



Great Basin Coordination Center Consolidation



Issue 2 February 8, 2014

Great Basin Coordinating Group Monthly Newsletter

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On September 4, 2013 the Agency Administrator's for the Great Basin Coordinating Group made the decision to combine Eastern Great Basin and Western Great Basin Coordination Centers. The consolidated coordination center will be located in Salt Lake City, Utah as the "Great Basin Coordination Center" or "GBCC." The Great Basin Coordination Center will open its doors and be fully operational January 1, 2015.

Upon making the decision to consolidate the Agency Administrator's asked the Great Basin Coordinating Group to implement a number of communications strategies, one being a monthly newsletter. The GBCG is committed to keeping Coordination Center employees, Agency Administrators and other partners informed of the plans and progress of this endeavor. Both a monthly newspaper and internet website will be available as sources for information.

Board of Directors Update

The Great Basin Coordination Center Board of Directors (BOD) continues to hold bi-weekly conference calls to discuss progress, updates and issues. On January 30, 2014 the BOD met in person at the BLM Utah State Office in Salt Lake City and spent the day discussing some of the following key topics:

- While the decision to move the GACC consolidation date out until January 2015 was made, the establishment of the Great Basin Coordination Center activities are moving at a rapid and aggressive pace.
- Human Resources continue to be a top priority. The BLM, BIA and USFS are close to finalizing Position Descriptions and recruitment/vacancy announcement packages. It is the goal of the BOD to have both the BLM and USFS vacancy announcements advertised concurrently.
- The 2015 GBCC Annual Operating Plan was finalized. A financial plan was developed that includes funding for one-time add-ons, Personal Change of Station (PCS) and Transfer of Station (TOS) moving costs, as well as IT equipment and infra-structure.
- GBCC budget allocation and process for fair share funding based on the validation system and processes that was utilized to analyze workload and cost percentages.

Human Resources

Forest Service

The Regional Director approved the new Forest Service positions for the GBCC and Intermountain Regional Office Table of Organization.

The Outreach for the GS-11 Coordinator positions closed. The response was very positive and generated a lot of interest. The Outreach included four GS-11 Coordinator positions.

Three GS-11 Coordinator positions will be advertised in the near future with the fourth on-hold. Other agencies have expressed interest in hosting the fourth position so the vacancy will be discussed within the DOI.

BLM

- The following vacancy announcements will be advertised in the coming months:
- Web Master/Social Media GS-9/11.
- GS-12 Meteorologist.
- GS-6/7 Administrative Assistant.

Facility and Space Information

The State of Utah's Request for Space Proposal closed in late December. Nine bids were received for the 10,800 square feet of office space being requested for lease. Six of the bids were within the "area" outlined in the request which includes sections of Salt Lake City north of I-80.

The bids included a variety of areas, costs and options for layout and design.

State officials are ready to begin the process of scheduling appointments with prospective leaser's so that the GBCC Space Committee and others can view the properties.

Once a property has been secured it is hopeful that the building owner's architect and design staff will assist in the layout.

BLM and Forest Service Information and Technology Staffs continue to have discussions about the IT requirements. This includes FS/BLM networks, wireless service, PC's, printers, fax machines and phone system.

Consoles and furniture will be ordered to fit the style and configuration of the current Western Great Basin furniture which was custom designed and installed in 2010.

The furniture that was purchased for WGBCC includes state of the art features designed exclusively for an Emergency Operations Center. The furniture was purchased with the option to add on to the storage cabinets and consoles incase the center moved and would be required to expand.

The current WGBCC furniture and new additions are expected to be moved and installed in the new GBCC in the fall of 2014.



Late Winter 2014

Operating Plans and Procedures

The 2014 Great Basin Mobilization Guide is scheduled to go to print in late March. The 2014 Mobilization Guide continues to outline processes and procedures for two Geographic Area Coordination Centers.

As we move into fire season 2014 and prepare for the consolidations of EGBCC and WGBCC many operational practices will need to be developed, modified and streamlined. The EB and WB Center Managers plan to implement as many common operating practices as possible for the two GACC's for the upcoming fire season.

This includes:

- Both EB and WG staffs are scheduled to meet later this month to prioritize tasks, begin developing standard operating procedures for the GBCC.
- Each Center has strengths and a variety of business practices that can be enhanced and refined.
- One web site will be developed using existing content as well as new information and design for use in 2015. A Customer Survey will be disseminated to the website users in the Great Basin so that the information needs are identified for inclusion in the new web site



Border & Initial Attack Agreements

- GACC Managers have begun coordination with adjacent Geographic Area to discuss local and GACC initial attack agreements and define business practices.
- Current border and Initial Attack Agreements will remain in place through 2014.
- An inventory of all agreements and operating plans specific to dispatch and coordination centers within the Great Basin is being completed.
- Local Dispatch Centers and Fire Managers are being asked to brief the parties involved in their local agreements about the Great Basin GACC merger during their spring meetings. A letter with specifics will be issued from the Chair, Great Basin Coordinating Group.



For Questions and Information Contact:
Nelda St. Clair
nstclair@blm.gov

For Additional Resources Visit:
<http://gacc.nifc.gov/wgbc/GBCG/index.htm>

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