



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S. Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

MEMORANDUM

Reference: NWCG#018-2011

To: Paul Bannister, Chair
BLM Fire Leadership Team

From: NWCG Chair *William Raage*

Date: October 4, 2011

Subject: FY2012 BLM Funding Reductions in Support of NWCG Training

The NWCG Executive Board has reviewed and discussed your request for the NWCG Training Branch to identify the impacts of a 20% reduction in BLM support to our NWCG organization. We are well aware that as our nation contends with serious economic challenges, all federal agencies should plan for significant funding reductions in 2012 and beyond. We also recognize that the cost of doing business at the national level within an interagency framework has a direct impact on the funding available for distribution to agency programs. We remain committed to ensuring that the NWCG mission is accomplished in the most cost-effective and efficient manner possible for all the bureaus and their firefighters we serve.

The NWCG Training Branch operates under the direction of the NWCG Executive Board through the NWCG Manager; the Branch is a part of the NWCG Program Management Unit (PMU). Staffing and funding for NWCG Training is just one part of the overall funding and staffing agreements mix between the NWCG agencies. A single agency withdrawing positions or operational funding from the NWCG Training Branch affects the balance of other agreements in place for funding and staffing of NWCG.

The NWCG Executive Board believes we can best meet your request through a strategic approach, addressing how NWCG as a whole will effectively plan for budget reductions in light of our current economic challenges. A full review will identify possible efficiencies and cost-saving for NWCG agreements in totality.

For FY2012, DOI NWCG agencies, through the Interior Fire Executive Council, have decided to cut 15% from 2011 funding levels for the DOI assessments for interagency supported programs, inclusive of NWCG support. This 15 % reduction will be apportioned at various rates across the DOI programs; the NWCG reduction will be 10% from 2011 levels for a total reduction of \$98,000. BLM's portion of the reduction would then be \$57,000. Due to the funding formula between DOI and the Forest Service, funds from the Forest Service for NWCG will decrease accordingly as well.

NWCG plans on additional review and follow-up steps to meet the intent of your request. NWCG will explore how your Training Branch request will factor in to the total reduced funding mix affected by the already decided upon DOI reductions. We are committed to working together to ensure NWCG is in a position to make logical and deliberative decisions about our interagency investments to meet our individual and our interagency missions. We will provide you a progress report in November 2011.

Please work with Howard Hedrick, BLM NWCG Executive Board representative, and Bonnie Wood, NWCG Manager, if you have questions or further concerns.

cc: NWCG Executive Board

Bonnie Wood, NWCG Manager
Deb Fleming, NWCG Training Branch Manager
Tim Murphy, BLM Fire and Aviation Assistant Director
Program Management Unit (PMU)
Budget Advisory Unit (BAU) Chair
Roy Johnson, OWFC Deputy Director
Rod Bloms, OWFC Program Analyst