



# Southwest Strategy and Partnerships



Southwestern Region Collaboration Newsletter

May 2004

## A new Southwest Strategy Toolbox for your use

The new *Fire Restrictions and Closures Toolbox* is available for interagency and Tribal use this fire season. The toolbox is found at:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire/swamgmt/admin/swa\\_administrative.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire/swamgmt/admin/swa_administrative.htm)

You may notice that the appendices are agency specific, so print off the Forest Service appendices. This document is available electronically and printed copies won't be distributed within the Forest Service.

The Southwest Coordination Group, Prevention Committee will annually update the Toolbox, so contact them if you have suggested changes.

## SWS Congressional Staff Briefings and Fieldtrips

Southwest Strategy sponsored congressional staff briefings in Arizona and New Mexico on the upcoming fire season, national fire plan and healthy forest initiative. The Cibola and Tonto National Forests also provided field trips to visit urban interface fuels treatments. Both state and Washington office staffers attended briefings. Our thanks to Jim Payne and Art Morrison for organizing these informative briefings.



Congressional Staff and Sandia District (Cibola NF) Employees discuss WUI fuels treatments

## New FSH Burden Rate Interim Direction for Partnership Agreements

The new FSH 1909.13 interim directive describes when a burden rate (overhead assessment/ indirect cost) is included in partnership agreements. The new direction includes:

- A **2.5% burden rate** for most agreements
- **Forest Supervisors** can waive the partner's payment of all or part of the burden assessment when any of the following conditions exist:
  - >when there is a national agreement waiving the burden assessment,
  - >for burden amounts less than \$1,000,
  - >when the agreement authority does not require payment of the burden assessment,
  - >for agreement amounts included in a contract, purchase or are pass-through,
  - >If the forest pays the burden assessment with the unit's appropriated funds.

The interim directive is found at:

<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/directives/fsh/1909.13/>  
(It's the word document at the bottom of the page)

**Q. When are partnerships a helpful tool for land managers and not just another program?**

**A. When they solve a problem! So next time you have a dilemma, think partnerships!**

## Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) 101

FACA applies if **ALL** the following are true:

1. The group includes non-governmental (other than federal/state/tribal) personnel.
2. The group has an organized structure, fixed membership and specific purpose.
- 3 A federal agency is responsible for creating, organizing and controlling the group.
4. The group's primary purpose is providing specific advice or recommendations to an agency.

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