

***Southwest Coordinating Group  
January 11, 2012  
Notes***

**UPCOMING SWCG DATES**

February 6-7, 2012, 0800	SWCG Meeting	Prescott Resort
February 7-9, 2012, 1300	IMT Meeting	Prescott Resort
April 10-11, 2012, 0800	SWCG Meeting	NPS Regional Office, Santa Fe, NM
May 8-9 2012, 0800	SWCG Meeting	USFS Regional Office (SWCC)
September 5-6, 2012, 0800	SWCG Meeting	TBD
October 10, 2012, 0800	SWCG Meeting	AZ-ASF Supervisor's Office
October 11, 2012, 0800	SWA IC AAR	AZ-ASF Supervisor's Office

Attendance			
X	BLM Arizona – Kelly Castillo	X	BIA Navajo – Dale Glenmore
X	BLM New Mexico – Carl Gossard	X	AZ State Forestry – David Geyer
X	FS Southwest – Bill VanBruggen	X	NM State Forestry – Eugene Pino
X	NPS Intermountain – Brent Woffinden	X	SWCC – Kenan Jaycox/Nancy Moore
X	FWS Southwest – Loren Derosear	X	BIA Western – Carlos Nosie, Jr.
X	BIA Southwest – Cal Pino		

**PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEM REVIEW**

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

**Retardant Issue (USFS) Update** - Kris Damsgaard

- USFS was sued last year on the use of retardant in sensitive areas and has been required to report retardant use. Not allowed to drop within 300 feet of waterways.
- Additional retardant avoidance areas are now in place based on some additional terrestrial species.
- Used to be 3 exceptions where dropping within 300 feet was allowed but now it's reduced to only one exception – Life or Public Safety.
- Kris will send maps, no changes for the SW however. N Cal and NW affected the most
- USFS lands only

**UAS Issues**

The owner of the UAS vehicles must have a certificate of Authorization from the FAA. This is often prohibitive in being able to use over incidents because of timeliness and the FAA's ability to manage them. The unmanned aircraft still have to either have a chase aircraft or line of sight from the ground because it's still "See and Avoid". DHS was using a Predator last year over the Monument fire but this was an aircraft that had all the pre-approvals in place from the FAA. SWCG agreed to keep a pulse on this as things develop and more requests for UAS usage continue.

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**Border Issues (GAO Report)**

Each Agency in the Southwest sent in their responses to the report. For the most part, the responses were consistent. Investigations (and consistency in investigating human caused fires) were an item that the report brought to light. There will be additional training courses for FINV offered in 2012 to do a better job of investigating and increase availability of FINV qualified folks. The Border Task Group in place is also coming up with a standard interagency protocol along the entire border with Mexico. This will address some consistency issues from the GAO report also.

There was additional discussion regarding resources going across the border which the Border Task Group will address. The International agreement with Mexico is the parent document that allows for resources to cross into the 10 mile overlap area, and the local Coronado Agreement deals with the specific protocols. There is a strict process and notifications that must occur before any resources cross the border. Ops Group will provide further updates as they develop.

**NMAC/GMAC Meeting Updates**

- All GACCs have increased use of T-3 IMT's. IMT concerns are still succession planning and continued reliance on ADs.
- Master Agreement Template is a big concern in how states will deal with payments to DOI and other states when the USFS no longer processes the payments. In the SW, the NM agreement expires in 2013 and AZ expires in 2014.
- GACC to GACC ordering of airtankers is no longer allowed. NMAC/NICC felt that due to the competition and reduced numbers of airtankers and that all orders should go thru NICC.
- Continued concern over the different EMT standards from state to state. Current process to certify out of state EMTs to practice on incidents is labor intensive. More definition is needed as to what the minimum standard of care is as well.
- Cohesive Strategy was discussed. Phase 1 and 2 have been completed and approved by the WFEC. Phase 3 work will now begin.
- 11 large airtankers on contract for 2012. NextGen, MAFFs, and the VLATs will also be available to supplement needs.
- Naming standards of Air to Ground Frequencies was also discussed. More and more GACCs are going to this standard. (See Aviation Committee Update)
- Evolving Incident Management Update – Lyle Carlile
  - 5-10 year implementation
  - 40 IMT's Nationally
  - No typing. IMT is an IMT...
  - At PL3, NICC coordinates a rotation amongst IMTs
  - 27 core with an additional 14 trainees (including each C&G member being assigned a trainee for the season)
  - Still have short and long teams

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- In 2016, Area Command Teams transition to "Strategic Management Teams"
- IMT responsibilities may become part of PD for certain fire funded employees
- Common Operating Picture – Portal can receive feeds from ROSS, 209, WFDSS, AFF, Predictive Services, and other Geo-spatial sources. Information can be displayed geospatially for customers. More information is forthcoming regarding login info etc.
- USFS is moving forward with moving some positions from 401/462 to 301. USFS will not support the 462 series any longer at GS 12 and above.

**Tactical Water Tender Staffing Qualifications**

It was agreed amongst the SWCG that staffing will include a minimum of an Engine Boss and a firefighter. This has been the standard for agency equipment and it was agreed that it will be the standard for Fire Departments also.

**IDOPP Update** – Kelly Castillo

The IDOPP alternatives document needs to be reviewed by all the respective Agency Executives. The sub-task group was looking for the Execs to approve the plan conceptually knowing that there will be some fluctuations in timeframes etc. It was agreed by the SWCG that the Execs are going to want to see the different analyses on cost savings, workloads, facilities, etc before decisions are made. Kelly will get with the contractor and go ahead with the FireOrg runs and provide more info for the Execs to analyze.

**RAWS Analysis in the Southwest**

Chuck Maxwell and Rich Naden will be conducting a RAWS analysis in determining what potential RAWS stations can be either moved or eliminated. They provided some initial analysis on individual stations as their relative value (based on several factors). It is desired by the SWCG to get the best coverage by these RAWS stations and also potentially save some money where duplication exists. Chuck Rich will provide a list of these stations to the SWCG for review.

**Seasonal Outlook for 2012**

Chuck and Rich created a video brief for the 2012 Outlook and also the factors that are considered when making predictions. The 2012 outlook is for La Nina conditions (although not as strong as 2011) which will lead to a drier spring and early summer focused on the SE 2/3rds of the GACC. They will update the outlooks as we get closer to the Spring.

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<b>SWCG Committee Reports</b>	
<p>Aviation</p> <p>John Selkirk (Chair)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee Charter was approved and signed by the SWCG chair on 1/11/12. Will be posted to the SWCC site.</li> <li>• SWCG has also agreed to implement the standardized naming (numbering) convention for air-to-ground radio frequencies in the SW Area. Some foot work still needs to be done to be sure there are no problems with tones on some of the frequencies listed. After that, we will prepare a memo to be issued to the SW Area by the SWCG chair. Dale Brown, Kris Damsgaard and John S. are working on this.</li> <li>• SWCG agreed to the concept of the committee having an aviation duty officer position established at PL-3 and above. There was some initial concern that this could become just one more position that doesn't provide a significant benefit. To be sure the position is effective; we will need to establish duties, roles and responsibilities for the position. Kris will take the lead in compiling these duties, but needs input from the committee.</li> <li>• SWCG also agreed that ASTAT's brought into the SW Area should be managed by SWCG through our committee, as per our revised charter.</li> <li>• SWCG complimented our committee on being one of the more functional committees in the SW Area, and thinks we are accomplishing some good things (Thanks for a job well done!).</li> </ul>
<p>Dispatch</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Center Managers are continuing to work on some Action Items from the October meeting. Dispatch Workshop for 2012 was cancelled.</li> </ul>
<p>Operations</p> <p>Gary Kemp (Chair)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IMT Member Selection process going well. E-app is fairly smooth, better than last year. Continued emphasis on selection of agency personnel as opposed to AD's. And if AD's are being carried on a roster, a plan needs to be in place for succession to agency folks. There was also discussion regarding the use of FDNY personnel on Southwest IMT's. Overall, the Ops Group and the SWCG agree that the same strategy as AD's should be followed... to have a plan for replacing them with qualified Agency personnel within the Southwest.</li> <li>• The Ops Group is continuing to promote the growth/development of T-3 organizations, especially in AZ where there are no formal T-3 organizations.</li> <li>• The Ops Group is recommending that Wildland Fire Modules who are trying to become certified as Type 1 would request certification through the Ops Group to the SWCG. The process would be very similar to IHC Crews. SWCG agreed. Ops Group will work on the verbiage for this process and submit to the SWCG for approval.</li> <li>• Border Operations/Protocol – Still working the standardization of Border Protocols for the Southwest via the Border Operations Task Group. Most of the work has been done by the Coronado NF and the Task Group is trying to expand it a bit to cover all</li> </ul>

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	<p>the agencies from El Paso all the way to Yuma. Trying to get more DOI signatures on the Operating Plan along with the Coronado and Mexico. States have agreed to follow the protocols but will not be signatories to the document. Will be looking to finalize the draft procedures during February/March for posting to the SWCC site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EMT's on the fire line – Concerns over some of the Medical Contractors and some Fire Departments not being prepared for the fire line. The IHC Group will assist in drafting an informational letter of what to expect on the line. Some were becoming liabilities on the line. Once received, the Ops Group will run it thru SWCG.</li> <li>• Need to emphasize the use of one IMT Evaluation Form. Seems like there are several of them out there. The one in the Red Book is the form that needs to be used. SWCG will send a memo to everyone including Line Officers of the need to utilize this one form.</li> </ul>
Type 2 Crew	No report
<p>Info/Prevention</p> <p>Jennifer Myslivy</p> <p>Fred Hernandez</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last meeting was November 2011. Val Christensen has retired so the Chair is vacant. Proposed to just bump everyone up in the rotation which would mean the USFS would take the Chair, and BLM AZ will take the Vice-Chair. SWCG approved.</li> <li>• Will continue to hold pre-season meetings. 2012 is scheduled for Feb 15 in Socorro NM. Nothing planned in AZ as of yet though.</li> <li>• Developing a white paper on Interagency Fire Restriction Coordination. There is a duplication of efforts within committees and sub-committees. Also need to re-engage the Zone Coordinating Groups for updated Operating Plans including prevention and restriction coordination.</li> <li>• NFDRS Operating Plans for each zone – Not many are in existence. Will work with Chuck Maxwell in SWCC and Pecos Zone to develop one and use as a template to assist other zones. SWCG suggested Southeast Zone as a pilot due to the bulk of the coordination issues from last year occurring in AZ (although not necessarily SEZ, it was agreed this zone would be a good one to begin develop of the template).</li> <li>• Fire restriction conference call scheduled for Friday. Will develop draft template to present to SWCG at Feb 6 Meeting.</li> <li>• Wildfire Awareness Weeks – 3/25 thru 4/7, NM Governor's Proclamation, AZ?, 5K Fun Run planned in ABQ at Tingley Beach to benefit Wildland Firefighter Foundation.</li> </ul>
Incident Business	Due to time constraints, no report from Committee Rep was presented.
Planning	Due to time constraints, no report from Committee Rep was presented.
Training	Due to time constraints, no report from Committee Rep was presented.
AICG	Due to time constraints, no report from Committee Rep was presented.
NMICG	Due to time constraints, no report from Committee Rep was presented.
Communications	Due to time constraints, no report from Committee Rep was presented.
Predictive Serv.	Due to time constraints, no report from Committee Rep was presented.

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<b>Zone Coordinating Group Liaison Reports</b>	
Taos	Due to time constraints, no reports from Zone Liaisons were presented.
Santa Fe	No report
Albuquerque	No report
Pecos	No report
Gila/Las Cruces	No report
Northern AZ	No report
Central West AZ	No report
White Mountain	No report
Southeast AZ	No report

<b>Agency Reports</b>	
US Forest Service	Budgets are being cut. Will have an effect on resources. 2 dozers, 1 helicopter, a few engines, and some IHC crews may come on late. May not also bring the SMKJ's down on detail to Silver City. Will come down on suppression dollars if needed.
BLM AZ	Helicopter on the AZ-ASD in July. Helicopter at Weaver Mtn. will still be in place. Will have 1 SEAT this year but still determining where. May have to cut some seasonals but not sure yet.
BLM NM	May cut back on temporary seasonals on engines.
Nat Park Service	Still trying to fill vacancies.
Fish/Wildlife Svc	No report.
BIA - Southwest	Several dispatch vacancies (Durango and New Mexico Centers) that will attempt to fill as budgets allow. Will still have the SEAT at Double Eagle. A couple of Southern Pueblos agencies may no longer be able to sponsor SWFF crews. Will mean 3 less crews from NM-SPA/Laguna.
BIA - Western	Still waiting on final budget numbers. Asst FMO job still trying to get posted.
BIA - Navajo	Some vacancies continue to go unfilled. Will have helicopter again this year.
AZ State	Don't know yet as to how the budget will affect the 2012 season.
NM State	Asst FMO being advertised. Bernalillo FMO being advertised. Otherwise same resources as last year.

<b>SWCG Action Items</b>
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Topic	Action needed	Responsibility	Date
<b>SWCG Committee Liaisons and Chairs</b>	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!	All SWCG Members	Ongoing
<b>Zone Boards</b>	SWCG Zone reps: <b>Leon-CWZ, Brent-SNZ, Dale – NAZ, Carl-PEZ, Donald-TAZ, Kelly-SEZ, Loren-ABZ, Geyer-WMZ, Bill VB-GLZ, Cal- alternate</b> as needed. Talking points bullets available on SWCG secure website.	SWCG liaisons	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annually, each SWCG rep should attend Zone Meetings if possible.</li> </ul>	All	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zone reps need to get their zone charters/operating plans to Kenan for posting.</li> <li>Work with each zone on Smoke collaboration</li> </ul>	All  SWCG liaisons	Ongoing  Ongoing
<b>Preparedness Levels</b>	Monitor wildland fire management activities during the 2011 Southwest Area fire season. In preparation of assessing the need to revise the Southwest Area Preparedness level criteria. <b>UPDATE:</b> This task was not done during the 2011 season; however a Task Group has been formed Nationally to look at commonality between GACCs regarding PL criteria. An update on this effort will be presented to SWCG at the next meeting.	Carl Gossard	Feb 6, 2012
<b>SWCC Funding from each Agency</b>	SWCC to provide data to the contractor for IDOPP and run a FireOrg analysis to assist in determining appropriate funding from each agency for SWCC.	Jaycox/Castillo	Spring 2012
<b>Radio Capability</b>	NMICG and AICG will develop an MOU for frequency sharing for each State. Need an update from the IIOG and the Pilot Project in Central Oregon for a possible model to adopt in the Southwest.	NMICG/AICG/ Communications Committee/Ben	Ongoing
	Do a cast up of radio capability/issues from the dispatch centers (digital vs. analog)	IDOPP will address/summarize	Spring 2012
<b>Zone Coordinating Group Charters and Operating Plans</b>	Letter from SWCG to Zone Coordinating Group Chairs emphasizing the need for current Charters and Operating Plans for posting to the SWCC website.	Leon Ben	Feb 6, 2012

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<b>NM JPA</b>	Begin work on a draft for review as it is a timely process to get in place by next year before expiration in 2013.	All (USFS will begin drafting for review)	May 2012
<b>RAWS Station Analysis</b>	SWCC to provide list to SWCG of RAWS stations that potentially can be moved or eliminated. SWCG to make decisions on RAWS station duplication and analysis by SWCC.	Maxwell/Naden	Feb 6, 2012
<b>IMT Evaluation Form</b>	SWCG to draft a Memo instructing the use of the Red Book Form as the standard form.	Leon Ben	Feb 6, 2012