



Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG) Meeting Notes – September 3-4, 2014

UPCOMING SWCG DATES

SWCG/IC AAR	October 15-16, 2014	Springerville or Show Low, AZ
IMT Selection Meeting	January 21-22, 2015	Albuquerque, NM

Attendance			
x	BLM Arizona – Darrin Mathis	x	BIA Navajo – Dale Glenmore /Johnson Benallie
x	BLM New Mexico – Hector Madrid	x	AZ State Forestry - Byron Kimball
x	FS – Judy Palmer	x	NM State Forestry – Donald Griego 9/4 via phone
x	NPS Intermountain – Brent Woffinden	x	SWCC – Kenan Jaycox
x	FWS Southwest – Loren Derosear	x	BIA Western – Leon Ben/Carlos Nosie
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

SWCG reviewed the draft Priority Trainee procedures document in preparation to present to the ICs. Feedback was received from the ICs for SWCG consideration.

AI: Edit Draft PT procedures and present final draft at the IC AAR. Also add to IMT Guidelines

S-520 Nominations

Nomination period is open now. NAFRI would like to have whole teams nominated again. SWCG discussed the options of having an entire team or nominate individuals and form a SWA Team to send. The deadline is Oct 10, 2014. Nominations are due back to James Villard by Oct 3, 2014. SWCG agreed that the Southwest would take nominations and form a team to send instead of selecting an existing T-2 Team.

SWCG Conference Call scheduled on October 3 at 1100mdt

- IC applications review

SWCG Conference Call scheduled on October 6 at 1300mdt

- S-520 nominations review
- IC interviews

PL3, 4, 5 Non Full Suppression Fires

Language is now in PL3 to make the SWCG aware of non-full suppression fires. There is concern about the USFS being able to keep everyone apprised like the language states. One idea is a Google doc that is shared and everyone would have access to it. It would require that certain data elements be entered to make everyone aware and increase transparency.

AI: The process will demonstrated at one of the upcoming SWCG meetings.

AI: Cal Pino will also raise the issue of the “other fires” table in the IMSR not being accurate for non-full suppression fires to the NMAC Rep.

AI: Ensure IMT guidelines have language related to poor performance evaluations (make it a bullet with poor team performer>SWCG Agency Rep notification, priority trainee>GATR notification, Team performance >chair) and home unit involvement in continued mobilization of these personnel. ICs should notify/cc the respective SWCG agency member and the GATR (for out of GACC assignments).

AI: Add S-420/520 completion point value on the PT Nom Form.

IDOPP Update

Fire leadership in the R.O. USFS has met with Forest Sups, FMOs, and CMs of Taos and Santa Fe. The RF has notified the Forest Sups it is still a priority. It is still being determined what options are best in terms of location and facility. Also on the table is a “supercenter” located in Albuquerque that combines Taos, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque Dispatch Centers. USFS will meet with the FMO and get a game plan together and communicate how to move forward. Cost estimates will need to be put together and show initial cost, long term savings, and then a request for national monies can be made through the agencies for implementation.

IC AAR

The meeting will be in Springerville, AZ October 15-16, 2014. Will begin at 1000 on the 15th and end in the afternoon on the 16th. SWCG discussed some topics for the meeting to include: IMT Guidelines, PT procedures, ICAP procedures and IMT Selection Meeting Procedures, Mop-up guidelines, efficiency opportunities (sustainability/recycling), vision for the future, successes of past fires and associated management/organization decisions, and what kinds of political pressures they are facing. SWCG also discussed how to tie in the Leader’s intent annual call into the IC AAR, and to also have the IC’s be thinking about what items to have the AA community be thinking about in the event they host a team.

AI: Loren Deroose will be developing the agenda for the IC AAR.

Type 2 IMT Rotation

The SWCG discussed a T-2 IMT rotation proposal that gives each team off rotation time at designated time periods in April/May and July/August. All teams remain available during the core fire season. SWCG agreed with the proposal.

AI: Kenan will do the final edits and details and resend to the group.

IMT Guidelines

SWCG reviewed the IMT Guidelines and a few items identified to edit/add.

AI: Kenan to edit IMT Guidelines and get out to the group.

IMT Meeting

SWCG discussed the annual IMT Meeting and whether to have a larger meeting or have each team meet separately and SWCG members present the common talking points at each meeting.

AI: SWCG decided to have Judy USFS check on the meetings mgmt. process to see if a large meeting with all IMT members can be held early next year.

NMAC Rep to SWCG

Steve Gage represents the Southwest and the Eastern areas. Lyle Carlisle is retiring (BIA rep to NMAC). It is still undetermined who will represent in Lyle’s absence. Bill Kaghe has also moved on, so they need to

replace him as well. It is not known at this time if it will affect the rep to the Southwest. The SWCG communicated that we would like more consistency in communication and representation on MAC calls and SWCG meetings. SWCG discussed the mob guide language related to IMT roster size and trainees. The PT procedures allow for an IMT roster size of 50 (includes primary trainees) and then 6 additional PT's (includes mentorees) assigned in coordination with the GATR and SWCC.

AI: Follow up at NMAC meeting on Mob Guide language related to the additional 6 mentorees/PT's. Steve agreed that our PT procedures and subsequent 2015 Mob Guide language/IMT Guidelines are in line with national procedures and other GACCs. Steve agreed to try and make the IC AAR in Springerville, AZ.

ICAP IMT Selection Process for 2015

SWCG and the Ops Group will try and streamline the selection meeting next January.

Prior to IMT member selections

1. Select ICs via SWCG - status quo
2. After ICs are selected, SWCG and SW Operations Committee collectively select and prioritize IC Trainees
3. SW Operations Committee and SWCG will send ICs and IMT prospects nomination process letter to include the priorities for selection criteria we established this year.
4. Once nominations are received at SWCC then they (Kenan/Nancy) will get those initial rosters to the ICs and the SW Operations Committee.

January 21-22, 2015 - IMT Selection Meeting

Day 1

First morning the SW Operations Committee will lay out ground rules with ICs on process. They show up with their "Dream Team" rosters. We will allow them to have their own executive session to sort out rosters (i.e. people on multiple IMTs, alternate or shared prospects that may need to be called, etc....).

In the afternoon, the SW Operations Committee will review the rosters the ICs worked on in the a.m. The focus will be to make sure all critical positions are filled using the priority 1-5 criteria. The ICs can either meet with SWCG or continue with their own executive session.

Day 2

In the morning, SW Operations Committee complete analysis on rosters and prepare for afternoon presentation to SWCG and ICs. SW Operations Committee Chair will assign spokesmen, questions, recommendations, rationale, etc... for changes to rosters.

Also in the morning, SW ICs meet with SWCG while SW Operations Committee finalizes rosters to be presented.

Mid-morning or afternoon - the SW Operations Committee will present the revised rosters to ICs and SWCG, present Priority Trainee list as well.

End of Day - AAR on the 2015 process.

Day 3 - if needed

The IMT Selection Meeting will be January 21-22 in ABQ at the USFS R.O. (Check with Judy on reservations of Basement and MAC Rooms)

IC Applicant Interviews

SWCG reviewed the questions for the upcoming IC interviews. The plan is once the deadline for apps close, each IC applying to replace Sciacca and Reidy will be interviewed on October 6, 2014. Selections will be made that week and the selectees will be invited to the IC AAR in Springerville.

AI: Send out IC questions again and reserve bridge for SWCG calls on Oct 3 and 6. Kenan

Lend/Lease of Resources

SWCG reviewed the Great Basin/Northwest Lend/Lease procedures and discussed whether it is feasible to implement in the Southwest. The group wants to consider it, but needs to work out the final details. The SWCG would like to invite Mike Morcom (Great Basin) or Dan O'Brien to dial in on a conference line at the IC AAR to discuss the details of it. The a draft can be created and implemented for fire season 2015, to include Mob Guide language, IMT Guidelines, etc.

AI: Invite Mike Morcum 208-373-3851 and/or Dan O'Brien to call into IC AAR. Carlos

Ensure conference line is available at the meeting. Reserve bridge. Kenan

Get copy of Northwest procedures and incorporate also into a Southwest draft lend/lease procedures document, assigned to Kenan, Judy, Donald

IC Advisory Council (ICAC)

SWCG discussed the lack of taskings to the ICAC. Leon is the liaison to the group. The intent is to formalize the communication chain from the SWCG to the IC group. The charter needs to be looked at again, re-identify the chair (if it will rotate) and present/discuss at the IC AAR. Two items discussed to task the ICAC with are planning for the upcoming IMT Meeting, Leader's Intent annual call, and a risk management message from the IMTs to the IHC community.

AI: Leon to revise charter, identify Chair, send email draft, and distribute taskings.

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 CG Liaison reports at this meeting
Santa Fe	
Albuquerque	
Pecos	
Gila/Las Cruces	
Northern Arizona	
Central West	
White Mountain	
Southeast	

Agency Reports	
US Forest Service	<p>Pino fire on the Santa Fe 4300 acres and no major growth anticipated. Belknap fire on the Kaibab 2300 acres receiving precip. RX burning is planned (Type 1 complexity on the Santa Fe). Will be aerial ignition. Paneling the vice Burfiend ATS position in the next couple of weeks. Vice Ginger (Budget) job will be detailers initially, then looking at organization and decide how or when to fly the job. Lincoln FMO job is filled. Prescott ATB going thru renovations early next year to accommodate next gen ATs. Boot policy will be in place next year to give 300 stipend to help fire personnel acquire boots. Women in Fire Bootcamps are beginning. You Will Not Stand Alone will be put on next year (March). Regional FMO Meeting will be the end of October in Santa Fe.</p>
BLM AZ	<p>Mike Spilde is new Asst FMO vice Mueller. Will have vacant GIS position. FMO Meeting at the end of October.</p>
BLM NM	<p>November 6-8 Smoke Workshop in ABQ. Claudia Standish working on agenda. The</p>

	Sage Grouse and habitat protection initiative is ongoing. It has been impacting fuels programs and how certain states are directed to support the other BLM states with the primary habitat of the grouse. Dave Bott will be retiring April 2015. Claudia Standish will be retiring sometime in 2015. Fine fuels are a plenty in most of the state, but the far Southeast and Southwest are much more patchy.
Nat Park Service	End of the year budgeting. Precip is putting out existing managed fires. Program Reviews in Southern AZ being put together. Regional Fuels position vacant and will not be filled.
Fish & Wildlife Svc	Things remain status quo budget wise. Doing analysis of their units and which are high preparedness units and staff accordingly. Will not be filling the Ryan Whiteaker Planning position. Leadership is the priority on all training needs. Sending some of their folks to Shiloh, MS (battlefield site) on a staff ride. Involved in support to Gettysburg staff rides in November. FWS may get a 50% cut nationwide in fire.
BIA - Southwest	Involved in Tribal Resource Initiative (TRM). Working to hire Asst Regional FMO. Zuni will be flying asst FMO position as will NPA (FMO). Decision to combine Zuni and Ramah agencies ongoing as well as Laguna and Southern Pueblos agency. Working to fill the dispatch position in Alamogordo. Depending on IDOPP, not sure of position in Santa Fe. Drug testing course set up for the BIA FMOs in September. Regional FMOs on SW Leadership Council will be meeting soon to discuss TRM and other changes such as budget impacts.
BIA - Western	Working on Tribal Resource Initiative (TRM) but will be pushed back a year. This may include mgmt. of the Ft Apache Helicopter out of the Western RO. Funding is an issue and only able to staff half of their engines. Relying on tribal fire depts. To help with suppression. New FMO Paige Houston at Ft Apache. FMO is now vacant at Ft Yuma. Working to hire a Fire Incident Business Specialist GS-12. Also working to hire a GS 5-7-9 GIS Specialist. Prescott Dispatch Center position now filled (Viola). FTA is now advertising a position in Show Low. San Carlos Fuels position (tribal, but federally funded) being flown also. Consolidated Truxton Canon and Southern Paiute Agencies into single fire program.
BIA - Navajo	Prevention Plan in place and just hired a PREV/WUI specialist Terry Hudson. Two injured IHC members are doing OK and 1 is on engine and the other back out with the crew. RX burning occurring. Working on getting a helibase built at Window Rock airport.
AZ State	Started budget year in July. Training Officer being flown and additional dispatchers. Redoing intergovernmental agreements with fire departments. Need federal bills from the 3 FMAG fires from last year so they can be paid. This includes Doce, Yarnell, and Dean Peak. Kevin Boness is working for the USFS out of Vermont. Will be getting detailers to fill his role. AOP is being worked on and will work with AZ BLM on protection areas. Working on MOU to be able to utilize state folks outside of suppression.
NM State	No report

SWCC	Nothing to report
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