

Southwest Area Coordinating Group

September 27, 2002

2002 Wildland Fire Season

Directed to: All Federal and State Fire Management Units in the Southwest Area

From: Chair, Southwest Area Coordinating Group

Topic/Issue: Notes of September 25-26 Group Meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico

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Attendance: Kirk Rowdabaugh, Bill Waterbury, Vern Ely, Bob Lee, Pam McAlpin, Willie Begay, Jeff Whitney, Chuck Maxwell, Bob Linback, Bryan Swift, Edy Rhodes, Carmen Griego.

Meeting was opened at 0900 AM by Chair Kirk Rowdabaugh

- 1) Meeting began with Larry Humphrey address the Coordinating Group with concerns on National Policy regarding IC's. Specific concerns in respect to AD's vs. agency employees becoming Deputy IC's was addressed it will be followed up on.
- 2) Larry would like a cost comparison be completed, regarding a computer system proposal that can accommodate the I-Suite program. It was recommended that the SWACG put a-team together that could work with the Procurement Section to look at alternatives. Larry suggested that both SW area teams contract out a computer system beginning April though October. Susan Lee and Carl Wilson, and Linda Howell will work on this project. Federal Agencies will split the costs.
- 3) Team Numbers – National Mob Guide Requirement 46, Larry wants to increase to 60. Teams may get by with 60 team members. SWACG made a decision that SW Teams will need to comply and submit roster that meets the national standard. Bob Leverton – standard configuration for teams is 46, biggest issue is on type 2 not necessarily type 1.
- 4) IC's take to NWCG – SWACG, Vernon will get information on name request at the National Coordination Meeting.
- 5) IC Nominations - Larry Humphrey has 1 year remaining and will remain as the IC. Larry mentioned that Van Bateman's term is up, however, he would like to be considered for another year. He is not retiring for another year and would like to be considered for another year and IC. Board will discuss and send out an interest announcement to other agencies with a deadline of 10/4/02, a conference call will be held at 10:00 re: IC nominations. Larry would also like team nominations out by November 1st and submitted back in by December 1st. Zones need to be notified immediately.
- 6) OSC2 – Is experience required? In accordance with 310-1 manual OSC2 must be qualified. Group needs to have procedure.

Southwest Fire Management Board was changed after much discussion to the Southwest Area Coordinating Group.

Bob Lee and Bill Waterbury will attend National Lessons Learned MAC Group Meeting:

Items to be discussed:

- 1) Scheduling National rotation
- 2) Work/Rest Guidelines between assignments

SWCC position for Center Manager GS 12/13 – 310 Series was taken back from US Fish and Wildlife and will be advertised by BLM, no positive education will be required. It will be advertised Government wide. The Group will review the PD, and it will be advertised for 45 days.

Carol Salo, Joe Grainy and Billy Zamora will work on agreement for funding the Center Manager position.

Discussion was held about having an agency administrator join the Group. It will be followed thru with the respective agencies and discussed at the next meeting. Must have statewide or area wide responsibilities to become a member of the SWACG.

Coordinating Group will be looking at recruiting or filling an Executive Assistant for the Group. Pam McAlpin will put together an issue paper regarding this position. Chuck Maxwell mentioned Jay Ellington would be interested in the position if the Group would put together a complete position description that he could look at before he would commit himself to the Group.

Regarding AD status of IC positions, Edy will contact Hunter and Kirk will contact Paul Summerfelt.

Project 25 – Mike Draper; Communications Specialist for FS, briefed the Group regarding this issue, controversial, DOI project, digital vs. analog, increases the cost of radio capability, wide band analog.

Mike also mentioned that the communications went well during the fire season. Zones are experiencing problems with FO-5, radio frequencies. SWACG needs to address this issue in the Mob Guide.

Predictive Services Review:

- 1) Chuck Maxwell made presentation on 2002 fire season
- 2) Chuck presented (2 Options) in regards to the Table of Organization to SWACG and wanted confirmation on which of the (2 Options) would the SWACG approved of; confirmation was given to Option #1.

Ginger Blackwell/FS: Discussed with the group the issue regarding changing the proposal regarding the legislative language to Sec. 10a of the Cooperative Forestry Assistant Act of 1978.

SWACG worked extensively on the handbook.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.