

BLM Fire Training Committee (BFTC)

Meeting Notes

Date/Time: 11/14/13 and 11/15/13

ROLL CALL:

| BFTC Member | BFTC Member | BFTC Advisors |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| AK – Doug Gibbs | MT – John Thompson | NIFC – Jeff Arnberger |
| AZ – Brian Achziger | NV – | NIFC – Pam McDonald |
| CA – | NM – Charley Luevano | Aviation – Kirk Rothwell |
| CO/WY – Kim Bang | OR/WA – Renee Beams | Fuels – |
| EA – Lamar Liddell | UT – Cheri Ausgotharp | |
| ID – Kelly Woods/Brian Eldredge | NIFC – Mike Ellsworth | |

Guests: Sean Cross (BLM Fire Ops), Diana Van Curler (PNW Training Center), Chris Buhrig (PNW Training Center), Neil Austin (PNW Training Center), Rebecca Sorensen (Boise District)

AGENDA ITEMS:

Thursday, November 14

1. Welcome and Introductions

(Ellsworth)

Mike Ellsworth, Jeff Arnberger, and Sean Cross welcomed the group and expressed their appreciation for being patient and flexible following the furlough and for arranging meeting schedules to coincide with the GATR meeting.

2. Risk Management Committee (RMC) Update and BLM Safety Program Update

(Ryerson)

Michelle Ryerson provided updates from the Risk Management Committee. The RMC meeting was cancelled due to the furlough.

- **Sawyer Qualifications:** RMC has accepted the Hazard Tree Subcommittee's recommendation to create minimum sawyer qualifications. RMC will present to the Operations and Workforce Development Committee (OWDC) for consideration and approval. The BFTC will have an opportunity to review and make comments to the proposal during the OWDC field review process.
- **Fireline EMS Positions:** There was significant use of fireline EMS positions this season. RMC will continue to track usage.
- **Wilderness First Responder:** Jan Peterson is the BLM Representative to, and chair of, the Incident Emergency Medical Subcommittee. Jan is the point of contact for all Wilderness First Responder questions and concerns. Albeit worthwhile training, the Wilderness First Responder course is not recognized by national EMS authorities. BLM personnel are encouraged to complete Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) training and wilderness endorsement.

ACTION: Coordinate with Jan Peterson to draft language for use in the Redbook and Standards for BLM Fire Training and Workforce Development regarding Wildland First Responder and present to the BFTC on the February 2014 conference call. (Mike Ellsworth)

- **Medical Standards:** The implementation of the national contract was delayed. A contracting officer from the National Operations Center has been assigned to assist. The hope is to implement the new contract and standards in 2015.
- **OHV Training:** The Fire Operations Group (FOG) approved the recommendation from the Fire Equipment Group (FEG) to move away from the ASI training requirement to an agency-developed training. Charley Luevano is the BFTC representative on the OHV task group.
- **4x4 Basic Driving:** The Washington office will soon issue guidance requiring mandatory 4x4 basic driving training (video and proficiency checklist). Fire Equipment Driver Training exceeds this training requirement.

3. NWCG Updates

(Ellsworth)

- **NWCG Training Committee:** Mike Ellsworth is the chair of the NWCG Training Committee. Renee Beams is the GATR representative. The Committee is finalizing standard operating procedures to support the NWCG tasking as stewards of all NWCG courses (level 100 -600).
- **Leadership Subcommittee:** The next meeting will be held in San Diego. Mike Ellsworth is the BLM Representative, Kelly Woods is the GATR liaison, and Pam McDonald is the Logistics/Social Media Coordinator. Mike reminded BFTC members of the following deadlines: Wildland Fire Leadership Campaign “From the Field for the Field” Contest, November 30, 2013; Paul Gleason Lead by Example Award, December 31, 2013.
- **Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS) Update:** IQCS personnel are working with contractors to develop an online IQCS training module.
- **Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement to NWCG PMS 310-1:** Mike expects the supplement to be released around the first of the year.

4. Geographic Area Training Representative (GATR) Update

- **RAWS Training:** There has been some confusion regarding RAWS training. Most training is located in Boise but appears as if it is offered locally. GATRs will address the issue on the National Wildland Fire Training website.
- **Geographic Priority Trainee Program:** The GATRs were successful in most states to formalize a common-sense approach to moving trainees throughout and across geographic areas. They will continue to adapt and evaluate the program and provide assistance to geographic areas.

5. Operations and Workforce Development Committee (OWDC) EIM Update

(Arnberger)

- **Emerging Incident Management (EIM):** OWDC continues to work on converting from a 5-tier system to a 3-tier system, looking at type III positions, and addressing the number and location of incident management teams.

6. **Engine Boss (ENGB) Modification Proposal (Handout #1)** (Ellsworth)
Mike presented Nevada BLM's proposal to "Remove the S-200 (Initial Attack Incident Commander) training requirement from the BLM-specific incident qualifications for Engine Boss (ENGB).

Recommendation: Remove the S-200 training requirement from ENGB to align with the Field Manager's Course Guide and update the BLM Set ID in IQCS.

ACTION: Draft a FOG issue paper recommending the removal of S-200 as a training requirement for ENGB and submit to the FOG by December 1, 2013. (Mike Ellsworth)

7. **Mission-Centered Solutions "Intent into Action" Course Recognition** (Ellsworth)
Confusion exists in the field whether BLM students attending MCS's alternate delivery of a combined S-420 (Command and General Staff) and L-480 (Organizational Leadership) as approved in 2012 by the US Forest Service receive dual credit.

Recommendation: The BFTC recommends that students attending MCS's alternate delivery of a combined S-420/L-480 course receive both certificates.

ACTION: Draft an issue paper to the FOG recommending that BLM students receive dual certificates for the MCS alternate delivery of a combined S-420/L-480 ("Intent into Action") and present to the FOG by February 1, 2014. (Mike Ellsworth)

8. **ASGS Prerequisite Qualification Evaluation FOG Tasking (Handout #3)** (Ellsworth)
Mike Ellsworth presented the BFTC's tasking from the FOG to "analyze and evaluate the viability and practicality of adding ATGS as an alternative prerequisite qualification for the ASGS position." Although the BFTC finds this proposal viable and practical, efforts by other groups regarding alternate recommendations and the potential for consequences of the action (e.g., PTB changes, crosswalks), further consideration and review is necessary.

ACTION: Develop a task group to review the FOG tasking for the ASGS prerequisite qualification evaluation and report to the BFTC on their February 2014 conference call. (Doug Gibbs – lead, Kirk Rothwell, Brian Achziger, Jon Curd, and Mike Ellsworth)

9. **Action Item Status Update** (Ellsworth)
BFTC members provided status updates to the Action Item Log.

Friday, November 15

1. FOG Updates

(Arnberger)

The FOG notes are located on the BLM internal site at <http://1.usa.gov/1f9dLpC>.

- **Engine Committee:** Projects of interest include BL-300, RT-301, and FEMPR/ENOP revisions.
- **Fire Equipment Group:** Recommends replacing the ATV Safety Institute Training with BLM-specific or interagency training. Charley Luevano is the BFTC liaison. Supports development of Fireline Advanced Stabilization and Transport (FAST) kits; FA320 will work to find funding for test kits.
- **Helitack Committee:** The rope-assisted delivery project tabled for 2013. Determining whether or not BLM should have an emergency extraction program.
- **Preparedness Reviews:** Radio issues were a common finding in the 2013 preparedness reviews.
- **Redbook:** Finalizing the edits for release in January 2014.
- **National Fire Equipment Program:** Working with the NOC to perform funding corrections

2. Operations and Workforce Development Committee Update

(Arnberger)

- **Complexity Analysis:** An OWDC task group has completed the complexity analysis project. The task group's recommendation now goes to the NWCG Executive Board for approval.
- **Type II Initial Attack Crew Analysis:** An OWDC task group led by Dalan Romero is performing an analysis of Type II IA crews.
- **STL/TFLD Consolidation Effort:** OWDC continues to analyze combining the strike team leader and task force leader positions.
- **S-420/CIMC/Leadership Courses:** OWDC has the leadership/team cohesion course issue on their radar.
- **Fireline Handbook:** The Fireline Handbook (PMS 410) has been replaced with the Wildland Fire Incident Management Guide (PMS 210).

3. Non-fire Mandatory Training (Handout #4)

(Ellsworth)

Mike Ellsworth presented the draft issue paper to the FOG regarding training solutions to minimize the impacts of non-fire mandatory training on the seasonal workforce. The BFTC recognizes the magnitude of the tasking.

ACTION: Create a BFTC task force to collect the non-fire mandatory training packages/practices from state and report to the BFTC on their April conference call. (Emil Magallanes – lead, Lamar Liddell, John Thompson, Rebecca Sorensen, Brian Achziger)

ACTION: Research the possibility for DOI Learn access by the seasonal workforce and alternative delivery methods for DOI Learn and report to the BFTC on their April conference call. (Emil Magallanes – lead, Jeff Arnberger, Mike Ellsworth)

4. Aviation Update (Handout #5)

(Rothwell)

Kirk Rothwell updated the BFTC on national aviation-related issues.

- **ATBM/FWBM Position:**
 - BLM has accepted the Interagency Airtanker Base Operations Guide (IABOG) as policy.
 - All currently qualified ATBM, FWBM, FWPT, ATIM, MXMS and RTCM will meet the required training and experience effective October 1, 2013.
 - All trainees as of October 1, 2013, will have to complete training and prerequisite position requirements listed in the IABOG.
 - All ATBM will need to complete the ATBM Refresher every three (3) years. Currently qualified ATBMs will need to complete ATBM Refresher prior to October 1, 2016, to maintain currency. (IQCS #: N9057)
- **IABOG:** New version in progress.
- **NWCG to Interagency Aviation Training (IAT) Crosswalk:**
 - Aviation personnel have produced an NWCG Position to IAT Position functional crosswalk that will be implemented in the 2014 OPM-4 and possibly the IAT Guide.
 - The crosswalk reduces redundancy in training.
- **IAT Course Statistics:** There has been an increase in online/webinar training. The goal is to move all IAT online.

ACTION: Coordinate with state training officers to update IAT user profiles as soon as possible. (All BFTC members)

- **B-3 Curriculum:** A-100, Basic Aviation Safety, replaces B-3. **Employees still need to adhere to position standards in the IAT Guide which may require additional training requirements.**
- **Staffing:** The Alaska OAS Trainer position has been held up by sequestration.
- **Geographical Interagency Aviation Trainers:** Cathy Barta, Mike Reid, and Ryan Stailey have been designated as geographical interagency aviation trainers.
- **BLM Aviation Leadership Development Initiative (ALDI):** Kirk presented the statistics for the ALDI. Two selections will be made for spring 2014; announcement release expected in winter 2014.

5. Resource Advisor (READ) (Handout #6)

(Ellsworth)

Mike Ellsworth discussed the discrepancies among the 2004 Resource Advisor's Guide for Wildland Fire, the IQCS NWCG SetID, and the DOI All Hazard Guide regarding READ training and fitness requirements.

Recommendation: The BFTC recommends the FOG adopt the 2004 READ Guide training requirements and increasing the fitness level to "moderate." The BFTC also recommends using either the DOI All-Hazard online Resource Advisor Basic Course or the agenda topics in the READ Guide to meet the refresher training requirements (N9042).

6. Type I and Type II ICS Positions Requiring State Office-Level Certification (Handout #7) (Bang)

Kim Bang briefed the BFTC on varying state requirements for certifying Type I and Type II IMT positions. Kim recommended there be a minimum national standard and templates available for those wanting to establish their own.

ACTION: Develop a draft FOG issue paper establishing a minimum state-level certification process and template for command and general staff and area command positions and present to the BFTC for review and discussion on the February 2014 conference call. (Kim Bang – lead, Jeff Arnberger, and Renee Beams)

7. Prescribed Fire Training Center (PFTC) Nominations (Ellsworth)

The BFTC discussed including language in the *BLM Standards for Fire Training and Workforce Development* regarding PFTC nominations.

ACTION: Follow up on the GATR effort to revise the PFTC nomination process and write language to include in the *BLM Standards for Fire Training and Workforce Development* during the 2014 revision. (Kim Bang – lead and Mike Ellsworth)

8. BLM Standards for Fire Training and Workforce Development (Ellsworth)

Mike Ellsworth, Kim Bang, and Pam McDonald reviewed the field recommendations for change to the *BLM Standards for Fire Training and Workforce Development*. Items for BFTC input included:

- Process for addressing lapsed position task books.

ACTION: Send Mike Ellsworth Arizona's process for handling lapsed position task books by December 1, 2013. (Brian Achziger)

- **Chainsaw Refresher:** The BLM's *Safety and Health for Field Operations Manual Handbook* requires a refresher. Is there a refresher? Should a minimum standard for refresher training be established?

ACTION: Create and submit a request to the Helitack and IHC Committees that they identify the minimum standard for wildland fire chainsaw refresher training and report on the February 2014 BFTC conference call. (Mike Ellsworth)

- **Priority Trainee Program:** Include language in the *Standards* to acknowledge the Geographic Priority Trainee Program.
- **BLM Standards for Fire Training and Workforce Development Change Request:** Revise the language in the *Standards* similar to the Redbook change process.

ROUND ROBIN:

Alaska (Gibbs)

- Staffing issues and hiring freeze.
- Lynn Standley-Coe will be retiring.
- Rewriting the EFF Crew Management Guide.

AZ (Achziger)

- Experiencing budget and staffing issues.
- Foreseeing fuels qualification issues.
- Southwest has been innovative in the area of training delivery.

CO/WY (Bang)

- Drafting an issue paper: FPPS line item request for training.
- Working on the South Canyon 20-year commemorative.
- There are openings for the South Canyon staff ride. Contact Kim.
- Training numbers are down.

ID (Sorensen for Woods)

- Lack of a full staff at GBTU.

MT (Thompson)

- John is the new BFTC representative for Montana.
- Staffing an issue. NRTC experiencing a fair share of vacancies.

NM (Luevano)

- Trying to fund multiple vacant positions. Workloads are being shared.
- Many upcoming retirements.

OR/WA (Beams)

- Updating the line officer training database.
- Dealing with saw issues.

UT (Ausgotharp)

- New position is challenging.
- Dealing with READ issues.
- On the training wait list for access to non-fire training records.
- Awaiting news on the new GACC location.
- Several retirements with the area of radios.

The next conference call will be **Wednesday, February 5, 2014**, at 10:30 a.m. (Boise time).