

# BLM Fire Training Committee

## Conference Call Notes

Date/Time: 11/2/11 at 1030 MT (Boise)

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

**ROLL CALL:** (participants in bold)

<b>Voting Members:</b>	MT – <b>Michelle Perkins</b>	<b>Guests &amp; Support:</b>
AK – <b>Lynn Standley Coe</b>	NV – <b>Cindy Savoie</b>	BFTU – <b>Jeff Arnberger</b>
AZ – <b>Brian Achziger</b>	NM – <b>Charley Luevano</b>	BFTU – <b>Al Olson</b>
CA – <b>Nate Gogna</b>	OR/WA – <b>Brian Rindlisbacher</b>	BFTU – <b>Pam McDonald</b>
CO/WY – <b>Gary Helming</b>	UT – <b>Lynn Cook</b>	NIFC – <b>Kirk Rothwell (Aviation)</b>
EA – <b>Lamar Liddell</b>	NTC – <b>Don Washco</b>	GBTU – <b>Madonna Lengerich</b>
ID – <b>Carol McElroy</b>	BFTU – <b>Mike Ellsworth</b>	

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

**1. Welcome Aviation and Fuels Advisors (Savoie/Ellsworth)**

The BLM Fire Training Committee welcomed Dave Mueller and Kirk Rothwell as the aviation and fuels advisors, respectively, to the committee.

**2. Preparing for Fall 2011 Fire Operations Group (FOG) Meeting (Ellsworth/Arnberger)**

Jeff Arnberger and Mike Ellsworth discussed preparations for their upcoming presentations to the FOG. Due to time constraints, the workforce succession issue paper is tabled for presentation at the spring 2012 FOG meeting.

The finalized BLM Fire Training Committee charter has been forwarded to the FOG chairs.

The issue paper resulting from Action Item #2011-3 requesting the need for consistent direction on courses that meet professional series requirements was sent to Tamara Neukam, Human Resource Management Branch Chief, for review. Tamara is well aware of the issue and will consult with her staff to prepare a recommendation that can be presented to the FOG at a later date.

**3. S-234 OWDC Issue Paper (Ellsworth)**

The committee discussed the recently approved S-234 OWDC Issue Paper which came out of NWCG Training Development. The impact on the BLM is minimal, but committee members are concerned that issues are not being properly vetted prior to OWDC approval. Jeff Arnberger has spoken with Mark Jones regarding the need to properly vetting training issues through the agencies prior to entertaining issues of this nature. Jeff will request the matter be addressed through OWDC.

***ACTION: Request a slot on the November 2011 OWDC agenda to speak about the process of vetting training issues through agencies prior to OWDC approval. (Jeff Arnberger)***

Concerns were also raised with regards to SME representation where recommendations such as this occur. Mike Ellsworth plans to check on BLM involvement on NWCG course revisions and development projects.

***ACTION: Conduct an analysis of the BLM's subject matter expert involvement in NWCG course revisions and development projects and report on the February 2012 BFTC conference call. (Mike Ellsworth)***

**4. Position Task Book (PTB) Guidance Project (Bang/Olson/Ellsworth)**

The committee discussed the GATRs recent concerns regarding proper administration of position task books. Consideration was raised during the September BLM Fire Training Committee meeting as to whether or not revision of *Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Training Curriculum* (PMS 316) and *The Wildland Fire Suppression Curriculum: Some Questions and Answers* (PMS 901-4) would be beneficial. Al Olson explained that these publications were incorporated into the 310-1.

The committee determined that the GATRs are the proper entity to identify the problems and request solutions through NWCG. Kim Bang will review the publications and discuss the issue at the upcoming GATR meeting. The committee will monitor the issue.

***ACTION: Scan the six PMS 316 training modules and associated frequently asked questions (PMS 901-4) and send to Kim Bang by November 4, 2011. (Pam McDonald)***

**5. Job Aid Updates (Ellsworth)**

The deadline for revisions to the BLM Fire and Aviation Training Information Job Aid was November 1, 2011. No submissions were received. Committee members agreed to extend the deadline to December 1, 2011.

**6. Air Tanker Base Manager (ATBM) PTB (Savoie)**

Cindy Savoie presented an issue that came out of the Great Basin Training Committee meeting regarding PTB requirements for Air Tanker Base Manager. ATBM is BLM-specific position with an accompanying PTB. There seems to be a discrepancy with IQCS regarding the position. Mike Ellsworth informed the group that he is aware of the issue and that the creation of a BLM set-id will alleviate the problem once the system upgrade is completed.

***ACTION: Create a BLM set-id for the Air Tanker Base Manager position in IQCS and report on the February 2012 conference call. (Mike Ellsworth)***

**7. Faller C Certifier NV SOP (Savoie)**

Cindy Savoie notified the committee that Nevada is moving forward with creating Faller C Certifier standard operating procedures.

Nate Gogna mentioned that California had its first alpha test course for Faller C certifiers and are now working on policy direction. Committee members are welcome to review the training materials.

## 8. Review of Action Log

(McDonald)

Pam McDonald facilitated a status update of the action item log to date.

### Round Robin:

#### Alaska (Standley Coe)

- Working on internal training projects.
- Rebuilding the Allocation of Forces model for use by committee members.
- Efforts are underway to reclassify Tony Doty's position (possibly 462 or 301).
- Will be attending the GATR meeting along with Cindy Forrest-Elkins.

#### AZ (Achziger)

- Mentioned that Arizona has an IM for position task book and IQCS card initiation and certification requirements.

***ACTION: Send IM AZ-2012-002 (PTB and IQCS card initiation and certification requirements) to committee members by November 10, 2011. (Brian Achziger)***

#### CA (Gogna)

- Nine of the 16 BLM slots for the Basic Academy at the Wildland Fire Apprenticeship Program have been filled. The travel ceiling is having an impact on training, especially for the Forest Service.
- California is having training audits.

#### CO/WY (Gary Helming)

- Kim Bang is at their state training committee meeting. They are reworking their charter.

#### EA (Liddell)

- Nothing to report.

#### ID (McElroy)

- Idaho will have their fall fire meeting in Boise the week of November 14, 2011.

#### MT (Perkins)

- Zone and the Rocky Mountain meetings were recently held.
- Montana has concern regarding all employees needing I-300/400. The fear is that some individuals will become unqualified if historical recognition is not given. Jeff Arnberger assured members that historical recognition will be given to fully qualified individuals. Trainees will need to complete the training, however.

***ACTION: Create and distribute an IB addressing the I-300/400 historical recognition for fully qualified individuals after the December 2011 deadline. (Jeff Arnberger)***

#### NV (Savoie)

- Nothing to report.

#### NM (Luevano)

- Carl Gossard will be the new State FMO following the retirement of Don Kearney in the next few months. Tim Murphy is acting as the State Director for the next 120 days.

**OR/WA (Brian Rindlisbacher/Renee Beams)**

- Renee Beams is acting in the position until the Regional Office determines what to do with the position. Due to the number of vacancies, this could be quite some time.
- Would like to know if there is a Spanish version of I-100 available.

***ACTION: Determine if there is a Spanish version of I-100 and report to the committee by December 2011. (Jeff Arnberger)***

**Utah (Cook)**

- Lynn Cook will be retiring the end of next month. Cherie Ausgotharp will be act as the Utah representative.

**NTC (Wascho)**

- Gearing up for the upcoming training season.

**GBTU (Lengerich)**

- Nothing to report.

**Aviation (Rothwell)**

- Nothing to report.

**BFTU (Arnberger, Ellsworth, Olson, McDonald)**

- Jeff has been attending FOG subcommittee meetings and informing them about the BLM Fire Training Committee.
- Jeff will forward the last OWDC meeting minutes when they come available.
- Jeff and Mike will meet with Don Washco and his supervisor the first week of December.

**Next Conference Call:**

The next conference call is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 1030 (Mountain).