

BLM Fire Training Committee (BFTC)

Meeting Notes

Date/Time: September 11 - 13, 2012 at 0800 (Boise)

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

ROLL CALL: (participants in bold)

Voting Members:		Guests & Support:
AK –	NV – Cindy Savoie	BFTU – Jeff Arnberger
AZ – Bryan Brazzeal	NM –	BFTU – Pam McDonald
CA –	OR/WA –	NIFC, Aviation – Kirk Rothwell
CO/WY – Kim Bang	UT –	NIFC, Fuels – Dave Mueller
EA –	NTC –	NIFC, Operations – Sean Cross
ID – Carol McElroy	BFTU – Mike Ellsworth	NIFC, Smokejumpers – Todd Jinkins
MT –		USFS – Julie Stewart (call-in)

1. Welcome and Introductions

(Mike Ellsworth)

Mike Ellsworth, Jeff Arnberger, and Sean Cross welcomed attendees to Boise and the BLM Fire Training Committee fall meeting.

2. Open Action Item Updates

(Pam McDonald)

- 2011-32: BLM set-id for Air Tanker Base Manager position. Extended the due date to November 1, 2012.
- 2012-01: Winnemucca Field Office training database project inquiry. Cindy will continue to work with Winnemucca.
- 2012-14: BLM set-id for UTV operators. Extended the due date to November 1, 2012.
- 2012-15: TFM final paper vetting process. Suspended due to lack of BLM enrollment.
- 2012-20: Fire Equipment Driver Training instructional objectives checklist. Action completed; further action required.

ACTION: Submit the updated Fire Equipment Driver Training instructional objectives checklist to Tommy Hayes and Pam McDonald for posting on the Fire Operations and BLM Fire Training Unit websites by October 15, 2012. (Carol McElroy, Jeff Arnberger, Pam McDonald)

- 2012-26: Sawyer/Faller qualification packet review. Pending release by NWCG Hazard Tree Subcommittee.
- 2012-28: Increased funding avenues through FPDSS. Action completed; no real way to increase funding.
- 2012-30: ENGB currency for ENOP direction to compensate for inability within IQCS. Extended to November 1, 2012.

3. FOG Updates/Redbook Changes

(Jeff Arnberger)

FOG Updates

The next FOG meeting will be November 6, 7, 8 in Boise. Agenda topics include

- Presentation of the DRAFT *BLM Wildland Fire Training Standards* by Jeff and Mike
- Redbook proposal by the Engine Committee regarding commercial driver's license (CDL) requirements attached to the Engine Captain position.

Redbook Updates

The comment deadline for changes to the Redbook has passed; however, change requests may be submitted to FOG representatives until the Redbook Committee meets the week of September 17, 2012.

Chapter 19, Dispatch and Coordination System, will be created for 2013.

4. Fuels Management Updates

(Dave Mueller)

Dave Mueller presented updates to the Fuels Management Program. (Handout #1)

Prescribed Fire Training Center (PFTC)

- FY 2012 funding was de-obligated from the agreement to help pay suppression costs.
- There will be no national funding allocated to PFTC in FY2013.
- The status of BLM participation is unsure at this time. The PFTC Steering Committee will meet Thursday, September 13.

FIRB/FIRL

Dave will continue moving forward with completing direction and transition plan to eliminate FIRL. The BLM will require DIVS qualifications to perform high complexity RX fire ignitions. Target date for implementation is early spring 2013.

BLM Hazardous Fuels Reduction Group (HFRG)

Efforts continue to stand up the FLT-chartered BLM Hazardous Fuels Reduction Group.

NWCG Fuels Management Committee (FMC)

- Lessons Learned Center (LLC): The LLC will soon be adding a prescribed fire category to the "Lessons Learned in..." section of their website. (Handout #2)
- Fuels Workforce Development Plan-DRAFT: The FMC is developing a plan designed "to recruit fuels management practitioners from a broad spectrum of educational and experiential backgrounds and provide them career-long training opportunities that support individual development. (Handout #3)

5. Aviation Training Updates (Handout #4)

(Kirk Rothwell)

Resource Helicopter Manager Task Sheet

Reference: NAP 2.6 Resource (non-fire) Helicopter Manager & Appendix 12

- BLM has adopted S-271 & S-372 & RT-372 (when applicable) with the addition of the completed task sheet. These requirements must be met in lieu of IAT training stipulations.
- Completed Resource Helicopter Manager Task Sheets are entered and stored within the employee's Interagency Aviation Training (IAT) profile.
- Task sheets are initiated like position task books.
- The plan is for the Unit Aviation Manager (UAM) to enter into the IAT system starting the first quarter of FY13. Until then, completed task sheet pages 1 and 2 can be sent to the State Aviation Manager who will forward to the National Aviation Safety Training Advisor.
- The Resource Helicopter Manager has a 3-year currency.
- The intent is to keep IAT (non-fire) and IQCS (fire) separate systems.

ACTION: Send information and links regarding the Resource Helicopter Manager Task Sheet to Mike Ellsworth for distribution to the BFTC by October 1, 2012. (Kirk Rothwell and Mike Ellsworth)

B-3 vs. Aircrew Member

Reference: NAP 6.1.2 Aviation for Non-Fire Flight Activities

- Training Officers should refer to the National Aviation Plan for the training requirements for Aircrew Members.
(<http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/nifc/aviation/administration.Par.39484.File.dat/NAP.pdf>)
- B-3 does not fulfill the Aircrew Member requirements.

BLM Smokejumper Positions to IAT Functional Crosswalk

Reference: NAP Appendix 13

- Any BLM Smokejumper qualified in an identified BLM position in the matrix (Appendix 13) are qualified to function in that given IAT position in a non-fire mission.

Aviation Leadership Development Initiative (ALDI) 2011-2013

Reference: [2011 ALDI announcement](#)

Kirk briefed the BFTC on the Aviation Leadership Development Initiative. ALDI fosters the development of future aviation managers by providing opportunities to complete professional aviation classes from universities, NWCG, states of pilot ground school, participation in aviation technical inspections, and involvement in cadre and special assignments. The individuals selected are offered various work experience involving federal aviation resources and facilities.

- ALDI #1: two students; one each from Alaska and Wyoming
- ALDI #2: two students; one each from Oregon and Nevada
- ALDI #3: budget dependent for FY13; additional travel cap concerns

Aviation Management Directorate (AMD)

Reference: Order No. 3322 (August 23, 2012)

Effective October 1, 2012, the Aviation Management Directorate, formerly Office of Aircraft Services, will undergo a name change to "Office of Aviation Services" (OAS).

PMS 310-1 Helicopter Manager, Single Resource (HMGB) Training

Reference: NIAC Memorandum (September 30, 2011)

New training requirements for HMGB will be incorporated into the 2013 PMS 310-1.

- Mandatory completion of A-110, Aviation Transport of Hazardous Materials every 3 years.
- Completion certificate provided to the IQCS Account Manager.
- Online training is available through IAT.
- October 1, 2012, is the deadline to maintain qualification.
- A-110 has been modified in IQCS to reflect triennial currency.

Airspace Coordinator Task Sheet (with call-in by Julie Stewart)

The National Office is working with Julie Stewart, National Airspace Program Manager regarding the DRAFT Airspace Coordinator Task Sheet.

- The DRAFT task sheet was used as a job aid for the 2012 field season.
- Desired implementation date is summer FY13.

Julie Stewart is seeking avenues to provide sustainability for the National Airspace Program following her retirement and questioned whether the BFTC could assist. Due to the small numbers of individuals qualified to become Airspace Coordinators, and even fewer within the BLM, BFTC members questioned whether this is a BLM or OWDC issue.

ACTION: Create a task group to determine whether the BFTC is the proper group to host training standards and qualifications through IQCS for Airspace Coordinator and report back to the BFTC and to Julie Stewart by November 1, 2012. (Mike Ellsworth, Kirk Rothwell, Bryan Brazzeal)

6. NWCG Training Branch/WFI Training Updates

(Deb Fleming)

Deb Fleming updated the BFTC on the following:

- Course revision updates: For complete information visit the "Course Development/Revision Status" at http://training.nwcg.gov/sect_training_curriculum.htm.
- The NWCG Training Branch is working with the National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute Course Coordinators to put their pre-course work on the National Fire Administration (NFA) website.
- A committee was assembled to provide input into the Annual Fireline Safety Refresher. The committee is using the e-mentoring platform for collaboration. This is the last year for the Refresher DVD. The program is going to a module-based format accessed through the WFSTAR website. Mike Ellsworth is a BLM representative on the WFSTAR committee.
- NWCG is developing a charter for the NWCG Training Branch. Part of the process is working with the Operations and Workforce Development Committee (OWDC) to determine which products and services will go under the Training Branch.
- Wildland Fire Institute (WFI): Work continues to stand up WFI, including selection of the Board of Directors. There are a few areas of concern for a couple of agencies that may or may not be resolved with the release of the Implementation Plan.
- The NWCG Training Branch is conducting a crosswalk equivalency analysis for various FEMA Incident Command System courses.

7. GATR Updates

(Kim Bang)

- The next GATR meeting will be November 6 – 8, 2012, in Portland, OR.
- The GATRs will be looking to develop a National priority trainee process and implementation plan. Kim explained her experiences with a pilot program that she used to move trainees across geographic boundaries.

This discussion prompted additional conversation by the BFTC about a standard regarding states establishing priority training lists and whether BLM RX trainees should be mobilized through ROSS.

DECISION: The BFTC supports the continued support of a BLM RX-OJT Program.

ACTION: Develop a BLM priority training list process and incorporate into the *BLM Wildland Fire Training Standards* by November 2012. (Mike Ellsworth and Kim Bang)

ACTION: Develop a process for mobilizing RX trainees through ROSS and report status to the BFTC on the October 2012 conference call. (Mike Ellsworth and Dave Mueller)

- RX-410 will be presented via video teleconferencing (VTC) between the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Northwest Training Centers.
- The National Wildland Fire Training website (<http://www.nationalfiretraining.net/>) is being redesigned, including the additional of a section for zone-level course schedules. Estimated completion of the project is 2014.
- The Great Basin and Northern Rockies still have detailed GATRs.
- Doug Gibbs was selected as Tony Doty's replacement and Alaska's GATR.
- Little has changed following the GATRs attempt to bring the impacts of the travel cap on training was escalated to the National level. The GATRs are looking into alternative methods for training delivery.
- NAFRI continues to have vacancies to fill.

8. IFPM/OWDC Updates

(Jeff Arnberger)

Interagency Fire Program Management (IFPM)

- *GS-301/401*: No firm decision has been made regarding the BLM position on the GS-301 vs. GS-401 series issue. Formal guidance will be made at the Bureau level.
- *IFPM Committee*: The IFPM Committee is working on updating the Supplemental Qualification Standard to hopefully alleviate some of the black/white interpretation of the Standard.
- *Aviation Qualifications*: Aviation qualifications will be incorporated in IFPM. The BLM had concerns with the original proposal. Those concerns were addressed to the BLM's satisfaction. Likely rollout is the beginning of calendar year 2013.

Operations and Workforce Development Committee (OWDC)

- *IMT Succession Plan*: OWDC continues to evaluate and implement the IMT Succession Plan.
- *PMS 310-1*: The updated 310-1, including IS-700 and IS-800 requirements, will be released in October 2012.
- *PMS 410-1*: The Fireline Handbook revision is in the final stages of field input. Revision efforts have resulted in a scaled-down version renamed the *Wildland Fire Incident Management Field Guide*.

- *Type 3 Command and General Staff*: Type 3 organizations are not formally recognized in the 310-1. OWDC is in the infancy stages of potentially incorporating formal Type 3 organizations into the 310-1.
- *PMS-317*: The *Interagency Fire Use Module Operations Guide*, PMS-317, is under revision to address a name change from “fire use” to “wildfire module” and typing.
- *Sawyer/Faller*: Work on the project stalled due to the active fire season. The task group will resume efforts this fall with a meeting in Denver the third week of October. Estimated implementation into the 310-1 is October 2013.

9. IQCS Updates

(Mike Ellsworth)

- *Software updates* (Handout #5): Two new functions have been added to the task book pages to give users options for managing expired task books within IQCS: qualifying experience entry and evaluation/certification input.
- *Position Task Book (PTB) Deletion*: IQCS agency representatives are responsible for evaluating the deletion of position task books. The process should include State Training Officer notification.

ACTION: Develop a PTB deletion process including notification to the State Training Officer and include in the *BLM Wildland Fire Training Standards* by November 2012. (Mike Ellsworth)

- *All-Hazard Set-Ids*: Training Officers may see all-hazard set-ids within the system. The BLM will soon add a series of set-ids for Emergency Support Function (ESF).

10. TFM/UNLV Future

(Mike Ellsworth)

Both the TFM and UNLV programs were suspended for FY13. The BLM may need to look into how we develop managers and leaders without these programs.

Technical Fire Management (TFM)

- Due to low enrollment, TFM was suspended for FY13.
- Washington Institute will be offering a few independent online modules.
- Discussions are happening regarding presentations by students within the system who missed a few modules.

UNLV GS-401 Education Program

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UNLV is set to expire this year.
- The future of this program may rest in the decision made regarding BLM’s use of the GS-401 series.

11. BLM Training Scholarship Fund

(Carol McElroy)

Carol encountered roadblocks when she pursued funding sources for a BLM Training Scholarship Fund. She believes the BLM Fire Training Program needs a “face” and formalized strategy to gain credibility in the field.

ACTION: Develop a task force to create a framework for a BLM Fire Training Scholarship Fund and send out to the BFTC for review by December 2012. (Carol McElroy, Mike Ellsworth, Pam McDonald)

12. NWCG Leadership Subcommittee (LSC)

(Mike Ellsworth/Pam McDonald)

Mike and Pam updated the BFTC on leadership efforts. Pam is soliciting individuals who can be leadership points of contact at the local level.

13. Bin Items and Wrap-up

(All)

Buying Team PTBs

The Incident Business Committee (IBC) with the assistance of NWCG Training Development created a series of PTBs (Buying Team Member and Buying Team Leader) used as a performance-based evaluation tool but not housed within the 310-1. Sarah Fisher will distribute a memorandum to training officers regarding potential adoption by the agencies. Once received, the BTFC will run them through the vetting process.

ACTION: Upon receipt, distribute the IBC memorandum regarding Buying Team PTBs to BFTC representatives who will ensure that State Incident Business Leads are aware and supportive of BLM adoption. (All Members)

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

ROLL CALL: (participants in bold)

Voting Members:		Guests & Support:
AK –	NV – Cindy Savoie	BFTU – Jeff Arnberger
AZ – Bryan Brazzeal	NM –	BFTU – Pam McDonald
CA –	OR/WA –	NIFC, Operations – Sean Cross
CO/WY – Kim Bang	UT –	NIFC, Smokejumpers – Todd Jinkins
EA –	NTC –	CA – Paul Bannister (WFAP discussion)
ID – Carol McElroy	BFTU – Mike Ellsworth	
MT –		

1. BLM Fire Training Website Use and Revision

(Mike Ellsworth/Pam McDonald)

BLM Fire Training Unit staff questioned whether or not Training Officers are using the BLM Fire Training website and whether Job Aid pages should be deactivated. The site is being used but will need extensive revision when the *BLM Wildland Fire Training Standards* is final.

DECISION: The BLM Fire Training website is a good resource for Training Officers and should not be placed under the BLM Fire Operations internal website due to concerns for blended units and interagency partner use of some features. The Job Aid is a good tool even though out of date.

ACTION: Place a disclaimer on the Job Aid webpage referring users to the current Red Book for policy direction by September 21, 2012. (Pam McDonald)

2. Wildland Firefighter Apprenticeship Program (Handout #6) (Jeff Arnberger/Paul Bannister)

Jeff Arnberger and Paul Bannister brief the BFTC about an issue that was raised about accreditation of the Wildland Firefighter Apprentice Program during the implementation of the new Pathways Program. The STEP/SCEP hiring authority was deemed inappropriate for hiring WFAP apprentices. Negotiations are underway with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM); Nancy Taylor is the BLM representative. The union is also involved in negotiations.

Paul addressed a few questions related to BLM apprentices.

- *Impacts to Past and Current Apprentices:* Paul doesn't believe that those individuals already hired will be affected by a decision.
- *Apprenticeship Hiring Authority:* The US Forest Service is looking into a career seasonal hiring option. The BLM has no plan. The BFTC does not want a single national announcement.
- *Communication Plan for Current Apprentices:* No communication has been made with current apprentices.

ACTION: Develop and implement a communication plan to inform BLM apprentices of the status of the Wildland Firefighter Apprentice Program by October 1, 2012. (Paul Bannister and Nate Gogna)

- *BLM's Involvement in WFAP:* Are we "in" or "out" of the program? If we are "out," what nuggets can be used?

ACTION: Draft and submit a white paper to the FOG requesting a firm decision regarding BLM's involvement in WFAP by November 1, 2012. (Jeff Arnberger, Sean Cross, Mike Ellsworth)

3. ATV/UTV Update (Emil Magallanes/Michelle Ryerson)

Michelle notified the BFTC that the FOG issued a memorandum to the Fire Equipment Group (FEG) tasking them to address off-highway vehicle (OHV) safety and equipment issues, including a task to "Evaluate current OHV training requirements and policy, identify any gaps and make recommendations. The FOG would like the Training Committee to be involved in this portion of the tasking."

The BFTC selected Charley Luevano to be their representative on the task group.

ACTION: Contact Elden Alexander regarding the status of FEG's effort regarding the FOG's OHV tasking and ensure that Charley Luevano is briefed and linked up with the task group by October 15, 2012. (Jeff Arnberger and Mike Ellsworth)

Emil briefed the BFTC on his efforts to create a spreadsheet for inventorying BLM Fire's OHV fleet.

4. White Paper Review (L-courses, engine positions)

(Mike Ellsworth)

Leadership Training (Handout #7)

Mike present a briefing paper proposing that BLM follow the USFS's lead and require leadership courses for various positions within the organization, especially at the ICT3 level.

RECOMMENDATION: The BFTC recommends that L-280/380/381 become required for certain fireline operations positions.

ACTION: Distribute the L-course discussion paper to all BFTC members and determine the level of concurrence of the issue by October 1, 2012. (Mike Ellsworth)

ACTION: Develop and present a white paper to the FOG requesting that certain courses within the L-curriculum become required for specific positions by November 2012. (Jeff Arnberger and Mike Ellsworth)

BLM Engine Staffing Clarification (Handout #8)

Red Book language outlining BLM engine staffing requirements for fireline operations are unenforceable and confusing.

ACTION: Distribute the engine staffing discussion paper to all BFTC members and determine the level of concurrence of the issue by October 1, 2012. (Mike Ellsworth)

ACTION: Develop and present a white paper to the FOG addressing Red Book engine staffing concerns and potential solutions by November 2012. (Jeff Arnberger and Mike Ellsworth)

5. ICT3 Organization

(Jeff Arnberger)

Jeff briefed the BFTC on infancy efforts by OWDC to pursue formally recognizing Type 3 organizations within the 310-1. He questioned the BFTC's support of establishing a national standard.

RECOMMENDATION: The BFTC recommends supporting Type 3 organizations for fireline operations positions with flexibility for other positions.

6. Round Robin

AZ/UT (Brazzeal)

- Updates:
 - AZ continues to support the AZ Wildfire Academy in Prescott. Can't say how long the BLM will continue to support, however.
 - Due to financial viability, support for the UT Wildfire Academy seems to be in question.
 - Pursuing MOUs with local colleges such as Dixie to use alternative forms of training delivery (e.g., VTC with onsite facilitator support)

CO/WY (Bang)

- Concerns:
 - Need the BFTC to ensure we are focused.
 - First priority: Completing the *BLM Wildland Fire Training Standards*.
 - Second priority: Workforce development
 - Third priority: Issues from OWDC and FOG
 - What is expected when representatives come to the table?
 - Inconsistent BFTC participation requires rehashing of topics.
- Updates:
 - Paul Hohn is the “go-to” point in WY.
 - Randy Jacks was hired as a PFT to assist Kim.
 - Looking at alternatives for course delivery.

ID (McElroy)

- Concerns:
 - Consider selection of meeting presenters and placement when forming the agenda.
 - Send out discussion papers and meeting resources well in advance of the meeting.
 - Get the *BLM Wildland Fire Training Standards* done.
- The vacancies at the Great Basin Training Center and the transition of the Great Basin Training Coordinating Group Chair are concerns for regional training operations.

NV (Savoie)

- Concerns:
 - Get the *BLM Wildland Fire Training Standards* done.
- Updates:
 - Elko will be hosting M-410 in October.
 - Nevada puts on a statewide interagency rookie school every year. The Southern Nevada District also hosts an interagency rookie school since their fire seasons starts earlier.

7. DRAFT BLM Wildland Fire Training Standards Task Groups (All Members)

The BFTC reviewed the *DRAFT BLM Wildland Fire Training Standards* and provided input.

Thursday, September 13, 2012

ROLL CALL: (participants in bold)

Voting Members:		Guests & Support:
AK –	NV – Cindy Savoie	BFTU – Jeff Arnberger
AZ – Bryan Brazzeal	NM –	BFTU – Pam McDonald
CA –	OR/WA –	NIFC, Operations – Sean Cross
CO/WY – Kim Bang	UT –	
EA –	NTC –	
ID – Carol McElroy	BFTU – Mike Ellsworth	
MT –		

1. Bin Items

(All Members)

- *ATV/UTV:* The BFTC expressed the need to complete Action Item #2012-14: BLM set-id for UTV operators.
- *NWCG Courses:* The BFTC expressed their concerns about the amount of training and redundancy with the NWCG curriculum, especially between the S- and L-curriculums.
- *Priority Training List:* Kim talked with her US Forest Service contact regarding the use of using the same system to mobilize both fireline and RX trainees. Beyond funding, there should be no reason why this couldn't occur.

ACTION: Confer with Grant Bebee regarding the use of prepositioning and severity funding concurrently for trainee mobilization (Jeff Arnberger and Sean Cross).

- *Co-chair Replacement:* Cindy Savoie's term as co-chair is up. A new co-chair will be nominated and elected by the BFTC during the October 2012 conference call.

ACTION: Nominate and elected a co-chair for the BFTC on the October 2012 conference call. (All Members)

2. DRAFT BLM Wildland Fire Training Standards Task Groups

(All Members)

The BFTC continued the reviewing the *DRAFT BLM Wildland Fire Training Standards*.

Eyes Forward:

- BLM PTBs are in the "old" format and do not include competencies.
- BLM does not have a standard tracking system to capture training beyond what is input into IQCS.
- Creating an IQCS input standard for tracking instructors, including refresher training and ATV/UTV chief instructors.
- Identify efficiencies between the S- and L-curriculums.
- Formalizing L-480 equivalency for S-420 within the BLM.
- Contingent upon BLM's involvement in WFAP, assemble a task group to review the WFAP curriculum to identify critical pieces and identify an alternative and universal standards for developing BLM "apprentices."