

(Note to Zones: What follows are some elements that may be necessary to address in a Zone level smoke coordination plan. Don't be constrained by what is here or absent, and ignore the redundancies. Zone plan is due to Lisa Bye, in NM Air Quality Bureau Office, by May 1, 2006)

DRAFT ZONE SMOKE COORDINATION PLAN  
XXXX Zone  
January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006

I. Scope and Purpose

- A. To help implement and coordinate New Mexico smoke management regulations, guidelines and issues on an interagency basis at the Zone level. Due to new state regulations in New Mexico, it is necessary to form interagency smoke coordination groups at the Fire Management Zone level, to mitigate smoke conflicts and coordinate smoke production on prescribed fire projects to minimize cumulative impacts on specific airsheds. The advantage to local area coordination is that a priority approach to local projects can be taken, and that a coordinated system is less likely to invoke project shutdown by State regulators. It will also provide state regulators a point of contact should conflict arise. Coordination between Zones will also be necessary where Zones share the same airshed. Zones close to state boundaries should make an effort to coordinate with Zones in adjacent states. This plan should answer the "what if" question should the AQB need to reduce the amount of emissions from prescribed burning.
- B. Smoke coordination in the XXXX Zone includes the following agencies in the following airsheds:
  - 1) XYZ National Forest in zone XXXX in airsheds 1,2
  - 2) ABC (BIA) Agency in zone XXXX in airsheds 1,2
  - 3) NM State Forestry Department in zone XXXX in airsheds 1,3
  - 4) BLM in zone XXXX in airsheds 2,3
  - 5) Etc.
- C. Tribes in New Mexico are not required to follow NM Air Quality regulations, but most Tribes have expressed a willingness to coordinate and cooperate to protect public health. Zone smoke management groups are encouraged to set up relationships with local Tribes to help coordinate airshed smoke impacts, and relate Tribal smoke projects to the entire airshed. Describe how XXXX Zone plans to help with this effort.
- D. Describe who other Zones are that share the same airshed. Other zones to be coordinated with include:

- 1) YYYY Zone on airsheds 1,2,3
- 2) ZZZZ Zone on airsheds 8,9

## II. Duties

- A. Who will serve as primary contact in smoke management issues between the XXXX Zone Smoke Management Group and NM Air Quality Bureau, and between partners in the Zone? Agencies doing projects will still have primary responsibility for registration, notification, cancellation, and tracking reports to the NM Air Quality Bureau.
- B. Who will collect and maintain basic files/information/meeting minutes on current and projected Prescribed Burn projects so that the Zone Smoke Management Group can coordinate? Basic information needed should start with burn location, airshed, size, fuel type, fuel loading, anticipated time of burning and regulatory authority (NM AQB, tribal, Bernalillo Co.). The AQB SMP database can provide most of the info.
- C. The Zone group will describe how it will arbitrate conflicts. How will the Zone Smoke Management Group work with agencies on scheduling? How will they resolve conflicts when only limited projects can move forward at one time?

Conflict can be defined as smoke from within the airshed or outside the airshed which leads to the airshed reaching its capacity (emissions) for that particular burn day and that particular meteorology.

Possible conflicts include but are not limited to:

- Smoke from a wildfire in NM or another state creates unhealthy levels of particulate matter (PM)
- Smoke from a Wildfire Use (WFU) in NM or another state creates unhealthy levels of PM
- A combination of wildfire and WFU smoke create unhealthy levels
- Numerous SMP I burns throughout the state create unhealthy levels of PM
- A large RX burn in NM or a another state approaches the airshed capacity
- Any combination of the above that approaches an individual airshed's capacity or creates unhealthy levels of PM
- Read Appendix H of the Smoke Management Program (SMP) Guidance document the Air Quality Bureau's approach for dealing with airshed conflicts

D. Will the Zone develop a public notification process?

- 1) Field questions and concerns from interested public
- 2) Attempt to mitigate concerns
- 3) Relay public concerns to both NM Air Quality Bureau and project practitioners
- 4) Share importance of burning practices for reducing hazardous fuels and protecting communities, property and lives.

E. How will the Zone communicate and coordinate with adjacent zones that share the same airshed?

F. While agencies are responsible for registration of Wildland Fire Use incidents with the Air Quality Bureau, Zones may have a role in facilitating these communications as WFU incidents often happen when agencies are very busy. What role will the Zone play in assisting agencies on WFU incidents?

### III. Staffing

A. Who will be responsible for convening the Zone Smoke management group to initiate zone smoke coordination and arbitration procedures? Will it be in person meetings, conference calls, or what?

B. Who will be the day-to-day contact person(s)?

### IV. Feedback

Describe how you will gather information from NM Air Quality Bureau and from interagency partners to improve zone coordination on smoke; when will the zone revise this plan? Describe how Zone managers will review the program and improve it; how often will the zone smoke group meet? Will the Zone send a representative to the annual NM smoke stakeholders meeting, (usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in January and hosted by the NM Air Quality Bureau)?