

BLM Fire Training Committee (BFTC)

Conference Call Notes

Date/Time: 1/9/13 at 1030 MT (Boise)

Phone number: 866-704-5789

Participant code: 223574#

ROLL CALL: (participants in bold)

AK – Doug Gibbs	MT – Michelle Dauehnauer	NIFC – Mike Ellsworth
AZ – Brian Achziger	NV – Cindy Savoie	NIFC – Pam McDonald
CA – Nate Gogna	NM – Charley Luevano	NIFC –
CO/WY – Kim Bang	OR/WA – Renee Beams & Brian Rindlisbacher	Fuels –
EA –	UT – Cheri Ausgotharp	Aviation – Kirk Rothwell
ID – Kelly Woods	NTC –	

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1. BLM Standards for Fire Training and Workforce Development (Ellsworth)**
The *BLM Standards for Fire Training and Workforce Development* has entered the directive/signature process with a tentative release date near the end of the month. Revisions to the document will be a topic of discussion for the fall meeting.
- 2. FOG Issue Papers & FLT Decisions (Ellsworth)**
- 3. Engine Captain:** The FOG provided the direction for the final decision of the Engine Captain proposal through a revision of Red Book language and direction.

ACTION: Draft and distribute an implementation plan regarding recent changes to Engine Captain and engine training requirements by January 31, 2013. (Mike Ellsworth)

Leadership Training: The FLT rejected the FOG's recommendation to make leadership required courses for certain fireline positions. The FLT raised the concern that this qualification requirement would reduce the application pool. New language was incorporated in the Red Book to address this concern. The BFTC discussed the need to ensure that both the FOG and FLT representatives are well-aware of issues prior to moving forward. Kim Bang expressed the need to address the FLT concerns and try to represent the leadership training requirements prior to the 2014 training season. Mike Ellsworth will work with the national office as to when to represent the issue.

4. Geographic Training Area Representative (GATR) Update (Bang/Beams)

- The GATRs have a conference call January 10, 2013.
- The U.S. Forest Service has been unable to access BLM websites for some time. Jeff Arnberger placed a ticket through the BLM Help Desk process. A potential fix is being tested at this time.

5. IS-700/800 Update (Ellsworth)

Mike Ellsworth sent out a complimentary status report to states earlier in the week.

ACTION: Contact FEMA representative to get the IS-700/800 instructor CD package by January 14, 2013, and submit to BFTC members upon receipt from FEMA. Beams and Ellsworth have been working on alternative delivery method to the online FEMA course. (Mike Ellsworth)

6. WFI Implementation Task Team Membership (Ellsworth)

Mike Ellsworth will become a member of the WFI Implementation Task Team. Mark Jones will remain on the team as the OWDC liaison. Renee Beams will represent the GATRs.

7. IQCS Update (Ellsworth)

The IQCS Change Management Board met in December. The Federal training officers are making a concerted effort to meet more often and create a cohesive strategy regarding training issues.

- Technical Specialists – the DOI training officers will meet Monday to bring efforts to develop a DOI Technical Specialists Guide. The intent is to begin with approximately 20 positions that can be attached as an appendix to the *BLM Standards for Fire Training and Workforce Development*.
- Airtanker Base Positions – Presently no IQCS requirements exist. Mike Ellsworth is working with FS and BLM Aviation personnel and Jill McCurdy (FS National Training Officer) to build requirements into the system. The intent is to have something in place after the 2013 fire season. Direction will be issued through official IM.
- Lost Currency/Trainee Issue – IQCS does not presently differentiate between trainees who have lost currency or are true trainees seeking training assignments for first time qualification. IQCS programmers are developing a short-term fix through the addition of a column in the report. The long-term goal is to create a new designation in future software updates.

8. PFTC for Veterans (Ellsworth)

Mike Ellsworth asked for questions or comments concerning the recent release of FA IB-2013-005 regarding the National Office sponsoring of one member of a veteran crew or seasonal veteran at the PFTC for senior firefighter and engine boss training.

BFTC members are encouraged to contact Dave Mueller with their concerns.

9. TFM Final Project (Ellsworth)

Mike Ellsworth sent an e-mail to all BLM TFM students and their State Training Representing who have not presented their final paper. April 2013 may be the last time students have an opportunity to present. Mike is willing to help students wanting to present.

10. Scholarship Program (Ellsworth)

The construction of a scholarship program prototype will be explored. BFTC members are asked to be thinking about what the program should look like.

Round Robin:

AK (Gibbs)

- Nothing to report.

AZ (Achziger)

- Nothing to report.

CA (Gogna)

- Nate discussed his concerns regarding the FLT's decision to remove the \$75,000 funding of WFAP.

CO/WY (Bang)

- Kim is attending the Colorado Wildfire Academy this week.

ID (Woods)

- Kelly is getting up to speed as the new Great Basin Training Unit Leader.

MT (Daehnauer)

- Michelle has concerns about the recent email out of New Mexico regarding BL-300 and RT-301.

ACTION: Review and respond to the BL-300 and RT-301 training issues email sent by New Mexico and respond to BFTC members if necessary by January 31, 2013. (Mike Ellsworth)

OR/WA (Beams/Rindlisbacher)

- Brian Rindlisbacher inquired about engine training academy opportunities. Nate Gogna notified the BFTC that California was offering one in April and could take a few people. Mike Ellsworth

mentioned the exploration of national academies offered in regional locations. Mike will keep the BFTC in the loop.

UT (Ausgotharp)

- Training responsibilities have been officially incorporated into Cherie's position description.

NTC (Ellsworth)

- NTC intends to fill behind Don Washco and will work closely with Jeff Arnberger during the selection process.

Aviation (Rothwell)

- Kirk clarified the BLM's position regarding airtanker base position qualifications. The National Aviation Plan states that the BLM follows the Interagency Airtanker Base Operations Guide (IATBOG).

BLM Fire Training

- Pam asked that any changes to last year's Annual Fireline Safety Refresher order be submitted by January 16, 2013.
- Pam stressed the importance of promoting the *2013 Wildland Fire Leadership Campaign - Leading with Courage*. Information regarding the campaign can be found at http://www.fireleadership.gov/toolbox/lead_with_courage/index.html.

Next Conference Call: **Wednesday, February 6, 2013**, at 10:30 a.m. (Boise time)