



Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG) Meeting Notes – Nov 21, 2013

**UPCOMING SWCG DATES**


Attendance			
x	BLM Arizona – Kelly Castillo (via phone)	x	BIA Navajo – Dale Glenmore (via phone)
X	BLM New Mexico – Carl Gossard		AZ State Forestry - Bryan Kimball (via phone)
x	FS Southwest – Helen Graham (Bill present)	x	NM State Forestry – Donald Griego
X	NPS Intermountain – Brent Woffinden		SWCC – Kenan Jaycox
x	FWS Southwest – Mark Kaib (Loren present)	X	BIA Western – Carlos Nosie (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.

**“S” Number Discussion**

Donald Griego - Four parts: 1) Federal Equipment; 2) State Equipment; 3) Cooperators; 4) Contracted  
 The first three are tied into Master Agreement and plays into getting an “S” number for proper payment. Claims against damages/injuries. The State cannot recoup costs (vice versa) due to Master Agreement. Focus on major things, nor minor equipment such as radios, hoses, tires, etc. There needs to be national consistency. The reference applies to every State/Reciprocal Fire Protection program from language in the Act. We never cross billed and need to provide clarification to zones. The State will assume Feds will pay if an “S” number is issued. When the State sends a cooperator to a fed fire if it breaks the feds need to pay. Starting today each agency will start providing own breakdown cost. Chainsaws, radios: who pays the cost? Option is that cost will be shared.

**IDOP Update**

John - Not much activity the past 2 months because of the shutdown and having to reschedule other activity. What was done: a site visit in Taos, facility Kit Carson elect. Center not a viable prospect. Taos County facility looks lucrative for an operation. The BLM may have to pay for the Fed share of facilities. County has a high gross receipts tax to assist with cost for projects that are projected for the season. Line Managers are interested in this process. This would interfere with the Albuquerque/Santa Fe merge. Robyn w/NIMO will be contacted to see if they can assist over the Winter. If the Feds have a different concept they need to provide in writing what is to be done. The task is still on line. Matrix put together, emergency communication/dispatch in Taos County 80% busiest Federal land. Taos County has a long term goal of establishing Dispatch Operating Center. Will consolidate zones (State/Fed). Might look at Santa Fe/Albuquerque merger in the future with the zone. Will engage NIMO. Will check if letters to agency administrators are signed. FS requested to get something in writing (all in agreement). Put together a charter on the deliverables to SWCG and still moving forward. Further

analysis required in a lot of areas. Dispatch managers are looking at workload/organization. They look at the facilities for each location.

Northern Arizona is still waiting to meet. They put together a charger and are still looking at outside help to have a neutral view. They are looking at assistance from NIMO. Everyone is still pretty much engaged.

Art Gonzales – Project on Williams Consolidation (zone). Everyone still engaged with support. Will be listed as a furlough impact.

### **ICS 209 Update**

Jay – On the SWCG home page, see Smoldering Snippets. Right now it's a fire run program. Check on this in January at the NMAC meeting. The 209 process. All the DOI bureaus will have money for technical activities, etc. Training with the Center Managers and a webinar with the other dispatchers and others involved with this issue and PIOs will also be included. It doesn't have anything to do with 209. They took SIT and 209 together. 209 is supposed to go through a rewrite every 5 years, right now it's been 13 years. SWCC is putting newsletter out monthly to dispatch, could be quarterly. SIT Unit Leaders log into FAMWEB and demo what issues they're having. Charlie from NICC started working on this with Lockheed. Change to 209 breakdown when first developed and has been redone. Information rolls over daily based on NIMS 209. FEMA is not planning on building a 209 system. Carl at GMAC/NMAC brought up overarching changes. Charlie is the lead. Mainly technical changes, not operating. Subtle changes, SWCG contacts Jay for changes if anyone hears from the field. FS recommended changes from point zone protection to point protection within date field for Fire Suppression Strategy we order to be consistent with NWCG accepted terminology. All zone dispatch enter into FAMWEB the 209 data. This is a national database and can be downloaded to excel format. Helps to summarize/analyze. Jay believes there is enough/more good information available than was there previously on the ICS-209 to make best decisions. The roll-out will be Jan 6-7<sup>th</sup>. No new passwords and the old logon will get you in. Training will be held at manager's meeting to see the program in-depth. Webinars to be held. SIT/IC leads will receive memo and PIOs for reporting purposes. During SWCG meeting we viewed only the 209 side, not the SIT side. There will be an online userguide with the roll-out. No new enhancements to be done between now and fire season. They are on track and State will probably test first.

The Incident Business Management Committee needs to be more cohesive and have a better tasking process. Look at Service First Operations

### **AAR Policy, Winter Work**

1. New FS reimbursement (S number) – Need National Consistency
2. IC Evaluations. Carl has a packet to give to Cal and finish the evaluation. He didn't pick up anything with items
3. Pruitt is wanting information on ICAC. He is Chair and Bea is Vice Chair
4. Restrictions Website need NM Fire Info/Restrictions page. Donna H. sent prevention/mitigation information between restrictions website. Restrictions by county was not useful and should go to prevention committee. They are 2 separate committees: Prevention/Restriction
5. Strategic Budget Planning
6. Where are we at on the Yarnell Report. Handle the issue from Alan Sinclair carefully – be more conscious that it is not coming from SWCG
7. GACC/NMAC – Carl to Cal brief and issues to be done on another day

8. Power line Billing. Be specific if going into litigation so that everyone is on the same page. Tres Lagunas, Conchas, Bear Paw lawsuits pending litigation, collections accounts for Interior bureaus
9. Signatures on Radio frequency sharing. Carl to get to Donald
10. Update to SWFF handbook. Rich was Chair
11. January Team Selection meeting. IC-AAR, Carl sent out updated questionnaire. Is that still useful? Questionnaire feedback needed and talk on Ops call this afternoon, Yarnell-AAR
12. Signatures on the new MOU SWCC, Smoke MOU follow-up
13. Have an "all Chairs" meeting this spring? Include Zone Chairs. Would it be good to have committees meet with the SWCG once a year? Yes, have an "all Chairs" meeting this Spring to make sure teams are aware, including zone chairs
14. Meeting schedule for 2014

### **EIM Discussion**

Can we stand up 5 Teams in this new mode? Any negative impact from ICs? FS not convinced how many times we can stand up – future of 5 teams not current (going from 6 to 5) and implications. Would like to see background data to stand-up with confidence. Other thoughts discussed in building local capacity rather than waiting for a National team to arrive. SWCG what does this mean to us – haven't talked as a group. Cal thought this was rehashed already via meetings, webinars, etc. There was an expectation to produce 5 teams;

### **EIM & SWCG Implementation**

Can we support the 5 teams that we are expected to support. Think about rotations. Task to Ops Group, look at NIMO report. Ask ICs January meeting. We as a CG need to evaluate NWCG using Type 3 as feeders for National teams, worry about the burden we put currently on T3 ICs, the future structure of T3 teams for extended attack capabilities, Aviation skills/quals has been our problem with T2 & T3. Is extended attack a Zone responsibility or a SWCG responsibility? How do we provide oversight as a CG to monitor T3 team overload and potential safety issues? How do we exert influence to make changes if we see safety concerns in future fire situations (line manager vs. Fire Director decision space). Let's look at future employee development to support T3 & T2. Do we move from "volunteers" to a more directive approach? How do we task this, as an OPS group or Zones, or both? 1) Feedback to Ops internally, 2) Feedback to EIM/NMAC. Will need to pass through call to NMAC group. EIM update at January meeting.

### **Interagency Strategic Budget Planning**

- 1) What do we need to maintain as a GACC workload. Expectations: a) Large Fire Support and b) Intelligence
- 2) Interagency Leadership Opportunities

These would be targets lost if there are reductions – Carl pointed to Predictive Services.

#### **1) Opportunities Lost:**

- SWCG Support
- IMT Rosters
- Meeting Notes
- SWCG and SWCC webpages
- Intell Products

- Strategic Risk Assessment (such as weather outlook)
- Reduction in Safety Oversight
- Less Customer Service to Zone and Field Users
- No Restriction Coordination

These are the base of Emergency Responses – Identify Reasonable baseline organization.

An absolute minimum might be 5-6 people. Suggest 3 org charts with no names, just grades and absorb, identify expectations. Evaluate workload analysis. (Cal, Brent, Loren tasked with due Date 01/21/14).

- This synthesized into a paper (Loren)
- Cost Analysis of the Base, Existing, Enhanced. Don't identify Agency Affiliation (Brent)
- Use in building tool to share with executives and State representatives (each of them first)

## 2) Existing:

- Better Media & Political
- Enhanced Communication/Coordination with State
- Increased Efficiency in Suppression Resource Utilization.
- Better Political Coordination
- Better Prevention/Restrictions (Remember Mary as PIO here, External Affairs)

The Cadillac would add 1 Assistant Coordinator, 2 Dispatchers, 2 State, External Affairs.

BLM – Carl's info taking to State Director with his leaving.

- SFMO
- OPS
- Business
- Fuels
- Mit Ed
- Mit Ed
- GIS
- Training
- Aviation
- Center Manager (Interagency Contribution, 100% funded)
- Smoke (Interagency Contribution, 100% funded)
- Radio
- Smoke are Air Quality issues (State responsibility & management). Reason for position is understanding work and state charges fees. More benefit toward burning. Discussion: might consider 1 Interagency Smoke position. Problem issue, line officer uncomfortable with fire initiatives. Don't know what org will be with cohesive strategy.

## **Operations Committee Topics, Dave Mueller**

520 nominations. Bote agreed on handout

- FS questions/task statement draft from Bill
- Team Naming & Rotation, IC/AC was involved on this. Overwhelming approval.

Deb notes: Pruitt is Chair of the Advisory Council.

- 1) Cal talk with Pruitt to set a date quick for Spring meeting. Attendance at team meeting recommended for expansion. Last year was C&G staff only. FS can't sponsor any larger meeting than now. Send Cal suggestion dates now. All agreed recommended date for meeting the week of Feb 17<sup>th</sup>. Alternate weeks will be March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Need to get facility/location (Fritz)

Guidance on participation and attendance needed, essential only. Would be good to bring up to all GACC meeting to see what other GACCs are doing. Carl will do this and send out. Call Pam as his last task. FS Says there won't be questions with a C&G meeting rather than have a 100 person meeting.

- 2) Carl said SWCG needs to have strong presence on the agenda. Cal recommended team prepare logistics for meeting.

<b>SWCG Committee Reports</b>	
AICG	
Aviation	
Dispatch	
Fire Planning	
- WFDSS	
Incident Business	
Info & Prevent	
NMICG	
Operations	
- Type 1 Crew	
- Type 2 Crew	
Communications	
Predictive Serv	
Training	

<b>Zone Coordinating Group Liaison Reports</b>	
Taos	
Santa Fe	
Albuquerque	
Pecos	
Gila/Las Cruces	
Northern Arizona	
Central West	
White Mountain	
Southeast	

Agency Reports	
US Forest Service	
BLM AZ	
BLM NM	
Nat Park Service	
Fish & Wildlife Svc	
BIA - Southwest	
BIA - Western	
BIA - Navajo	
AZ State	
NM State	
SWCC	