

NRCG Eastern Montana Zone Board Conference Call

June 30, 2011

Board Members / Designees Present:

Jim Strain, SD State Wildland Fire – Chair,
Eric Lepisto -- BLM

E-mail reports:

Chris Pileski, Montana DNRC
Mike Granger, USFWS

Jim Strain opened call at 0900 hours with agency reports.

MT State (Chris Pileski e-mail report) New Area Manager at the Southern Land Office in Billings is Matt Walcott started on June 27th. He's from Whitehall, and was the executive director for FireSafe Montana Eastside strike team should be back from Arizona next week. We have a couple other individuals out of area on assignment but expect them back by the 2nd week in July. Rivers still high and slightly above flood stage but the threat of significant flooding impact seems to be diminishing. Nothing else of significance to report.

State of SD: All personnel have come back from flood duty. Heavy engine and overhead mobilization into NM, AZ, TX and GA. Handcrew is on assignment on the Roosevelt/Aprahoe NF in Colorado. Harding County road systems held up well in the wet weather. Expecting a quiet 4th of July. However if we see two weeks of hot weather in July and it will be off to the races.

USFWS – Mike Granger's e-mail report follows verbatim: *"The report for the Fish and Wildlife Service is our units have begun to dry out, vegetation has responded to the rainfall and fuel loading is significant. Everything is green though and I don't foresee fire season beginning on our units until we get hotter and drier weather. Road damage has been significant though and we continue to survey the CMR for washouts. Those on fire details will be returning from the SW and SE over the next several days and we'll be at full staff by July 5."*

BLM – BLM – The Miles City Office is starting to get personnel back from the SW. As crews re-establish, EMDDO will place resources back available, both engines and single resources. Most of the Billings and Lewistown field offices are still on out-of-area assignment. The MCC Helicopter and BLM Air Attack are still down in the SW. The Lewistown exclusive use ship is still in the SW as well. The Eastern Montana-Dakotas District Office hosted a national preparedness review and the engine crew inspection went extremely well. Two findings were related to the Zone AOP and Miles City Interagency Dispatch Center AOP and will involve the Eastern Zone cooperators. One issue to fix was a letter of delegation from all the agencies users of MCC Dispatch Center to have a current letter of

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delegation on file for the Center Manager and staff. The other issue involved a more clearer financial statement showing all financial contributions for agency support of the Center. No fires to report. Flooding is still a concern for the area. Ken Schmid is the new Montana BLM State FMO. The Montana AFMO is now vacant and Mike Ford is detailed for next 60 days.

Team Reports: Eric reported that Benes's team is wrapping up their assignment in the SW at this time. Should transition out today with the BAER and the Type III team, and the plan so far is for the team to stage in the Tucson area over the 4th of July weekend. Like all plans, that is subject to change. Heintz's team is still first up on the GAC rotation till the 5th.

Next Meeting Date: Next call with will be at 0900 hours MDT on July 14. Jim will send out the call information.