



Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG) Meeting Notes – Mar 31- Apr 1, 2014

UPCOMING SWCG DATES

SWCG Meeting		
SWCG Meeting	May 20, 2014	ABQ (GoToMeeting for AZ)

Attendance			
x	BLM Arizona – Kelly Castillo (via phone)	x	BIA Navajo – Dale Glenmore
x	BLM New Mexico – Hector Madrid	x	AZ State Forestry - Dave Geyer/Byron Kimball (via phone)
x	FS – Bill VanBruggen/Art Gonzales	x	NM State Forestry – Donald Griego
x	NPS Intermountain – Jeff Hickerson	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.

This meeting was conducted from 2 locations, the USFS MAC Room in ABQ and the Western Region BIA in PHX. A GoToMeeting invite was sent to all participants including SWCG, Committee/Zone Chairs, and Center Managers.

The initial part of this meeting involved a presentation by the GATR for the SWA Training Committee (see notes in Committee Reports section). All other presentation notes by Committee Chairs are recorded in this section as well.

SWCG Handbook and Appendices Updates

SWCG updated the Handbook and Appendices for 2014 to include the IMT Guidelines and MAC Guidelines. Edits were also made to the MAC Call Outline and IC Reporting form. The docs will be sent out for a final review, then will post to the website.

IMT Meetings

SWCG Members attempted to attend the IMT member meetings. Hector, Donald, and Kenan attended IMT #5 Meeting. All went well and the team was receptive to the changes. There are still questions out there regarding EIM but they were answered with the latest information that’s out there. Dale Glenmore, Loren Derosear, and Cal Pino attended IMT #4 Meeting. The SWCG talking points were used and were well received. They opened it up for Q&A and it did lack some facilitation but overall went well. They had some of the same questions regarding EIM and where we’re headed. No SWCG member was able to attend IMT #3 meeting. Leon Ben attended the Type 1 Team Meeting but was not available to provide SWCG an update to the group.

SWCG discussed the aspect of having the IMT Meetings separate as opposed to having a larger meeting with all C&Gs. There are pros and cons to each. Further discussions are needed to look at all options to ensure consistent messages and information is disseminated to all IMTs regarding dispatch, incident business, SWCG, etc. **(Action Item)**.

IMT Logo

SWCG decided to issue a memo regarding the IMT logo for t-shirt purposes, etc. Beginning in 2015, all IMTs will be asked to use the Southwest logo that the IMT1s use **(Action Item)**.

MAC Exercise

SWCG conducted a MAC exercise and went through the Intelligence Gathering and Executive Session portions of the MAC process. Todd Richards was the MAC CORD for this and will be the MAC CORD for 2014. Zone Chairs were also either present or on the GoTo Meeting and participated in the discussion.

All-Hazard Teams

The ICs are getting requests for shadowing opportunities of out of GACC All-Hazard Teams. The SWCG would like get a handle on the process of how this request occurs. Cal Pino will take to the Southwest NMAC Rep and ensure the procedures for having this happen through SWCG channels **(Action Item)**.

SWCG Committee Reports	
AICG	Dominick Chicharello – Reviewed the charter on the site. It is in need of update and recently expired. Lots of discussion on the roles of AICG (and NMICG). The SWCG agreed to look at the structure of these committees and the potential for renaming these committees to better reflect the work that they do. One option discussed is to have the AICG and NMICG comprised of respective SWCG members from each state, and then the renamed committees would be under them. SWCG will analyze this and determine the best route forward and also validate tasks/roles as identified in the charter (Action Item)
Aviation	Kris Damsgaard – gave the status of the airtankers and contracts for 2014. There will be 1 C-130 contracted and available. It cannot operate out of some bases though due to weight limitations at some ATBs. ABQ TB needs 7-10 days notice for operation of the VLAT (Kirtland AFB) and a portable will need to be set up. There is also potential use of the CL415 (scoopers) in the Southwest (Elephant Butte and Roosevelt Reservoirs). Kris is still trying to get an SME to evaluate those locations. Mary Hayes will be evaluating several SEAT base locations to include airport/water use agreements and development of SOPs.
Dispatch	Kenan J – Draft Charter reviewed by SWCG and approved. Norval Tyler (AZ-ADC) is new Chair. SWCC CM will be an indefinite Co-Chair on the Committee. Began weekly DC calls. Some IA and extended incidents, but not too busy yet. Implementation of the Priority Trainee process for dispatchers is ongoing.
Fire Planning	Harold Riggs provided handout for SWCG review. WFDSS is being used across all federal agencies. AZ State is entering for all fires. NM State is using for their larger fires. IRWIN is in place now and is allowing data exchange across multiple programs to reduce redundancy and increase efficiency. (Action Item) – SWCG to provide updates for Committee membership.
- WFDSS	See above.
Incident	Committee Chair is in transition from Billy Zamora to BIA Navajo (Katherine

Business	Ridenour). Planning a teleconference meeting April 16. BUYT selections are complete for 2014. (Action Item) – Katherine to provide updated Committee membership to Dale Glenmore and forward to Kenan for posting to the SWCC website.
ICAC	No report. SWCG agreed to keep the Committee and to update taskings. One thought is to have them involved in certification of ICs as they become qualified.
Info & Prevent	Dolores Garcia – One Less Spark Program is moving ahead. Middle of April will be distribution of information and train the trainer. The biggest issue with the Restriction/Closure Program has been the website. If a county is in restrictions, the whole county was showing red, regardless of Federal land. It is now showing the Fed boundaries and will better depict which lands are in restrictions. There is still concern from the State of NM that their authority does not use the stage terminology. It was agreed that the website legend needs to include the State equivalent of the different stages and explanations of the actual restriction in the text boxes. There are a few other changes needed to the Restriction Closure Plan, Dolores will get those done and resend to the SWCG for final review.
NMICG	Jake Nuttall – April 24 is next meeting. They are involved with assistance to the upcoming Fire Consortium Meeting in November. The Smoke MOU/MOA is taking up a lot of time for the group. The BLM is still working through the details of the MOU with the USFS. The DOI agencies are moving forward with the MOU and the FS is removed. There will be an MOA on the FS side.
Operations	Kevin Boness – Kevin is new chair. Have a conference call scheduled for April 10. Will be working on the Priority Trainee procedures for implementation in 2015.
- Type 1 Crew	No report.
- Type 2 Crew	Dale Glenmore – continuing to attempt to get the T-2 Crew Handbook updated and signed.
Communications	Dale Brown – committee was created in 2011. Not a lot of taskings, but committee has been self-tasking. Comprised of 15 personnel. Just completed the SWA Wildland Fire Radio Frequency Interoperability Guide. Each agency's frequencies are listed in this guide on the ICS 217 form. They have also created a draft radio notice which identifies all the frequency changes for the year and will be forwarded out through the SWCG. There is a draft agreement as part of their Guide that can be used as the vehicle to allow for frequency sharing between the agencies. The Committee will now be a stand-alone Committee. The charter needs updated to reflect this and also updates to membership (Action Item) .
Predictive Svc	There has not been any real tasking to this Committee. SWCG voted to remove this as a Committee. The SWCC Meteorologists are still heavily involved in different projects and are ad-hoc members to other committees and projects as needed.
Training	James Villard – Presented the 2014-2015 Training Needs analysis to the SWCG. Recommended the critical courses to put on in the forthcoming year. James will identify those recommendations and have them to the SWCG by April 25 th . There were approx. 20-25 interested in S-420, but there needs to be 40-45 to make it worthwhile. Recommendation is to not put on S-420 yet. The SWCG will need to decide whether to recommend putting an entire IMT2 C&G through S-520. Currently there are 6 people according to the Needs Analysis. James also reviewed the Training Committee Charter with the SWCG for approval. Reviewed the membership also. Jeff Walther is the Committee Chair. BLM in both states have representatives on the National BLM Training Committee and both AZ and NM BLM would like these same

	reps to be involved in the SWA Training Committee. The recommendation for the Chair position is that it can be either a Zone Training Rep or a State/Regional Training Rep from the agencies.
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Zone Coordinating Group Liaison Reports	
Taos	Jake Nuttall – MOU is under review and for signature. CM at Taos will hopefully be filled in May. Carson IHC available Apr 9. BLM and State will host a T2IA Crew. Will be finalizing IDOP recommendations also. The IDOP lead is now Brent Woffinden. Also looking at combining the Santa Fe and Taos Zones (2015).
Santa Fe	Jake Nuttall – IMT3 is available. Ray Corral is IC. IHC Crew is available. Helo will be avail 5/4. NPA is short staffed. FS is fully staffed. BAP will have an engine. State will have a few engines avail. No restrictions as of yet. Training in both zones has gone well and they have coordinated with ABZ on a lot of it.
Albuquerque	Kevin Parrish – updated the Charter and AOP for this year and will get to SWCC site. Resources are the same as last year, no shortages. Severity conference call scheduled for this Thursday. T-3 Team is up and running and had a couple of assignments already. Training in the Zone has gone good. April 9 is a cooperators meeting in Grants. One topic will be Zuni overseeing Ramah in terms of fire management. Double Eagle airport and possibly Grants will be available to host SEATs.
Pecos	Dave Cunningham (Chair) – IMT3 is available. 7 Day staffing has begun for a lot of the agencies. ROW ATB is available when needed. Also looking at SEAT bases in ROW and Hobbs. BBP still has crew capability, but they are in need of bi-lingual CRWBs. Both LNF IHC Crews are available. Same resource numbers as last year. MEA Helo is coming on April 20. Dispatch has 1 vacancy (BIA).
Gila/Las Cruces	Gabe Holguin (Chair) – Will meet this Thursday in Las Cruces. Meet quarterly. Will be updating AOP. IMT3 is ready and Gabe is IC. Resources are still the same as last year. GNF has 4 10 person hand crews and the 2 IHC crews will be available. Over 60 SWFF crew members are trained up and can be available as T-2. SMKJs should be down in the beginning of May.
Northern Arizona	Art Gonzales – Melvin Hunter is still the Chair. All 3 IHC COF Crews are coming on this Sunday. No resource shortages this year. 7 Day staffing will begin for resources also. NPS helo will be available. KNF helo will be available 5/3. Meeting is scheduled for 4/15. Main topic is IDOP and moving forward. Will also be looking at their NFDRS Plan and how that fits into restrictions coordination. Charter needs to be updated. NAZ does not have a formalized standard Type 3 Team. It is more build on the fly. Will attempt to put together Agency T-2IA/2 Crews in addition to the Navajo capability. Next week is the kickoff meeting for restrictions coordination amongst the NAZ agencies. There is concern about how the USFS changes in TAC Freqs were rolled out. DOI and other partners were not notified until late in the game.
Central West	Jeff Andrews – Meeting is being held today and also had a meeting in January. The Charter is signed and they are currently working on the AOP. Will get them posted to the SWCC site soon. Vice-Chair is now Mike Trent. Forming a Type 3 Team this year and they are making selections today. Had 40 applications. Will be available in mid-April. Restrictions coordination is going good and they are pleased with how things are going. Having weekly calls. All 3 dispatch centers are doing good and no issues. The BIA is currently in process of filling a position at Prescott. Had a

	successful winter of training and good coordination with the GATR. Resources for 2014 should be at or close to what they were last year.
White Mountain	Kevin Parrish - Kevin Boness is Chair, updating Charter and AOP for this year. Dispatch CM retired (Vera Pena). Jeremy McKellar is detailed for 120 days as CM. Resources should be same as last year. BIA trying to fill some positions.
Southeast	Kelly Castillo reporting for John Thornburg. Resources coming on as normal. No shortages. Saguaro WFM will be coming on. SEAT will be avail at Wilcox in May. Will have regular calls every 2 weeks to include restrictions coordination. Seeing some IA, and also an uptick of UDI fires. Dispatch doing good. They took in A3S and transition is complete. State has provided some staffing in the Dispatch Center. NFDRS Plan is complete. Type 3 Team is built on the fly.

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