

**NRCG
FALL EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
10/28-29/03 BLM BASE OPERATIONS
BILLINGS, MONTANA**

Tuesday – October 28, 2003

The following committee members and liaisons were present:

Richard Grady –Chairperson/DNRC
Joe Wulfekuhle – Vice Chairperson/DNRC
Sue Beron – Lolo National Forest Service
Bruce Mottern – Idaho Department of Lands
Scott Kuehn – Private Industry Liaison
Roberta Whitlock – NRCG Business Committee Liaison/Region 1 USFS
Mike Friske – National Park Service
Jim Gray – NRCG Operations Committee Liaison
Scott Wilke – Northern Rockies Wildfire Contractors Association Liaison
Bob Bell –Northern Rockies Wildfire Contractors Association Liaison
Harvey Wolff – Bureau of Land Management – Miles City
Walt Schopfer – Bureau of Land Management – Billings
Tom Corbin – NRCG Board of Director Liaison
John Christianson – North Dakota National Forest
Hank Hanson – Private Individual/Retired from BLM/Wyoming
Kevin Erickson – Northern Rockies Fire Equipment – Forest Service - Missoula

Members not present:

Ann Vogt – Advisor – BLM Base Operations - Billings
Henry Speelman – Bureau of Indian Affairs – Northern Cheyenne – Eastern MT Zone
Richard R. Willoughby, - FWP – North Dakota Zone
John Dreadfulwater – USFS – Nez Perce NF – North Idaho Zone
Brett Waters – NRCG Board of Directors/Montana County Firewardens Liaison

• **NRCG Committee Reports:**

Roberta Whitlock reported on the NRCG Business Committee fall meeting on October 1-2, 2003 in Billings.

- Review of Business Committee Accomplishment Report
- To do – Classify and rates for specialized equipment
 - Hazard Pay
 - Continued sponsorship of workshops and training (Buying Team, - - Procurement, Finance/Logistics, assorted training)
 - Assist with Equipment Inspector Workshop

- Traveling Team to assist with inspections
- 2004 Plan of Work handed out

Group Discussion: Pre-season preparedness (how much is enough, guidelines to procurement); specialized equipment (processors, feller benchers, etc.) classification, use, training on use of accessories, logging versus suppression activities; timeframes for rates

Suggestions – baseline of amount of equipment and logistical support to be signed-up pre-season; order in addition help to add pre-season sign-up as indices change; 2 year rates, terms, specs so that logistical support and suppression equipment can be signed-up on alternate year; when is enough?; copies of resource lists to NRCG operations committee.

Action items:

- Minutes regarding the NRCG Business Committee can be found on the NRCG Web site
- Final recommendations will be reviewed on Thursday 10/29/03

NRCG Board of Directors Meeting and DNRC Fire Business Committee Report:

The Chairperson reported on the NRCG Equipment Report that he presented to the NRCG Board of Directors (BOD) meeting on Wednesday October 22, 2003 in Missoula. The Chairperson will insure all committee members get a copy of his report presented.

The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson attended the contractor meeting that was facilitated by the NRCG Board of Directors and Tracy Nimlos on Tuesday October 21, 2003 in Missoula.

NRCG BOD Highlight – Tom Corbin

A decision was made to establish an interagency position (term) to coordinate and deal with contractor/training issues. Establish a commission from each state with in region of NRCG to oversee programs, equipment issues, training (including certification), etc from each state. Commission would be independent of both contractor associations and land management agencies. Tom Corbin asks the NRCG Equipment Committee to prepare some recommendations onto the BOD on their input regarding the position description. This will be noted in the minutes of the meeting.

The Chairperson reported on his attendance to the DNRC Fire Business fall meeting in September in Missoula. The DNRC Fire Business Committee is working on contracting issues, manuals and issue from this past fire season. They will appreciate input from all NRCG Committees regarding their efforts regarding DNRC Fire Business Management and working relationship with the NRCG Business Committee regarding the supplements to the Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook (IIBMH).

Individual Committee Member reports:

Idaho –preseason inspections done for water handling; other equipment is done at time of hire and therefore inconsistent in quality; washing equipment prior to leaving for incident vs. at incident; cracks in glass not standardized; buses did not have trip permits; buses traveling longer than allowable; use of specialized equipment; single resource requirement may affect small companies (1 engine) – RFD’s and larger companies are going to be ok

North Dakota – Did some early pre-season inspections; Rick Willoughby did get out on several incidents and did find improve communications among the contracting officers and fire equipment specialist working with the contractors. Continue trying to coordinate inspections with DOT. Local governments not signing-up equipment based on training standards and availability of personal to staff equipment.

BLM/Miles City & Billings – Issues regarding ROSS, mobilization, accountability, input/output - if it worked better there may have been fewer problems; sign-up of local RFD – should they be the same rate (South Dakota RFD’s are done as private contractor’s by BLM since they are handled out of the Miles City BLM office. This is an isolated area regarding the administration area of the BLM office. Equipment compliments on Wildland Engines – Type 6 are more than actually needed for use of equipment on Type 7 which they use in the eastern part of Montana with the BLM.

Forest Service

- Contracting Officer role in dispatching, preseason sign-up and base levels; performance ratings for contractor’
- Training standards regarding 310-1, coordination with NRCG and the private training providers, self certification and how it affects qualifications in the future, red carding and falsifications, etc.
- Centralized location for Q&A from the private contractors, central locations
- BAER different standards for equipment then fire suppression
- Revoking contracts if minimum standard are not met (deficient equipment hired again and again)
- Digital cameras for inspections (not all can be used in a court case) chainsaw SN vs. part numbers; clear definition of wear and tear; engineer certifications are not working as well as should – we need to state what equipment is going to be expected to do

DNRC

- Equipment Inspector Workshops supported
- Pre-season inspections are working
- ROSS needs to be evaluated and address the problems this winter
- Continue working on communications and human factor regarding the inspections contracting, training and mobilization of resources

Private Industry and Association Liaison Issues:

- Better job of preseason and EERA administration supported
- Equipment Inspector workshop needs to transition into certification program
- Fire chasing and brokering; out of area companies with EERA from other areas coming into local area, obtaining a post office and local license plates to get an EERA on the fire unit
- Reciprocal agreement for licensing and operating in other states; local fire unit did not brief team members on Chapter 20 Supplement – especially out of area It's
- Define local – should be working circles vs. geographic areas vs. dispatch areas;
- Big Iron is not a long enough session for the IMT personnel – crews used when feller buncher could have done the job quicker and safer, recommend a roving technical specialists to assist teams on use of specialized equipment; defective equipment, contractor performance; contract faller course; training providers need to post schedules – and be able to addition (classes, testing, etc); Dozer Boss class is not just dozers anymore – Division Sups are in same situation. Managing assorted types of equipment is becoming an issue on the ground. Jim Steele is retiring and need to approach the training committee to get this added to current training sessions.
- Use of other tanks on engines or water trucks (pesticide applicator became an engine; fuel tanks that still smelled of gas; chainsaws on engines – not required but engines carried them and IMT requested engine personnel to fall trees – engine operators then being used as uncertified or unclassified faller; cross-typing of equipment; radios – contractor's not required to carry and local unit do not have programmable radios.

A smaller working group from within the committee met to discuss operation issues for the NRCG Equipment Committee:

Other committee members met to discuss input to the Position Description for the NRCG Interim Position for a Contractor/AD training issues position at NRTC

- If funding from the Forest Service, would like to see if possible if the position is going to be open to other state and federal agencies.
- We recommend this position be filled with an individual possessing strong written and verbal communication skills, good interpersonal and interagency working relationships.
- Contracting Officer Qualified at a minimum Level 2, prefer Level 3 (in order to understand how EERA terms/conditions work, when to answer a question, when to forward concern to procurement official from the USFS perspective. Need to look at the contracting officer qualifications regarding other state and federal agencies. Not sure if the position is deal with contracting issues

- Working knowledge of ICS 310-1 (how it works, how it should be applied, training requirements and how to obtain them)
- Understand intricacies of working with interagency (Federal, state, Private, Local Government) groups (to organize, pull support from)
- Understand how dispatch works, mobilization, ROSS, Understand equipment, knowledge of how it may be used
- Organizational Skills and Knowledge contractor associations, contractor issues, types of contract resources available, how the resources can be used
- Ability to find answers to contractors' questions – from government experts, NRCG committees, equipment specialists, etc.
- Capture frequently asked questions, and the responses to be posted in centralized location
- Work with committees, BOD, Government officials to present a summary of contractor concerns
- Distributing information regarding training, specifications, pending changes to contract requirements
- Liaison with commissioned boards (to be set up by each state at a later time- Available to attend contractor meetings, committee meetings, NRCG meetings, etc.
- Working knowledge of Training MOU and audit process

Reviewed Q&A from NRCG Private Contractor Lessons Learned notes:

The Chairperson passed out the notes captured at the meeting and reviewed by Grady, Kuehn and Wulfekuhle on 10/23/03 following the NRCG BOD meeting. Recommendations were made to the committee on the issues that need to be forwarded onto the NRCG BOD, NRCC, NWCG, Dispatch Centers,

Roberta Whitlock is meeting with Tracy Nimlos on 10/30/03 and will pass the NRCG Equipment Committee comments regarding the private contractor issues.

- ROSS – everyone knows the system did not run as smooth as expected or needed
- Mobilization Boards – Each dispatch zone slightly different - NRCG Mobilization of Local Firefighting Resources administered by the DNRC Rural Fire Coordinator Mike Wiederhold keeper of this document and updates needs to be updated on the NRCG Web site.
- MOB Boards need to be more active and informed on DOT – standardize questions and answers for consistency
- Crash Search & Rescue – Kevin Erickson will work with Bob Qurino with the national committee efforts.
- FS/DNRC/ BLM/BIA/IDL – put their own number on it, BIA – payments rejected from incident to tribal agency. All state and federal contracting officers need to get this resolved by April of 2004

- Chainsaws on Engines – emergency tool to get out of a tough position not required by government. Realize some contractors have them on engines
- Task Books/Red Cards – government reluctant to sign-off, where they are/how to get, forgeries. NRCG Training Committee needs to work on these issues.
- Gifts to Public Officials – need specifics for any official follow up to occur and refer to agency policies.
- Qualifications – expired, not able to keep up (squad boss) Evaluations of Contractor performance – system in place, need to use Equipment listed on “buying team” resource list incorrectly Work/Rest Guidelines for contractor’s – flexible, clearly unclear (on NWCG website) Self Certification – how will it be policed, not viewed by contractors as a good idea
- Equipment Mobilization Assistance Teams (EMAT)– assistance teams sound good and field inspections at incident
- Age limitations for engines – National contract has one, but the NRCG Equipment Committee **will not** be recommending this to NRCG. A bad rumor that was started.
- Refresher Training – agency specific. NRCG BOD for contractors’ need to be clear – 4 hours or 8 hours. NRCG Training committee needs to clarify this in writing for all state, federal and contractor training providers by 1/1/04
- Equipment below specifications – hired at full rate, Engine Typing – need to come to agreement in GACC, Late sign-ups – everyone had this happen, not practical for contractors or government
- Gray water – who pays for dump fees, permits – book says contractor pays – Roberta will follow up with Contracting Officers and with contractors
- Sign-up big iron preseason instead of during fires, shop Truck – review wording on equipment size vs. skill/type of repair needed Local Government vs. EERA – CDL/DOT requires different, Trailer Tires – tread slash, tread depth, clearly identify to state minimum tire depth, DOT spec is not enough for type of travel on forest type roads
- Out of State Plates – not on the way to the fire, but on the way home from the fire had to purchase plates because they were gainfully employed in the other state – Bruce Mottern will follow up regarding Idaho and contractor concerns
- Drug Testing – DNRC, IDL, Dakota, BLM, FS, NPS employees are drug tested on a random basis per DOT requirements

Reviewed Senator Burns Meeting – Roberta Whitlock

- IIBNH Chapter 20 specifications – good
- License plates had to be bought in other states for those from Montana
- ROSS – not working well and issues need to be addressed
- Accountability – sending bad equipment, CO’s are to blame, good old boy system
- Performance – IMT needs to be able to comfortably document poor performance and get rid of equipment real time
- Smoke-chasing vs. pre-positioning – define them and let us know what the rules are

- Pre-positioning is when the agency hires resource to be in place (FS); State and other agencies are limited in how they can fund pre-positioning
- Resources were “kept” to avoid drawing local pools down – should not be happening unless under hire to stay in area

Montana Governor’s Office attended meeting – their comments were:

- Standards for Inspections – not consistent
- Local resources did not get hired
- Rates were the same for all equipment (whether it met or not)
- People Fire Chase
- Meeting 310-1 conflicts with Matrix in Chapter 20 Supplement
- When IMT orders Agency Only – Dispatch fills with agency equipment – the dispatch center is placed at bottom of rotation so contractor’s also loose rotation

Wednesday – October 29, 2003

The following individuals attended the morning session of the committee meeting

- Joe King – Montana Wildfire/Private Contractor and Training Provider in Bozeman
- Duane Turk – Central Montana Contractors Association in Helena

Kevin Erickson reported on the input from the small working group within the committee that met on the afternoon of Tuesday 10/28/03 regarding equipment issues.

Review of Minimum Standardized Equipment Compliments between State, Federal, Private & Local Governments.

Recommend adding to the equipment compliment on Type 3-7 wildland engines for 2003 within the NRCG Chapter 29 IIBHM.

300 feet of ¾ inch synthetic garden hose – 50 foot sections –Found in the GSA or private fire vendor supply. Not local hardware stores or Depots.

1 - 1” NPSH – ¾” GH reducers

2 – ¾” adjustable nozzles

1 – ¾” mop up wand

1 – ¾” gated wye

5 – ¾” inline ball valves

Recommend we add radio communications – mobile radio, programmable, narrow band capable to all engines and water tenders for 2004.

Reason is safety and communications on the fireground, requirement to have engine boss certified operator will increase likelihood of using equipment independently and by not having radios on the engine we either cannot use them or have to sometimes very limited access to radio caches. This limits the use of that resource that should be able to operate independently in every other way. Fire fighter safety and communications in LCES.

Discussion on adding mobile radio to water tenders. How water trucks and water tenders are being used is confusing – resource order is clear but actual use becomes unclear when incident becomes busy. NRCG only area that has a water truck class. White page rewrite may eliminate water trucks already. Will look at changes to water truck class after rewrite is done.

Get a communication tech to write specifications and share law regarding use of radio frequency.

Kevin Erickson– Will follow up with communications technician on teams to get specifications and any restrictions that need to be published in the change. NRCG Business Committee will address the issue regarding adjustment on the engines and tenders. Committee members did state a majority of contractors have already made an investment in radio communications and mop up items these past three years for safety and needs on the fireline.

Comparison of fire line handbook to Chapter 20 – various dispatch and operation personnel were working from NWCG fire line handbook and had requested a type of tractor plow instead of the dozer.

Consensus is the problem was more of an education on the use of the various agency handbooks. Work with dispatch and fire equipment specialist to understand the use of the Chapter 20 with IIBMH on heavy equipment and if needed, pass onto the NWCG for future changes in the fireline handbook. If we decide to change when national rewrite is done we will start in 2004 to look at proposed changes.

Barricade – Issue is do we pay additional for private companies/local governments to provide/carry Barricade. The Forest Service in Region 1 does not currently approve Barricade for use. Decided no other change to rate needed at this time. Committee does realize it is being used on incidents and IMT are handling claims for its use on an individual basis.

Weed washing – before arriving at camp. Weed washing, done right, requires equipment to be taken apart and is time consuming. Concerns are delay in dispatch, cost to contractor, government furnished at dispatch or inspection point, commercial wash centers are not able to handle large equipment, setting up a wash station at dispatch/government facility (who actually washes, additional water and mud), consistency in inspection, extended initial attack – would this requirement be waived, mobile wash stations in camp are not for heavy equipment but for undercarriage of rolling stock.

Add some statement in the IIBHM – equipment must be clean for time of hire inspection. This will also be passed onto the DNRC Fire Business Committee to get into to DNRC EERA stipulations. Sue Beron– contact agency's for update of policy changes (DNRC – no changes).

Cracks on Windshield – how many/much are acceptable?

DOT standard is on the inspection form, inspection workshop we agreed nothing in the wiper swath and note others for claims purposes. Reviewed DOT standard on form. Agreed to use the standard on the back of the OF-296 Inspection form.

Buses – tickets for not having trip permits and Idaho license plates contractors
Bruce Mottern is going to follow up issues from private contractors

Cargo netting versus cages on for buses and crew carriers. Hauling fuel in passenger compartment. Who is responsible for safe hauling. Consensus – need to develop a handout, or white paper to give to bus operators.

Kevin and Sue will get current information and develop a handout.

Buses – work/rest guidelines violated. Discuss again with bus companies and dispatch organizations.

Tires – tread depth has been changed in writing in Chapter 20, higher standard than DOT

Association Presentations

Duane Turk:

Thank you for allowing contractors to attend meetings, prompt attention on chainsaw and wheel chock issues. New concerns to look at -

Standardization of equipment between FS & DNRC; 310-1 guidelines vs FS requirements

Please strive to be consistent. Helena HIDC did get resource orders and the system did work regarding engine resource orders to California.

Joe King:

Previous FS , currently a private contractor/training provider and interested in looking for changes and consistency in how we do business.

Training – great job in catching up, but sending private contractors from this area to California with engine boss trainees instead of fully qualified personnel. 310-1 guidelines are not understood by agency personnel. Required training – only 2 things listed. FS 5109 is also required under (other or recommended training). If this is going to be used, it needs to be applied properly. We need to maintain, and help maintain the qualifications of retired and contracted personnel.

(Definition of “performance-based dispatch” – equipment that does not meet spec/requirements they are not getting dispatched so when lots of fire activity they go around system and get ordered; equipment that meets requirements but does not perform after dispatch, they should not get ordered again)

Junk engines – inspection, performance-based dispatch – if equipment does not meet requirements we need to get rid of them. R-6 dispatchers kept track of performance and dispatched accordingly.

Assistance to California – 60-70 orders were received by R-1 but dispatch offices were closed; Flathead filled some with equipment that had not been used during this past fire season (MT fires) but they are not fully qualified. Several engines are heading to CA w/o orders because they are needed, and dispatches are not getting orders out. Big money in fire and these folks are in business – need to work. Dispatchers need to be proactive in finding resources.

Bob Bell – DOT inspections and requirements; letter forward to the equipment committee from Troy Kurth from Washington Officer US DOT to a private contractor in Oregon did not help clarify anything. We all need this issued clarified better. Grady will handle this issue and getting in touch with the USDOT office in Helena by January 25, 2004.

Scott Wilke – We all know fire-chasers are there, what the NRCG BOD and dispatch centers are going to do about known fire chasers. Grady - We all need to **document** these isolated issues and work with local mob boards, NRCC, NRCG BOD and the local dispatch centers on the specific issues. Need to follow the policies and mobilization efforts established, ROSS issues need to be worked on this winter and mobilization boards need to be active. Private Contractor Associations need to visit with their members on these issue in the upcoming winter months.

Henry Hanson – AD from Wyoming, previously rated as Logistics Chief and currently as a GSUL, equipment manager, and camp manager. Would like to work with organization any way he can be used.

GROUP DISCUSSIONS:

Fire chasing – The fire unit hiring equipment not ordered via system; the contractor making a business decision to travel/market/seek work; the dispatch system that isn't working as intended – We know it is happening and we all need to continue to work on the isolated issues and get the facts to why it happened.

Training guidelines in **Chapter 20 Matrix** is not correct and we need to provide input to the NRCG Training committee. The committee provided input to Sue Beron and Roberta Whitlock to take to the NRCG Training and Business Committees.

Shop Truck – Two classifications in Chapter 20 – 1 ton or greater and 1 ton or less. We need to look at qualification of type of repair truck: Drop the 1 ton more or less and add the wording Heavy Equipment Mechanic and Light Truck or chainsaw repair.

ROPS vs. FOPS – On page 8 of 90 there is a description for all heavy – we need to exclude excavators from this because the arm is the ROPS, they do need brush guards. Brush guards are not clearly defined – left to inspectors to determine if it meets need We need to define what is acceptable – Kevin Erickson and Scott Kuehn will establish a description, etc to the committee to review by February 1, 2004.

Heavy Equipment Rates, Requirements, and Definitions – are we going to split out

- FMC & KMC rate will be set
- Feller Bunchers
- Forwarders – may be a little more difficult to establish description and rate

Engineering Certification – clarify what the equipment will or may be used for so the engineer issuing a certification understands what they are certifying equipment

Page 9 of 90 – is only part of the requirements; the water tank baffling is outlined in the water truck, engine, and tender requirements

Certified tanks – does not state what tank is certified to actually carry (fuel/water)
Erickson, Grady, Wulfekuhle, Kuehn – need to come up with some clarification over the winter.

Skidgine formula – needs to be moved to another place in the Chapter

Pump pressure – requires an “@” sign to be correct

Water Tender Rates are the highest in the nation – Committee recommends to the NRCG Business Committee not to adjust rate for radio

Page 40 of 90 – **NFPA standard** has changed; we need to verify and correct if necessary – need to verify all references to assure these standards are correct in all water handling specifications

Cindy Christophersen – will reissue the **potable water soliciation/EERA**; discussion on the Contracting Workshop agenda and NRCG Business Committee will need to discuss at their next meeting.

Standards for Survival – Graywater, Portable Toilets, Potable Water, Tire Repair, and Fuel Trucks – escorts or require the operators have training

Jim Gray – this is a manageable situation and we should be able to handle this differently; we are already overwhelmed in assuring resources that need this training get it

Roberta – every reference only states that fireline personnel have this training; no written policy that camp personnel have this training

*** Elevate to the NRCG Training Committee so all State; Federal, Private Training Providers and local governments have the same information.

Foam Units – under the engine specifications we have a price adjustment for metered or compressed foam system. Equipment Committee recommended a flat 5% adjustment for either system versus a graduated adjustment. Question was raised to operations if they cared how we paid for this accessory – they do not care how we pay, if ordered they only care about the fact if a foam delivery system is needed that we can get it.

Equipment Committee agreed to leave as is until national standard is established

ATV – Operator must meet agency certification; CO's do not see operator and have no way to check this. Chapter 20 languages will be changed to put this responsibility on the IMT/Camp Management versus procurement officials.

Modified Suspension Lift System

Under EERA from other Geographic Area's vs. hiring at local unit.

Check with issuing office to see if the equipment was modified when the EERA was issued – and did it have a certification or was it checked to verify the center of gravity or safe operation of equipment was compromised

Check with fire to see if equipment will meet the use intended

Note – government offices in Nevada are putting these kits on their own equipment so we will see more of this in the future.

Page 44 of 90 – remove sentence that has “structural tender” language

Handout of BLM supplement to Chap 20 supplement

Intended for BLM use only - Can it be used on FS land (jurisdiction) where BLM has protection responsibility -not a question for committee

Page 52 of 90 & 51 of 90 – Fire Expert is defined as one who works with equipment. The certification states the government official signature certifies “equipment type and listed personnel meet....”

Scott – pump kits are dumb proof except on T-3; does it need to be a government can we use a contractor?

Roberta – checking training records are much more complex; would a mechanic or pump inspector have this expertise.

Note: Need to refer to language in page 7 of the NRCG Mobilization of Local Firefighting Resources – June 2003

Equipment Inspector Workshops

Missoula went well and comments were implemented into the Billings Workshop

Billings – went well – good variety of equipment used for hands-on inspection date.
Business portion done at the end was better planned.

Equipment Workshops for 2004:

Lewiston, Idaho -March 22-26, 2004 - Bruce Mottern and John Dreadfulwater will be the lead coordinators

Libby, MT = March 29-April 2, 2004 – Mike Friske, Kevin Erickson, Joe Wulfekuhle and Scott Kuehn will the lead coordinators.

Billings, MT = April 5-9, 2004 – Anne Vogt and Walt Schopfer will be the lead coordinators

Grady will work on the workshop task matrix for the scheduled cadre meeting.

Rough Agenda - Use the Billings format:

Monday – ½ day: Introduction, housekeeping, objectives, inspector duties, (preseason and incident), Federal Motor Carriers/IHP

Tuesday – Work through Chapter 20 Or technical presentations

Wednesday – Sometime this day – business presentation

Thursday – Inspections

Friday – Wrap-up and travel

Task Assignments for Workshop - Grady

Draft Agenda by 1/31/04 - Cadre

Call Letter posted on Internet week of 1/26/04

Nominations due 2/25/04 (to Kevin)

Equipment Cadre Meeting – 1/22/04 in Missoula at DNRC State Office or DNRC SWLO Conference room 0800-1700

Joe Wulfekule will schedule the round table meeting room at the DNRC FAMB or SWLO conference room. We need to let Joe know on the number of individuals attending, if we need a bigger room for the cadre meeting by 12/30/03

Note:

All committee members are welcomed to attend this cadre meeting and Grady asked Roberta Whitlock if the NRCG Business Committee/Equipment Committee could also meet around the same time regarding a joint meeting on some of the common issues.

Need to have operations and training committee liaisons to this meeting

Verify size and cost of meeting facilities for the workshop before Christmas -

Coordinators

Libby – City Hall is \$75/day, holds about 100-125

Determine if tuition is needed – agencies may be able to pick-up cost without charging tuition.

Job Aid – edit for updates and correct dates – Bruce Motterm & Joe Wulfekuhle
Send notes to Bruce by 1/31/04

Dan Bushnell – DNRC Public Information Officer can help us get the word out. Idaho Department of Lands has no PIO. Grady will contact Dan Bushnell on the coordination of the workshop and PIO press releases, contacts etc. Dan will be asked to attend the cadre meeting.

Inspector Certification Proposal – We need to have a core group of personnel in the Geographic Area available to make decisions on questionable calls; EMAT members; someone in each area (does not have to be agency) to assist in large inspections or to help guide other inspectors for consistency;

- Eventually become a ticket punch item with required training via the training center (coordinate with the Training Committee)

- Reviewed of 5109 FS Qualifications for Equipment Inspectors

This appears to be more of a mechanic type of service/job, not an EERA inspector

- Consider writing our own NRCG requirement

 - ** Equipment Committee will develop a proposal for NRCG in 2004

- Issue pocket card attending NRCG sponsored training on X date, back of card can be for documentation of additional training, assignments, etc.

- Long term – we need to have certified/carded personnel for inspectors

 - ** Exception is initial attack may have to be inspected by fire personnel who are not carded. We all agree this may be an exception to any requirement but DO THE INSPECTIONS

Support From Private Organizations

Financial support is not needed at this time, and would give the appearance that particular group may be receiving special treatment. Availability of equipment provided for demonstrations would be acceptable.

Discussion on comfort level of Contracting Officers to accept contractor association doing their own inspects.

- ** Responded this would be fine if a certification is in place, inspector is not inspecting their own equipment or a family members, preseason, government hired inspector, etc. The key is no appearance there is a conflict of interest.

Windshields– Motion from Scott Kuehn and seconded by Kevin Erickson
Change standard “no cracks in wiper swath, 2 chips in 3” circle” – Motion was tabled and a more specifications will be developed for review by the committee at the cadre meeting in January. Harvey Wolff & Scott Kuehn will bring to next cadre meeting

NRCG Equipment Brochure drafted by Grady – Committee will review and bring comments to the cadre meeting in January.

NRCG Equipment Liaisons to other NRCG Committees and BOD

BOD – Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
Operations – Mike Friske and Kevin Erickson
Business – Richard Grady and Ann Vogt
Training – Sue Beron
Aviation – Sue Beron
Logistics - Vacant
Fire Use – Vacant

Note:

All NRCG Equipment Committee Liaisons need to make contact with the Chairpersons of the other NRCG Committees. The committee membership is available to help everyone when needed.

Joe Wulfekuhle is updating the NRCG Equipment Committee roster with phone numbers, e-mail address, etc. This will be updated by Joe and forwarded onto Tracey Nimlos to be posted on the NRCG Web site by 1/1/04.

Committee Charter was reviewed – Chairperson & Vice Chairperson – Committee voted we keep the same personnel for another year. Chairperson – Richard Grady and Vice Chairperson Joe Wulfekuhle. Joe and Grady thanked everyone for their support and hard work this past year. Everyone feels a lot has been accomplished by the committee membership, team work and the good interagency effort being committed to the committee. This will be passed onto the NRCG BOD.

Comments from the liaison at the meeting from the NRCG Operation Committee, NRCG BOD, MRWCA and feedback from Senator Burns staff meeting, good feed back on actions taken so far from the NRCG Equipment Committee.

Grady thanked Sue Beron for taking the meeting notes for the committee and will review them to be forward onto Tracy Nimlos to be posted on the NRCG Web Site and forwarded onto the NRCG Equipment Committee Memberships, NRCG Liaisons and interested individuals.

The meeting notes were reviewed and have been accepted by the Chairperson

/S/*Richard F. Grady*

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CHAIRPERSON

NRCG EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

10/31/03