California Wildfire Coordinating Group

June 4, 2004

To: CWCG Members

From: James M. Wright, Chair
California Wildfire Coordinating Group

Subject: California ROSS Implementation Letter of Intent

On May 27, 2004, California Wildland Fire Agency Management convened to make a decision on the implementation of the ROSS (Resource Ordering and Status System) Program in California. The agencies in attendance were California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

After nearly a year of research, evaluation and reviewing the options we have with the current program of record (MIRPS), a decision has been made for the federal agencies and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Implementation of the ROSS Application in California will occur as follows:

California Federal Agencies listed above will implement by May 1, 2005. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection will implement no later than January 1, 2006.

The California ROSS Evaluation Workgroup (CREW) will remain active as the interagency implementation group. There are several tasks yet to be accomplished prior to the implementation dates:

- An Interagency Transition and Implementation Plan will be written and completed this summer.

- The CREW (Core Members) tasks are:

  1. Develop a Cost Share Agreement for items needed which require funding from all agencies (for T1 lines, etc.);
  2. Research & complete the connectivity process from Kansas City (NITC) to the Geographic Area Coordination Centers in Riverside and Redding, and to Sacramento (T1 lines);
  3. Develop Service Level Agreements;
  4. Establishing California Federal & State (2 positions) participation on the ROSS Change Board;
  5. Establish a California ROSS Training Plan;
  6. Develop a process to utilize ROSS data for customization of reports & back-up for a California database;
  7. Work with the ROSS Team on input from Altaris & WILDCAD interface properties & compatibility, when funds are approved (final) for the generic ROSS-CAD Interface;
  8. Develop protocol for the use of ROSS in California by creating a business practices document.

It is the intention of the California Wildfire Coordinating Group to move forward in the implementation of new technology such as ROSS, to support our agency's fire fighting efforts and ensure the safety of agency personnel during the mobilization and demobilization of incident resources.