



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



October 1, 2014

To: Southwest Area Fire Community

From: Southwest Coordinating Group

Topic/Issue: Implementation of the Priority Trainee Program

Southwest Fire Community,

Beginning in FY2015, the Southwest Area will be fully implementing the Priority Trainee Program. The success of this program will be a collective effort by Fire Managers, Incident Management Teams, Training Representatives, Dispatchers, and the Trainee Responders. The SWCC recognizes that specific qualifications are needed for individuals in Fire Management positions and the future incident workforce is dependent upon good succession planning and quality trainee assignments. The program is designed to enhance opportunities for those who apply in pre-identified positions (see Procedures); however, trainees who decide not to apply to the program can still status themselves as available in ROSS for potential assignments.

The Priority Trainee Procedures, Nomination Form, and a PowerPoint presentation have been posted to the Training section of the SWCC website and can be found at:

[http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/management\\_admin/training/training.htm](http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/management_admin/training/training.htm)

It is important that the fire community review these procedures and become familiar with the program and how it works. Roles and responsibilities of personnel within the fire arena are identified within these procedures and SWCC looks forward to working with you to make the Priority Trainee Program successful in 2015 and beyond.

Cal Pino 

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 Chair, Southwest Coordinating Group