

**Fire Restrictions & Closure**  
**Butte, MT**  
**March 14, 2007**

In attendance: Mike Dannenberg, Cathy Scofield, Terina Mullen, Randy Sanders, Vickie Ellickson, Steve Zachary, Julie Shea, Allen Chrisman. Via phone: Jamie Kirby, Paula Rosenthal, and Pat McKelvey.

**Area Preparedness**

**SC** – Plan in place. Some problems with interpretation of county burn plans. Had new players in area last year. Boundaries will remain the same.

**WC** – Working on how to come out of restrictions. Zone board meeting the end of March. Looking at the level of cooperator involvement and at BMWC being its own restriction area. How to involve county LE folks with citing.

**NW** – No significant changes. Two-year rotation with coordinators; Allen in second year. Excellent coordination last year. Considering GNP and BMWC as separate area? Comfortable with the 2 stages as they are now. Want to have a get-together prior to the fire season and have refresher training. Have some work to do with the counties and their proclamations. Need to involve Plum Creek more. Have some work to do with media coordination (Missoula market).

**N Id** – Have not gone into restrictions the last couple of years. Using the same plan.

**E, MC** – Did well last year. Originated the stage 1.5. Try to follow what the counties are doing.

**E, Blgs** – Using same plan but need to update names. Need to fill in behind Lisa. Let counties be the drivers of the process.

**E, Lew** – Shannon no long there; position is being filled. Good coordination and communication.

**C** – Need new coordinator. Operated in 3 divisions. Really need to have a zone meeting.

**ND** – Restrictions are based on range index.

**SD** – Has expressed interest in our system.

**Process to come out of restrictions**

- use same process as going in
- home same discussions so everyone is talking
- keep coordination and communication flowing
- be sensitive to adjacent areas
- make sure communication with the public states reasons for coming out (consider elevation differences, conditions) and educate them as to why it is happening
- landscape-driven process
- utilize weather data and stations

**Local government enforcement/authorities**

- reach out to organizations to educate them (i.e. POA)
- Classified private forest land?
- Montana SB145 and SB147 deal with authorities and citing (wait to see outcome)
- States need to decide if they are really going to cite private landowners

- Include statutes and processes in the area restrictions plans

### **Montana Logging exemptions**

- concern from the logging industry that they have lost “freedoms”
- want exemption similar to RR and utilities under SII
- developed draft exemption last year
- allowed activities included loading and hauling
- Will additional authorities be granted by administrator and others by permit?
- Exemption for this year may only include load and haul.

### **Tool kit**

- products exist already
- Put all on website? Consolidate? Organize?
- Produce product based on need. Maybe the FPE committee?
- Need a federal equivalent to the FAQ.

### **Stage 1.5**

- presented 3 options to discuss regarding the wording of the stages
- One wording change in SI was made; SII the same.

### **Issues for Geographic Agency Administrators**

- change in SI wording
- dependent upon SB outcome

### **Website needs and enhancement**

- area or county maps
- website counter to monitor hits
- include agency contacts with phone number for each area
- link to document listing the campgrounds/recreation sites where campfires are allowed under SI
- “still in effect” wording

### **Geographic Coordination of Restrictions**

- Cathy’s position has changed and will not be the coordinator anymore
- Several options thrown out for consideration: detailers, rotation, FPE committee representatives, one person from each state, rotation among the agencies, NRCC intel desk.
- Mike volunteered to be the coordinator for this next season