

# BLM Fire Training Committee (BFTC)

Meeting Notes  
December 1-3, 2015  
Boise, ID

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## ROLL CALL:

AK – Steve Theisen  
AZ – Shawn Jaca  
CA – James Gannon  
CO/WY – Kim Bang  
EA – Lamar Liddell  
ID – Kelly Woods  
MT – John Thompson

NV – Cindy Savoie  
NM – Charley Luevano  
OR/WA – Mike Gomez  
UT – Cherie Ausgotharp  
NIFC – Marlene Eno-Hendren  
NIFC – Mike Ellsworth  
NIFC – Pam McDonald

NIFC – Steve Shaw (TU/W)  
NIFC – Jeff Arnberger (W)  
Aviation – Kirk Rothwell (TU)  
Fuels –  
SMJ – Phil Lind

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## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2015

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

(Eno-Hendren)

Marlene Eno-Hendren welcomed BFTC members to Boise and NIFC. Introductions were made.

### 2. BFTC Action Item Log Review (HO #1)

(McDonald)

Pam McDonald led BFTC members through a review of the Action Item Log.

### 3. Round Robin

- **Alaska** – Reviewing the Priority Trainee Program (what it is and what it isn't). Finalizing 2016 training season.
- **Arizona** – Sent RX trainees to Texas for assignments. Working with the Arizona Wildfire Academy to assist with cooperator training needs assessments and training. Has a need for an ENOP class; may seek alternative methods such as the UT or FS engine academies. Assessing ways to improve firefighter fitness and whether FireFit is meeting needs.
- **California** – Nate Gogna has taken job as the DOI Coordinator at North Ops. New PD is being drafted. James will act until filled. Priority trainees getting assignments with the Nature Conservancy in NCal. CA will host an interagency engine academy in 2016. Developing a process to identify FAL1 certifiers. Setting up a chainsaw coordinator on each District. Cleaning up IQCS roles and responsibilities. Presented an L-380 on the coast recently.

- **Eastern Area** – Successfully assisted RX trainees from across the nation. There are still a few openings.

**ACTION: Submit RX trainee assignment needs, prioritized by state, to Lamar Liddell by December 10, 2015. (All BFTC members)**

- **Idaho** – Shaylor Sorensen in place as Aviation Management Specialist; will perform as ATGS Coordinator for the Great Basin as well as coordinate aviation courses and refreshers. Idaho end-of-season meeting this week. GBTU set to deliver approximately 50 courses.
- **Montana** – Assessing first year of the Priority Trainee Program; AAR soon. Northern Rockies Training Center is staffed with all but one position that has been vacant for years; hoping to fill that position. Using local DES for FEMA training during weekends.
- **Nevada** – No state rookie school this year; units will do their own. Engine academy in Battle Mountain area in 2016.
- **New Mexico** – Recently conducted useful fire-focused retirement training.

**ACTION: Send AZ retirement workshop vendor and instructor to BFTC members by January 1, 2016. (Charley Leuvano)**

- **Oregon/Washington** – Held the bi-annual regional training officers meeting last week. Coordinating courses for the 2016 training season. Busy season for the Priority Trainee Program; a lot of competition for trainees. Has UTV/ATV tracking concerns (BIN).
- **Utah** – Engine academy in May 2016; 10 slots designated to VFD/career.
- **Smokejumpers** – Working on diversity, recruitment, and retention project
- **Marlene Eno-Hendren** – Establishing roles and responsibilities with Jeff Arnberger and Mike Ellsworth. Been working on Employee Development Award Program (Thursday work group). Red Book in final phases of edits and production.

**4. RT-130 Request for Change (HO #2) (Theisen)**

Steve Theisen presented a request for change proposal to grant credit for RT-130 if S-200, S-300, S-215, S-230, S-330, S-339, or S-336 are taken the same year.

**Recommendation: BFTC is opposed to granting credit for RT-130 if S-200, S-300, S-215, S-230, S-330, S-339, or S-336 are taken the same year.**

The BFTC discussed the possibility of changing language for the RT-130 hour requirement. BFTC will consider recommending a Red Book change for 2017.

## 5. FOG Updates

(Shaw)

### ***Heavy Equipment Subcommittee***

The FOG established a new subcommittee (Trey Glineski, Chair; Eric Fransted, FOG Advisor) with oversight of dozers and water tenders. The FOG has tasked the Heavy Equipment Subcommittee to work with other subcommittees to develop water tender operator training.

### ***FOG Subcommittee Tasking for Joint Fall Meeting (HO #3)***

The FOG tasked subcommittee chairs/advisors to evaluate within each subcommittee the feasibility and interest for a fall meeting/staff ride combination the week of October 17-21, 2016 (BIN).

**BIN Follow-up/ACTION: The BFTC agreed to hold their meeting in conjunction with other subcommittees and a staff ride. Marlene Eno-Hendren will notify Steve Shaw.**

### ***Duty Officer Training***

Efforts are underway to identify training standards and roles of the duty officer position. First steps include web-based information sharing.

### ***Resource Tracking to FIAT States***

A better tracking mechanism is needed for resource mobilization and movement to FIAT states. Knowing what resources are doing aids in better decision making for resource movement.

### ***Helicopter Extraction***

The BLM has established guidelines for helicopter extraction as a last resort. The FOG is working with the aviation group and agency partners on short-haul.

### ***Radio/Mobile Technology***

The FOG will prepare a tasking to the FEG and NROB to identify criteria for single-model radio and mobile technology procurement based on interoperability, parts availability, user familiarity, etc.

### ***Non-Fire Mandatory Training***

The issue paper from the BFTC was not presented to the FLT. Paul Hohn, Dave Whitmer, and Mike Ellsworth will continue to work on the proposal.

### ***ATV/UTV***

National standards have not been finalized. Additional ATV guidance is expected from the Washington Office.

### ***Cooperator Qualification Standards***

The FOG will submit to the FLT at their fall meeting a proposal to set standards, especially PPE, for cooperators conducting fire suppression on BLM land. The proposal would also allow for the use of contractors beyond initial attack.

**Fall FLT Meeting Presentations from the FOG**

The FOG will have limited time to present at the Fall FLT meeting. Proposal topics include the RT-130/WCT, 12-month currency; READ proposal; heavy equipment inspection training approval to proceed; and 600-class vehicle purchases.

**Other Items**

Steve updated the BFTC on the status of the vet crew/Team Rubicon effort; RX trainee program; and the value of the Gettysburg staff ride, and site visits.

**6. BLM Aviation Updates (HO #4) (Rothwell)**

- The Aviation Management Group (AMG) tasked the newly formed Airtanker Base Committee (ABC) to update the Fixed Wing Base Manager (FWBM) PTB. Final comments requested back to AMG by spring. Chair of ABC is Jim Hassler.
- The aerial ignition PTBs are completed and available on the NWCG website (linked from the [Aviation Training website](#)).
- OAS–Training Division has been realigned under OAS-Safety, Training and Program Evaluation Division. Previous Training Chief was reassigned in October.
- The Interagency Aviation Training Guide will be updated in 2016.
- Interagency Aviation Training, IAT 2.0 website is still a work in progress; mixed results by bureaus and units. A workgroup has been stood up by the Interagency Aviation Subcommittee (IATS) to evaluate the website and recommend changes and future direction of website. Desired result: track employee training compliance, register for courses and workshops, take online aviation courses, and sign up for webinars.
- Kirk Rothwell will be the Chair of the IATS through 2017.
- The Aviation Leadership Development Program is producing effective results. The next selection will be in 2017.
- The BLM had zero accidents in 2015.

**7. NWCG Training Program Updates (HO #5) (Kessler)**

Woody Kessler briefed the BFTC on current efforts regarding the NWCG Training Program, including an NWCG curriculum revision status update and Training Assessment Tasking Plan update.

**8. OTC Updates (Ellsworth)**

**PMS 310-1**

The OTC released the PMS 310-1 in October. Due to good vetting, there have been few issues.

### ***FMO/Agency Administrator Training***

OTC is finalizing the task team to review NFML/LFMO/M-581. Members include John Thompson, Mike Ellsworth, Jim Schulz, Tate Fischer, and Kathy Komatz.

### ***Endorsement Tasking***

FEMA will release the National Qualifications Guide soon. Once released, the OTC task group will assess the ICS positions, and establish guidelines for those positions warranting a fire endorsement.

### ***Spanish Courses***

The NWCG OTC has agreed to submit a recommendation to the NWCG Executive Board to not maintain the Spanish version of courses. The BLM will work on a plan with those units with a need for Spanish materials.

## **9. IQCS Update (Ellsworth)**

- Department of Defense agencies are exploring the use of IQCS for their wildland fire standards.
- Discussing master record accessibility in the off season and updating profile information.
- Cindy Schaffer is retiring the end of December 2015.
- The pros and cons of non-federal employees in the system was discussed.
- The BLM Training committee approved using the licensing feature in IQCS for EMT licenses.

## **10. Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement (Ellsworth)**

The federal training officers are finalizing the Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement.

## **11. Air Force Academy Leadership Exchange (Ellsworth)**

Mike Ellsworth briefed the BFTC on his efforts to explore the possibility of partnering with the Air Force Academy on a Type 3 leadership development opportunity.

## **12. Leadership Subcommittee Update (Ellsworth/McDonald)**

- The IGNITE the Spark for Leadership From the Field for the Field Contest closed November 30. Winner selections are forthcoming.
- LSC members and firefighters will launch the 2016 Wildland Fire Leadership Campaign – Never Stop Learning from the 2015 All-Hazard IMT Association symposium the second week of December.
- Nominations for the Paul Gleason Lead by Example Award must be submitted by December 31, 2015.
- The San Diego County Megafire Case Study alpha delivery is set for February 2016.

### 13. GATR Update

#### ***NAFRI***

- Revising NFML to include the Cerro Grande Staff Ride.
- A lot of turnover within the S-520 Steering Committee.
- Lack of proper staffing has contributed to a D-510 prioritization backlog. Nomination process is staying the same.
- NAFRI has brought on nine FS detailers to assist with course coordination.

#### ***Priority Trainee Program***

- Presented successes and challenges.
  - There is a need for consistent reporting.
  - GATR turnover has affected the program.
  - Agency agreement issues.
- Discussion about NMAC standards regarding mobilization. There is value in diversity of mobilization across the system; each area has their own challenges.

#### ***Leadership***

- Priority for the spring 2016 L-580 Gettysburg Staff Ride: Eastern Area, California, and Rocky Mountain
- The LSC is working through a vendor issue that may affect course offerings.

#### ***Course Updates***

- The NFDRS course is old and out-of-date. Needs stewardship and updating.
- PNW and NWCG are exploring the possibility of jointly revising S-420. Needs OTC approval.

#### ***Miscellaneous***

- The PNW is piloting a dispatcher mentoring program as part of dispatch succession planning.
- GBTU hosted the first wildland fire FEMA Train-the-Trainer.
- Field Management Course Guide will reflect legacy ICS courses.
- FEMA representatives will attend the spring GATR meeting. This may present an opportunity to alleviate issues and concerns.

### 14. Fuels Management/PFTC Update (HO #6) (Eno-Hendren/Woods)

BFTC members continue to experience struggles with the PFTC nomination process, especially the Google form for nomination.

**ACTION: Solidify the PFTC nomination with Dave Mueller and place in the 2017 BLM Standards for Training and Workforce Development and present process to the BFTC members on the January 2016 conference call. (Marlene Eno-Hendren)**

Dave Mueller would like to see BLM SMEs revising RX courses. RX-301 and RX-341 are under revision this year. BFTC members believe direct funding from the National Office and support to travel would help.

**ACTION: Develop an issue paper for the FOG outlining the need for National Office funding to assist with future NWCG course revisions and report status during the January 2016 BFTC conference call. (John Thompson and Kelly Woods)**

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2015**

**1. Workforce Development Module in IQCS (Bang)**

The BFTC discussed the phase out of the Workforce Development Module in IQCS. A previous discussion and issue paper by the BFTC noted the importance of the module for tracking workforce development. Mike Ellsworth informed the BFTC that the function is “dormant” not gone; however, the function cannot be used in the dormant state. The BFTC discussed the use of Individual Training Plans and Individual Development Plans for workforce development. Both systems require the employee to update information.

**ACTION: Send Alaska’s ITP and IDP forms to BFTC members by December 15, 2015. (Steve Theisen)**

**2. Teaching and Other Outside Work Requests (Bang)**

The BFTC discussed the potential conflict of interest by BLM employees teaching and working outside the normal job for pay at such places as educational institutions. All outside work requests should go through the local Employee Relations Specialist/Ethics Counselor.

**ACTION: Send the verbiage Jeff Kline developed for Utah regarding teaching/speaking for non-federal entities to BFTC members by December 15, 2015. (Cherie Ausgotharp)**

**3. Chainsaw Refresher Update (HO #7) (Woods)**

Kelly Woods presented the Chainsaw Refresher Task Group’s objectives-based proposal. The BFTC made recommendations including vetting the proposal back through the field and to brief FOG members.

**ACTION: Vet the revised Chainsaw Refresher proposal through the field and FOG members and present status on the January 2016 BFTC conference call. (Kelly Woods – lead, Kim Bang, and Renee Beams)**

**4. Red Book Review (HO #8) (Eno-Hendren)**

Marlene briefed the BFTC on changes to the *2016 Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Operations*.

5. **BLM Standards for Fire Training and Workforce Development (HO #9)** (Eno-Hendren)  
Marlene briefed the BFTC on changes to the 2016 BLM Standards for Fire Training and Workforce Development.

6. **BFTC Charter Review (HO #10)** (Eno-Hendren)  
The BFTC made minor revisions to the committee charter.

**ACTION: Submit charter changes to the FOG Chair for approval by the FOG and report status on the January 2016 BFTC conference call. (Marlene Eno-Hendren)**

7. **BFTC Co-Chair Election** (Eno-Hendren)  
The BFTC approved Shawn Jaca as the BFTC Co-Chair for a two-year term. Thanks to Kim Bang for her service.

8. **Training Roles and Responsibilities** (Arnberger/Eno-Hendren/Ellsworth)  
BFTC members discussed confusion with regard to communications regarding BLM fire training issues. There isn't a single point of contact for issues. Marlene Eno-Hendren is the BLM Fire Training and Workforce Development Program Manager and will be the point of contact.

BFTC members would like a section added to tasking memos identifying the source of the tasking (i.e., FOG, FLT, FA, or other)

**ACTION: Tasking memos coming from sources other than the FOG or within the BFTC will have the source identified at the beginning of the memo. (Marlene Eno-Hendren)**

9. **Priority Trainee Program Process** (Eno-Hendren)  
BFTC members shared their Priority Trainee Program processes with one another.

10. **Recruitment, and Retention** (Bowers/Lind)  
BLM Smokejumpers Matt Bowers and Phil Lind briefed the BFTC on their recruitment and retention efforts. Lamar Liddell explained the Eastern Area's success partnering with AmeriCorps.

#### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2015**

The workgroup tasked with revising Preparedness Review Checklist 6, Fire Training and Qualifications recommended changes to items 1, 2a, 2c, 2d, 2e, 4, 5, 5a, 6, 7, 7b, 8, 9, 10a, 11, and 12.

**ACTION: The BFTC will update Preparedness Review Checklist 6, Fire Training and Qualifications, each fall during the annual face-to-face meeting. Changes will be incorporated into the next year's checklist. (Marlene Eno-Hendren)**

The workgroup tasked with developing an employee award program used previously established program criteria from Arizona, Alaska and the NPS to draft an IB that would include application guidelines and information. The program title, eligibility requirements, application process, selection criteria/process, and timeline were also drafted.

**ACTION: A draft of the program specifications will be provided to BFTC members on the January conference call. (Marlene Eno-Hendren)**

**Next Conference Call**

The next BFTC conference call will be **January 6, 2016**. BFTC members are asked to identify an alternate for all calls and meetings if they unable to participate themselves.