

**Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
December 3, 2003**

Note on scheduling: The next IWMT meeting will be December 17. There will not be a meeting on December 31. During 2004, the IWMT will continue to meet every other Wednesday, beginning with January 14.

Shannon Smith and Lindsey Quam (Infrastructure Projects, LANL) are continuing to compile 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. In January, thinning will also be conducted near the University House at TA-3.

Jim Whittington (Bandelier National Monument) announced that burning of the slash piles along Highway 4 has begun and will continue until next March. Jim also reported that the Volunteer Task Force will remove slash and fallen trees from near the Perimeter Trail at Los Alamos.

Phil Taylor (Los Alamos County, Emergency Management) attended a Wildfire Evacuation Planning Meeting in Santa Fe. Phil noted that evacuation routes in many canyon areas in northern New Mexico could be cut off in the event of a wildfire.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) has been updating the safety documentation for the Group's field work activities and complying with the Lab's Integrated Work Management Process.

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

The Climate Assessment for the Southwest project (CLIMAS), located at the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth, University of Arizona, reports through its November 2003 information packet that hydrological drought continues in the southwest and that most New Mexico river basins remain in emergency drought status. For the winter and early spring, the temperature outlook is for above-average temperatures. Precipitation levels in New Mexico are expected to be average or slightly above average. Drought conditions are expected to persist with a slight chance of amelioration. ENSO conditions remain near neutral, with a low likelihood of El Niño conditions to develop by next spring. For more information, see <http://www.ispe.arizona.edu/climas/forecasts.html>

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, December 17, 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.