

BLM Fire Training Committee (BFTC)
Conference Call Notes

Date/Time: 1/6/16 at 1030 MT (Boise)

Phone number: 866-704-5789

Participant code: 223574#

ROLL CALL:

AK – Amy Skraba

AZ – Shawn Jaca

CA – James Gannon

CO/WY – Kim Bang

EA –

ID – Kelly Woods

MT – John Thompson

NV – Cindy Savoie

NM – Charley Luevano

OR/WA – Renee Beams

UT – Cheri Ausgotharp

NIFC – Marlene Eno-Hendren

NIFC – Mike Ellsworth

NIFC – Pam McDonald

Aviation –

Fuels – Dave Mueller

SMJ – Phil Lind

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. PFTC Nomination Discussion (Attachment) (Mueller/Bang)

BFTC members discussed possible changes to the PFTC nomination and prioritization processes, including the involvement of the National Training Officer. Some members of the BFTC question whether or not those BLM selectees are the best candidates under the present process.

Kim Bang has been working with PFTC's Greg Seamon. Greg is hesitant to make process changes without GATR approval. Kim will continue to work through the GATRs and PFTC. Until a new process is finalized, Kim will collect the PFTC spreadsheet and the BFTC and State Fuel Leads will set national prioritization on a conference call.

ACTION: Work with the GATRs and Greg Seamon to refine the PFTC nomination and prioritization processes and report on the February BFTC conference call. (Kim Bang)

ACTION: Work with PFTC to collect spreadsheet for all BLM nominees in 2017. (Kim Bang)

BFTC members expressed concern that meeting the national needs for RX positions. Dave Mueller will pursue National Office funding for additional PFTC slots for the BLM.

ACTION: Brief the Field Subcommittee (FSC) about PFTC process and a broader discussion about training opportunities and report progress on the February BFTC conference call. (Dave Mueller)

ACTION: Discuss with State Fuel Leads and Fire Management Officers to see if they are pursuing a specific agreement in the Southeast to support training opportunities. (All BFTC members)

2. Chainsaw Refresher (RT-212) Update (Woods/Beams/Bang)

The task group presented the final FOG proposal for a BLM chainsaw refresher. BFTC members support the proposal.

ACTION: Submit the chainsaw refresher proposal to the FOG chairperson for consideration on the agenda for their January conference call. (Marlene Eno-Hendren)

3. National Office Funding for NWCG SMEs (Thompson/Woods)

John Thompson presented a draft proposal for the FOG to provide National Office funding for BLM employees performing as NWCG Subject Matter Experts.

ACTION: Provide comments to John Thompson or Kelly Woods regarding the FOG proposal to dedicated National Office funding for BLM NWCG Subject Matter Experts by January 31, 2016. (All BFTC members)

4. BLM Fire Employee Enhancement and Development (FEED) Grant Program (Eno-Hendren)

Marlene presented the draft IB of a proposal for an employee enhancement and development program. Marlene will continue to refine the program proposal and asked BFTC members to review the proposal, especially the Rating/Ranking Criteria, and submit feedback to her over the couple of months.

ACTION: Send BFTC members a copy of the NPS Wildland Fire Workforce Development Grant Program by January 15, 2016. (Marlene Eno-Hendren)

ACTION: Send comments and suggestions about the BLM FEED Grant Program to Marlene Eno-Hendren by February 22, 2016. (All BFTC Members)

5. Forthcoming FOG Taskings (Eno-Hendren)

Items BFTC members should be aware of include:

- ***Water Tender Operator Training Standards***
Shawn Jaca volunteered to be the BFTC representative on task group to develop the Water Tender Operator Training Standards.
- ***YouTube Video for Heavy Equipment Inspections***
Marlene will take the lead. She will pursue incorporating the topic into the pressurized tank video being developed as a joint effort with the Forest Service.

ROUND ROBIN:

- **Alaska** – Nothing to report.
- **Arizona** – Assisting with training: cooperators and AZ Wildfire Academy.
- **California** – Sam Marouk selected as CA State FMO. Getting people out for RX opportunities.
- **Colorado/Wyoming** – Coordinating courses.
- **Idaho** – Coordinating courses.
- **Montana** – Nothing to report.
- **New Mexico** – Nothing to report.
- **OR/WA** – Nothing to report.
- **Utah** – Nothing to report.
- **Fuels** – Nothing to report.
- **Smokejumpers** - Nothing to report.
- **NIFC** – The Preparedness Review directive is forthcoming. BFTC members are encouraged to submit their nominations.

NEXT CONFERENCE CALL:

The next conference call will be February 3, 2016, at 10:30 MST.