

**Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
February 25, 2004**

Doug Tucker (Los Alamos County Fire Department) attended the Southwest Incident Commanders Meeting in Phoenix. Doug has also been reviewing the Santa Fe Area Wildfire Operations Plan for the 2004 wildfire season. In other news, the Los Alamos area received from one to two feet of snow yesterday. However, this will only provide short-term relief to the wildfire conditions.

Gene Darling (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) will attend the Santa Fe Zone Board meeting on March 12. Issues related to initial attack of wildfires will be the theme of the meeting. Also, the support helicopter is scheduled to arrive in Los Alamos on May 1 and remain in the area until August 1.

Phil Taylor (Emergency Management, Los Alamos County) announced that the County will conduct Emergency Operations Center training for its emergency managers in early March.

Marla Rodgers (Bandelier National Monument) reported that Jim Whittington was recently featured in a television interview related to wildfire issues.

Ed Hoth (Utilities and Infrastructure Group, LANL) recently received maps showing the fire roads at LANL. Ed is currently working to get identification signs installed at the entry to these roads.

Sam Loftin (Ecology Group, LANL) reported that approximately 30 percent of the piñon trees killed in the Cerro Grande Fire have fallen down during periods of heavy winds.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) announced that the snowstorm yesterday resulted in the postponement of the Jemez Symposium until March 30. At the symposium, Randy, in collaboration with Dave Breashears and Rod Linn, will present results of modeling of fire hazards in piñon-juniper woodlands.

At the Jemez Symposium, Sam Loftin will also present results of piñon-juniper responses to thinning and fire. Other presentations will feature vegetation mapping in the Valles Caldera National Preserve (Esteban Muldavin), ponderosa pine growth and mortality at Bandelier National Monument (Kay Beeley and Craig Allen), post-fire rehabilitation responses (Kevin Buckley, Jeff Walterscheid and Greg Kuyumgian), and thinning and wind erosion in ponderosa pine (Jeff Whicker). The symposium will be held at the College of Santa Fe. For more information, contact Stephen Fettig at 505-672-3861 x546.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, March 10, 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.