

**Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
July 30, 2003**

Gene Darling (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) reported that the weather conditions have abated to the point that fire restrictions may no longer be needed. Rain is forecast for today and this is a hopeful sign. Gene also thanked Bruce Masse and the Cultural Resources Team for marking and protecting the cultural sites that are near the fire cache.

Todd Haagenstad (Ecology Group, LANL) and Leslie Hansen have continued their work on the draft LANL Wildfire Management Plan and an associated Quality Assurance Program Plan. Upon approval of the plan and with the availability of funding, LANL intends to begin implementation in FY04.

Liz English (Infrastructure Projects, LANL) reported that upgrades to the fire roads at LANL are near completion. Special consideration has been given to the intersections of these roads with arroyos.

Phil Taylor (Office of Emergency Management, Los Alamos County) will attend the annual meeting of the New Mexico Emergency Management Association and consult on issues related to wildfires and safety in the wildland-urban interfaces of the New Mexico.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) has sampled the fuels and fire hazards at 33 plots during the 2003 field season. Randy has also continued to develop and use custom fuel models for piñon-juniper woodlands. The resulting outputs from BEHAVE and NEXUS suggest that thinning these woodlands to less than 80 trees per acre will significantly reduce wildfire hazards.

Bill Gall (Los Alamos Area Organization, DOE) announced that the Defense Board will be visiting Los Alamos next week and will tour the new Emergency Operations Center. Bill is also receiving requests for the surplus fire suppression vehicles from the Forest Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Edward Ortiz (Los Alamos County Fire Department) reported that fire restrictions on County property are still in place. Bill Armstrong continues to work on the County thinning and fire hazard reduction projects.

Phoebe Suina (Infrastructure Projects, LANL) has been implementing the final tasks of the Cerro Grande Rehabilitation Project. This project will be concluded at the end of the fiscal year.

Leslie Hansen (Ecology Group, LANL) has been collaborating with Bandelier National Monument to coordinate an aerial photography overflight for the Los Alamos region. This flight would be completed before the end of the summer and would provide useful information on levels of tree mortality and fuel loadings in forests and woodlands throughout the entire region.

Marla Rodgers (Bandelier National Monument) reported that fire restrictions continue to be in effect at the Monument. Marla also reported that Dean Clark has accepted a transfer to a position in Denver. The transfer will be effective on August 24.

Pat Valerio (Ecology Group, LANL), Sam Loftin and Kevin Buckley are systematically reviewing all of the areas at LANL that have been thinned or rehabilitated in the last three years.

Ray Martinez (Santa Fe National Forest) has transferred to the Carson National Forest and will no longer manage the Forest Service-Department of Energy liaison office that is located in Los Alamos. Annie Apodaca (505-753-7331) is the contact until a replacement is hired.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, August 13, 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.