

**NRCG MIF Committee Meeting
November 2-3, 2004
Missoula, MT**

Attendees:

Dale Glenmore	BIA/RMR – Chair	mail364989@pop.net
Andy Mitchell	NPS(Yellowstone) Committee Member	andymitchell@nps.gov
Russell Mail	BIA/FPA, Fire Control Officer	
Dewey Lumpry	FS/Lolo, AFMO, Committee Member	dlumpry@fs.fed.us
Mike Bearcomesout	BIA/NCA, Fuels Specialist	mikebearcomesout@bia.gov
Bob McCrea	*CSKT, Fuels	robertm@cskt.org
Victor Stevens	*CSKT, Committee Representative	victors@cskt.org
Harvey Campbell	Fort Peck, Committee Member	
Raymond Nelson	DNRC, Committee Member	rignelson@fs.fed.ud
David Walks	Crow Agency, Committee Member	
Jan Gardipe	*CSKT	jang@cskt.org
Robert LaPlant	BLM	rlaplant@blm.gov
Harold Watson	Chippewa Cree Tribe, Committee Member	
Dale GoodGun	Helena Alliance	
Patsy Velarde	Helena Alliance	
Robert Madplume	Blackfeet Tribe, Committee Member	
Russ Goddard	Helena Alliance	
John Anderson	NRCC/BIA	johnanderson@fs.fed.us
Robert Earthboy	Fort Belknap Tribe, Committee Member	
Andrea Gilham	Blackfeet Agency, FMO	mail364978@pop.net
Paul Chamberlin	FWS, Committee Member	pchamberlin@fs.fed.us
John DeGroot	Nez Perce Tribe	jdegroot@nezperce.org
Michael Longknife	Fort Belknap Tribe	mlongknife@fortbelknapnations-msn.gov
Lee Clark	USFS, Committee Member	lwclark@fs.fed.us
Sheri Schlader	Lolo National Forest	sschlader@fs.fed.us

*Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe

1. Topic: GACC Operating Plan

&The first topic of discussion was the continued effort in developing a geographical operating plan to include the BIA Dakota and Idaho programs. John DeGroot the Tribal Forestry for the Nez Perce Tribe was present. Discussion revolved around developing a strategy of incorporating the effected Agency/Tribal programs into the committee. Dale Glenmore drafted a generic letter for each of the programs to utilize. Marley Baker was scheduled to attend and represent Fort Berthold, Fort Totten and Turtle Mountain for the BIA, Great Plains Region but did not. John DeGroot will pursue documentation with the Nez Perce tribe and Dale Glenmore will contact the BIA, Great Plains Regional Fire Management Officer, Darrell Ausborn to

coordinate with the Dakota programs. Dale Glenmore requested a February 1, 2005 deadline for a documented request. He will develop two versions of the operating plan to cover the appropriate participants and print the relevant one in the spring.

Dale Glenmore presented a name change to operating plan and the committee to reflect the geographical restructuring of the operating plan. There were various suggestions but the committee agreed to Native American Crew Plan for the operating document and NRCG Native American Crew Committee for the group.

2. Topic: Type 2 IA Crew Presentation

&Dewey Lumpry presented his draft proposal regarding the development of a Type 2 IA crew to the group. There was lengthy discussion revolving around the importance of developing Type 2 Crews in the MIF program. Each unit that is interested in developing an IA crew will be constructed with varying formats. It will be more difficult with the “Urban” programs in this process. A sub-committee was developed to assist with identifying strategies and assist the units with recommendations and suggestions. It was identified by the committee that in order for the MIF program to remain competitive that Type 2 IA crew development is essential for success. During the discussion it was identified that the physical standards could be developed to “mirror” Type I crew standards. The following individuals comprise the Type 2 IA crew sub-committee:

πDewey Lumpry
πMike Longknife
πRobert LaPlant
πRay Nelson
πJohn Anderson
πRobert MadPlume
πMike Bearcomesout
πHarvey Campbell

3. Topic: Crew Assignment Duration

&Dave Walks discussed the issue of individuals dispatching out on crews and being demobilized based on an individual’s previous scheduled commitments. An example he used was if an individual is dispatched out and has a scheduled court appearance and does not inform the dispatch office of it. It was identified by the committee that in the MIF operating plan on page 11, Section B, Number 1, states that: **Fire situations will dictate length of assignment, but crews should be prepared to be gone fourteen days. Crewmembers that cannot complete a fourteen-day assignment for prior personal reasons (school, doctor appointments, court dates, etc.) should not be dispatched. Units violating this requirement will have to pay for personal travel home and will be suspended for the three calendar years.** It was also identified that the last part of this section needs to be moved to the disciplinary section and changed to reflect individual as opposed to units.

Dave Walks also inquired about the conditions of hire process and is there policy on hiring convicted felons. As it stands now there is no policy in place identifying felons. Dale Glenmore introduced the recruitment application that the Navajo Scouts utilize for their program.

4. Topic: Native American Cultural Awareness

&John Anderson discussed a concern regarding Native American Firefighters and cultural uses of cedar, sage, and sweetgrass. There are some Native American Indians that utilize cedar, sage, and sweetgrass to perform “purification” or what’s more commonly known as “smudging” on ones self or others. This would involve burning the cedar, sage or sweet grass until it produces smoke and allowed to drift on a person’s body or belongings. This also was brought up during the 2004 Spring Crew Boss/Rep refresher. This could lead to other aspects that are culturally relevant to Native American Firefighters that may be misunderstood by other ethnic groups. John Anderson graciously volunteered in being the lead with developing informational material to educate the interagency community. This was unanimously supported by the committee.

5. Topic: BIA Training Memo

&Dale Glenmore discussed a memo that was sent out by the BIA-NIFC office regarding training policy for Administratively Determined (AD) Emergency Hires. The memo provides guidance on deliverable courses to AD hires which is defined as only courses referred to as “Required” in the 310-1 are authorized. For example, an AD employee who is currently qualified as a FFT2 (Firefighter) and is pursuing a qualification as a FFT1 (Advanced Firefighter/Squad Boss) is only authorized to attend Advanced Firefighting Training, S-131 as it is the only training course **required** for the position for FFT1. The AD employee in this example would not be authorized to attend discretionary courses such as Supervisory Concepts and Techniques (S-281), Portable Pumps and Water Use (S-211), and Wildfire Power Saws (S-212). However if a unit is developing a Type 2 IA crew, Power Saws (S-212) can be delivered.

There was lengthy discussion regarding this topic, and the committee unanimously agreed that this policy was counter productive. This policy will impact the training matrix that is currently identified in the operating plan. The update plan will include training that is identified as required in the 310-1. The committee felt it was necessary to request input/support with this issue to the NRCG-BOD. Dale will present this when he makes his update to the BOD. Dale Glenmore also mentioned that it will be addressed during the BIA, Rocky Mountain Regional forestry/fire meeting in December as well as the BIA, National fire meeting in January.

&During the meeting the issue of drug testing came up with regards to individuals testing positive thru the MIF program and showing up on contract engine and/or crews. There is no process in place to track individuals once they have tested positive. The privacy issue plays a significant role in drug testing information being utilized for tracking purposes. The committee wanted to request input from the NRCG-BOD with this issue (This did not occur see note below*)

&Another topic of discussion was the chainsaw certification with Region 1. Both the FS and BIA each have a separate evaluation process. The issue was that the BIA established a certification process in 2002 and is now the only means for BIA employees to be certified in power saws. In the past the BIA had accepted the FS certification but since the established BIA certification the FS certification will be accepted only until the currency expires. At that point the BIA evaluation has to be used. The BIA identified that there was a lack of oversight and management with the chain saw operations nationally. The committee would like to see coordination and standardization of certification within the Northern Rockies. The committee wanted to request NRCG BOD input

&Dale Glenmore recommended to the committee to identify Jan Gardipe as executive secretary to the committee. The committee was in favor and the charter will be updated to identify the addition.

*NOTE: Dale Glenmore called Tim Murphy regarding this issue.