directly by the working press seeking more detailed or “official” agency information relating to fire.

A comment was made about having the site www.inciweb.org as a link on the Fire Info portion of the PLIA site.

Jennifer discussed the fire restriction tool box and the possibility of going into restrictions in the SW very early next year due to the upcoming dry winter conditions. The tool box link on the SWCC page was not current and needs to be updated. A lot of media outlets have commented that they are receiving news release from multiple agencies going into restrictions at the same time and would like to see a joint release with all the information provided. Please coordinate with other agencies when discussing fire restrictions and see if we can lessen the impact to the media outlets...newspaper etc.

Links: <http://www.publiclands.org/firenews/NM.php>

<http://www.publiclands.org/firenews/AZ.php>

http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/administrative/policy_reports/restrictions_toolbox/swa_restrictions_toolbox.htm

- **SW Fire Prevention Teams: Jennifer Myslivy – BLM-NM**

A proposal to the SWCG was presented to them by me, Fred Hernandez and Mary Zebinski about having a team or two available in the SW. Additional training needs to be made available (P-310 Fire Prevention Education Team Member) and training assignments to get the folks current in

qualification or get those that are classified as “trainees” to fully qualified. The 2011 program guidance was handed out.

A “white paper” is being developed to address some items to present to the SWCG.

A discussion developed on the cost of the teams, who pays for them, the National rotation, availability from IMTs, training courses at the AZ Wildfire Academy, etc.

- The teams are paid for through “severity \$s” from either one agency or a coordination of agencies. (ex: FS/BLM);
- The cost of having a team is somewhat expensive and sometimes those same duties can be done with prevention tech, patrols etc, being brought in to work on a district.
- The National rotation has a set rotation by two teams each from every GACC. The rotation schedule is set up for an entire year.
- Will these teams impact the IMTs in the SW? Most likely not, the only position off these teams that would impact the IMTs is the PIO position, and most of the IMTs PIOs are committed to their teams. Also, you can pick up the PIO position from a local person.
- Contact Tony Sciacca about having the P-310 course on the 2012 AZ Wildfire Academy roster and get local folks to help instruct.

- **Bin Items from the 1st day:**

- Fireworks messaging (AZ – Dec 1st) available for sell
- Update the fire restrictions toolbox information on the SWCC page

Thursday, November 4th

- ❖ **Discuss theme for the 2011 Wildfire Awareness Week: Cam Hunter – AZ State and Dan Ware – NM State**

Cam provided handouts to the group on other wildfire awareness week themes and activities;

Consensus was made that the timing of the week should stay consistent so that the public will always know, just like the structural national fire awareness week in October...

- The last week of March will be the timeframe for each year; 2011 will be the week of March 28th (starting on Sunday).
- The theme of last year’s week was well like because it provides a wide range of messages that can be developed on any Unit, District of Forest.
- Theme for 2011: **Where We Live, How We Live....Living with Wildfire in the SW!**
- A brainstorming session started with the different types of activities, events and things that can be done for that week:
 - Utilizing the NM Broadcasting association for PSAs, interviews etc;

- Arizona 1st Amendment Coalition _Broadcasting Leadership for airtime etc;
- BIA has a broadcasting studio in ABQ that “MAY” be of use to help produce commercials etc...Michael Dewey is the contact (505) 563-5401;
- Using the portable DOT electric signs to display messages or the electronic billboards along the freeways;
- The coffee sleeves were a very good tool, Jennifer will look into those again.

❖ **Smoke/RX FAQs: Ron Sherron – AZ-DEQ and Claudia Standish – BLM-NM (Smoke Coord.)**

Ron Sherron had a 4 or 5 slide powerpoint that discussed different ways or avenues to educate and provide a clear and consistent message to the public. The powerpoint presentation is attached.

Claudia Standish discussed the smoke program from a national prospective and provided training handout for individuals to better educate themselves on smoke management;

The big question is: How are we managing smoke?

Also, Claudia asked the group: How can we help you with smoke issues, etc? She placed a couple of sheets of paper around the room and asked the group to provide any questions or feedback.

Link: www.cnr.uidaho.edu/smoc

❖ **Training and Tools: Mary Zebinski – R-3 USFS**

- S-203 is being offered at the following locations this year:
 - AZ Wildfire Academy – March 14-18, 2011
 - NM Sierra Blanca Academy – Feb, 1 – 4, 2011
- FI-210 is being offered in Prescott in March by the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI).
- AZ Division of Emergency Services Management is offering training for All-Hazard courses
- FEMA Courses: IC-700 and IC-800
- Lessons Learned site for posts and PIO Incident Organizer
- NIFC PIO Bulletin Board

Links: <http://www.dem.azdema.gov/preparedness/training/training.html>

<http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/administrative/training/training.htm>

<http://www.myfirecommunity.net/NeighborhoodPosts.aspx?ID=53&Topic=3002&Category=1>

http://www.nifc.gov/PIO_bb.html

❖ **AZFireInfo.com & NMFireInfo.com – Dolores Garcia – BLM-AZ & Jennifer Myslivy – BLM-NM**

Dolores and Jennifer both presented the new updated wordpress versions of the websites. AZ version is still in “draft” and hopefully will get it up and running before the start of the 2011 fire season. NM version just incorporated a “Smoke Management” tab on the website to help educate the public on smoke.

Links: <http://nmfireinfo.wordpress.com/> & <http://azfireinfo.wordpress.com/>

❖ **Social Media – Dolores Garcia – BLM-AZ and Jay Ellington – SWCC Intelligence**

Jay talked about the SWCC twitter site; in a year the site has 764 followers. The target audience for this site is the fire community in the SW but involves from all over the world are following our tweets - (Australia, Brazilian Fire Administration, Canada, etc). The site allows up to 140 characters including spaces. It has been very beneficial this past fire season and not a large impact to him at SWCC. Please send him any comments or suggestions for the twitter site.

A discuss about agency SOPs for any social media sites developed and the consensus was that each agency is different on the use of or who can use these sites. The BLM does not have any really SOP and only a select approved from the WO can use twitter, facebook, YouTube etc. Pretty much most folks thought that the new social media tools are very beneficial with providing the public with up to date information about wildfires and RXs.

Link: <http://twitter.com/SWCCNewsNotes/>

❖ **Future SW Prevention and Information Meeting – Cam Hunter – AZ State**

- **November 1-3, 2011 in Albuquerque, NM**
- **A 3 day workshop where the Prev/Mit and PIO/PAO can come together but also have breakouts that are particular to their needs.**
- **More PIO topics – training**
- **Succession of replacing PIOs on teams**
- **Line-qualified PIOs**
- **Have an area where folks have showcase items or programs from their programs.**
- **The SW Prevention and Information Committee will start the planning process for the meeting.**

❖ Next Prevention and Information conference call is set for January 18th, 2011- Jennifer will send out the new conference call agenda after the beginning of the year.