

BLM Fire Training Committee (BFTC)

Conference Call Notes

Date/Time: 2/5/14 at 1030 MT (Boise)

Phone number: 866-704-5789

Participant code: 223574#

ROLL CALL:

AK – Doug Gibbs

AZ – Shawn Jaca/ Brian Achziger

CA – Nate Gogna

CO/WY – Randy Jacks

EA – Fred Ashford

ID – Kelly Woods

MT –

NV – Cindy Savoie

NM – Charley Luevano

OR/WA – Brian Rindlisbacher

UT – Jeff Kline

NIFC – Mike Ellsworth

NIFC – Jeff Arnberger

NIFC – Pam McDonald

Aviation – Kirk Rothwell

Fuels –

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Welcome New Representative (Ellsworth)

Mike Ellsworth welcomed Shawn Jaca, Arizona Strip District Office Fire Operations Specialist, as Arizona's new BFTC representative. Mike Ellsworth thanked Brian Achziger for his dedicated service.

2. NWCG Training Committee Update (Ellsworth)

- S-420 Update – The effort to make S-420 a recommended course has encountered some resistance. Some proponents believe there is a team training element within S-420 that does not exist elsewhere. Additionally, other initiatives such as Emerging Incident Management (EIM) and S-520 are influencing factors. The NWCG Training Committee plans to meet face-to-face in March to discuss the issue. Any proposal will be properly vetted through the BFTC and Fire Operations Group (FOG).
- S-course Stewardship – The NWCG Training Committee continues to define what stewardship of all S-course (level 100-600) entails.

3. Update on ATGS to ASGS Proposal (Gibbs)

Doug Gibbs briefed the group on the status of the ATGS to ASGS proposal task group. The group has met, and comments have been gathered. Doug will send out an email to BFTC members next week. A task group conference call is planned for the last week of February to finalize a proposal for the FOG. Mike Ellsworth cautioned the task group to stay within the scope of the original tasking.

- 4. Supplement to the 310-1** **(Ellsworth)**
 - There have been a couple of revisions made to the guide. Additional revisions are needed to address small concerns; e.g., issues with air tanker base positions. If you find errors, contact Mike Ellsworth.
 - As a reminder, the Supplement to the 310-1 is an electronic document. Referencing a hard copy could result in outdated information.

- 5. IQCS Updates** **(Ellsworth)**

The IQCS Change Board decided to activate the “Licenses and Certification” feature within IQCS. As a test of functionality, the group will use the EMT positions. If the system performs well, other positions such as ATV/UTV will follow. This activation will require a lot of data cleanup.

- 6. ENGB and S-200** **(Ellsworth)**

The FOG approved removal of the S-200 requirement from the BLM ENGB requirement.

- 7. READ Update** **(Ellsworth)**

There are no developments with the READ revision effort.

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

Mike has received a few comments. Updates will be made to the document and reissued.

- 9. L-Course Proposal to the FOG/FLT** **(Arnberger/Ellsworth)**

Jeff Arnberger and Mike Ellsworth are finalizing the L-course proposal for presentation at the March FOG meeting. The BFTC continues to support the proposal to require leadership courses in support of the BLM strategic mission.

- 10. New NWCG Leadership Subcommittee (LSC) Representative** **(Ellsworth)**

Paul Hohn, Wyoming Assistant State FMO and FOG Co-chair, will replace Mike Ellsworth on the NWCG LSC. Mike will transition to the NWCG Training Committee Liaison to the LSC.

- 11. GATR Update** **(Ellsworth)**
 - Geographic/National Priority Trainee Program – The first year of the program was successful. GATRs are discussing what statistics to track for 2014.
 - National Engine Academy – Discussing the pros/cons of a national engine academy.

ROUND ROBIN:

Alaska (Gibbs)

- Lynn Standley-Coe retired the end of January. AFS will be filling three training positions in the next month.
- Training season will begin the last week of February.

AZ (Jaca/Achziger)

- Training season is underway.
- Arizona is conducting a training needs analysis for 2015.

CA (Gogna)

- There are 26 individuals in the next apprenticeship class, including one NPS employee.
- California will host a state-wide ENOP (PMS 419) course in March. Discussions continue regarding a formalized interagency engine academy.
- Nate inquired as to the selection process for interagency committee member selection.

CO/WY (Jacks)

- Training season has begun.
- Preparing for the South Canyon 25th Commemorative.

EA (Ashford)

- Preparing for the preparedness review in April.

ID (Woods)

- Training season has begun. Fifty (50) courses scheduled.
- The GS 9/11 Training Specialist positions closes today.
- Brian Eldredge will be retiring the end of February.
- With USFS and BLM National Aviation funding support, the GBTU hosted a successful air attack academy that had ties to the Priority Trainee Program. Kelly is working with Gil Dustin on another course for this coming year.

NV (Savoie)

- Nothing to report.

NM (Luevano)

- There are many changes to the New Mexico fire staff, including the return of Hector Madrid as State FMO.
- They have been in a dry spell, but have seen some precipitation the last few days.

OR/WA (Beams)

- A saw group has been assembled and is working on the qualifications for a BLM/USFS standard in the Northwest.
- A "You Will Not Stand Alone" class will be held the end of February with a mix of BLM and USFS students and cadre.

UT (Kline)

- Will be moving the engine academy from Moab to Salt Lake City. Date: May 11-16

Aviation (Rothwell)

- BFTC members are asked to recirculate information regarding the 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.**
- Josh Fulton is Nevada's new State Aviation Manager (SAM).

- New Mexico's SAM will be retiring in March. Do decision yet on when/if/how they will fill the position.
- Aviation personnel will not be physically attending the Eastern Area preparedness review. Personnel are working with Lamar Liddell on a plan.

National Office (Arnberger)

- Will be working with Kim Bang to develop the proposal for state-level signature of Type I and II IMT members.
- Tom Romanello retired. Jeff has taken on FOG co-chair responsibilities.

National Office (McDonald)

- Thanked the group for their response to support leadership. BFTC members are asked to distribute campaign information throughout their states and to identify leadership in action for use with the "From the Field for the Field" Friday Spotlight on the blog.

The next meeting will begin **Wednesday, April 2, 2014**, at 10:30 a.m. (MDT)