

BLM Fire Training Committee

Conference Call

Date/Time: 04/06/11 at 1000 MT (Boise)

Phone number: 866-704-5789
Participant code: 223574#

ROLL CALL: (participants in bold)

AK – Lynn Standley-Coe	MT – Fonda Knox/Cathy Barta	NIFC – Ted Mason
AZ –	NV – Bianca Acosta	NIFC – Mike Ellsworth
CA – Nate Gogna	NM –	NIFC –
CO/WY –	OR/WA – Brian Rindlisbacher/Mike Spencer	NIFC – Pam McDonald
EA – Lamar Liddell	UT –	
ID – Carol McElroy	NTC –	

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. E-mentoring Demonstration (Ellsworth)

Mike Ellsworth conducted a demonstration of the DOI Fire and Aviation Mentoring program using LiveMeeting. The e-mentoring program presently allows individuals to participate in a mentoring agreement where learners (mentees) “build skills and knowledge while attaining goals for career development” through the guidance of an advisor (mentor) in various mentoring environments: one-on-one, situational, and group.

An interagency group for Technical Fire Management has been created as the first group. The US Fish & Wildlife Service has also created a BEHAVE PLUS group for students as well.

Mike discussed possible methods of rolling the product out into the field, including webinars, targeting the fuels and aviation programs, phasing in of high-potential users such as AFMOs and FMOs, and the shotgun/grass roots effort.

Triple Creek, Inc. manages the database and refers specific inquiries to agency representatives. Individuals desiring to create a group can do so through the website or by contacting Mike Ellsworth at (208) 387-5985.

Complete information about the mentoring program can be found at <https://www.3creekmentoring.com/FAMMentoring/>.

2. Fire Operations Group (FOG)/Fire Leadership Team (FLT) Update (Mason)

Ted Mason provided a brief update from recent FOG and FLT meetings.

BLM Fire Training Committee Charter

The BLM Fire Training Committee charter was approved as a standing committee under the FOG.

IMT Succession Planning

IMT succession planning was discussed at the FOG meeting. FOG members want FLT approval before proceeding with their recommendation. Tom Romanello and Ken Frederick are the BLM IMT succession planning representatives.

Recertification Policy Update

Ted Mason updated the group on the status of efforts to adopt a recertification standard for the BLM. The FOG Recertification Task Group presented the proposals to the FOG. The FOG concurred with the Training Committee and supported establishing a process that utilizes a recertification evaluation form and a minimum of one trainee assignment prior to recertification. An errata sheet will be issued making this BLM policy in the Redbook. Continued efforts will be made through Operations and Workforce Development Committee (OWDC) channels to strengthen recertification process language in the PMS 310-1.

3. UNLV GS-0401 Education Program (Mason)

The due date for applications to the UNLV GS-0401 Education Program is April 15. To date, there have been two (2) applications from the National Park Service (NPS) and three (3) unfunded applications from Alaska. There continues to be no national funding available to support this program. UNLV's willingness to host the program with less than 15-18 students is highly unlikely.

Complete information regarding the program can be found at http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/training/fire_training/training_programs/unlv.html

4. Technical Fire Management (TFM) (Mason)

The due date for applications to TFM is April 30. There continues to be no national funding available to support this program. To date, no BLM applications have been received. Actual demand from all agencies for TFM courses will determine whether or not the programs will be offered in FY 2012.

Complete information regarding the program can be found at http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/training/fire_training/training_programs/tfm.html

5. On-the-Job Training Programs (RX and Ops) (Mason/Ellsworth)

Operations OJT

The FOG continues to support Operations OJT as a non-formalized program. Mike Ellsworth will continue to work with state FOG representatives to identify possible candidates from the 2010 roster as well as identify new applicants. Funding to support this program is expected to come from suppression and severity sources.

RX-OJT Program

Lack of national funding continues to affect the number of applications for the 2011 RX-OJT program. In 2010, Al Olson processed 78 applications. To date, only three (3) applications have been received. Requests for trainees continue to come in but go unfilled because of a lack of fund-secured applicants.

6. National Funding for Committee Involvement and Training (Mason)

Funds previously held at the national level for training and committee representation expenses were distributed to states for allocation. A great deal of discussion has occurred at both the FOG and FLT levels regarding the need for national funding of committee representation and training.

The FLT decided to have the FOG to prioritized list of national committees the BLM should be involved with, and then the FLT will decide which state will fund their travel. No funds will be held at the national office for this purpose.

The FLT kept funding of training at the state level with limited national funding for the Wildland Fire Apprenticeship Program. The FLT is expected to make a formal decision regarding the BLM's involvement with WFAP during their April meeting. Expectations are that current funding levels will be given to support the program through FY 2011 with decreased funding for FY 2012.

7. Fitness Challenge Program

(Ellsworth)

Mike Ellsworth is now the BLM Fitness Challenge Program coordinator.

8. IQCS BLM Vetting Process for New Position Requests

(Ellsworth)

Mike Ellsworth discussed a draft IQCS BLM vetting process for new position requests. All requests will go through the BLM agency representative for IQCS. The requests will follow a routing checklist of reviewers to ensure unintended consequences are avoided prior to making position changes in IQCS. A BLM request for change would go through the OWDC brand of NWCG and be reviewed at an interagency level to provide interagency partners an opportunity to adopt the change. If other agencies decline to implement the change at an interagency level, the request then will fall under the IQCS BLM SETID.

Round Robin:

- AK – Busy with training: 150 players currently in the IMT workshop; successful offering of L-381 by MCS.
Alaska is broke!
- CA – Nothing to report.
- EA – Nothing to report.
- ID – Spring fire meeting in Boise next week. Basic supervision course to be held in Idaho Falls.
- OR/WA – Will be launching the Agency Administrator Proficiency Program soon.

Spencer asked how training officers handle examinations when presenting IS 700a to a large group of individuals. Is there a way to get an answer key? Training officers raised the concern about an agency-issued certificate instead of a FEMA certificate. No real resolutions provided.

Spencer is seeing the budget crunch affecting the US Forest Service.

- National Office – The suggestion was raised as to the frequency of BLM Fire Training Committee conference calls. The consensus was that monthly conference calls were necessary and will be assessed during each conference call. Due to conflicts, the next conference call will be **Wednesday, May 11, 2011**, at 1000 hours (Mountain).

Ted Mason expressed his disappointment in the conference call representation with only 7 of 12 members participating. Training will continue to face challenges as budgets decrease. However, as a recently chartered committee under the FOG, the committee's mission is to "provide national leadership in all areas of BLM fire training. Promote and coordinate safe, effective and efficient training in order to accomplish Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fire management objectives."

He also reassured that group that although the funding continues to challenge the training community, now is the time to look for opportunities and come together with a united voice. He challenged the members to:

- Ensure that each state has at least one representative/designee on each BLM Fire Training Committee conference call or at each meeting.
- Become creative and share training ideas and successes across state lines.