

# BLM Fire Training Officer Committee

## Conference Call Agenda

Date/Time: 07/6/11 at 1100 MT (Boise)

Phone number: 866-704-5789

Participant code: 223574#

### ROLL CALL: (participants in bold)

AK – <b>Tony Doty/Lynn Standley Coe</b>	MT –	NIFC – <b>Jeff Arnberger</b>
AZ –	NV – <b>Bianca Acosta</b>	NIFC – <b>Mike Ellsworth</b>
CA – <b>Nate Gogna</b>	NM – <b>Charley Luevano</b>	NIFC – <b>Al Olson</b>
CO/WY – <b>Kim Bang</b>	OR/WA –	NIFC – <b>Pam McDonald</b>
EA –	UT –	GBTU – <b>Madonna Lengerich</b>
ID – <b>Carol McElroy</b>	NTC –	

### AGENDA ITEMS:

#### 1. BLM Fire Training Unit Update

(Ellsworth/Arnberger)

Mike Ellsworth and Jeff Arnberger updated the group on the status of the BLM Fire Training Unit reorganization. Ted Mason's position and Al Olson's position (mandatory retirement in January) will not be filled. Jeff Arnberger, BLM Fire Operations, will assume supervisory duties of BLM Fire Training Unit personnel.

A few Committee members expressed concern that the BLM's focus on training is waning in comparison to other federal agencies. Some members felt there is not a lot of support for training at the state level. Without official training officer position descriptions, training functions are a collateral duty. Without national management and focus, some states may fail to adequately provide for the needs of their fire personnel. If the BLM Fire Training Unit is stretched too thin, members are concerned that futuring and planning for potential pitfalls will limit the BLM's ability to identify potential training issues and respond in a timely manner.

Mike Ellsworth stressed the need for Committee member and state participation in the BLM Fire Training Committee. Members should be actively involved in communicating with FOG members and having a representative (or alternate) on each conference call or in attendance at meetings.

Over the next few weeks, members of BLM Fire Training and Fire Operations will conduct an analysis to ensure that all short-term commitments are being met. At the same time, members will begin developing a long-term strategy and vision for BLM fire training. BLM Fire Training Committee members are asked to supply Mike Ellsworth with feedback concerning what projects should be maintained, eliminated or put on hold as well as the Unit's focus for the future.

**ACTION: Provide feedback to Mike Ellsworth regarding BLM Fire Training commitments, projects, and future by July 18, 2011.**

**2. Recertification for Training Specialist Positions (Ellsworth/Arnberger)**

Mike Ellsworth and Jeff Arnberger discussed concerns from the field regarding the recent release of the BLM recertification policy. The concern regards recertification requirements for Technical Specialists. Wording will be altered in the policy to reflect recertification for all positions for which completion of a position task book (PTB) is required to become qualified in a position.

**3. UNLV GS-0401 Education Program (Ellsworth)**

UNLV has agreed to the GS-0401 Education Program for 2011/2012. Cohort 7 will begin September 18, 2011. Official correspondence will be sent soon. The course schedule can be found at [http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/training/fire\\_training/training\\_programs/unlv.html](http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/training/fire_training/training_programs/unlv.html).

**4. Extending Open PTBs from 3 Years to 5 Years Update (Arnberger)**

Jeff Arnberger updated the Committee on the proposal for extending open PTBs from 3 years to 5 years. The BLM was the only dissenting position for the 5-year option. He commended the Committee for vetting the white paper through the Fire Operations Group (FOG).

**Round Robin:**

- AK – Tony Doty officially reports to his new position July 31, 2011. Lynn Standley Coe will be acting in the position unit it is filled. Alaska recently presented the Great Basin's S-420 field version with great success.
- CA – In connection to the BLM Fire Training reorganization, Nate inquired as to the future of WFAP. At this time, there is no decision regarding WFAP.
- CO/WY – Kim continues to work on the GACC training priority spreadsheet. Kim relayed that Region 5's recent accomplishment of placing 718 trainees on assignments.
- ID – Noting to report
- NV – Nothing to report.
- NM – Still seeing some fire activity.
- GBTU – The FY12 schedule is available on the web. There are a few fall classes with upcoming deadlines. The Northern Rockies is offering the only national session of S-430. Nominations are due **July 15, 2011**.
- National Office – The next conference call will be **Wednesday, August 3, 2011**, at 1000 hours (Mountain).