



Southwest Coordinating Group SWCG **APPROVED** Meeting Notes May 7-8, 2013

UPCOMING SWCG DATES

SWCG Meeting	Sept 17-18, 2013	BIA SW Region ABQ, NM
SWCG Meeting/IC AAR	Oct 16-17, 2013	Show Low, AZ

<u>Attendance</u>			
x	BLM Arizona – Kelly Castillo (via phone)	x	BIA Navajo – Dale Glenmore
x	BLM New Mexico – Carl Gossard	x	AZ State Forestry - David Geyer (via phone)
x	FS Southwest – Bill Vanbruggen	x	NM State Forestry – Donald Griego
x	NPS Intermountain – Brent Woffinden	x	SWCC – Kenan Jaycox
x	FWS Southwest – Loren Derosear	x	BIA Western – Leon Ben (via phone)
x	BIA Southwest – Cal Pino		

PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEM REVIEW

Previous meeting notes reviewed, edited and approved. Action Items have been updated on the SWCG Action Items Tracking Table.

May 7, 2013

Southwest Fire Consortium - Woffinden reports that the Southwest Fire Consortium is planning for a meeting in September/October 2014 and would like to coordinate in advance with our agencies and see if there are opportunities to co-locate with other Southwest meetings. They are also planning a Smoke Workshop as part of this meeting.

Preparedness Level Determination Tool – Jaycox presented a model from the Decision Criterium program and how it can be used to determine Preparedness Levels. The SWCG reviewed the criteria thresholds and a few example scenarios were presented. The SWCG agreed it appears to be a useful tool and that SWCC will use it in 2013 as a test. Will review in the fall and go over the results and how useful the program is in assisting to determine PL.

IDOP – Selkirk reporting that Northern NM group is meeting every other Wednesday and is on track and assigning tasks that need addressing. They are in the process of reviewing the large IDOP report and making sure there is a clearer understanding of it. They are working with Jay in SWCC to get a section on the SWCC site to post documents, such as the large report, meeting notes, etc. The Group is still working on getting tasks that might be appropriate for NIMO. Selkirk will work with VanBruggen once they are identified and he will get with NIMO. They have also received FOIA and Union requests and are addressing those as they come in. The draft charter is in progress and once complete will be given to SWCG for review/comment.

SWICAC – Ben/Gossard presented the draft charter of the proposed group known as the Southwest Incident Command Advisory Council. This formalizes the avenue by which the SWCG communicates with the IC’s collectively and vice versa. The final draft is being sent to the SWCG for one last review and it

should be signed soon and sent out as the final, posted to SWCC site, etc. Pruet Small is identified as the Chair of the SWICAC.

GACGAC – The Geographic Area Coordinating Group Chairs Advisory Council met last fall and identified that there was a need to have a consistent representative from each area on the Group. This provides consistent membership as opposed to the Chairs which rotate every 2 years or so. The SWCG decided that a letter will be issued on the SWCG concerns with participation to this group as it relates to reduced budgets/travel restrictions, etc.

The following are GACGAC items that need addressed:

- Changes to ICAP system to allow for the system to better identify folks that applied to multiple IMT's and multiple GACCs etc. to allow for better coordination.
- Streamline the timelines in all the GACCs for advertisement and selection of IMT's to allow for better coordination and approvals for membership to out of area teams.
- Proposal for changing nomination process for S-520 to include entire C & G staffs from a T-2 Team as opposed to individuals.
- Stand down policy for IMTs when there are C & G vacancies.

The Ops Group reviewed these items above and will be submitting their recommendations to the SWCG.

Restrictions Coordination – There is still some issues with restrictions coordination amongst the agencies. Parts of agency units going into restrictions and not whole units, timing of restrictions are different, etc. Each zone should be using the new checklist, and for the most part they are; however, different political and line officer pressures can have an effect on the coordination and implementation. Another issue is how the states define stages of restrictions differently, and those areas adjoin on the landscape. The USFS is going to try and identify more staff to help with this coordination also. There is also still some issues with the website because it shows whole counties going into restrictions even though it is just a portion of one agency in restrictions. SWCG wants agency specific links in the nmfireinfo site to better allow users to click on an area and get more specific information.

May 8, 2013

MAC Group Review – SWCG/Karin Frost-Madrid reviewed the various MAC documents to ensure readiness for the 2013 season. These include the main call format, IC reporting format, and Zone reporting format. SWCG agreed that MAC Support needs to involve 2-3 personnel to track Crews, Engine, and Aviation resources. Need to engage the Aviation and Operations Committees to identify those folks who can help with this. SWCG decided they want to re-engage the Center Managers and Zone Chairs to report on the call for activity in their area. It will be up to them to decide who will report (the CM or the Chair). SWCC will try and fill in the gaps after all zones report. Karin/Kenan to finalize all documents and preparations for 2013.

Annual Operating Plans – Woffinden reports that there is no AOP for NM, the Zone Operating Plans are used for that purpose. Initial drafts of the TX and AZ AOP's are done and will be out for review. It's been a challenge due to policy changes and billing procedures and Incident Business Committee will need to work through those issues, mostly with how bills are issued and reimbursements are handled.

Social Media Guidance – SWCG reviewed some past guidance from NIFC and the USFS (2011) on social media. Each agency may be a little different in what’s allowed or not, but overall, the message needs to be the same that anyone using social media needs to use judgement and how it can be related to safety and distractions. Gossard will send email to field referencing the attachment from 2011 as a reminder.

Smoke Program – VanBruggen presented a paper on the issue of continuing to fund a position in AZ related to smoke management. The agencies still support the position and are committed to the current funding.

Training – Villard/VanBruggen – At GATR meeting, there was discussion on Priority Trainee processes and how they are dealt with. Each GACC would identify high priority trainees based on 4 criteria. It will be made a pilot project for 2013 by some GACCs. The priority trainee lists will be shared amongst the GATRs and IMTs will be contacted to try and get the highest priority trainees out. Geographic Area point of contact will need to be identified in each GACC for proper coordination to facilitate assignments, etc. SWCC will need to keep a pulse on this and work with Villard and bring in a specific person if needed to help facilitate these assignments.

2013-2014 Training Needs Analysis is complete and Villard shared with the SWCG. Jeff Walter is the Chair of the Training Committee and Glenda Womack is the Vice-Chair. Approximately 75% response on the analysis. Leadership courses continue to be a high cost per student to put on. Villard is working with the National Office to try and secure some funding to supplement the regional allocation for these courses. There are also opportunities within the DOI for use of year end savings/monies to help with this. This is not the case in the USFS however due to current policy. The SWCG will review the Training Needs Analysis, particularly those that require regional commitments of dollars (i.e. 300-400 level), and get back to Villard prior to the approval of the final list of courses.

The M-581/LFML course is still needed this fall and the SWCG agreed to continue to plan for it.

SWCG Committee Reports	
AICG	No reports at this Meeting
Aviation	
Dispatch	
Fire Planning	
- WFDSS	
Incident Business	
Info & Prevent	
NMICG	
Operations	
- Type 1 Crew	
- Type 2 Crew	
Communications	
Predictive Serv	
Training	

Zone Coordinating Group Liaison Reports	
Taos	No reports at this meeting
Santa Fe	
Albuquerque	
Pecos	
Gila/Las Cruces	
Northern Arizona	
Central West	
White Mountain	
Southeast	

Agency Reports	
US Forest Service	No reports at this meeting
BLM AZ	
BLM NM	
Nat Park Service	
Fish & Wildlife Svc	
BIA - Southwest	
BIA - Western	
BIA - Navajo	
AZ State	
NM State	
SWCC	