

South Central Zone Fall meeting
October 18th, 2006 at Park County RFD#1 station 1

Operations Committee

Phil Perkins gave an Operations committee update. Phil advised us he was retiring in November and wouldn't make the December meeting. Bob Fry will be taking over the zone Ops representation. The next meeting is 12/13-15/06 in Missoula. Phil also represented the Ops Committee on best value. Type 2 IMTs were taken over by NMAC during PL-5, not sure what effects that may have had on the region and might require further coordination in the future if we can expect it again. Phil will go to the East side meeting on Nov. 14th, cache and retardant plant are on the agenda. Resources still short this summer. Type III discussion about lack of resources and how the zone might deal with the shortages in the future. No strong answers. Fire Use committee resurrected, Ashley Sites will be the zone rep. Fire season reviewed, lots of positives involving mutual aid and air resources made a big difference. We need to develop the Type III pool deeper. Medical requirements were detrimental to NPS to getting people carded. Excellent cooperation in the zone between everyone for such a busy year.

Business Committee

Business committee discussion limited as Roger Gowan wasn't available.

Training Committee -

Bryan Connelley led the discussion on qualifications and credentialing crosswalk. Issue should be between the individual and the carding agency, not NRTC or another agency. NRCG meets Oct 25th and 26th. Zone training committee met at end of the meeting to decide priority trainees. SCZ Engine Academy went very well at the Story Ranch last spring. Suggestion for next year was to work with a MT Mutual Aid deployment, possibly in the Reese Creek area, Bryan will lead the development. Luccock Park camp at Pine Creek might also be an option. An L-380 Leadership class and an S-420 All Hazard Command class are being sponsored with BLM grants. The class announcements will be out the end of November. The sand table exercise at the Livingston District coordinated by Pete Lannan last spring was very helpful for the fire season.

Type III Pool –

Much discussion on this topic. We still need to update the Type III pool and then work on developing a more organized approach to forming team(s).

Prevention - Mitigation COMMUNITY PROTECTION PLAN –

Committee meeting in Missoula November 8th and 9th. The region Prevention meeting is scheduled from April 30th through May 4th in Cour de' Laine, ID. Restrictions were discussed at length and it may require a separate meeting in the future. Marianne suggested having a Prevention Coop group and was willing to coordinate. A December 15th meeting was scheduled. CWPPs discussed for both Park and Gallatin counties. Park county is done and posted on the RC&D web site and Gallatin is about to be put out in a draft. Marianne said an AAR on how the closure worked on the Bozeman watershed will be held on November 9th. Gallatin County fire has a web site www.gallatincountyfire.org. A Firewise workshop will likely be conducted in Gallatin County. The wildland interface regulations are being updated in the Gallatin County subdivision regulations. The RFA grants process is changing and the NPS not sure what effects that will have.

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AGENCY UPDATES –

- Park County – (Bob Fry) Good cooperation this year – seems to be quite a bit of development in the county with lots of changes to subdivision regulations and a new Growth Plan – Have a new station at Pine Creek
- Meagher – (Rick Seidlitz) – Good year with interagency cooperation – New building and equipment put into service at airport.
- Gallatin County – (Bryan Connelley) Mutual aid worked well in the county with 2 Type III incidents - Also deployed Mutual Aid task force several times to several counties – tremendous growth in the county - Communications making huge strides.
- DNRC – (Craig Campbell) Mutual aid in the Central Lands office was very successful this year – pay for local government FFs was a new program and is still in development – DNRC aircraft are in process of being upgraded, not sure will be completed by next season – Long season, but a good one overall.
- East Zone – (Ashley Sites) FMO position filled by Ashley. Diana Allen has a new job on the Beaverhead – Busy season and still quite a bit going on related to the fire season.
- West Zone – (Mike Gagen) Quite year for the most part on the west side this year. Some pile burning will be done this fall.
- Jump Base – (Hartmut Bloemeke) Upgraded aircraft helped the response time of the jumpers – utilized jumpers as crew support quite a bit more than in the past this summer – 30 jumpers worked out of the base this year.
- Gallatin – (Mike Gagen) Record ERCs this year over entire forest – 28 lightning caused fires and 15 human caused – Lots of acres burned with heavy aircraft use this year – a 3200 acre prescribed fire will be done this spring if the conditions are right – fuels projects up the Main Boulder are still being contested – resource management during a busy fire season was challenging – incorporated local government and landowners during incidents worked well this year, need to work more on developing that strategy earlier.
- Bozeman Dispatch – (Bert Starr) Added new dispatcher this year – very busy season but feel it was successful
- YNP – (Phil Perkins) I'm Retiring! (added for effect, congrats to Phil) Slow year, 8 fire starts this year. 6 fire use fires. Supported Gallatin and several others with resources – a lot of time spent on a Fire Program analysis.

MOBILIZATION PLAN

No major issues this year. Recognizing local forces as agency worked well for us.

CHAIR FOR 2007

Mike Gagen will be chair for 2007. Did not discuss the Deputy but will likely be a local position.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE APRIL 4TH AT 1000 AT RFD#1 FIRE STATION IN LIVINGSTON.

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ATTENDANCE

Bob Fry	MTDES/Park Co	
Phil Perkins	YNP	
Steve Smith	USFS – GNF West side	
Marianne Baumberger	USFS – GNF West side	
Bert Starr	USFS – GNF SO Dispatch	
Audrey Evans	YNP	
Craig Campbell	DNRC	
Mike Gagen	USFS – GNF SO	
Bryan Connelley	Gallatin County	
Hardy Bloemeke	WYIFC, Gallatin NF	hbloemeke@fs.fed.us
Ashley Sites	USFS – GNF East side	
Mike Graham	Park County/Paradise Valley FSA	
Rick Seidlitz	Meagher County	

Minutes submitted by
Bob Fry