

BLM Fire Training Committee

Conference Call Notes

Date/Time: April 3 through 5, 2012 at 0800 MT (Boise)

Phone number: 866-704-5789

Participant code: 223574#

ROLL CALL: (participants in bold)

Voting Members:		Guests & Support:
AK – Lynn Standley Coe	NV – Cindy Savoie	BFTU – Jeff Arnberger
AZ –	NM – Charley Luevano	BFTU – Pam McDonald
CA –	OR/WA – Brian Rindlisbacher	NIFC – Sean Cross
CO/WY – Kim Bang	UT – Cherie Ausgotharp	NIFC – Mark Jones (Tuesday)
EA – Lamar Liddell	NTC –	NWCG – Woody Kessler (Wed)
ID – Carol McElroy	BFTU – Mike Ellsworth	NWCG – Scott Anderson (Wed)
MT – Michelle Dauenhauer		NIFC, Fuels – Dave Mueller (Tues & Wed)
		NIFC – Elden Alexander (Wed)
		NIFC – Tommy Hayes (Wed)

Tuesday, April 3, 2012

1. Welcome and Introductions

(Mike Ellsworth)

Mike Ellsworth, Jeff Arnberger, and Sean Cross welcomed the BFTC to Boise. He commended everyone for the work they have done and the commitment to come to Boise.

2. Action Items

(Pam McDonald)

- 2011-6, Alaska's Allocation of Forces model (IT is working to recreate)
- 2011-9, Operational workforce planning function within IQCS (extended due date of 6/2012)
- 2011-14, BLM Fire Training and Qualifications Standards Guide draft (focus of this meeting)
- 2011-30, NWCG course development/revision SME analysis (will discuss later in the meeting)
- 2012-01, Winnemucca Field Office training database project inquiry (There are coding errors with the database. Cindy will continue to work with Winnemucca.)
- 2012-09, IRPG Custodian (Chad Fisher, OWDC)
- 2012-10, Work with Boise Smokejumpers to define qualifications and prerequisites for a Smokejumper Spotter (SPOT) position (Pending. Mike Ellsworth intends to contact Hector Madrid and have something ready for the May 9 IQCS Change Management Board meeting)
- 2012-11, Route the Smokejumper Spotter (SPOT) through the BFTC Request for Change process. (Completed)
- 2012-12, Send the final Preparedness Review Training Checklist to BFTC members (Completed)

3. FOG Updates

(Jeff Arnberger)

The FOG met in Boise the week of March 20. There have been some changes in state representation.

- **Engine Committee:** Collecting statistics and tracking mechanisms to report workload, etc.
- **Fire Equipment Group:** Made up with representatives from the various subgroups.
- **Hotshots:** Working on a crew member position description and fitness standards.
- **Helitack:**
 - Working on an emergency extraction by long line. BLM Fire Training Unit (FA-324) is monitoring the effort.
 - RADS: Boise Helitack progressing with the rope-assisted delivery system (RADS) pilot program (SOP, MARS/MODOC, training standards and qualifications, etc.)
 - There will be no operational slides during 2012.
 - Data will be collected over the next few years.
- **Smokejumper:** Nothing to report.
- **Preparedness Reviews:** The 2012 Preparedness Review checklists are available online (http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/fireops/preparedness/preparedness_review/checklists.html). Preparedness Reviews will now include the radio review.
- **Fitness Challenge:** The IB will be issued soon. The program will have five levels. The FOG has been challenged to increase participation in the program. Participation goal: increase from 650 to 1,000.
- **Safety:** There are serious concerns regarding use of ATVs: no process for managing and tracking training, lack of standardized training across the Bureau, and lack of proper coding of qualified UTV operators on Red Cards.

RECOMMENDATION: The BFTC recommends that an interim solution for Red Carding qualified BLM UTV operators be facilitated through IQCS. Additionally, the BFTC recommends a task group with representation from the Fire Equipment, Hotshot, and Fire Training committees be tasked by the FOG to draft a long-term proposal.

ACTION: Submit a request to the FOG for development of an ATV/UTV task group to develop a long-term proposal for ATV/UTV fire use and report to the BFTC on the May 2012 conference call. (Mike Ellsworth and Jeff Arnberger)

(Potential BFTC ATV/UTV Task Group: Lamar Liddell, Carol McElroy, Charley Luevano, Lynn Standley Coe, Brent Higby, and Mike Ellsworth)

ACTION: Create a Set ID within IQCS for UTV operators and report status to the BFTC on the May 2012 conference call. (Mike Ellsworth)

- **Handcrew Modules:** A FLT proposal exists to establish standards and ROSS tracking mechanisms for temporary BLM handcrew modules (e.g., taking members of an engine and forming a temporary handcrew).

4. OWDC/IQCS/IFPM Updates

(Jeff Arnberger-OWDC & IFPM/Mike Ellsworth-IQCS)

- **OWDC**
 - Sawyer/Faller: The NWCG Hazard Tree Subcommittee received significant feedback regarding the creation of a NWCG Sawyer/Faller position. Support exists for three levels of qualification similar to the BLM's Class A, B, C Faller. Incorporation into the PMS 310-1 is still a few years out. When the position is incorporated, the FELB position should have a sawyer/faller prerequisite added. Jeff will monitor the effort through the OWDC as well as attempt to place additional SMEs on the group.
 - ICPI and IRIN: The Incident Contract Procurement Inspector (ICPI) and Infrared Interpreter (IRIN) positions will be added to the October 2012 version of the PMS 310-1.
 - PMS 310-1: The 310-1 release schedule was changed to October.
 - NIMS: NIMS training/qualification requirements will be incorporated into the October 2012 version of the PMS 310-1.
 - Mike Ellsworth is awaiting a report from IQCS IT Specialist Mike Morgen identifying those individuals who have not met the NIMS training/qualification requirements. Mike Ellsworth will work with state Training Officers and FOG representatives to ensure compliance.
 - FEMA Crosswalk: NWCG is working with FEMA to build crosswalks for a certain ICS positions. (See more under Woody Kessler, Day Two)
 - IMT Succession Plan: The IMT Succession Plan is final and available online at <http://www.nwcg.gov/imosp/index.htm>. See the plan for specific information.
 - FEMA and IQCS: FEMA will soon use IQCS. Their presence will be undetected to wildland fire users.
 - Technical Specialists and the PMS 310-1: Work continues on reviewing the seven criteria language regarding Training Specialists in the PMS 310-1.
- **IQCS**
 - DOI all-hazard positions have been incorporated into IQCS. Position endorsements are forthcoming.
 - Reactivation button: Now that the reactivation button is functional, the IQCS Change Board is working to close loopholes with the system and creating checks and balances.
 - Mike Ellsworth is taking forward the *Do What's Right*, IRAWs, and SPOT change requests to the IQCS Change Board.
- **IFPM**
 - The IFPM Maintenance Plan will soon be available online at <http://www.ifpm.nifc.gov/standard/ifpmstandard.htm>.
 - The USFS still recognizes a few positions in the Standard but has moved towards more 301 position descriptions.
 - BLM is still researching the pros and cons of 301 versus 401.
 - The FOG did not support the USFS proposal to recognize aviation firefighting qualifications within the IFPM Standard.

Workforce Development Program Updates

- **TFM:** Washington Institute has increased tuition costs by approximately 30%. The math module will be moved to online delivery and a pre-suppression/suppression online module was developed, bringing total program credits to 24.

Kim Bang asked if Washington Institute intends to open the pre-suppression/suppression online module to individuals outside the program. Mike Ellsworth mentioned there is a possibility this may happen in the future, but is not an option at this time.

Mike Ellsworth asked BFTC members about TFM interest for the coming year. Lack of funding is the root cause. Alaska still has 401 concerns.

The 2012 TFM presentations will be held in Boise the week of April 16. Seven BLM students will present, three have asked for extensions and one has failed to present for the second year. Mike suggests that a new process be developed for students to vet their papers prior to final presentations.

ACTION: Submit ideas to Mike Ellsworth for vetting TFM papers prior to final presentations prior to the May 9, 2012, conference call. (All BFTC members)

- **UNLV:** UNLV is a demand-driven, module-based program. At the present time, UNLV has not suggested raising tuition costs. Mike Ellsworth is awaiting course dates at which time the IB will be issued.

Eight BLM students will be graduating from the program on May 8, 2012.

- **Other Higher Education Programs:** States continue to develop agreements with local colleges and universities to support higher education.
- **On-the-Job Training (OJT) Program** – The intent is to merge the Prescribed Fire and Operations OJT programs. The Jackson Hotshots and Boise Smokejumpers have agreements that may be opportunities to support the OJT program.

ACTION: Pursue OJT opportunities through established agreements (Jackson Hotshots or Boise Smokejumpers) and report to the BFTC on the June 2012 conference call. (Mike Ellsworth)

Jeff Arnberger will continue monitor severity/prepositioning requests for potential trainee opportunities and will work with FOG representatives. Mike encouraged BFTC members to become more involved in identifying potential opportunities, especially when state prepositioning assistance is granted.

The BFTC asked that all RX-OJT nominations sent through the National Office be sent to the state Training Officer. State fuels representatives need to become more involved in the program.

ACTION: Develop a new OJT nomination process that can be incorporated into the BLM Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Training and report the status to the BFTC on the May 9, 2012, conference call. (Mike Ellsworth)

5. **E-Mentoring** (Mike Ellsworth)

Mike Ellsworth presented the DOI Fire & Aviation Mentoring (e-mentoring) program. DOI Training Officers are currently working on a directive. The program has received management support. BFTC members are encouraged to promote the program throughout their states.

6. **National BLM Fire Training Program Budget Exercise** (Mike Ellsworth)

The BFTC participated in an exercise targeted at identifying priorities for expenditures for a National BLM Fire Training Program if funds were available. The following items were identified in priority order:

- *Overall program vision: Establish a state/local training organization to support the National Training Program*
- *OJT (Operations/RX)/Exchange (5)*
- *Leadership training (sponsor L-courses, staff rides, continuing education, L-course agency cadre development) (4)*
- *Continuing higher education (online and traditional scholarship program) (4)*
- *Safety course support (first responder, EMT) (2)*
- *National commitments to NWCG/steering committee representation (1)*
- *Recruitment/retention program (1)*
- ENOP course support (1)
- *Cadre/Instructor development*
- *IQCS workforce development tool*
- *Mentoring Program (like Aviation Mentoring)*
- *SMEs for NWCG course development*
- *Coop training (military, RFA)*
- *WFAP*
- GETA Group training

ACTION: Recommend that state/local training officer representation be incorporated into Fire Program Decision Support System (FPDSS) and report the status to BFTC on their June 2012 conference call. (Jeff Arnberger)

7. **OWDC/LSC Request for Change Vetting for L-280 Instructor Qualifications** (Mike Ellsworth)

The BFTC vetted an OWDC/LSC request for change proposal regarding L-280 Lead Instructor qualifications. The proposal asked that the currency requirement for Single Resource Boss be removed. (Handout)

Recommendation: The BFTC had no issue with the proposal and recommends that the currency requirement for SRB be removed but keep the SRB experience for the L-280 Lead Instructor qualification.

8. **Wildland Fire Institute (WFI)** (Mark Jones)

Mark Jones provided a status report on the corporate university effort.

- John Glenn will be taking over Lynda Boody's position on the WFI Board of Directors.
- Mark Cantrell, NWCG Training Development, has been tasked with defining the "Dean" roles and responsibilities. To date, two deans have been identified: Fire Planning and Fire Behavior.
- At the present time, WFI has a 5- to 10-year implementation plan.

9. **Fuels Management Update** (Dave Mueller)

- **Firing Leader (FIRL):** Dave Mueller presented a proposal from the BLM Hazardous Fuels Reduction Group (HFRG) proposing the elimination of the BLM FIRL position. (Handout)

Recommendation: The BFTC recommends elimination of the FIRL position as long as Firing Bosses on high-complexity fires have additional requirements. They also recommended that ICT3 be added to the proposed language presented for addressing high-complexity burns.

10. **Process for Vetting OWDC/IFPM Feedback** (Mark Jones/Jeff Arnberger)

Mark Jones is proposing a process for OWDC change requests.

- Submissions will only be received through an OWDC liaison. All other requests will be denied.
- **Requests** must be received a minimum of two weeks prior to an OWDC meeting/conference call. Requests within the two-week period will be held until the next meeting/conference call.

Jeff Arnberger will send all OWCG requests for change proposals to the FOG with carbon copies to Training Officers complete with any direction for obtaining training opinion through BFTC representatives on the issue. He will also send the collective BLM response on the proposal back to BFTC members.

Wednesday, April 4, 2012

1. NWCG Training Updates (Woody Kessler)

- **Course Status Update:** Woody Kessler provided the BFTC the status of NWCG Training Development projects. Status reports are available online at http://training.nwcg.gov/sect_training_curriculum.htm.
- **LCMS:** NWCG Training Development is in the process of converting courses into a learning content management system (LCMS).
- **Upcoming Projects:** Staging Manager Job Aid, LCES (S-134), Task Force/Strike Team Leader (S-330), Division/Group Supervisor (S-339), and possibly Medical Unit Leader (S-359)
- **FEMA Crosswalk:** FEMA will be assuming administration of between 15 to 19 ICS courses. NWCG Training Development staff members are working on a transition plan for course content specific to wildland fire. In the future, individuals will take the basic FEMA ICS course for a position and then associated training for task-specific endorsements such as wildland fire.

2. WFSTAR Briefing & Update (Scott Anderson)

Scott Anderson briefed the BFTC on the Annual Fireline Safety Refresher effort.

- **Annual Fireline Safety Refresher status:**
 - The 2012 Refresher is now available online or by DVD. See <http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar/index.html> for complete information.
 - There are some technical issues with downloading the online modules. Denver IT is aware of the issue.
- **Other topics of discussion:**
 - The DVD option will be available for 2013.
 - The Refresher cadre is looking into the pros and cons of streaming video.
 - Course feedback is important and guides future Refresher topics.
 - The BFTC discussed the oversight of the Refresher. The *Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training Strategic Plan* can be found at <http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar/policies.html>.

ACTION: Work through OWDC to ensure that the Fireline Safety Refresher Training Subcommittee is stood up and operational and report to the BFTC by their June 2012 conference call. (Jeff Arnberger)

3. Engine Training Update (Elden Alexander & Tommy Hayes)

- **Engine Operator (ENOP):** The Engine Committee has assumed stewardship of the ENOP course. Historical knowledge of the course remains with Elden Alexander (SME on the first course) and Tommy Hayes (SME on the second revision and Co-chair of the Engine Committee). The Engine Committee will ensure that the FEMPER and course content remains current. Should revision be necessary, they will work with the BLM Fire Training Unit to address changes.

- **Hummer/Tatra:**
 - Training is transitioning from the National Office to local units with assistance as needed from the Equipment Development Unit staff.
 - Refresher training is being developed for the Tatra program.
- **Fire Equipment Driver Training:** The BFTC discussed the need for more positions like water tender operators.

ACTION: Develop a checklist that is linked to the Fire Equipment Driver Training instructional objectives and present to the BFTU on their May 2012 conference call. (Carol McElroy)

4. GATR Update (Kim Bang)

- The GATRs will co-located with OWDC for their May meeting in Boise. The GATRs will be campaigning for their Wildland Fire Institute dean.
- Travel caps continue to affect the National Training Program: decrease in class sizes and problems paying for instructors. The use of interagency agreements has been used as a short-term solution. The GATRs developed an issue paper showcasing the impacts the travel cap has had on NAFRI.
- GATRS are leaning towards the use of video conferencing and other distance learning alternatives to face-to-face training.
- The GATRs have concerns about S-491 (content control of regionally divided SMEs) and Local Fire Management Leadership (last update about eight years ago; GATRs improvising).
- BLM students who attended the Northern Rockies evaluation of the L-480/S-420 course received credit for both courses.

ACTION: Discuss the USFS recommendation for recognizing dual credit for Mission-Centered Solutions L-480/S-420 course with Ted Mason and report back to the BFTC on the May 2012 conference call. (Mike Ellsworth and Jeff Arnberger)

5. SME Participation for NWCG Course Development (Mike Ellsworth)

The BFTU will use a short-term detailer to research the BLM's involvement in NWCG course development. The BLM needs to ensure that proper agency representation is provided during NWCG course development. The BLM process for SME nomination and selection will be established in the *BLM Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Training*.

6. S-520/S-620 and National Commitments (Jeff Arnberger)

Fire Leadership Team (FLT) direction pushed funding for national steering committee representation to the states. Jeff is working with the FOG to identify the S-520/S-620 Steering Committee representative for the BLM.

7. **Training Representation at the State Level** (Jeff Arnberger)

BFTC member were asked about their relationships with their FOG members and local units. Training Officers having issues should let Mike Ellsworth or Jeff Arnberger know.

The BFTC discussed incorporating “designated training officer” identification and incorporation into language within preparedness review checklists and the *BLM Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Training*.

8. **Workforce Planning** (Mike Ellsworth/Michelle Dauenhauer)

Workforce planning continues to be an issue for some states. The Unit Initial Attack (UIA) component of the Fire Program Decision Support System (FPDSS) may provide insight and direction.

Lynn Standley Coe will continue to push for recreation of Alaska’s Allocation of Forces.

9. **BIN and Wrap-up** (Mike Ellsworth)

- **Preparedness Reviews:** The BFTC discussed the Preparedness Review Team selection process and need for additional feedback beyond the checklist.

RECOMMENDATION: The BFTC recommends that more emphasis be placed on training than recordkeeping compliance. Training program successes and overall program health is vital.

- **Wildland Fire Apprenticeship Program (WFAP):** The BFTC discussed the need for national support of the WFAP. Many feel that needs previously met by the WFAP are now handled within local units or at a state level and that funds could be better used for other programs through a scholarship-based system. States still needed the service could use agreements and apply for scholarship funding if necessary.

ACTION: Jeff, Mike, and Sean will discuss national funding options with State of California. If needed, develop a list of questions that can be used to collect state-level opinions as to whether the WFAP is meeting the BLMs current needs.

Wednesday, April 4, 2012

1. **BFTU Update** (Mike Ellsworth)
 - *LODD*: BFTU staff is working with the BLM safety and law enforcement personnel on a joint line-of-duty death handbook.
 - *SAI/NSAI with NTC*: Mike Ellsworth is working with Michelle Ryerson (BLM Fire Safety Manager) and Don Washco at NTC to develop an online training product for non-serious accidents.

2. **Aviation Update** (Mike Ellsworth)

Mike will email the aviation update to the Training officers.

3. **Leadership** (Pam McDonald)

Pam McDonald presented the Wildland Fire Leadership Develop Program's (WFLDP's) "IGNITE the Spark for Leadership" campaign targeted at creating awareness about the program through the use of social media tools such as blog, Facebook presence, and recent website redesign (all accessible through the WFLDP website at <http://www.fireleadership.gov/>). All students of fire are encouraged to participate in the campaign and raise awareness about the importance of fire leadership.

The BFTC discussed in detail the importance the leadership program has had on changing the BLM fire culture. BFTC members are seeing a trend within the training community of only sending students to required training. This concerns the BFTC since the only required L-course is Human Factors, L-180. The BFTC values the achievements that have been recognized to date and feels that, at a minimum, L-280 and L-380 should be required courses for the BLM.

RECOMMENDATION: The BFTC recommends that leadership training become a priority mission and would like some courses within the leadership curriculum become "required" training.

ACTION: Query local and state managers to determine whether or not there is support for making L-280 and L-380 "required" training and report on the May 9, 2012, conference call. (All BFTC members)

Tony Doty, formerly of Alaska, received the 2012 Paul Gleason Lead by Example Award. Managers and Training Officers are encouraged to submit applications for examples of leadership at the local, state, and national level. (http://www.fireleadership.gov/toolbox/LBE_award/LBE_award_info.html)

4. **Asset Intelligence and Positioning System (AIP)** (Jeff Arnberger)

Jeff Arnberger discussed efforts by Dale Springer, Great Basin Smokejumpers, to create a software application to track fire resources on a geospatial web-based program.

5. BLM Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Training Breakouts

The BFTC split into groups to work on various chapters within the *BLM Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Training*. Workgroups included:

- Chapter 1 – Mission Statement and Guiding Principles
 - Mike Ellsworth (Point of Contact) and Jeff Arnberger
- Chapter 2 – BLM Fire Training Committee and Interagency Training Representation
 - Carol McElroy (Point of Contact) and Cherie Ausgotharp
- Chapter 3 – BLM-specific Training and Qualifications
 - Kim Bang (Point of Contact), Charley Luevano, Renee Beams, Brian Rindlisbacher, and Cindy Savoie
- Chapter 4 – Mandatory and Recurring Non-fire Training Qualifications
 - Michelle Dauenhauer (Point of Contact) and Lynn Standley Coe
- Chapter 5 – National Workforce Development Programs
 - Mike Ellsworth

ACTION: Submit a “draft” version of each chapter within the *BLM Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Training* to Mike Ellsworth prior to the May 9, 2012, conference call. (All BFTC members)

The *BLM Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Training* will be updated annual on the same revision cycle as the Red Book.

Next Meeting:

The next conference call will be held, **Wednesday, May 9, 2012**, 1030 hours (Mountain).