

BLM NATIONAL WILDLAND FIRE TRAINING COMMITTEE
Conference Call
May 05, 2010

Conference Call Participants

Ted Mason, BLM Training-NIFC; Mike Ellsworth, BLM Training-NIFC; Al Olson, BLM Training-NIFC; Pam McDonald, BLM Training-NIFC, Larry Elder, MT; Cindy Savoie, NV; Carol McElroy, ID; Kim Bang, CO/WY; Brian Achziger, AZ; Charley Luevano, NM; Mike Spencer, OR/WA

Conference Call Purpose and Future Need (Mike Ellsworth)

Mike Ellsworth expressed that the purpose of the conference call was to reestablish the BLM National Wildland Fire Training Committee. Members of the committee determined that the committee is needed to provide a conduit of information between the field and the BLM Fire Training Unit. Training Officers (TOs) agreed to participate in regular (most likely monthly) conference calls lasting between 30-60 minutes.

IFPM (Ted Mason)

Ted Mason briefed the committee on the status of IFPM. Currently, fifty six (56) individuals have been identified as *not* meeting current IFPM requirements. Supervisors of these individuals are actively engaged in assisting their employees in meeting the standard by the October 1, 2010, deadline. Estimates are that there will be a few individuals who may fail to comply, resulting in one of three potential actions—removal from their current position, reassignment to another position, or placement at a lower grade level. The BLM does not anticipate removing anyone from government service but a few direct reassignments are very possible. A BLM memorandum will be circulated soon providing additional guidance to supervisors who have employees who fail to meet the requirements.

Kim Bang expressed concern about the currency of the IFPM website. Ted notified the group that Mark Koontz (NPS) will be deleting obsolete documents and posting updated guidance. TOs should refer to current BLM memorandums as their source of authority regarding IFPM.

Ted also advised TOs that IFPM requirements are now selective placement factors for many job openings.

ACTION: Mike Ellsworth will send a state IFPM report to each training officer.

IQCS (Mike Ellsworth)

IQCS is the official record for IFPM. Due to improper entry or omission of data, there is concern that more individuals than the 56 listed on current reports may fail to meet IFPM requirements. TOs are asked to review all IFPM employees to ensure that their IQCS information is properly documented prior to the October 2010 deadline.

Mike provided participants with an IQCS software program update preview. Programmers continue to make minor revisions to the current software; however, significant changes will be made to the look and feel of IQCS software in the next two years.

Mike recently met with Dave Mueller, Fire Planning and Fuels Management, regarding prescribed fire qualifications as listed in IQCS. A majority of set IDs were wrong and revisions are being made to correct the data.

Wildland Fire Apprenticeship Program (Ted Mason)

Ted notified the group that he has received the current rosters for both the basic (33 students) and advanced (18 students) academies. As the budget currently stands, the BLM Training Unit intends to continue tuition support for two apprentices from each state.

RX OJT/OPS OJT (Al Olson/Mike Ellsworth)

Al Olson briefed the group on the status of the RX OJT program. The originally budgeted amount of \$120,000 plus another \$40,000 has been spent to place 43 candidates on assignments. No further national office funding is anticipated. Even though national office funding is no longer available, Al will assist with placing employees whose local unit/state has agreed to cover expenses.

Mike Ellsworth briefed the committee on a pilot Operations OJT program that he will administer which is similar to the RX OJT program. The Operations OJT program will initially focus on individuals with IFPM issues and broaden in scope for FY11 if successful. BLM Fire Training will issue an Instruction Bulletin soon announcing the program and the associated nomination process.

UNLV/TFM (Ted Mason)

Ted Mason announced that he recently attended the graduation ceremony of Cohort 5. UNLV has agreed to offer the program for 2010/2011. Presently 20 applications have been received for Cohort 6. Even though the due date is past, TOs are encouraged to submit applications up to the start date in September. Contact Ted Mason if you have someone in need of the program.

State FMOs are in the process of prioritizing TFM applications. Due date is May 14, 2010.

All Training Officer Conference Call Proposal (Mike Ellsworth)

Mike Ellsworth posed the question of a conference call for all training officers including those identified as a collateral duty at the local level. The group consensus was that a spring 2010 conference call is a good idea. Mike will try to set up something for the end of May.

Round Robin

Don Washco (NTC) – DOI Learn is offline for the next few days.

Brian Achziger (AZ) – The Southwest Coordinating Group tasked the Phoenix NIMO team to look into training in the Southwest. Kim Bang noted that the GATRs were contacted to provide miscellaneous information as well.

Kim Bang (CO/WY/Eastern/GATR) – There will be a joint GATR/OWDC meeting in Grand Junction this month. The GATRs would like a representative from the BLM Training Unit to attend. Ted Mason will attend.

There are 20 slots available for *Taking Care of our Own*. Kim will send the information to Mike Ellsworth for distribution to the wider TO community.

Kim referred to a recently released errata sheet influencing training requirements. She questioned how these decisions are made and whether this committee or representatives from BLM Fire Training should be included in the discussion. Ted will make contact with Fire Operations regarding the concern.

Carol McElroy (ID) – nothing to report

Larry Elder (MT) – nothing to report

Cindy Savoie (NV) – has one application for TFM

Charley Luevano (NM) – completed the 2010 training season

Mike Spencer (OR) – conducting workforce capacity building; attended train-the-trainer of prior learning that may be beneficial to the wider community

Ted Mason – Staff ride development is a \$5,000 budget item. If anyone has a local area incident that they would like to develop or personnel that they would like to train to develop a local staff ride, contact Ted.

Kurt Braun was recently approved as a provider for L-480.

Next Conference Call

The next conference call is tentatively scheduled for June 2, 2010, at 1000 hours (Mountain)