



## Southwest Coordinating Group



October 15, 2007

**To: Southwest Incident Commanders, Southwest Type 2 Team Boards and Southwest Agency Representatives**

**From: Chair, Southwest Coordinating Group**

**Subject: Decision on Management of Southwest Type 2 Teams**

On October 9<sup>th</sup> the SWCG made the decision to take over coordination of the Interagency Type 2 Teams in the Southwest. This decision was made after considering input from Agency Administrators, team members, boards, zone dispatch centers, national offices, and others. Based on the input, the SWCG modified the management proposal that had been originally circulated.

The proposal to bring the Interagency Type 2 Teams in the Southwest under SWCG management has been widely discussed since last spring. The case for change is summarized by the following items:

- Inconsistent or lack of active Zone or local board oversight/management.
- Increasing number of out of GACC assignments for which SWCG is responsible.
- Increased expectations related to Type 2 teams from NMAC and national offices.
- Inconsistency in Type 2 IMT adherence to National Mob Guide Standards.
- Issues related to “out of GACC” assignment oversight.
- Lack of immediate responsiveness by Type 2 team boards to issues.
- Inconsistency in: IC selection/tenure, charters, nomination process, and availability issues.
- Need to increase the pool of candidates for all SW teams.
- New applicants hesitant to apply due to “good old boy” system and perception that new folks have a difficult time breaking into SW teams.
- Direction of Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior for GACCs to manage the IMT’s.
- More prompt and responsive communications to teams from SWCG & NMAC.
- Spreading individual agency staff between teams, so that one team callout does not drain agency personnel in one area.
- Zone or board restrictions on geographic availability, and team use out of local area.
- IMT members getting “burned out” by being on call all season long, and could benefit by having more of a rotation that allows some time off.

Under the accepted proposal the SW Type 2 teams will still be centred in their traditional “closest forces” response areas, with most members from that geographic sub-area. They will be the first team assigned to large fires in that area. The 2<sup>nd</sup> team needed in that area would be per a GACC wide Type 2 team rotation; that rotation would also be utilized for out of GACC assignments. The SWCG may consider adjustments for flexibility, as this new system develops.

Management would be cooperative between SWCG, the Ops Committee, SWCC, and the IC’s. Zone management groups may still provide advice and input to the SWCG, for example, if they need the team to

be available outside their traditional season due to fuel conditions. Minimum seasons for each team will be established by SWCG.

The application form for team members will be designed to accommodate applicant's choice to apply for several teams, by the applicant's priority. Applicants would indicate a geographic/team preference. Agency reps would have input. The IC's would have a major role in selection. The SW team guidelines will be modified to include Type 2 team information including:

- Development of team cycle dates, (application, team mtg., AAR, etc.).
- An annual spring SW multi-team meeting, (full initiation in 2009).
- Type 2 IC selection will be conducted by SWCG. IC's would have 3 year tenures. Not all IC's will turn over in the same year.
- SWCC will house the rosters and coordinate mobilization.

The SWCG Operations Group is at work to integrate most of these tasks for the 2008 fire season. While there may be some issues to work out as we transition this winter, the SWCG realizes the critical importance of all our IMT's to safe and effective incident management. The SWCG is dedicated to insuring the responsiveness of SW fire resources to the changing demands of the fire and social environment.

If you have questions related to team issues, please direct them to the SWCG liaisons to the Operations Group, Hector Madrid (BLM – NM), or Donald Griego, (NM State), or Operations Group Chair Richard Nieto, (USFS).

Sincerely,

/s/ Bob Lineback 10-15-07  
Chair, Southwest Coordinating Group