

# BLM Fire Training Committee (BFTC)

## Meeting Notes

Date/Time: 10/27/14 through 10/29/14

### ROLL CALL:

AK – Doug Gibbs

AZ – Shawn Jaca

CA – N/A

CO/WY – Kim Bang

EA – Lamar Liddell (27<sup>th</sup>)

ID – Kelly Woods

MT – John Thompson

NV – Dylan Rader

NM – Charley Luevano

OR/WA – Renee Beams

UT – Cheri Ausgotharp

NIFC – Mike Ellsworth

NIFC – Pam McDonald

Fuels – Dave Mueller (28<sup>th</sup>)

Guests: Ron Dutton (29<sup>th</sup>)

### AGENDA ITEMS:

#### 1. Introductions

(Ellsworth)

Mike Ellsworth welcomed BFTC members. Members introduced themselves.

#### 2. FOB Meeting Preparedness (HO#1)

(Ellsworth)

The BFTC discussed and finalized topics to be presented during the Fire Operations Group (FOG) briefing the afternoon of Tuesday, October 28.

#### 3. Type 1 IMT State Minimum Qualifications Standards (#2013-26, HO#2)

(Bang)

Kim Bang presented the proposal establishing a national minimum standard for oversight and certification of Type 1 Command and General Staff positions. The group discussed whether or not the minimum standard should apply to Type II IMT positions. Consensus was to allow the FOG to make that determination if the topic was raised. BFTC members would like to see specific proposal language regarding NIFC personnel.

*[Update: The FOG approved the proposal.]*

**ACTION: Develop a draft IM to establish a national minimum standard for oversight and certification of Type C&GS positions and brief BFTC members on the January 2015 conference call. (Mike Ellsworth/Jeff Arnberger)**

4. **L-Course Transition Information Bulletin (#2014-7, HO#3)** (Ellsworth)  
Mike presented the draft transition plan he will present to the FOG on Tuesday. The transition target date is January 13, 2017.

*[Update: The FOG approved the transition plan.]*

**ACTION: Finalize and process the L-course transition IB by December 31, 2014. (Mike Ellsworth)**

5. **First Aid for Wildland Fire (#2013-19, HO#4)** (Woods)  
BFTC members continue to struggle with requests from the field for medical emergency response training and national direction regarding the Wilderness First Responder course. The BFTC recommends working with other subcommittees to determine the need for a training standard and potential training module regarding patient assessment, packaging, and transport to assist those providing direct advanced care.

*[Update: The FOG is in support of the BFTC developing a formal proposal.]*

Mike Ellsworth provided BFTC members with a courtesy copy of the “FOG Emergency Medical Standards (EMS) Task Group Recommendation.”

6. **Proposal for Identifying Chainsaw Refresher (#2013-29, HO #5)** (Ellsworth)  
The BFTC continued to discuss establishing a baseline refresher standard for chainsaw operation. Mike will address the issue during his briefing at the fall FOG meeting on Tuesday. The BFTC consensus is to create an objectives-based evaluation much like the RT-301. The BFTC recognizes the need for varying training needs for Faller 1, 2, and 3 and to work with other subcommittees.

Mike Ellsworth provided a copy of the Forest Service FAM briefing paper clarifying the new Faller mnemonics in IQCS.

**ACTION: Send Montana’s local chainsaw refresher training material to BFTC members by December 1, 2014. (John Thompson)**

*[Update: The FOG will issue a multi-committee tasking to assess the need for a chainsaw refresher.]*

7. **L-481 Alternative to S-420** (Ellsworth)  
Mike Ellsworth provided a status briefing regarding L-481 as an alternative to S-420. The GATRs have recommended L-481 replace S-420.

- 8. Type III Positions Command Course Futuring (Ellsworth)**  
Mike Ellsworth briefly discussed the newly released 310-1 Type III positions. An oversight was made regarding ICS-400. OWDC will be working on a transition paper.

Mike discussed the potential need for an “S-320” course—maybe a command school concept. The BFTC placed as a “bin” item which later was moved to an “eyes forward” item.

- 9. BLM SetID for ENGB, RXB2, FIRB, and FEMO Positions (Ellsworth)**  
Mike notified the BFTC that IQCS administrators will activate BLM SetID IQCS responders for ENGB, RXB2, FIRB, and FEMO on December 1, 2014.

**ACTION: Develop and send an email to BFTC members for distribution to Training Officers when IQCS activates the BLM SetID for ENGB, RXB2, FIRB, and FEMO on December 1, 2014. (Mike Ellsworth)**

- 10. Prescribed Fire (RX) Qualification Challenges (Bang)**  
BFTC and Fuels Subcommittee members are noticing that states with few RX burn opportunities are having a difficult time keeping their people qualified. The group brainstormed potential solutions. Dave Mueller will invite a couple BFTC members to the Fuels Subcommittee meeting to discuss the issue.

**ACTION: Collect statistics regarding currency and qualification issues for RX positions and send to BFTC members by December 15, 2014. (Mike Ellsworth)**

Mike Ellsworth asked Dave Mueller and BFTC members whether or not there has been Fuels Subcommittee discussion to remove the additional training requirements to BLM RX positions and align with the 310-1. The concurrence was that the additional BLM requirements are appropriate.

The BFTC discussed confusion regarding the PFTC training nomination process. The group reviewed the BLM fire training standard. The GATRs will work with PFTC to resolve the issue.

**ACTION: Address the PFTC nomination process with GATRs at their meeting/conference call and provide a status update on the January 2015 BFTC conference call. (Kim Bang)**

**11. Dozer Operator Issue Paper (Ellsworth)**

Steve Shaw will present a proposal to the FOG regarding Dozer Operator (DOZR), Dozer Operator Initial Attack (DZIA), and water tender operators during their 2014 fall meeting. The proposal is to evaluate the Fish and Wildlife DOZR position task book (PTB) and change the requirements for DZIA to include DZOR plus Heavy Equipment Boss.

The proposal for water tender operators includes tasking the Fire Equipment Group to incorporate modules into BL-300.

*[Update: The FOG supported the proposal.]*

**12. NWCG Training Committee Updates (Ellsworth)**

Highlights included the Executive Board tasking to develop a WFSTAR Program strategic plan, evaluation of offering Spanish versions of ICS-100, S-130, S-190 and L-180 (BFTC members feel this is important for training contract crews), the need to maintain GAP courses, the forthcoming *Field Manager's Course Guide*, and wildland fire endorsements for FEMA-managed courses.

**13. Operations and Workforce Development Committee (OWDC) Updates (Ellsworth)**

The PMS 310-1 was released earlier this month. Changes included Type III positions, the combination of IBA1 and IBA2 positions, and Faller 1, 2, 3 positions. OWDC will begin field vetting for the potential 2015 changes which will include bridging pathways for various positions.

**14. GATR Updates (Beams/Bang)**

The GATRs are scheduled to meet in a few weeks. Meeting highlights include the Priority Trainee Program, training certificates, and the NAFRI nomination process.

**15. Leadership Subcommittee (LSC) (Ellsworth/McDonald)**

The LSC will be meeting next week in Tucson.

Mike Ellsworth notified the BFTC that the deadline for the Paul Gleason Lead by Example Award is December 31, 2014.

Pam McDonald briefed the BFTC on the Wildland Fire Leadership Campaign. She challenged BFTC members to encourage participation and gave examples of BLM success stories and identify BLM personnel who have skills such as writing and artistry who she could call up to blog and create artwork for the program. The deadline for the IGNITE the Spark for Leadership – From the Field for the Field contest is November 30, 2014.

**16. Non-fire Mandatory Training (#2013-23/24, HO#6) (Ellsworth)**

The BFTC continues to struggle with the FOG tasking regarding non-fire mandatory training for seasonal employees. Mike Ellsworth presented to BFTC members a draft response to the FOG. Mike will revise the draft and send to BFTC members prior to submitting to the FOG.

**17. DOI READ and Fire READ Course of Action (HO#7) (Ellsworth)**

Mike Ellsworth proposed that the BFTC develop a course of action to address the READ position. The BFTC recommends adopting the DOI All-hazard READ qualification and establishing a wildland fire READ endorsement for READs who visit the fireline unescorted.

**ACTION: Develop a FOG proposal recommending acceptance of the all-hazard READ position and establishing a wildland fire READ endorsement and provide a status update to the BFTC on their January 2015 conference call. (Mike Ellsworth)**

**18. IQCS Update (Ellsworth)**

The IQCS Change Management Board will meet in a couple of weeks. The contract is out to build online IQCS training modules. Mike will be soliciting power users from the field to test the training modules once available.

**19. UNLV GS-401 Program Proposal (Ellsworth)**

BFTC members reported their state's interest in the UNLV GS-401 proposal to offer blended training. Interest was low, especially with the fate of the 401 series still looming. Mike questioned the need for a formal MOU for a program we may not be able to support. Mike will continue to work with UNLV for a potential solution.

*[Update: Ron Dutton met with the group on Wednesday and explained the forthcoming directive to be issued regarding BLM's involvement in the 401 series. The BLM will not totally abandon the 401 series; States will have an open-period to make final classification decisions. BFTC members still see a need to support 401-series training. UNLV conducted a break-even analysis; their enrollment requirement is 25 students.]*

**20. Scholarship Fund (#2012-14) (Ellsworth)**

The BFTC continues to support establishing a scholarship fund. A new task group was formed to pursue a scholarship fund model. Task group members included Shawn Jaca (lead), Dylan Rader, and Chris Buhrig. Ron Dutton offered to obtain a copy of the program he administered while in Alaska.

**ACTION: Send the NPS Grant Program link to Shawn Jaca by December 1, 2014. (Ellsworth)**

**21. Air Attack Academy (Woods)**

The Forest Service is making changes to the administration of their air attack academy. There is a push for NAFRI to manage. Kelly Woods will be meeting with Gil Dustin to discuss the BLM process.

**22. Wildland Fire Apprenticeship Program (WFAP) (Ellsworth)**  
Department-level support of workforce development has triggered a renewed interest in the WFAP. BFTC members do not support reengagement with the WFAP.

**23. BLM Standards for Fire Training and Workforce Development (Ellsworth)**  
The BFTC approved edits to the *BLM Standards for Fire Training and Workforce Development*. The document is scheduled for release in January 2015.

Confusion exists regarding the Introduction to Supervision courses. The BFTC discussed pursuing L-380 as an alternative to 40-hour Supervision (Level II) training.

**ACTION: Develop a FOG/FLT proposal to establish L-380 as an alternative to 40-hour Supervision (Level II) and brief the BFTC on their January 2015 conference call. (Dylan Rader & Kelly Woods)**

**24. ATV-UTV (Luevano)**  
Charley Luevano provided the BFTC with a copy of the draft ATV-UTV policy proposal. The policy will be incorporated into the BLM Handbook 1112-1, Safety and Health Management, Chapter 17, Off-Highway Vehicles. Until issued, training officers should refer to Chapter 27. This effort primarily entailed a formatting change. The ATV-UTV group did not address the training element.

**25. Federal Qualification Supplement (Ellsworth)**  
Mike Ellsworth presented proposed edits to the *Federal Qualification Supplement*. The release date has been moved to January 2015.

BFTC members discussed the possibility of the BLM adopting the Forest Service qualification requirements for Incident Medical Specialist positions.

**ACTION: Draft a proposal to adopt the FS qualification requirements for Incident Medical Specialist positions and report progress on the January 2015 BFTC conference call. (John Thompson and Renee Beams)**

## **26. Bin Items/Miscellaneous**

*Crew Representative (Gibbs)*  
Doug Gibbs requested that the BLM consider an OWDC Request for Change proposal allowing Strike Team Leader, Task Force Leader, and Division Group Supervisor to maintain currency for Crew Representative.

**ACTION: Vet Alaska's CREP "maintains currency" change proposal through the FOG, BFTC, and federal partners and provide a status update on the January 2015 conference call. (Doug Gibbs/Mike Ellsworth)**

*Social Media*

*(Thompson)*

The BFTC discussed the potential need for social media training.

*Rural Fire Assistance (RFA)*

*(Bang)*

The BFTC discussed the impacts of RFA on training.

*S-341, GIS Specialist for Incident Management*

*(Bang)*

The BFTC discussed development oversight for S-341.

*Training Specialist Position Descriptions*

*(Bang/Beams)*

Kim Bang and Renee Beams plan on pursuing an effort to update state-level and create unit-level Training Specialist position descriptions.

The next conference call will be held **Wednesday, January 7, 2015**, at 10:30 p.m. (MST). The next face-to-face meeting will be held September 22-24, 2015. ***BFTC members are asked to identify an alternate if they unable to participate.***