

Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
February 26, 2003

Gene Darling (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) noted that the Joint Powers Agreement expires in April of this year.

Sarah DeMay (Bandelier National Monument) reported that 65 acres of slash piles along Highway 4 have been burned. A total of 165 acres have been thinned, and 40 more acres of thinning remain. This project will be completed by the end of March.

Rob Farris (Fire Protection Group, LANL) continues to document the defensible space adjacent to buildings and facilities at LANL, and quantify the progress that has been made during the past two years.

Fran Talley (Public Affairs Office, LANL) distributed the most recent version of the agenda for the Wildfire 2003 Public Meeting. This meeting will be held at the United Church at 2525 Canyon Road on the evening of April 15. Presentations will be given by the Nature Conservancy, Bandelier National Monument, the Cerro Grande Rehabilitation Project, and the Los Alamos County.

Phil Taylor (Emergency Manager, Los Alamos County) recommended that a formal agreement between the Los Alamos County and the San Ildefonso Pueblo for emergency access to the Guaje Canyon Road is needed.

Pat Valerio (Ecology Group, LANL) suggested that road access through Pueblo Canyon could be created with a minimum of "new road" construction.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) reported that the updated land cover map for the eastern Jemez Mountains, which includes all of Los Alamos County, Bandelier National Monument and the Valles Caldera National Preserve is nearing completion. In its basic form, the map was produced at the 15-m-by-15-m-resolution level with 30 land cover classes. This basic version was reformatted at a 0.25 ha grid. In addition, the 30 classes were recombined at the taxonomic, physiognomic and class levels. These reclassifications have 9, 14 and 9 classes, respectively. The accuracies of these reclassifications range from 73 to 77 percent. Contact Steve Koch (665-9875, skoch@lanl.gov) for further information or to get on the distribution list for copies of this map.

Manny L'Esperance (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) announced that the fire roads at LANL have been named and numbered. The signs for these roads have been ordered. Upgrades to the fire roads have been completed except for the road in Water Canyon.

Brian Swift (National Park Service) feels that the lack of air tankers will become a serious issue with the onset of the 2003 fire season. Brian further noted that the fire season occurs in Arizona and New Mexico earlier than in most of the other regions in North America. Many land managers may not be aware of this situation.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, March 12, 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.