

August 3, 2011 SWCG Conference Call Notes

Attendance

USFS: Bill Van Bruggen,
BLM AZ: Kelly Castillo
BLM NM: Don Kearney
NPS: Jeff Hickerson
BIA-Navajo: Dale Glenmore
BIA-SW: Cal Pino
BIA-Western: Leon Ben
AZ State: David Geyer
NM State: Donald Griego
SWCC: Kenan Jaycox

Weather: Main monsoon moisture plume concentrated through the central part of the GAC. No major change in the overall forecast. Conditions this weekend suggest the moisture plume should move towards the east end of the GAC. Large fire potential still exists in the far eastern and western sides of the GAC. Rain fall totals across the geographic area vary.

SWCC Update:

- Light to moderate across the Geo-Area. Generally IA is picking them up. Alamogordo Zone has the most activity. No out of area request have come through SWCC yet. No national competition for resources.
- There is one air tankers and lead plan in the Geo-area. They are presently in Alamogordo.
- All Type 1 and 2 IMTs are available with the exception of New Mexico/Pierson. NM team not available till August 8. All the NM IMT3s are unavailable/end of season.
- Good IHC availability. SWCC can make 8 to 10 SW IHCs available for out of area assignment.
- National air tanker fleet reduced as the Aero union contract was canceled. Mitigations are using MAFFs, bring AK air tankers down to lower 48, and increased type 1 helicopters.

Agenda Items:

- Spring IMT Meeting SWCG Decision Letter Via discussion, add the agreed additions and corrections. Leon will send second draft out August 3 for review. Letter out to the GAC by end of the week.
- IMT Nomination Process for 2012 Nancy and Kenen have coordinated with the Eastern Great Basin GAC and submitted a wants/need list to the systems contractor for their computer programmers to incorporate. Unknown what cost might be involved for the upgrades. Some upgrades include; edit ability, ability to search names, ability to pull listings of applicants, ensure agency OPs group representatives get FYI e-mail etc....
- IMT Nomination Process Schedule SWCG consciences opinion was that the current schedule (November 1 to mid- December) was good. No change.
- Applications for Team ICs Feedback needed to SWCC on the current IC application. SWCG consciences opinion is the application is good. Application to go out August 15 to fill Nelson and Hughes IMTs
- Applications for Team Deputy ICs No strong feeling from SWCG either way concerning if there should be an application for the position. Decision: let IC s pick their deputy and have SWCG approval. Bigger issue is Type 1 an2 IC trainees as these are our potential future commanders. Decision: have an application for this position. Griego and Kearney will assist Jaycox with developing the application due date mid-August.
- SW Fire Use Team: Much discussion on what to do with this team. Is the team still needed? Is it a viable team and if so how does it fit in? What is the team's function/mission? How does it fit into the IMT2 rotation? What are the Northern Rockies feeling concerning the future of this team? Decision: Bill Van Bruggen will surrey line officer/fire managers to assess their feel about continuing with this team. Leon Ben will talk with the Northern Rockies GAC. If the decision is to continue, SWCG will define the team's role and ask for IC applications.
- SW GAC IMTs: Discussion on the WFU team lead into talk of how many IMT2s are appropriate for the SW and IMT3 in Arizona development. NIMO study on the subject to be completed in September.

New Business:

1. Dispatch workshop will be reduced from around 120 people to approximately 50 people. Workshop will limit each Zone to 2 AD representatives. Workshop will be product driven. Goal for the meeting is to develop an Extended Dispatch Plan. SWCC asks and gets SWCG support for this plan.
2. Center Manager Conference calls are now once a month.
3. Jaycox relates proposal to combine the yearly center manager meeting with the NMAC/ GMAC meeting in Boise. This would reduce travel.

4. PL Level, **Decision**: Planning level reduced from PL-3 to PL-2 based on criteria matrix.
5. Make reservations at Hon-Dah for the September 7-8 meeting.

Round Robin:

1. USFS: NIMO Team Las Conches close out 10:00 at Santa Fe HS base tomorrow. The hiring pause is effecting all FS positions including SWCC assistant center manager. IDOPP study data request is due mid-August. Most Zones are working on it but none have come in to date. Expect most will come in near the due date. Some Zones may need some prodding. Retardant study/EIS is out in draft. There may be areas in the SW where retardant is not allowed. Our SW IMT1 have received compliments from the tribes on their handling of archeological concerns .
2. AZ State: Light IA. Mostly quiet with lightning caused fire. Largest 50 acres near Skull Valley. Preparedness and Planning Officer position is open through this week. Distribute to all that may have an interest
3. BLM AZ: Light IA, most fires in the NW. Arizona Strip District currently has a managed for resource benefit fires. Workforce planning coordination with neighboring agencies.
4. NPS: Managed fire (Point Fire) on the Grand Canyon over 1,000 acres. Exploring workforce planning with FWS and BLM in NM.
5. FWS: Rod Lopez hired as new FMO for the FWS in AZ. Do RX burn at San Andres NWR for around 2,500 acres last week. Oklahoma still in severity.
6. BIA Western: Light to no fire activity. Fort Apache Hotshot fatality investigation nearly completed. Thanks to all who helped with the funeral and throughout the incident.
7. BIA SW: No fire activity. Working with BEAR teams on Las Conches rehab.
8. BLM NM: Still dry on the east part of NM. Light IA generally on the Pecos district. Had 2 Carlsbad firefighters go down with heat exhaustion last week. One spent 2 days in the hospital for observation. Workforce planning and looking at end of the FY balancing budget routine.
9. NM State: No update documented
10. BIA Navajo: No update documented.

Next Call

PL-2 No schedule call

Next meeting September 7-8 @ Hon-Dah