



File Code: 1340/5120
Route To:

Date: FEB 25 2011

Subject: Interagency Dispatch Optimization Project

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director and Deputy
Chiefs

The *Management Efficiency Assessment of the Interagency Wildland Fire Dispatch and Related Services* study (2 June 2008) identifies multiple areas for increased operational efficiency that will improve service, enhance employee and public safety, and optimize funding. The Interagency Interoperability Oversight Group (IIOG) examined this study and will sponsor an integrated, crosscutting effort to address many of these issues across multiple program areas and agencies. To this end, the IIOG created an Interagency Dispatch Improvement Project (IDIP) Steering Team, to oversee several dispatch-related improvement efforts.

The IDIP Steering Team recently decided to conduct a pilot optimization assessment on the geographic areas covered by the Southwest Region and Pacific Southwest Regions (R3/R5). The R3/R5 Interagency Dispatch Optimization Pilot Project will result in an efficient, cohesive, and cost-effective interagency dispatch capability to meet the business needs of the agencies while fully supporting field-going personnel. The project includes structured assessment to address such inconsistencies as staffing, business practices, governance, technology, interoperability, and geographic locations.

Once implemented, this effort is expected to result in substantial operational improvements, cost savings, safety enhancements, and contributions to agency efforts towards sustainable operations. This project will also develop a template for more rapid assessment of similar improvements over the remainder of the nationwide dispatch system.

Interagency leadership is recruiting subject matter experts and management representatives for the Core study team. This team will include representation from the various agencies and director areas involved in dispatch, as well as, a National Federation of Federal Employees representative. Management Analysis, Inc. will support the study team.

THOMAS L. TIDWELL
Chief

cc: Jim Douglas, Jim Kenna, Kolleen Shelley, Randy Moore, Robert Kuhn, Robin Poague, Sbosco, Susie Stingley, Thomas Wordell, Douglas Nash, Corbin Newman, Jim_Abbott, Kathy Gorman, Kelly Castillo, Kenan R Jaycox, Kim Christensen, Lynn A Jackson, Rosalie A Ramirez, Elizabeth L Walatka, Ronald Ketter





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Date:

Mr. Ron Thatcher
President
Forest Service Council, NFFE
1101 Highway 2 West
Libby, MT 59923

Dear Mr. Thatcher:

This is official notification in accordance with Article 8; Section 4 of the Master Agreement between the Forest Service (FS) and the National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE), the FS intends to conduct an interagency pilot optimization assessment on dispatch activities within the geographic areas covered by the Pacific Southwest and the Southwest Regions. The R3/R5 Interagency Dispatch Optimization Pilot Project will result in an efficient, cohesive, and cost-effective interagency dispatch capability meeting the business needs of the agencies while fully supporting field-going personnel. The project includes structured assessment to address such inconsistencies as staffing, business practices, governance, technology, interoperability, and geographic locations.

Once implemented, this effort is expected to result in substantial operational improvements, cost savings, safety enhancements, and contributions to agency efforts towards sustainable operations. This project will also develop a template to enable more rapid assessment of similar improvements over the remainder of the nationwide dispatch system.

The Interagency Dispatch Optimization Project will begin in January 2011. The Management Analysis Studies Office will oversee and assist a study team, which will also include management representatives, wildland fire subject matter experts, and contractor support. You are invited to participate on the study team or nominate an NFFE representative.

To minimize direct impact to the field units, field data calls will be conducted only as necessary to ensure a successful study. The optimization project will be completed in approximately 12 months. The Chief may implement recommendations that affect only the FS, upon approval. Recommendations requiring interagency review will go before the Fire Executive Council for implementation decisions.

We are committed to working in partnership with NFFE through the FS Partnership Council as we move through this process.

Sincerely,


CHARLES L. MYERS

Deputy Chief for Business Operations

cc: Robert Kuhn, Elizabeth L Walatka

