

**Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
January 28, 2004**

Note: At the request of the IWMT, two documents are attached to these notes. The first document is a journal article addressing the relative flammability of 13 landscape mulches. The second document is a letter from Bill Romme discussing the merits of thinning in pinyon-juniper woodlands that have suffered from drought-related mortality.

Doug Tucker (Los Alamos County Fire Department) recently attended the Wildfire 2004 Conference in San Diego. Themes of the meeting included wildfire communication and prevention. Doug is also working with Kathy DeLucas to organize the Wildfire Public Meeting in Los Alamos this April. The merits of combining this public meeting with Defensible Space Day are being discussed.

Manny L'Esperance (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) will attend the Santa Fe Zone Board Meeting this Friday.

Phoebe Suina (Infrastructure Projects Group, LANL) anticipates thinning to begin in Rendija Canyon during February. The access route in Guaje Canyon will be used to remove the cut trees from the Rendija area. Defensible space at LANL, DP Canyon and Los Alamos Canyon are also scheduled for thinning this spring. Also, the Air Curtain Destructor is being transferred to Santa Clara Pueblo.

Marla Rodgers (Bandelier National Monument) is coordinating fire training to be conducted at the Monument this spring. For more information, contact Marla at 505-672-3861 x551. Also, burning of the slash piles on Highway 4 has been postponed until the air circulation is more amenable.

Phil Taylor (Emergency Management, Los Alamos County) has been investigating the merits of various public emergency notification systems for the Los Alamos community.

Bill Armstrong (Santa Fe National Forest) announced that burning of slash piles was being conducted in the Santa Fe Watershed. Thinning that is being conducted in Los Alamos County will be completed by March 15. Thinning has also been completed in the Camp May area. The resulting slash piles will be burned next year.

The Climate Assessment for the Southwest project (CLIMAS), located at the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth, University of Arizona, reports through its January 2004 information packet that hydrological drought continues in the southwest and all New Mexico reservoirs are at well-below average levels. Snowpack is quite low for this time of year in much of Arizona and New Mexico. Above-average temperatures, and average or below-average precipitation is predicted for the remainder of the winter. There is no indication that the Southwest will receive drought-ending precipitation in the next few months. For more information, see <http://www.ispe.arizona.edu/climas/forecasts.html>

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, February 11, at TA-21, Building 210 in the RRES-ECO Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.