

BLM Fire Training Committee (BFTC)

Conference Call Notes

Date/Time: 3/6/13 at 1030 MT (Boise)

Phone number: 866-704-5789

Participant code: 223574#

ROLL CALL: (participants in bold)

AK – Doug Gibbs	MT – Michelle Dauehnauer	NIFC – Mike Ellsworth
AZ – Shawn Jaca	NV – Cindy Savoie	NIFC – Jeff Arnberger
CA – Nate Gogna	NM – Charley Luevano	NIFC – Pam McDonald
CO/WY – Kim Bang	OR/WA – Renee Beams & Brian Rindlisbacher	Fuels –
EA – Lamar Liddell	UT –	Aviation –
ID – Kelly Woods	NTC –	

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Streamline Non-Fire Mandatory Training – FOG Tasking (Ellsworth)

The Fire Operations Group (FOG) formally tasked the BFTC to research the proposal from the Smokejumper, Hotshot, Helitack, and Engine Committees to streamline non-fire mandatory training. Mike Ellsworth will begin the initial research into the identified training and will create a sub-task group for the project, including a potential focus of the fall BFTC meeting.

ACTION: Send the official FOG tasking for streamlining non-fire mandatory training to BFTC members by March 15, 2013. (Mike Ellsworth)

2. GATR Update (Beams)

The GATRs have a conference call on Thursday, March 7, 2013.

3. ENGB/ENOP Qualifications in IQCS (Ellsworth)

The implementation date for ENGB and ENOP qualification changes in IQCS has occurred. Training officers have had a few calls, but no major issues were noted.

4. BUYM/BUYL (Ellsworth)

Mike Ellsworth did not receive any feedback regarding the BLM National Fire Business Working Group's Request for Change form requesting implementation of prerequisite training, position task book, and position requirements for BLM Buying Team Members (BUYM) and Buying Team Leaders (BUYL).

ACTION: Present the BUYM and BUYL request for change proposal with BFTC endorsement to the FOG during the March or April 2013 conference call. (Jeff Arnberger)

5. FOG Meeting/HRO Training (Ellsworth)

The FOG meeting scheduled prior to the HRO Workshop in Boise, March 11-15, 2013, has been cancelled. The HRO Training is scheduled.

ACTION: Develop a one-page FOG BFTC status briefing paper and share with BFTC members prior to emailing to the FOG by March 31, 2013. (Mike Ellsworth, Kim Bang, and Jeff Arnberger)

6. Agency Administrator Requirement (Bang/Beams)

In order to share best practices, Kim Bang asked Renee Beams to speak on an effort in the Northwest setting standards for Agency Administrators (AADMs).

The BLM in the Northwest geographic area is moving forward with policy establishing the same standards as the U.S. Forest Service for AADMs. The Northwest geographic area uses a database for tracking.

ACTION: Send a synopsis of the NW geographic area standards for Agency Administrators and the policy letter to all BFTC members when official. (Renee Beams)

This model is available to all geographic areas who would like to implement a similar policy.

7. Basic Level Course for the All-Hazards Resource Advisor Curriculum (Ellsworth)

There has been some confusion about the February 20, 2013, DOI email "Basic Level Course for the All-Hazards Resource Advisor Curriculum." This course is not related to the interagency fire effort to revise the Resource Advisor's Guide. Mike Ellsworth will monitor the all-hazards effort.

8. LFML/NFML/M-581 Review (Arnberger)

A LFML/NFML workshop is scheduled as a remote meeting for March 28 and 29. Training officers and GATRs will be part of the workshop. Jeff, Renee, Kim, and Kelly will monitor the process and keep the BFTC advised.

Some geographic areas have been offering LFML and M-581 concurrently. The Northwest geographic area plans to offer a combined M-581 and LFML on December 21, 2013.

ACTION: Send combined M-581/LFML action plan/timeframes/etc. to Jeff Arnberger and Kelly Woods when established. (Renee Beams)

9. Wilderness First Responder

(Ellsworth/Bang)

Mike Ellsworth and Kim Bang continue to work on the issue paper requesting a formal response from the BLM Safety Manager regarding Wilderness First Responder course offerings.

Round Robin:

Each person was asked to respond to the effects of sequestration on training in their state.

AK (Gibbs)

- Sequestration has had little impact thus far. AK uses a more in-house model with a large state partner base that is unaffected by sequestration. The NPS and FWS seem to be hardest hit.
- The Donnelly Flats Staff Ride is in the final stages of development. A May website launch is intended.
- A solution to the IS-700 remote access issue is needed within the next couple of weeks. Mike Ellsworth is reviewing a possible solution.

AZ (Jaca)

- Sequestration is having varying effects across the state. Some are cancelling everything; others evaluating the meaning of “mission-critical.” Many are pushing timeframes thus affecting course coordination.

CA (Goqna)

- CA does not appear to be affected by sequestration at this time. They have had only 3 of 52 students cancel. They are working through the waiver process. The Engine Academy is supported.

CO/WY (Bang)

- State Director determined that LFML was mission-critical. CO/WY is proceeding with classes, including leadership. They have not seen too much impact due to sequestration for BLM. NPS and FWS showing the impacts.

EA (Liddell)

- The EA is not seeing many effects of sequestration. They are moving forward with scheduled classes.

ID (Woods)

- The GBTC is moving forward with classes at this point. Some NPS students have dropped. The definition of “mission critical” varies across areas. May look at offering more courses remotely.

MT (Dauehnauer)

- MT has a varied response. Michelle’s district has a 25% reduction in training: M-410 postponed until the fall and S-290 was cancelled in lieu of online delivery. She does not believe the Northern Rockies Training Center is cancelling classes at this point.

NV (Savoie)

- Working within what NV determines as mission-critical. FMOs are determining career development.
- The May engine academy is still a go.

NM (Luevano)

- All March travel has been cancelled. Approval occurs at the State Director level.
- ENOP course is still a go; however, the Equipment development shop may not be able to travel.

OR/WA (Beams/Rindlisbacher)

- NPS and FWS have dropped, but no BLM. They have enough students on the waiting lists to offer courses.

NIFC (Arnberger)

- Many have asked the National Office to provide a definition of “mission-critical.” The National Office defers that to state/local discernment.
- Jeff has received calls regarding the preparedness review checklists. Sheri Ascherfeld is uploading them to the website.
- Has received good comments regarding the *BLM Standards for Fire Training and Workforce Development*.

The BFTC discussed having the calls once every two months. The next conference call will be **Wednesday, May 8, 2013**, at 10:30 a.m. (Boise time)