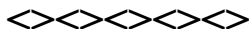


Northern Rockies Strategic Action Committee for Private Fire Suppression Resources

ABSTRACT



The Northern Rockies Coordinating Group approved in November 2004 the start of a Strategic Planning initiative to develop a “Best Value” contracting process for water handling equipment for the **2006** Fire Season. This effort is partially due to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit of the US Forest Service, the Legislative audit of Montana DNRC, a Fire Program review of the Idaho Department of Lands & a Congressional inquiry of BLM operations during the 2004 fire season. A Strategic Action Committee has been formed to begin the development of the “Best Value” contracting criteria.

Best Value as defined in the Northern Rockies is a procurement and contracting process which allows awarding contracts based on impartial consideration of various factors such as experience, training, and past performance of personnel and capabilities and condition of equipment, thereby providing the greatest overall benefit in response to the requirements.

MISSION STATEMENT



Establish an interagency contract award and dispatch system, within the Northern Rockies Geographic Area which provides safe, competent, productive, and cost-effective fire suppression resources.



VISION STATEMENT



The Northern Rockies Coordination Group (NRCG) agencies will make optimum use of contract fire suppression resources to provide effective, economical & efficient wildland fire suppression capability and meet interagency fire suppression objectives. Fire suppression capability will be strengthened by the “right mix” of agency, cooperator and contract resources designed to accomplish the expected workload in the most cost effective manner while maintaining appropriate work experiences for agency personnel to pursue their chosen career path.

Open communications and cooperation between NRCG and the private fire service contract industry will focus on maintaining a healthy, economically viable fire suppression contractor industry that is safe, effective, and efficient.

The private fire service contract resource program management and contract administration capability will be adequate to provide proactive oversight to ensure that the type, number, and quality of private fire service suppression contract resources are available to meet the needs of NRCG agencies. Every incident that uses contract resources will have adequate contract administration capability.

Private fire service contract suppression resources will be procured using performance based contracts or preseason agreements that use nationally accepted standard terms, conditions, and requirements regardless of procurement method used. Cost effectiveness is incorporated into the award of performance based contracts, as well as the use and retention of contract resources on incidents, through the application of “Best Value” criteria.

Private fire service contract resources will be dispatched in a manner that ensures timely dispatch of the most cost effective resources, based on “Best Value” criteria. Dispatch procedures will utilize state-of-the-art technology, and will be consistent with dispatch procedures used for agency and cooperator resources.

The availability of high quality private fire service contract suppression resources that consistently meet performance requirements has fostered strong support for the program, and they are widely accepted as an integral part of our fire suppression work force capability.

The first phase will be to implement a “Best Value” system for water handling equipment (engines, water tenders, water trucks & skidgines) for the 2006 fire season in the Northern Rockies. After the 2006 implementation the expansion of “Best Value” will be explored in heavy equipment and other appropriate categories.

CORE PRINCIPLES / VALUES



The following are core principles and values that will guide implementation of this Northern Rockies Strategic Plan:

1. Collaboration among NRCG member agencies, cooperators, national office representatives, and other geographic areas.
2. Fair share funding by NRCG member agencies in the cost of implementation.
3. NWCG standards will be met or exceeded.
4. Open communications in support of a mutually beneficial relationship between NRCG and the private fire suppression contract industry.
5. Private fire service contract resource use will be based on cost efficiency using “Best Value” criteria.
6. Commitment from NRCG member agencies to support contract administration & management on a fair share basis.
7. Communication of progress will be through established NRCG channels.

TASK ORDERS



- 1) Develop Mandatory Performance Evaluation System for Engines & Water Tenders (*Operations)
- 2) Develop a Complaint Database for recording Performance (Training)
- 3) Define Best Value & Develop Criteria & Process for Determining “Best Value” (Business)
- 4) Develop Procedures for Dispatching “Best Value” Resources (Dispatchers)
- 5) Develop Resource Mobilization System Based on “Best Value” Rewarding Contractors for High Quality Work (Dispatchers)
- 6) Identify Number & Type of Resources needed {Biggest Challenge} (Dispatch & Operations)
- 7) Develop Performance Standards for Personal, Equipment & Consequences for Poor Performance (Equipment)
- 8) Define Roles of Govt., Cooperators & Contract Resources (Operations)
- 9) Process for Fair Share Administration (Business)
- 10) Develop & Implement a Task Book for the IACR Position or COTR Position (Training & Business)

* Identifies Lead NRCG Committee & Lead SAC member

TASK TIMELINE



See attached for various task assignments and timeframes.

SAC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP



Tim Murphy, NRCG Contractor Liaison
Marcy Giblin, MT DNRC, Business Committee
Mark Romey, USFS, Operations Committee
Kathy Benson, USFS, Business Committee, Contracting
Kathy Elzig, BLM, Dispatch
Bruce Swick, MT DNRC, Business Committee
Nancy Gibson, USFS, Training Committee
Roberta Whitlock, R-1 Incident Business Administrator

Committee was commissioned by the NRCG Board of Directors November, 2004

Prepared; 1/27/05
Updated; 2/23/05