



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



Date: October 18, 2011

To: Members of the SW/NR Wildland Fire Management Team

From: Southwest Coordinating Group

Subject: Shared Southwest/Northern Rockies Wildland Fire Management Team

The Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG) would like to thank you for your time and effort as a member of the Wildland Fire Management Team (WFMT). We acknowledge your willingness and dedication to be a part of an endeavor that you believe in. We also want to thank your family for supporting your participation on the Team. Family support is important for this line of work as we are away from home on assignments for most of the fire season. Please extend our appreciation to them.

The WFMT served the geographic area in an important role for a number of years. On many units in the geographic area your team developed and built local capacity and understanding in utilizing fire as a tool to achieving natural resource objectives and re-introducing fire in southwest ecosystems. Your team graciously and patiently mentored numerous employees in the complex skills of managing longer duration fires.

You may know by now the Southwest Coordinating Group has decided to relinquish its oversight of the shared Wildland Fire Management Team. The SWCG still supports the intent of the WFMT mission yet we feel the administration and management oversight of the WFMT would be more efficient with a single Coordinating Group. The respective Agencies making up the SWCG will continue to support personnel from the Southwest who wish to continue with membership on one of the Northern Rockies WFMTs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Ben, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Leon W. Ben, Jr.
Chair, Southwest Coordinating Group