

BLM NATIONAL WILDLAND FIRE TRAINING COMMITTEE
Conference Call
July 7, 2010

Conference Call Participants

Ted Mason, BLM Training-NIFC; Al Olson, BLM Training-NIFC; Pam McDonald, BLM Training-NIFC; Kim Bang, CO/WY; Don Washco, NTC; Brian Achziger, AZ; Tony Doty, AK; Madonna Lengerich, GBTU; Larry Elder, MT; Lynn Cook, UT; Mike Spencer, OR

NPS Open Mentoring Program (Ted Mason)

The NPS is embarking on a pilot open, web-based mentoring program (for more information visit <http://3creek.com>) and has invited other DOI agencies to participate in the program with them. Mike Ellsworth will be the BLM lead to see if the program could benefit our agency. The program matches an individuals competencies with a mentor with a similar skill (both qualification and job-related) set in a formal or informal mentoring relationship.

Additional information regarding the program may be available for the August conference call.

IFPM Update (Ted Mason)

The Washington office is requesting names who do not meet the IFPM Standard on about a two-week basis. Beginning September 1 consequence letters will be drafted (for October 1 delivery) to those individuals not meeting the IFPM Standard. There are 42 people on the list with an estimated 15 that could be removed from the list if IQCS were up to date.

Action: Training Officers are asked to keep IQCS updated on a regular basis. If you know a person will not meet the requirements and will be moved to another position, please initiate the action as soon as possible to get the employee off the list.

ACTION: Ted Mason will send a current IFPM list to those Training Officers with those individuals failing to meet the IFPM Standard

BLM Fire Training Information Job Aid (Al Olson)

The job aid revision is complete and available on the website at http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/training/fire_training/publications/job_aid.html. BLM Training Officers are encouraged to continually review the website and notify Al Olson of discrepancies, confusing information, and suggestions for improvement.

Tony Doty posed the question about the how to add individuals to the fire training information e-mail distribution list.

ACTION: Training Officers should send names of individuals who should be included on the e-mail distribution list to Pam McDonald.

RX and Operations OJT Program (Al Olson/Ted Mason)

Al Olson briefed the group on the status of the RX OJT program. Should additional funds become available to the program, Al will assist to place trainees in the field—especially those with IFPM issues.

Mike Ellsworth was able to place an individual in the Operations OJT Program. Unfortunately, fires didn't develop in New Mexico. He is working with Arizona to place trainees. Colorado and Nevada are willing to support trainees should fire activity pick up. If your area begins to have increased activity, please work with Mike Ellsworth to coordinate trainee assignments.

UNLV/TFM (Ted Mason)

There is nothing new to report with either UNLV or TFM. The TFM application deadline has passed, but slots are available if you have someone interested in attending. BLM Fire Training may possibly have funds available to cover tuition costs for a few individuals this year; however, per diem and overtime would be the responsibility of the local unit. Contact Ted Mason for more information.

Round Robin

Don Washco (NTC) – NTC will be rolling out some online training—New employee orientation. Don would like all Training Officers to preview the course when available.

Tony Doty (AK) – NWCG will be discussing IMT succession planning and Corporate University today. Tony provided insight on the Corporate University concept and hopes that the business plan will be made available to the field within the next couple weeks. Tony believes that there are some good components of the plan that he feels are worthy of implementation even if the plan failed—master calendar for all training not just fire training and upper-level training, link between 100- and 200-level courses, and expedited qualification process.

Alaska intends to present a field-delivered S-420 should the fire season pick up again.

Tony has been invited to attend a training strategy meeting with various state agency training officers meeting and a few other governmental entities. The hope is to have one training calendar in Alaska that identifies all I-courses across agencies.

A communication plan is being developed with regards to the MOU with University of Alaska-Fairbanks. Wildland firefighters around the country should be able to enroll in and receive credit for various NWCG classes.

ACTION: When the University of AK-Fairbanks communication plan is complete, Tony will send the information to Pam for distribution to Training Officers.

Brian Achziger (AZ) – Brian posed the question as to when the WFAP announcement will be released. See the response in Nate Gogna's discussion.

Nate Gogna (CA) – Nate will update the group next month regarding efforts with CA Faller C training and certification process; they are making good progress.

Nate is working with the local government in Bay area and MCS to present L-380 courses (MCS).

New standards have been created for the WFAP; these standards are awaiting Jim Douglas' signature. The new standards will create a lot of additional work for Nate. He will be looking for help (detailers) to build a cross walk.

There will be an advanced academy offered in October/November 2010. The announcement should be out by the end of July.

No official announcement will be sent out regarding the WFAP. States are encouraged to start working on a state-wide announcement of your own. Nate has the CA announcement that he can provide as an example.

A briefing and update session for WFAP program managers will be held November 10 and 11th in McClellan, CA. Nate realizes that Veteran's Day falls with this time, but dates are set to coincide with graduation on November 12. He will consider offering another briefing session in January if needed.

An application announcement for instructors is being developed to clarify information that has been circulated.

ACTION: Send NOLS (L-380) contact information to Kim Bang.

Kim Bang (CO) – Kim is getting ready for upcoming training season. In reference to a question posed regarding whether GATRs want to see nomination for 100 and 200 courses as stated on the national training website, the GATRs will remove that reference from the website; they do not want this information.

Larry Elder (MT) – Nothing to report.

Mike Spencer (OR) – Mike will make contact with Ted Mason regarding the 11 individuals presenting failing to meet the standard. Mike will be the Oregon point of contact.

Mike shared concerns that the Corporate University business plan has not been made readily available to the field.

Mike shared a positive outcome from an Oregon preparedness review where one unit loaded all IDPs in IQCS.

Coordination of Pacific Northwest training MOUs is going to shift from the Oregon Department of Forestry to the US Forest Service.

Lynn Cook (UT) – Nothing to report.

Madonna Lengerich (GBTU) – The GBTU is getting field S-420 ready should an opportunity arise for presentation. She may need potential trainees from other regions to fill vacant slots that the Great Basin cannot fill.

Next Conference Call

The next conference call is tentatively scheduled for August 4, 2010, at 1000 hours (Mountain)