ROCKY MOUNTAIN COORDINATING GROUP

Bureau of Indian Affairs (Southwest, Rocky Mountain and Great Plains Regions)
Bureau of Land Management (Colorado and Wyoming)
Fish and Wildlife Service (Mountain/Prairie Region)
Forest Service (Rocky Mountain Region)
National Park Service (Intermountain and Midwest Regions)
State Agencies in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas

June 9, 2003

To: Rocky Mountain Coordination Group (RMCG) Members

From: RMCG Chairman

Re: Resource Ordering and Statusing System

After nearly four years in the making, the Interagency Resource Ordering and Statusing System (ROSS) is ready for implementation. ROSS is a mandatory computer-based system that replaces the paper resource ordering system used by dispatch offices. The advantages of ROSS include a major reduction in paperwork, a reduction in resource order duplication (one source of record), a more efficient means to track resources, and extensive reporting capabilities just to name a few.

Some dispatch centers may choose to duplicate the legacy paper resource order system and the new ROSS system throughout the 2003 fire season until they are comfortable with ROSS. This duplication will provide a backup if any unforeseen system problems occur in ROSS.

Within the Rocky Mountain Area, approximately 170 individuals have been trained in the use of ROSS. In addition to this training, two formal practice scenarios were conducted between RMACC and all Rocky Mountain Area dispatch centers. In addition, many dispatch centers also conducted their own practice scenarios.

All dispatch centers within the Rocky Mountain Area must be fully operational in ROSS by June 10, 2003.

ROSS will be the system of record for statusing all overhead, crew, equipment, and aircraft resources. The dispatching of tactical aircraft in ROSS will be optional for dispatch centers for the 2003 fire season, due to the complexity and constantly changing location of these aircraft. Since ROSS is not an initial attack system, some dispatch centers may choose not to track the smaller, short-duration incidents in ROSS. All incidents Type 3 and larger will be tracked in ROSS.

A detailed ROSS implementation plan for the Rocky Mountain Area can be found on the Rocky Mountain Area Fire & Aviation Management website at:
http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/fire/docs/ROSS_Implementation_Plan.pdf

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group release letter and each agency-specific release letter can be found on the ROSS website at:
http://ross.nwcg.gov/download_app.htm

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John Glenn
RMCG Chair
Chairman RMCG/Wyoming State FMO, Bureau of Land Management

CC: National Interagency Coordination Center