



Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG) Meeting Notes – May 20, 2014

UPCOMING SWCG DATES

SWCG Meeting/Conf Call	August 14, 2014	
IC Advertisement Planning	1430mdt	
SWCG Meeting	September 3-4, 2014	Phoenix, AZ (Location TBD)
SWCG/IC AAR	October 15-16, 2014	Springerville or Show Low, AZ

Attendance			
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 (via phone)
x	FS – Bill VanBruggen/Judy Palmer	x	NM State Forestry – Donald Griego
x	NPS Intermountain – Brent Woffinden	x	SWCC – Kenan Jaycox
x	FWS Southwest – Loren Deroser	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.

Priority Trainee Program

Kenan J. and James V. presented the 2015 Draft Priority Trainee Procedures. There were a few changes recommended by the SWCG. Those edits will be made by Kenan and the final draft will be resent to the SWCG. The plan now is to brief the Incident Commanders on these procedures at the September 3-4, 2014 SWCG Meeting.

Action Item: Invite ICs to September Meeting

2015 Training Courses

James V. will re-submit the recommended list of FY2015 Training to the SWCG based on the Needs Analysis. The SWCG will need to approve or edit as needed.

Action Item: James V. to submit list to SWCG. SWCG to approve/edit by 5/30/2014.

EIM Update – VanBruggen

- Agreement to move forward on some actions (i.e. T-3 positions, speed of competency efforts)
- Also working on a cross-walk plan to facilitate getting personnel out on assignments in certain positions
- Other work on more “controversial” elements of EIM is still being worked out.

Weather Update - Maxwell

Seasonally cool & moist with areas/periods of significant rainfall through the holiday weekend. Strong warming/drying across AZ/far western NM next week, followed by another potential moisture increase later next week. Upper level low pressure near over scntrl AZ is forecast to move ENE to near the TX panhandle by MON evening, with a ridge expected to build eastward across the area thereafter. Scattered/numerous wet storms are expected near/east of the divide and into NE AZ through the weekend, with moisture wrapping counter-clockwise around the low bringing widely scattered/scattered coverage to northern AZ today>SUN. Portions of southern/far western AZ into far SW NM will remain driest through this event. Shower/storm activity will be shunted to the far eastern portion of the region for much of next week while strong warming/drying occurs across AZ. Still much uncertainty, but at present moisture looks to arrive back to areas along/west of the divide in advance of another Pacific trough approaching the CA coast late next week.

Wildfire Suppression Strategy Coordination/PL Levels

SWCG agreed to coordinate as per the mob Guide in PL4/5 on strategies other than full suppression and planned/Rx fire. For the 2015 SWA Mobilization Guide, the SWCG agreed to expand this language to PL3 also. The language for PL 3, 4, and 5 is as follows:

Management Direction/Consideration

Agencies wishing to proceed with an incident strategy other than full suppression will notify and coordinate with the SWCG. The final decision to implement resides with the implementing agency.

If the agency decides to implement, incident strategies must consider the short and long-term resource requirements for all new and existing wildland fires (planned and unplanned) to ensure efficient resource utilization for identified priorities.

Prescribed fire application can be continued or be initiated if the proposed action is approved by an agency at the regional or state office level. This approval must be based on an assessment of risk, impacts of the proposed actions on area resources and activities, and include feedback from the SWCG. The SWCG provides information or perspectives to agencies wishing to proceed with or implement a prescribed fire application. The final decision to implement resides with the implementing agency.

The language within PL5 that speaks to NMAC Rep involvement in the above protocol will remain also.

The SWCG also agreed that even in PL2, each agency within SWCG should attempt to notify the group via email when fires are being designated as multiple objective incidents.

Fire Prevention Program Update – Hernandez

The Committee has cleaned up some language regarding governance guidance within the Plan. The map functionality has also improved. At this point, there will not be many additional changes to the map until feedback and comments are received and any further changes would need to be agreed upon nationally as other areas are implementing also.

One Less Spark products are now being produced and disseminated. There is currently a lack of funds to get the products printed. Asking for each agency to look at funds/end of year monies to contribute to

this program. Prevention staff from the agencies are also running this program as collateral duties and will be done to a staff of 3.

Action Item: SWCG to look for additional monies to support the One Less Spark program and associated materials.

Emergency Notification Protocol

Kenan J. reviewed the SWCC Emergency Notification Protocol and it was approved by the SWCG. Any time a significant incident/accident occurs, SWCC will initiate an SWCG conference call via WildCAD text within 15-30 minutes.

IDOPP

Brent Woffinden reviewed the latest information on the Santa Fe/Taos Dispatch consolidation efforts. SWCG would like resolution on a path forward. The following are action items from the discussion.

Action Item: Donald Griego and Brent Woffinden to task Scott Harness and Ted Medina for cost estimates of radio/IT infrastructure consolidation within 30 days.

Action Item: SWCG to re-engage leadership on or around July 1, 2014 and formulate a path forward

Action Item: Kelly C. to create SWCG memo on the status of IDOPP and the 2 consolidations

Staging Hours for personnel on “Large Fire Support”

The Incident Business Committee re-wrote the letter addressing how many hours staged resources can charge when on the SWCC Large Fire Preparedness/Preposition order. It was said that we cannot tie it to PL Level any longer. SWCG will now let SWCC know how many hours these personnel can charge and ensure that these hours are commensurate with fire danger and “ordered standby”.

Action Item: SWCC to send out the revised letter and include in the e-mail how many hours are approved.

All Hazard Incident Management Team Shadow Assignments

SWCG added language into the IMT Guidelines to address this. Each AHIMT is supposed to identify availability to NMAC. They will evaluate potential incidents and work with the GMAC and NICC > SWCC on these assignments. ICs will then be notified prior to any movement of AHIMTs. The cost of the AHIMT will be covered by their funds and not the incident. The AHIMT will take care of their own logistics and communicate often with the IC. Typical size is between 5-10 personnel and assignment length is typically a few days to a week, not the entire incident. ICs and the SWCG do have the right to deny an AHIMT shadow request.

SWCG Committee Reports	
AICG	No Committee reports at this meeting.
Aviation	
Dispatch	
Fire Planning	
- WFDSS	
Incident Business	
ICAC	

Info & Prevent	
NMICG	
Operations	
- Type 1 Crew	
- Type 2 Crew	
Communications	
Predictive Svc	
Training	

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

Agency Reports	
US Forest Service	Stage 1 Restrictions across most units. Moving some resources around to meet preposition needs. Fred Hernandez will attend Signal Fire closeout for USFS.
BLM AZ	Same resources as last year. Helicopter in Wickenburg. Severity in place for extended staffing and some resource movement. 2 SEATs in Safford. Currently have a fire near Sunset Point north of Phoenix. I-17 shut down. Lots of media interest.
BLM NM	Minimal IA so far. Resources in place. AA and SEATs in place at Roswell. Preparedness Reviews ongoing throughout the state. Lot of actings in positions as they try and get positions filled.
Nat Park Service	3 units in severity. No other issues. Pretty quiet overall. TX-LAP has the Double Diamond fire which is about wrapped up.
Fish & Wildlife Svc	Status quo from last year. Pretty quiet this year so far. Not much severity requests anticipated.
BIA - Southwest	Helicopter at Mescalero. Looking at severity request for approval depending on weather. Bob Jones from Windriver assisting SW BIA. Duane Tewa took new job with USFS. Fire activity minimal.
BIA - Western	Looking at severity possibly in some units. Dealing with a few fires on San Carlos. Largest is Skunk fire. Very rugged on the west and east sides of the fire. Barlow fire will be ordering IHC Crews to get it put out.
BIA - Navajo	Navajo IHC available 5/23. 4 T-6 Engs, T2IA, and T2 crews available. Working with partners on the East side of Navajo for IA response.
AZ State	Responding to many media inquiries. Fuels are dry and resources being deployed

	across the state for response. Also working with the FS on Joint Powers extension. Not too many changes from the previous one. Put together a radio/communications course to present with partners. Bringing on a 3 rd SEAT 5/21.
NM State	5 inmate crew and 2 veterans crews available. No restrictions yet. Request from the USFS to move the 2 SEATs from Las Vegas to Silver City. SWCG will evaluate late week to see if predicted moisture comes in and then look at the potential move.
SWCC	SWCC items were covered in the agenda topics.