

**Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
November 19, 2003**

Mark Sandoval (Los Alamos County Fire Department) reported that Doug Tucker and the Fire Department are collaborating with LANL on the organization of the Wildfire 2004 public meeting, which will be held next April. The Fire Department is also investigating the merits of upgraded telephone systems for notifying the public of emergencies and related information.

Marla Rogers (Bandelier National Monument) announced that burning of the slash piles along Highway 4 will begin this week. Free permits for public firewood removals from this area are also available at the Forest Service office in Los Alamos. The permits include a limit of 2 cords per person. Burning of slash piles will also be conducted this week in the Santa Fe Watershed.

Shannon Smith and Lindsey Quam (Infrastructure Projects, LANL) are compiling the compliance documentation for wildfire hazard reduction work that will be conducted in Los Alamos Canyon and Rendija Canyon. This work should begin in January.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) attended a conference in Flagstaff, Arizona, for the integration of biological sciences and management, and presented results suggesting that approximately 20 months of drought are sufficient to induce extensive mortality of piñon and that nine months of drought are sufficient to induce sporadic mortality. At the same conference, Dave Breshears presented evidence that 18 to 24 months of soil moisture deficits are sufficient to induce extensive mortality of piñon. Robin Tausch reported on the potential implications of Holocene climate variation, which suggested that the current drought may continue for decades or more.

Patrick McCarthy (The Nature Conservancy) announced through an email that a meeting to coordinate fuels treatments and ecological restoration in the Jemez Mountains will be conducted on December 19 from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the RRES-ECO Conference Room. Interested managers and scientists are invited.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, December 3, 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.