



Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG) Meeting Notes – Feb 18, 2014

UPCOMING SWCG DATES

SWCG Meeting		
SWCG Meeting with Zone and Committee Chairs	March 31-April 1	Albuquerque/Virtual Location in AZ

<u>Attendance</u>			
x	BLM Arizona – Kelly Castillo (via phone)	x	BIA Navajo – Dale Glenmore (via phone)
x	BLM New Mexico – Hector Madrid	x	AZ State Forestry - Dave Geyer/Byron Kimball (via phone)
x	FS – Bill VanBruggen/Art Gonzales (via phone)	x	NM State Forestry – Donald Griego
x	NPS Intermountain – Brent Woffinden	x	SWCC – Kenan Jaycox
x	FWS Southwest – Loren Derosear		BIA Western – Leon Ben
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.

Review of SWCG Leader’s Intent Memo (draft)

SWCG reviewed the final draft of the 2014 Leader’s Intent Memo that will be sent to Agency Administrators, FMOs, and IMTs. Brent W has a couple of more edits and will work with Hector to get finalized, signed by Cal, and distributed.

SWCG also discussed the issuance of another memo separate from the Leader’s Intent Memo that addresses safety of the firefighters as a priority in regards to the risk involved of protecting structures. They agreed that the Leader’s Intent Memo can be edited to re-emphasize firefighter safety as the number one priority and a separate memo will not be needed.

IMT Talking Points

SWCG reviewed the draft talking points for presenting at each of the IMT Meetings. Kenan has information regarding IMT2 rotation procedures, Priority Trainees, and SWCG IMT Member selection criteria. He will send to Brent for inclusion in the talking points.

Helicopter Numbering

SWCG discussed the Helicopter Numbering System decision (removal of helicopter call signs) from the last meeting. The USFS had received negative feedback from the decision. SWCG reinforced this decision

and Kelly will get with the Aviation Committee to help disseminate this decision. Kenan will attempt to get 2014 Mob Guide changed to reflect this.

FDNY Letter

The letter from SWCG to FDNY explaining the reduced participation on SWA IMTs is finalized. Cal will get to the EA Coordinating Group.

Annual Leader's Intent Conference Call

Art Gonzales USFS is working out some details for this call (initially looking at April 17 at 0830). Once finalized, SWCG will ensure the information gets out to those who need to join the call (Agency Administrators, ICs, FMOs, etc.).

Prevention/Information Restriction and Closure Review

Hector presented information about the current Southwest Restriction and Closure Plan. There needs to be a revision of the Plan to streamline governance, statement of clear objectives, website map functionality, Agency Administrator involvement, and clear measurable scientific inputs that contribute to the decision making. SWCG agreed also that the website map has to be fixed before the agencies can continue to use the plan. Specifically both BLM NM and NM State will withdraw from using the plan if the map function cannot be fixed for 2014.

Action Item: SWCG will be tasking the Prevention Committee to address and fix some specific issues in the plan.

Planning for an "All-Chairs" Meeting between SWCG and Zones and Committees

This meeting would provide a forum for SWCG to communicate with the Zones and the SWCG committees. Initial dates are March 31 and April 1. The first day would include the Committee Chairs and Zone Chairs. The second day would be for the Zone Chairs or Center Managers and review the MAC processes. SWCG decided to have each SWCG liaison go back to their committee chair to decide if it would be value added to have the committee chairs attend. If not, it would likely be a one day meeting instead of two.

SWCG Handbook

SWCG Handbook (including IMT and MAC Handbook appendices) is in need of review.

Action Item: SWCG members need to send comments to Donald Griego by March 21, 2014.

IMT Sponsorship (fiscal)

The SWCG has identified an agency assigned to each IMT for financial support. If an IMT needs this support they are to contact the agency assigned to them.

Team 1 Templin – USFS

Team 2 – Sciacca – NM BLM

Team 3 Day - AZ BLM

Team 4 Reidy – FWS/NPS

Team 5 Nieto – BIA/NMS

IDOP Update – Selkirk/Gonzales

John reviewed where the Santa Fe/Taos consolidation efforts are at. Eight alternatives have been identified and are either in further examination or not feasible. A two day meeting Feb 25-26 is planned next week in Espanola, NM to continue to work through the alternatives, finalize those that are not feasible, and chart a path forward on those that are identified as a feasible option.

John is retiring next month, so Brent Woffinden will fill in as the Group Lead once John leaves.

Art reviewed where Williams/Flagstaff consolidations are at. Currently the Center Managers are trying to come up with the appropriate size organization if the centers were to combine. Then questions regarding infrastructure, facilities, etc. will be analyzed. The charter is finalized and awaiting signature. Still needs an NPS letter supporting to move forward. Brent reports it is supported from the fire side, but not supported on the LE side so that's the reason there was no signed letter from NPS.

SWCG Committee Reports	
AICG	No report
Aviation	No report
Dispatch	No updates at this time.
Fire Planning	No report
- WFDSS	No report
Incident Business	Brent – new charter is complete. The committee has some participation issues they are working through. There is also an effort via the new charter to put more responsibility on the committee in regards to being in charge of all the agreements. Brent looking for feedback from the SWCG to have the Chair rotate between the 2 BLM states and USFS due to those members having incident business as their primary job and being more familiar with the latest rules/guidelines.
Info & Prevent	Cal – will get with the committee to go over the issues identified in the Restriction and Closure Plan. Dolores Garcia is the Chair.
NMICG	No report
Operations	Hector – gave some input regarding the IMT selection meeting. Recommending that IC trainees be collectively prioritized. Also for IMT member selections, need to go back to having the IC create their dream teams, resolve any conflicts, then the Ops/SWCG would review those rosters and make edits/recommendations and finalize (as opposed to going thru each position and running it like a draft).
- Type 1 Crew	No report
- Type 2 Crew	No report
Communications	The draft annual document the committee puts together on unit frequencies is complete and distributed to SWCG.
Predictive Serv	Loren – all is well. Loren reporting that Chuck is working on a project dealing with more specifics on measurable related to Red Flag days, critical fire weather, etc.

Training	No report
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Zone Coordinating Group Liaison Reports	
Taos	See Santa Fe report.
Santa Fe	Brent – meeting occurring today. SNZ/TAZ IMT3 selections are today. The Zone Boards are also discussing combining. Main focus of group is assessing the alternatives for IDOP and consolidation of Santa Fe and Taos Dispatch Centers.
Albuquerque	Loren - No report.
Pecos	Hector - IMT3 Team is in place for 2014, Northcott is IC. No issues.
Gila/Las Cruces	VanBruggen – No report
Northern Arizona	Dale - No report.
Central West	Will have IMT3 this year. Morrison and Mandell will IC the team.
White Mountain	Dave – No report
Southeast	Kelly – will have a meeting in late March. Otherwise business as usual. NFDPS Plan is in place. No formalized IMT3 for this year.

Agency Reports	
US Forest Service	No report
BLM AZ	No report
BLM NM	Selkirk retiring. Will not fill behind him. Duties will be reassigned and Aviation duties are in discussions with AZ to combine SAM duties. Dry down South and activity should be picking up.
Nat Park Service	Losing positions due to budget. Bandelier WF Module is not being funded in 2014. Saguaro WF Module will remain intact.
Fish & Wildlife Svc	Budgets are continuing to decline. When positions vacate, some permanent positions may be filled with seasonals. FWS is offering buyouts for certain positions close to retirement. Southeast AZ will be very active this year with the grass crop.
BIA - Southwest	Cal – funding continues to decline. Four of the nine agencies have vacant FMOs. The units are working through some changes in fire protection responsibilities due to these vacancies. Activity is picking up as conditions are really dry and temps have been above average. Looking at severity requests. Double Eagle will be available for the SEAT.
BIA - Western	No report
BIA - Navajo	No report
AZ State	Severity requests within a couple of weeks to include 2-3 SEATs and ICT3s. Natl Guard and DPS units will be available after annual training complete (April).
NM State	2-3 fires a day. Activity is picking up. Some counties are talking fire restrictions. 4-5 inmate crews available this year.
SWCC	No specific items not already talked about in the agenda.