MEMORANDUM

Reference: NWCG#012-2013

To: NWCG Committee Chairs, Geographic Area Coordinating Group (GACG) Chairs

From: NWCG Chair

Date: November 13, 2013

Subject: Request for Geographic Area Feedback to the Incident Management Team (IMT) Distribution Analysis RESPONSE DUE: January 3, 2014

In November 2011, the NWCG Executive Board accepted the recommendations from the Incident Management Organizational Planning (IMOSP) team report, “Evolving Incident Management, A Recommendation for the Future”, to address the sustainability of our incident management workforce. This included a recommendation to merge Type 1 and Type 2 wildland fire IMTs into one type of team, at the Type 1 level, with a target number of 40 IMTs that would be available nationally. The transition to 40 national IMTs is expected to take multiple years to accomplish with the target date for full implementation yet to be established. Maintaining stakeholder involvement and agency support prior to full implementation, the following tasks need to be completed: A) establish the new pathways for Type 1 Command and General Staff positions, B) establish rotation and mobilization procedures for National IMTs, and C) revise IMT composition.

In October 2012, an Evolving Incident Management (EIM) Governance and Mobilization Task Team was established as part of the EIM Implementation Project. The Task Team expanded their membership to include representatives from the dispatch and fire management communities across the Geographic Areas (GAs). The Task Team evaluated data for IMT assignments that included mobilization and demobilization from 1999 thru 2012. They surveyed the GAs for feedback on each GA’s individual assessments of their ability to staff IMTs under a variety of scenarios, and looked at IMT usage by GA, spanning 14 years to identify peak periods of team assignments. The methodology and recommendations from the Task Team are summarized in the attached report, “EIM Incident Management Team Distribution Analysis”.

The NWCG Executive Board is supportive of the report’s recommended team distributions but would like to hear your feedback before finalizing the decision. A strong need for change is recognized; our current workforce management and succession planning for wildfire response is not sustainable into the future. Please consolidate and forward each GAs feedback to your GA National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) Liaison prior to January 3, 2014. The NWCG#012-2013 Request for Geographic Area Feedback to the Incident Management Team (IMT) Distribution Analysis
proposed IMT distribution will be a topic of discussion at the upcoming NMAC/GMAC and National Center Managers meeting in January 2014. Your feedback will assist in developing the transition plan as we move forward with this new organizational model.

Attachments:
Incident Management Team Distribution Analysis

cc: Dan Smith, Rocky Mountain/Eastern Area, NMAC Liaison
William Kaage, California, NMAC Liaison
John Glenn, Great Basin, NMAC Liaison
Aitor Bidaburu, Northern Rockies, NMAC Liaison
Lyle Carlile, Northwest, NMAC Liaison,
John Segar, Alaska/Southern Area, NMAC Liaison
Steve Gage, Southwest, NMAC Liaison
Paul Schlobohm, NWCG Program Management Unit (PMU), Manager
Evans Kuo, Evolving Incident Management, Project Lead
Kim Christensen, Governance and Mobilization Task Team, Lead
Susan Stingley-Russell, Governance and Mobilization Task Team, Co-Lead