

# Southwest Coordinating Group Meeting

## April 6-7, 2010 – Albuquerque, NM

*DRAFT – to be reviewed for approval at next meeting*

### UPCOMING SWCG DATES:

May 11-12, 2010, Albuquerque  
October 12-13, 2010, Springerville (IC AAR)

### April 6, 2010

**Attendance:** *SWCG Members* –, Kenan Jaycox, Brent Woffinden, Don Kearney, Kelly Castillo, Scott Hunt, Duane Tewa, Donald Griego, Leon Ben, Gary Kemp, Alan Quan, Pat Willetto

*Recording-* Kenan Jaycox:

### PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEM REVIEW

Previous meeting notes reviewed, edited and approved. Action Items updated and carried over at the end of these notes.

**Ironwood IHC –Certification** The group reviewed the certification documents for Ironwood to become a certified IHC crew. The State of Arizona has formally requested this. The group has approved this and the Chair will issue a letter.

### **NMIC and Smoke**-Lisa Bye (BLM-NM)

Discussion on coordination between the Air Quality Bureaus of each state with the agencies on smoke and fuels management coordination. NIMO has developed a smoke protocol for the forests in AZ, Allen will send out the draft. The intents of the AIGC and NMICG groups is to provide collaboration between the agencies as it relates to smoke management and coordination of fuels management activities. When RX burning does need to be shut down due to smoke a concern, who determines which agencies should shut down their RX activities? This question focuses on the importance of this collaboration amongst the agencies. A letter will be generated from SWCG to encourage continued collaboration amongst the agencies within a zone and also to address inter-zone collaboration as it relates to broader scale air sheds.

### **AICG**

Leon Ben – they have all the signatures now for the AIGC MOU. Interagency agreement and exchange of monies is happening for the hosting of a BIA position in ADEQ for smoke management.

### **Aviation Task Group Summary**

The ATG summary was reviewed by the SWCG and approved. The SWCG will issue a cover letter to supplement the summary for distribution to the field. This provides clarification on the use/coordination of aviation frequencies in AZ, aviation mishap response, and deconfliction on border incidents.

### **Update on Williams Dispatch and Grand Canyon NPS radio issue**

The issue is that Williams Dispatch radios are not able to talk on digital narrowband to the NPS units in their area. Regional folks will engage with the local units in the area to discuss the issue and assist to rectify the situation. The SWCG tasked SWCC to gather radio information/capability of each dispatch

center so any future issues/problems can be mitigated. A SWCC update on findings will be presented at the May SWCG Meeting.

### **SWCC Update**

The SWCG reviewed the 2010 Operations Guide and approved. No big changes from last year. 2010 Delegation of Authority to the Center Manager for Operations and staff supervision was signed. Still working to get the AZ BLM Dispatch position filled.

### **Training/GATR**

Discussed the past topic of the tasking to the training committee to address SWA training issues related to current training needs, delivery of training, facilities, etc. A suggestion is to reframe the questions and expectations of what the future of SWA training should look like and with the absence of FUTA, how training coordination and region-wide training should be addressed. SWCG will request an update from the SWA Training Committee to see what has been done, then review the charter, and make further recommendations. SWCG will explore asking a NIMO Team to assist in SWA Training issues and what we should do in the future. SWCG also decided to transition the GATR back to the USFS dedicated Training position which will be filled in the very near future.

### **April 7, 2010**

### **New Minimum Standards for 209 submissions and reporting of smoke**

Group reviewed the standards for 209 submissions and smoke reporting requirements. A letter will be sent out from SWCG that explains the daily requirements for smoke reporting in New Mexico. The 209 can still be used for reporting smoke in NM, but for those multiple objective types of fires where 209's are not submitted daily, a form will be required to be sent to NM Environmental Quality to report smoke. The SWCG spoke with Ron Sherron at AZ ADEQ, and they are fine with the weekly reporting of multiple objective fires and daily on suppression fires once they meet the traditional thresholds of 100/300 acres.

### **GIS**

SWCG discussed adding a GIS component/subcommittee under the FPA committee to assist any units or areas that are lacking in data or expertise. There was discussion as to whether it would be beneficial to create a subcommittee under the WFDSS group to work on any GIS related issues of data gaps in the Southwest Area. After discussion, it was decided that GIS groups would be formed underneath both AICG and NMICG. The WFDSS charter will also state that area wide GIS coordination between these 2 groups could be requested.

### **FPA**

Harold Riggs – Provided an update/talking points on where each unit is at in terms of progress of FPA analysis/data entry. Most units are ready to go. There are a few units that are struggling, most of those units which comprise multiple agencies. Overall, looks pretty good though. Harold Riggs will be the new chair of the FPA committee, taking over for John Selkirk.

## **USFS IBPA/Best Value Update**

Rich Nieto – Provided an update as to where the USFS is in the re-inspection of engines/tenders and the issuance of the new Dispatch Priority Lists. Vendors are meeting the requirements this year and passing inspections as opposed to only a 60% pass rate 3 years ago. Vendors who get awarded these agreements are required to provide documentation of qualifications (ie ENGB). The USFS does not provide redcards to the vendors. It is a “self-certification” process with the vendor required to have this appropriate documentation. USFS is in the process of hiring a Fire CO who will be able to provide consistent interpretation of the guidelines.

## **Agency Updates**

BIA Western – AZ Fire Academy was very successful this year. Attendance was a little down from last year, but still good. There is an open invitation to SWCG members to visit the academy.

USFS – FireHire in the USFS was very successful. Got a lot of positions filled all at once. Will plan on doing it twice a year.

AZS – Vice-Melcher position – trying to fill. 4 Crew Coordinator positions trying to fill also.

Kelly – Firefighter burned on the Mitchell fire. Was sent to burn center in PHX and subsequently released the same night. Otherwise, just trying to hire vacant positions.

NPS – coming up with a strategy of FY11 budget.

NMS – budget issues

BIA SW – bringing on seasonals. SEAT comes on May 15.

BIA Western – No issues.

## SWCG Action Items

Topic	Action needed	Responsibility	Date
SWCG Committee Liaisons and Chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check SWCC website to see if charters, chair names, essential documents, and member lists are up to date. If not, contact Jay Ellington and update!</li> </ul>	All SWCG Members	Ongoing
Zone Boards	<p>SWCG Zone reps: <b>León-CWZ, Brett-SNZ, Jason-NAZ, Don-PEZ, Donald-TAZ, Kelly-SEZ, Loren-ABZ, Scott-WMZ, Bill VB-GLZ, Cal- alternate</b> as needed. Talking points bullets available on SWCG secure website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annually, each SWCG rep should attend Zone Meetings if possible.</li> <li>• ABZ, WMZ, SEZ and CWZ reps need to get their zone charters to Kenan for posting.</li> <li>• Work with each zone on Smoke collaboration</li> </ul>	<p>SWCG liaisons</p> <p>All</p> <p>Loren, Dave, Kelly, Leon</p> <p>SWCG liaisons</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Aviation Committee (Castillo)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue follow-up on UAV business with Rudy Holm, DHS.</li> </ul>	Mathis	Ongoing
<b>NMICG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract awarded first meeting scheduled for April 16, 2010</li> <li>• Contract to expire 12-2010</li> </ul>	Griego/Bye	Dec 2010

<b>New Action Items</b>			
<b>Chair</b>	-Donald will issue an approval letter	Griego	April
<b>Tasking</b>	NMICG and AICG will develop an MOU for frequency sharing for each State	Bye/Hickerson	January
<b>Tasking</b>	A SWCG letter for smoke coordination will be developed and sent to chair for signature	Bye/Hickerson	May
<b>Radio Capability</b>	Do a cast up of radio capability/issues from the dispatch centers (digital vs analog)	Kenan Jaycox	May
<b>S-590</b>	Nominations for S-590 candidates need to be collected, prioritized, and submitted.	GATR	Nov 2011
<b>Smoke Reporting in NM</b>	Issue the letter explaining requirements	Griego	April
<b>GIS Subcommittees</b>	Provide direction for formation of GIS groups underneath AICG and NMICG	Griego	April
<b>Agenda Items for Next Meeting</b>	Training Committee Update	Glenda W	May
	MAC exercise		