National Wildfire Coordinating Group
National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705-5354

March 3, 2009

NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP (NWCG) RECOMMENDATION:

Under the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) guidance, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is required among all parties prior to interconnecting systems. A NWCG-level MOU will facilitate most, if not all IT system interconnections. This MOU is the first step toward redefining our entire strategy and process for interconnecting IT systems sponsored, owned or managed by wildland fire partnering agencies. Any subsequent interconnection plans and interconnection security agreements would fall under the purview of this MOU.

FS MOU No. 09-MU-11130206-021, BLM MOU No. FA-MOU09-0003, FWS MOU No. 93252-09-MOU-0001, BIA MOU No. 2009-K00441-MOU-003, NPS MOU No. G9560090026

BACKGROUND:

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) charters the development, implementation, and deployment of Information Technology (IT) systems for use by the wildland fire community that are national and interagency in scope. NWCG-chartered systems are designed to provide services to specific business areas of wildland fire management and all-hazard incident responses, and may require some form of information resource sharing with other IT systems. Individual agencies also host a number of IT systems, which may provide specific data or desired services to other wildland fire partnering agencies. Federal policy requires federal agencies to institute agreements for establishing secure system interconnections with each other, with non-federal cooperators, and/or with outside service providers.

The primary strategic goal when interconnecting systems is to minimize the costs and impacts to existing systems and resources while allowing enhanced functionality for the wildland fire community. The key for successfully achieving this goal is the NWCG Executive Board's commitment to interconnect systems in a secure manner. The measure of success is to develop and implement a process that will simplify and expedite interconnection planning, reduce the number of agreements through consolidation, and facilitate interconnection life cycle management. Having a consistent, repeatable process provides a methodology to better define the interconnection business needs and provides a more structured approach to risk management, and facilitates effective change management practices throughout the interconnection life cycle.

ACTION REQUESTED:

NWCG requests the Fire Executive Council to review this proposal, and upon concurrence, forward the MOU to the Agency Directors for signature through the Interagency Interoperability Oversight Group.

NWCG EXECUTIVE BOARD CONCURRENCE:

Kevin Hamilton — 3/9/2009

FOR Timothy M. Murphy, Deputy Assistant Director (NIFC)
Fire and Aviation
DOI, Bureau of Land Management

Date

Brian McManus — 3/3/2009

Brian McManus, Chief
Branch of Fire Management
DOI, Fish and Wildlife Services

Date

Lyle Carlile — 3/9/09

Lyle Carlile, Director
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DOI, Bureau of Indian Affairs

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Tom Nichols — 3/9/09

Tom Nichols, Chief
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Karyn L. Wood — 3/9/2009

Karyn L. Wood, Assistant Director, Operations
FOR Fire and Aviation Management
USDA, U.S. Forest Service

Date