



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



September 25, 2013

To: Southwest Area Agency Administrators;
Southwest Area Incident Commanders

From: Chair, Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG)

Subject: Southwest Area Type 2 Incident Management Team (IMT2) Administrative Changes

As the NWCG is moving forward to implement the Evolving Incident Management (EIM) project in the near future, the SWCG recognizes the opportunities to begin implementing some key changes to ensure the Southwest Geographic Area is aligned with the EIM effort. This will affect the number of Type 2 Incident Management Teams in the Southwest Area and how each team will be managed.

Beginning in the 2014 fire season, the Southwest Area will field three Interagency IMT2s (reducing from four teams sponsored in 2013). In addition to being aligned to implement the EIM project, several other factors are influencing this decision. First, the pool of people available to participate on Incident Management Teams continues to decline. Even though we have made some improvement in successional planning to fill teams into the future, declining budgets indicate that staffing of quality teams will become more difficult in the future. A second factor in this decision involves timing. Two of our Type 2 Incident Commanders reached the end of their 3 year tenure this year. This presents the opportunity to make this change without disrupting an IC's tenure down the road. The third factor in our decision was to reduce our dependence on using Administratively Determined (AD) personnel to staff the teams. The contribution of AD's is greatly appreciated by the SWCG in helping us staff teams and we will continue to use AD's in the future. However, we need to focus on filling IMT positions with agency personnel and ensuring successional pathways exist from unit leader up to the Command and General Staff positions.

The SWCG also made the decision to staff and manage the IMT2's geographically rather than locally. This action is consistent with the management of 40 IMTs in the future as identified in the EIM project. This also means that teams will no longer be identified by their locality (i.e. Eastern Arizona, Central West, Northern Arizona, and New Mexico) as has been the practice in the past. We will be working with the SW Operations Committee to determine how best to manage a rotation of Type 2 teams in the SW. We will also task the Operations Committee to look at a naming convention for the three Type 2 teams in the SW Geographic Area. We will be directing the Operations Committee to involve the Southwest Area Incident Commander Advisory Council (Charter signed in May, 2013) in these two areas.

We realize that change can be disruptive to all the personnel that help us as IMT members. We will be sensitive to the impacts to everyone involved. We feel that these changes need to begin now so that we transition smoothly into the future of IMT management as part of the National EIM effort.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carl W. Gossard".

Carl W. Gossard
Chair, Southwest Coordinating Group