



**Bureau of Land Management: Arizona, New Mexico
Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2
Bureau of Indian Affairs: Southwest, Navajo, Western Regions
National Park Service: Intermountain Region
U. S. Forest Service, Southwestern Region
Arizona State Forestry Division
New Mexico State Forestry**

Date: 02/06/2009

To: Brandon Woodward, Texas Wildfire Association

From: Donald Griego, Chair of SWCG

Topic/Issue: Support for Wildland Fire Training and NWCG Activities

The Southwest Coordinating Group discussed your training and red card certification activities at our recent January meeting. We also reviewed your Texas Certificate of Incorporation and other documents that you provided. We fully support your mission of advancing education in wildland fire, through cooperation and coordination with federal, state, and local agencies. Since the Southwest Geographic Area extends to the federal lands west of the 100th meridian in Texas, it is important that our Texas firefighting partners are able to assist federal agencies whenever practical with the appropriate qualifications.

We support your efforts to train Texas wildland firefighters and Rural and Volunteer Fire Departments, adhering to NWCG standards. It is important that an organization such as yours be available to provide training and red card services to non-federal firefighters. It is commendable that you adhere to 310-1 and rigorous ethical standards in these efforts. The Southwest fire agencies continue to utilize certified firefighters from these departments to support and assist SWCG agencies on incidents in the control of wildland fire.

We encourage the Texas Wildfire Association to continue to work with the Texas Forest Service and federal agencies to seek additional funding to build the Texas firefighter training program. Possible funding sources include Rural Fire Assistance, Volunteer Fire Assistance, Ready Reserve, FEMA, etc. When possible, we encourage you to coordinate your organization's efforts with other Southwest training efforts. A primary contact would be Glenda Womack, the current chair of the Southwest Training Committee. She can be reached at 575-388-8362.

Thanks for your efforts to ensure we all have safe and skilled wildland firefighters. Good luck in the fire seasons to come.

/S/ Donald Griego

Chair, Southwest Coordinating Group

