To: Dispatch Improvement Steering Committee

This letter transmits the final Interagency Dispatch Optimization Pilot Project (IDOPP) report, concluding this two-year project. The report and associated recommendations present alternatives intended to improve operations conducted by the USDA - Forest Service (FS), Department of the Interior (DOI), and state, local, and tribal partners when dispatching for wildland fire, law enforcement, and resource management personnel. The report also includes national level recommendations for further analyses of certain dispatch components and a toolbox guidance on conducting future optimization efforts. The report is available on this link: http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/management/assessments/.

The IDOPP Bridge Team recommends implementation, including detailed analysis of cost and savings projections, performance measures and appropriate human resources, civil rights and labor union involvement. Implementation of the alternatives requires a structured approach and a commitment to developing a long-term strategy toward improving safety, efficiency and cost effectiveness in the dispatch and coordination system.

The Bridge Team also recognizes that there are enormous potential cost savings and efficiency gains available through nationwide dispatch optimization and consolidation, and recommends greater interagency efforts towards such changes.

JIM DOUGLAS
Chair, Interagency Interoperability Oversight Group

cc: Interagency Dispatch Optimization Pilot Project Bridge Team