

NWNRCG MEETING  
4/21/2005

Attendees:

Gary Mahugh Flathead County OES  
Allen Chrisman FNF  
Charlie Webster KNF  
Carol Bienhold FNF  
Pat Troyer DNRC  
Marci Goheen KNF  
Fred Vanhorn GNP  
Biddy Simet GNP  
Lyn Ogle Flathead County OES  
Neil Nelson - KNF  
Mark McGill Lincoln County  
Mark Romey KNF  
Dan Cassidy DNRC

- Introductions
- **Fire Prevention Education Plans –**  
Coordinate fire prevention messages  
News releases  
Does current plan provide enough info for Media coordinator? The board felt it did.  
Pre approval on zone media releases, then notification on what is going in before it goes out. Need to get the May message (start of fire season) out for review soon.  
Be sure to include the counties in the releases. Utilize the NW Zone letterhead for press releases.  
PSA or paid ad? Try to go with PSA instead of paid  
Give two options canned message or news stories to newspapers  
Make sure we hit all media and not just the newspapers  
What about payment? Monitor this summer to see how the PSA's work.  
The current plan seems to meet needs, just need to follow and get PSA's out for review early. Five day notification would be to just make agencies aware of what's coming out.  
Denise can help Jeremy
- **Direction to Mob board on rotation of engines and tenders for out of zone dispatches**  
CDA- draw out of hat with all agencies and contractors, whoever is up goes  
HDC – every piece of equipment goes into hat and is drawn out  
MDC – same as Helena  
FDC – rotation of agencies and contractors  
Proposal – Agency first out if available , then contractors.

Agencies include Federal, State, and Counties.

Romey explain matrix of responsibilities of different providers

Support from group on the proposal

- VFD Training NRCG northwest Montana Zone Operating Plan  
Zone wide training, weekday training does not suit the needs of VFD's  
Feel if training was more accessible we would get more county participation  
If we identify during the needs analysis a course that is needed by LGF could we schedule evening weekend instead of weekday. Neil will make sure county reps get the needs analysis

- **Committee Reports**

**Operations** – reports on web site

Two Type 1 Teams, Five Type 2 Teams, two Fire Use Teams

How to staff up next year, brainstorm this spring on where we are going in future  
Chapter 20 drafts are out

Region 9 signed agreement to participate on our teams, 20 positions guaranteed if they have the participants, operations committee is responsible for making sure this happens

New mob guide is out

Moving forward on best value contract for water handling, will be broken out by dispatch zone, will be out for 2006 season, best performers will get more dispatches,

Final AD plan out soon

Team meetings this year only include Command and General staff, this may continue next year.

**Training**

Classes established for next training season

Cost issues with L-280 (Followership to Leadership) and L-380 (Fire Line Leadership) and L-381

310-1 is out in draft form for comment, due to Neil, comments are going in as one from Neil for the NW Zone.

Nominations will be done the same through local training reps.

Lots of cancellations due to Federal budget constraints

IQCS online for all Federal agencies, training portion within a few years

Zone schedule set from needs analysis

Guard schools at KNF, GNP week of June 13

Boorman engine academy same week

Neil suggest looking for replacement for him soon try to get someone who can work with him before he retires. The Board should solicit nominations and identify a replacement at the fall meeting who can transition into the job with Neil.

Maybe we could have one chairperson and several helpers.

## **Business**

Working with strategic action committee on best value, important to do performance evaluations before they demobe.

Blue pages almost done

AD rates the same this year

Trying for three year equipment contracts

Chapter 20 had major revisions, heavy equipment guide

Checklist and certs, updated

Terms and conditions updated for EERA

May hire chainsaws and pickups fully operated

May 17-19 I-suite training in Missoula at NTC, closed on 4/15

**Fire Use** see notes on handouts

**Equipment** see notes on handouts

**Aviation** – have rep attend NRCG Zone meetings.

## **Fire Prevention and Education**

Workshop in Bozeman next week

Meeting with participants in zone

Firewise workshop put on in Libby 20 people attended

Railroad meeting last week, 30+ attended

Good equipment, good organization

Had list of contacts and equipment

Put WATCO Mission Mountain Rail Road on contact list, own spur line out of

Kalispell and Stryker to Eureka

Coordinate with SW zone on Montana Rail Link

- **Agency Reports**

**GNP** – advertising for FMO

Staffing looking good for this year

.7 ahead of moisture for water year

no severity requests at this point

hired new GNP dispatcher for FDC - Jeff Rader

**Flathead county** – Marble leaving June 1, 15 applications, has closed, new person by June 1

Community protection plan soon to finalized, step to become more all hazard, 60 plus people involved, mobile EOC commo and command trailer, ID machine and reader, potentially available outside the county for all risk, may need EERA, satellite and cell phone, in process of training a set up staff and operational staff  
Going through training, risk management classes, reaching out to public works people and media, try to let other agencies know when they do next one  
Concern with contractors running around with red lights

Work being done with sandman, Bennett, Brian Crandell and Gary Mahue on guidelines/expectations for incoming Incident Management Teams  
Structure protection definitions 30 feet from structure is department, 30-1000 feet is joint responsibility, > 1000 feet wildland –send attachments

**DNRC** – Same resources as last year with exception of having a helitack crew, will hire three new crew member positions for a total of four

Eight people from throughout NWLO on IMT's

No DNRC sponsored CL-215's this year

94M here by mid May to June 1 depending on need

### **Lincoln County**

All resources business as usual, 12 acre fire at Yaak

Northern Tier Interoperability Project, have some inaccessible repeater locations, could they use a state ship? Digital equipment for base station and mountain top

### **FNF**

FAO position offered shortly, delay filling Fuels/Planner till next year at least

Staffing engine modules with permanent folks

Type 6 at HH, TL, SB Type 4 at HH

Type 3 HC back this year, on June 15

Close to selecting asst. AFMO at Swan Lake

Hungry Horse Glacier View Spotted Bear are not a zone anymore, Steve Wirt

FMO at Spotted Bear, may fill AFMO at Spotted Bear

Hotshot crew on May 15, on board by June 1

### **KNF-**

Down @ 50 firefighters this year as compared to last year. That would include those hired for fire preparedness and the "militia" (those who work in other in other functional areas and who are trained, qualified, and available to fight fire).

FMO at Troy gone till end of July with her new baby.

FMO at Cabinet gone all summer (Detail as Forest FMO on the Salmon/Challis).

New Forest Aviation Officer starts May 16.

- Review/Reaffirm any new or continuing zone actions
- **NRCG Northwest Montana Zone Operating Plan**  
Back to whole group for comment to be in place for next year