

BLM Fire Training Committee

Conference Call Notes

Date/Time: May 9, 2012 at 1030 MT (Boise)

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

ROLL CALL: (participants in bold)

Voting Members:		Guests & Support:
AK – Lynn Standley Coe	NV – Cindy Savoie	BFTU – Jeff Arnberger
AZ –	NM – Charley Luevano	BFTU – Pam McDonald
CA –	OR/WA – Renee Beams	NIFC, Aviation – Kirk Rothwell
CO/WY – Kim Bang	UT – Cherie Ausgotharp	
EA –	NTC – Don Washco	
ID – Carol McElroy	BFTU – Mike Ellsworth	
MT – Michelle Dauenhauer		

1. Aviation Update

(Kirk Rothwell)

- Status of Interagency Aviation Training (IAT)
The USFS and DOI have reached an agreement to work together and standardize aviation training software and interfaces with the IAT website.
- Helicopter Resource Manager Task Sheet
A Helicopter Resource Manager Task Sheet is in the final phases of development which keeps resource and incident helicopter manager positions separate. The Helicopter Resource Manager position will stay outside of IQCS. Individuals will be signed off by the supervisor at the local level via the task sheet. The task sheet will be available on the IAT website.

The system should be available in the next 2 to 3 months for electronic entry and tracking. In the interim, task sheets should be faxed in and then entered manually. More information about training requirements and task sheet submission be forthcoming.

ACTION: Send Mike Ellsworth a briefing sheet related to the Helicopter Resource Manager Task Sheet and submission guidelines by May 18, 2012. (Kirk Rothwell)

Carol McElroy asked about the possibilities for links between DOI Learn and IAT and IQCS. Steering groups are aware of the need for such linkage, but privacy concerns and cost issues prohibit this function at this time.

2. Directives (TFM, UNLV, E-mentoring)

(Mike Ellsworth)

Directives are in the signature process for Technical Fire Management, UNLV Education Program and E-mentoring.

3. OWDC Updates

(Jeff Arnberger)

- **Sawyer/Faller:** The NWCG Hazard Tree Subcommittee hopes to have the qualification packet ready for submission to the Risk Management Committee by this fall. The Subcommittee has a position task book (PTB) and is still working on the three levels of qualification.

ACTION: When finalized by the NWCG Hazard Tree Subcommittee, forward the Sawyer/Faller qualification packet to the BFTC for review. (Jeff Arnberger)

- **Streamlining the PTB/310-1 Process**

OWDC is reviewing the current PTB/310-1 process to determine if there are inherent inefficiencies built into the system that attribute to lengthy qualification timelines. Efficiencies found could support efforts of the Incident Management Organization Succession Plan (IMOSP).

4. GATR Updates

(Renee Beams)

- **Future Meetings with OWDC**

The GATRs will no longer meet with OWDC every May unless necessary.

- **Wildland Fire Institute**

Deb Fleming spoke with the GATRs about the Wildland Fire Institute. No new information was provided.

- **National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute (NAFRI)**

Merrie Johnson spoke with the GATRs about concerns from the field regarding NAFRI and its courses. Issues will be addressed when new course coordinators are hired.

- **Expanded Dispatch Recorder (EDRC)**

There is talk about combining EDRC training into other dispatch courses. The GATRs felt this issue was best approached through the dispatch community.

- **Travel Cap**

The travel cap is an area of great concern with the GATRs. A letter was sent to the US FAM Director regarding the effects on NAFRI courses. The GATRs will be gathering more information and data and writing letters to various agency heads regarding the impact at the local level.

5. Leadership Subcommittee (LSC)

(Mike Ellsworth)

- **L-280**

The LSC denied the OWDC Request for Change proposal to revise the minimum Lead Instructor qualifications for L-280. The LSC discussed whether or not this was a national or local issue. There does not appear to be a shortage of qualified Single Resource

Bosses. The LSC believes in developing fireline leaders and stresses the importance of relaying current fireline issues. Onus falls on the course coordinator to pick the best lead instructor. (See Field Manager's Course Guide, p. 6.)

- **L-480/S-420 and L-481 Concept**

The LSC has determined that the original intent of L-480 as an incident management leadership course was never achieved. L-480 has evolved into more of an organization leadership course. The LSC is pursuing a retasking from OWDC to develop an L-481. If developed properly, the course could become an equivalency for S-420.

Kim Bang expressed concern about S-420/520/620. The respective steering groups are aware of Kim's concerns. This issue is not within the LSC's purview.

In relation to this topic, the LSC discussed how the L-curriculum fits into the IMOSP. The GATRs were briefed on the vision during their meeting.

- **Staff Ride L-Numbering**

The LSC recognizes the need to restructure numbering of leadership events such as staff rides. Until such time that a full program review is completed, the LSC will work to more effectively market staff rides and events on the FireLeadership.gov website. Kim Bang is willing to brainstorm ideas.

- **IGNITE the Spark for Leadership**

(Pam McDonald)

BFTC members are encouraged to promote the IGNITE the Spark for Leadership campaign and bring an awareness of leadership development throughout the wildland fire service. The campaign is not about "likes" on the Facebook page but a concerted effort to encourage leadership at the local and self-development levels. Questions and names of individuals willing to be local campaign contacts should contact Pam McDonald (pmcdonal@blm.gov).

6. ATV/UTV Update

(Mike Ellsworth/Jeff Arnberger)

Following the April BFTC meeting in Boise, Jeff Arnberger met with Michelle Ryerson regarding the BFTC's concern and willingness to assist in a solution. Michelle is writing an issue paper to the Fire Leadership Team (FLT) requesting a Fire Operations Group (FOG) tasking to look into the issue. The intent is for the FOG to create a task group of various FOG committees, including training. Charlie Luevano volunteered to represent the BFTC.

Mike Ellsworth is meeting with IQCS this week and will present the proposal for a Set ID for UTV operators within IQCS.

7. On-the-Job Training (OJT) Nomination Process for 2012

(Mike Ellsworth)

Mike is finalizing the directive for the OJT nomination process this week. The intent is for the process to be incorporated into the Standards Guide, eliminating the need for issuing a directive.

8. Firing Leader (FIRL) Position Update (Mike Ellsworth)

Mike Ellsworth briefed the BFTC on the BLM Hazardous Fuels Reduction Group's decision to eliminate the FIRL position.

ACTION: Contact Dave Mueller about information dissemination regarding elimination of the FIRL position and report to the BFTC on the next conference call. (Mike Ellsworth)

9. BLM Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Training (Mike Ellsworth)

There has only been one group who has submitted their chapters for incorporation into the *BLM Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Training*. Groups are asked to get their drafts in within the next couple of weeks.

10. Fire Program Decision Support System (FPDSS) (Jeff Arnberger)

Jeff discussed information contained within the FPDSS Background Material. The fire budget model includes funding allocations, albeit minimal, for training support at the state and district levels. Jeff will attempt to solicit an increase in the funding allocation dedicated to training support.

Training officer positions, even if collateral in nature, will be incorporated into the *BLM Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Training*.

ACTION: Pursue avenues to increase the funding allocation within FPDSS and report the status at the fall 2012 BFTC meeting. (Jeff Arnberger)

ACTION: Send BFTC members a link to the FPDSS website by May 11, 2012. (Jeff Arnberger)

Round Robin:

AK (Standley Coe)

- The Donnelly Flats staff ride is nearing completion. Lynn will send to Mike for placement on in the Local Staff Ride Library on the FireLeadership.gov website.
- Management is deciding on whether or not they will fund TFM or UNLV. Should know by next week.
- Lynn received good feedback regarding the e-mentoring program.
- With regard to the WFAP, AK does its own in-house training and has no money to support for sending students through WFAP.

CO/WY (Bang)

- The training season is winding down. Hosted a tuition-free Wilderness First Responder course for 15 people last week; used year-end money.
- Kim is without staff and moving offices.

ID (McElroy)

- Idaho will begin classroom training beginning May 21.
- Asked about her recent request regarding confusion of ENGB maintaining currency for ENOP in Chapter 3 of the Job Aid and the fact that currency is not automatically given in IQCS.

ACTION: Provide direction to the BFTC regarding ENGB currency for ENOP and lack within IQCS to automatically keep currency by May 25, 2012. (Mike Ellsworth)

MT (Dauenhauer)

- Montana held their pre-season meeting.
- Michelle attended her first Montana/Dakotas Operations Group (MDOG) meeting; she has also tied in with leadership throughout the state.
- In reference to the WFAP, there is confusion in her state about how the funding works. Individuals chosen from MT to attend WFAP have been in the system for three to four years and have already taken many of the classes.
- Michelle has her and Lynn's *Standards* chapter draft completed and will send tomorrow.
- MT has some concerns that making leadership classes required would affect our ability to hire outside the agency. Kim Bang did a quick analysis after the spring meeting with regard to the impacts of making leadership courses required for all positions. The group agrees that following the USFS lead would be a good first step. Jeff discussed approaching OWDC to see if other agencies would be receptive.

ACTION: Compile a list of all positions within the USFS that have leadership qualifications attached and send to Mike Ellsworth by June 1, 2012. (Renee Beams)

ACTION: Develop a plan for proposing that BLM attach leadership qualifications to positions and report the status of the effort during future conference calls and at the fall 2012 LSC meeting. (Mike Ellsworth and Kim Bang)

NV (Savoie)

- Nothing to report.

NM (Luevano)

- Holding field office orientations and reviews next week.

OR/WA (Renee Beams)

- Done with training.
- Working on an Agency Administrator BLM coaching checklist. Will send a copy to Jeff Arnberger when completed.

UT (Ausgotharp)

- The UT Wildfire Academy begins next week.

NTC (Washco)

- Nothing to report.
- Mike Ellsworth noted that Michelle Ryerson is still working to identify subject matter experts for the non-serious accident investigation course.

National Office (Ellsworth/Arnberger/McDonald)

- Mike attended the Nevada pre-season meetings. The meeting was well-attended by Engine Module Leaders, Fire Operation Supervisors, Fire Management Officers, Assistant Fire Management Officers, District Managers, the State Fire Management Officer, the State Director, and FA Assistant Director, Tim Murphy. The Winnemucca FO hosted the Rock Creek Staff Ride for approximately 3 conference groups (30 participants each).
- **Wildland Fire Apprenticeship Program (WFAP):** Jeff, Mike, and Sean will discuss national funding options with the State of California. If needed, a list of questions will be developed to collect state-level opinions on WFAP.
- **Scholarship Program:** Jeff spoke briefly with Grant Beebe regarding setting aside funding for the scholarship concept. Grant was supportive of such an initiative. Further development of a scholarship program will be the topic of a fall BFTC task group. Carol McElroy would like to be a part of the effort.

Next Meeting:

ACTION: Send out a query to the BFTC regarding the need for a June conference call by May 16, 2012. (Mike Ellsworth)

ACTION: Send out a query to the BFTC regarding potential dates for the fall BFTC meeting by May 18, 2012. (Mike Ellsworth)