



NRCG Northwest Montana Zone Spring Meeting

April 29, 2003

NRCG Zone Members Attending:

- Charlie Webster, KNF
- Mark Romey, KNF
- Gary Mahugh, Flathead Co.
- Alan Marble, Flathead Co
- Martha Smith, DES R1
- Dennis Divoky, GNP
- Prevention: Mark Stanley
- Training: Neil Nelson
- Business: Bill Caldwell
- Dennis Divoky

Unable to Attend:

- Cathy Calloway, FNF, Chair
- Ted Mead, DNRC
- Fred VanHorn, GNP
- Marc McGill, Lincoln Co
- Steve Stanley, Lake Co
- Operations: Mark Romey
- Bob Rebarchik, USFWS
- Vacant, Sanders Co.

Follow-up items are listed in bold in these notes.

Committee Updates --NRCG Committee notes & spring meeting should soon be posted on the web at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/>

Business

- Legal staff looking at review of language in section regarding 14 hour limit for daily equipment rate in Business Management Handbook. Language would include #1 & #2 operational period versus the old first & second terminology. A problem arose when a contractor who went over the 14 hour daily limit and wanted to be paid for second operation period.
- **Suggestion that Executive Board of the Northwest Zone look at having an aviation and an equipment representative. Possible equipment candidates could include Marc McGill Lincoln Co. and Alan Marble may have a nomination. Aviation rep could be either PJ Smith or Paul Linse of the FNF.**
- AD1-5 New Rates are out and in effect. Have been standardized around the nation. Historically the NW Zone has had low rates. Engine rates are up significantly, 30% increase. Supplemental rates may be out this week. It is awaiting signatures.
- Will not be encouraging 15 passenger van use this year due to numerous motor vehicle accidents. There are no rates establish for them.

- Discouraging the use of school busses for transporting crews over long distances. Often times driver hourly limits are exceeded.
- Information on the new baggage transporting system required by airlines is in effect.
- The use of a frequent flyer membership could reduce the possibility of security delays. When possible the use of a round trip ticket could reduce flight costs as well.
- Chapter 20 change. In the past the operator and supplies were paid for by local Gov't. Recommend sign up equipment with operator paid by local Gov't and supplies paid by Contractor. The revised Sixth Party Agreement may have some effect on this topic.

Fire Use

Dennis Divoky recommended that the committee may be better served to be an Ad Hoc committee rather than a committee of the Northwest Zone.

Operations

Mark Romey. Team selections are done for 2003.

Developed a charter for dealing with out of region teams assigned to our region. Basically after arrival they will go to the top of the dispatch list. After seventy-two hours they will re-evaluate and if not needed will send them home.

The Ics' have a meeting with NRCG Board in early June.

Training

- A busy training season has been ongoing, with concentrated sessions coming up. Zone training schedule at <http://www.nationalfiretraining.net/nr/zones/nwm.pdf>
 - Interagency Training academy will be May 26-June 6
 - DNRC Engine School - week of June 9th
 - Basic Guard School - KNF 6/10-13, NPS 6/16-20 & FNF date TBD in June.
- In 2002, the NW Zone completed 21 training classes.
- Committee has worked hard to get the training schedule for the Zone done for 2004. Tentative Schedule soon to be posted on the web minus dates.

Prevention

Prevention Group has completed work on updating the Zone prevention and Education Plan, including the Closures & Restrictions info. Plan will be

presented to NW zone Board for review prior to the fall Zone Meeting. Signatures will be needed to complete.
Suggestion to have prevention training in the near future within the Zone.

Restrictions & Closures - Mark has had some discussion with BNSF reps. Will have review of exemptions with them during this summer. R & C's boundary map nearly finalized. **Stage I & II signs will be attached to Prevention and Education Plan Appendix**

Railroad Coordination Meeting - During 2003 spring meeting BNSF requested assistance in deal with DEQ & EPA Issues. Documentation provided by BNSF was delivered to agency reps including DNRC, KNF and FNF.

Reviewed & updated Zone Contact list - -Mark will distribute with final edits

Scheduled Date for Fall Zone Meeting - will be scheduled in September for October or November meeting date for 2003. This should be is prior to Fall NRCG Meeting)

Filling of Vacant position for Sanders County NW Zone rep not yet determined.

Charlie presented Mac Plan which was formerly included in the now defunct NW Zone Support Plan. Charlie will work on getting Agency signatures. The Mac plan revisions will be incorporated by Neil and sent out for distribution by the end of May 2003.

The 2003 NW Engine/H2O tender Mob Plan was presented by Neil for review. Neil will incorporate revisions and distribute when completed.

Bill discussed option of developing a Zone Wide Annual Operating plan. Currently DNRC has one each with KNF & FNF. Suggested that Ted Mead take the lead in evaluating and or developing a plan for NW Zone Board approval.

Thanks to all for another productive meeting. BE SAFE and have a good Summer.

Mark Stanley