



# Fire Prevention & Information Committee

## Minutes

Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

### ❖ Fire Restrictions AAR

Below is a brief summary of some of the comments and feedback from the AAR that was held:

1. What were the most notable successes in the program that others may learn from?
  - Coordinator calls were effective;
  - State Coordinators were pretty responsive to feedback and suggestions, more succinct. There is room for improvement;
  - The RSS feed was helpful
  - NM Public Lands received lots of help from the coordinators, were very appreciative.
  
2. What were some of the most difficult challenges faced?
  - Limitations of the website; difficulties with the entire counties lighting up when an Agency goes into restrictions;
  - Appeared that NM State went into restrictions covering the entire state that made it difficult for the BLM when they were still trying to conduct RX burns. For future improvements, the state may look at going in county by county.
  - Public/Political pressure vs. Science based; Pressure from the public or political entities seems to driving the decisions rather than being science based off conditions in the field. Doing so has negative economic impacts at the field levels with local communities.
  - The need to further pursue Area Fire Weather Danger Operating Plans for use; SE Zones Plan is posted to the SWCC website as an example.
  - Having upper management understand the process and coordination of the restrictions.
  
3. What challenges, additions or deletions are recommended for program development?
  - Recommendation that a Powerpoint or some type of readily available presentation be made by the committee for field personnel to use to present to line officers/agency administrators. Similar to what Lawrence presented last season in Santa Fe; this has been created as a task item.
  - Improving the map; are there other options besides using the counties to notify of restrictions in an area.
  - Including the year round restrictions for NPS locations
  - Confusion came in the advertising of the restrictions website with NM & AZ Fire Info websites. Continue to use NM & AZ Fire Info as the main hub then direct to the fire restrictions website.
  - NM Public Lands office received multiple calls daily in the summer looking for site specific information , mostly in regards to open campfires

4. What issues were not resolved to your satisfaction and need further review?

- Improvement to the map
- A need to add additional Area Restriction Coordinators (ARC) for each zone; critical when activity increases and having additional backups to post would be beneficial.
- Some of the Restriction Coordinating calls were too long. This was not the case at all locations.
- After restrictions were in place, participation fell off.
- Redefining the ARC's roles
- Developing an education packet n how to use the website and its purpose for agency administrators
- The NM & AZ Fire Info websites and how the fire restrictions website gets advertised
- Communication with the fuels partners of going into restrictions and how it may affect planned RX Burns.
- Conflict resolution when agreements can't be made.
- Documentation from units when moving into restrictions.
- The need for units to complete NFDRS Plans
- The need to update the plan; will hold off for now on any updates.

**Follow up task item:**

- Creating a canned presentation for individuals to use to present to line officers/agency administrators; Fred will talk with Lawrence on developing a presentation.
- Dissolving the Fire Restrictions Committee and moving returning it to the Prevention & Information Committee; will be presented to the SWCG.

❖ **Seasonal AAR**

A brief review of last years planned activities was conducted;

- Conference Calls; calls will continue on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month, a schedule will be sent out.
- Wildfire Awareness Week; the timing seemed okay, just needed more advanced notice for AZ to get the state declarations out. For 2014, will continue to be the 1<sup>st</sup> week of April for one week, March 30<sup>th</sup>-April 1<sup>st</sup>. The theme will stay the same as it is still relevant and will freshen up the messages.
- NM WUI Summit, no feedback. Currently being planned for 2014
- Firefighter fun run; needs better advanced planning and outreach
- A review of the Committee charter is pending, more info will come out in January along with the call schedule.

**Additional Items**

- "One Less Spark, One Less Wildfire" Campaign proposal seeking Agency partner support; will be reviewed in January
- Fire Awareness Week Dates: March 30 – April 5, 2014
- P-301 Course Needs: Based on all the responses, a total of 19 responded needing the course. The majority being from AZ with 15 and 4 from NM