

# Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

## Training Committee Meeting

*March 6 - 7, 2006  
Helena, Montana*

### Attendees

Frank Waterman	Bryan Connelley	Jim Clairmont (Buttercup)
Bob Cunningham	Bert Starr	Rosie LeMire
Andy Randall	Sally Estes	Maggie McDonald
Wally Bennett	Carol Bienhold	Bob Flesh
Neil Nelson	Laura Dooley	Robert LaPlant
Tim Crosmer	Richard Grady	Larry Elder
Jim Blankenship	Kitty Ortman	
Debbie Cuyle - note taker		

### March 6, 2006

#### **Introductions**

Introductions were done.

#### **Review and approval of Fall 2005 notes**

The last sentence in the notes, under E310, 311, 312, the group would like this sentence added to the form that was sent out. The sentence reads: *"Intelligence Dispatch training will also be added to the needs analysis, to better determine zone needs."* **Bob Cunningham will add that sentence to the form. The meeting notes were approved.**

#### **Needs Analysis**

Bob reviewed the needs analysis spreadsheet and changes were made. The NRTC curriculum is between 28-30 courses. Courses are identified and a few additional courses are set aside just in case a course is cancelled, there is another course to take its place. Years ago there was agreement to hold zone courses so zone reps could figure out the most cost efficient place to have the courses.

There was discussion regarding funding cutbacks and class size. Because of fewer federal employees there is probably not a need in some zones to have spring training in the 100 and 200 classes.

The group chose the courses needed for zone training and will use this as a guide and training tool. **The consensus of the group was to leave the process alone even though it may not work perfectly for the South Central Zone.** This is the first analytical needs analysis. One thing recognized is that these numbers may or may not have anything to do with reality in December when budgets change and agency priorities change. The ITC curriculum dovetails into the national curriculum and instructors are identified in advance so it requires a draft in the summer.

- Might try and get one or two ISUITE sessions up this year.
- Resource Advisors would like to have a refresher course.
- ROSS workshops are all done locally.
- WFSA workshops are done locally.
- It was thought that Fire program management may be a duplicate of the M581 course. However the numbers show we need to put on another M581 course.
- Fire Ecosystem Management may be a duplicate of the M580 course.
- ICARS and ISUITE – part if ISUITE is taught in the 248 course now. However, the whole ISUITE package is needed for finance. Steve Simon has put on a variety of courses over the years and had been calling them *Fire computer applications*. In the past Steve taught courses we thought were needed. If you have specific needs, ask Steve to teach a course in 2007. Last spring there was discussion to do away with the Fire computer application training because it is too ambiguous. In the past this course was for computer specialists to attend the broad range of things that were offered. **The decision was made to keep ISUITE and ICARS separate.** The role of the fire computer technical specialist is to go out to fire camp and hook the computers and other equipment up and get them running. There was discussion whether to break ICARS and ISUITE into 2 separate courses. ICARS is the financial part of ISUITE and they are both all interrelated. It was suggested having the first day of training for general information because people do need the whole picture of how the programs inter-relate. Then have breakout sections for those that need only portions of the programs. The selection letter could state the specific agenda – (ex: ISUITE planning and finance), with the understanding that everyone is there for a general day and then the breakout sessions.
- There was a discussion whether it was more efficient to conduct ISUITE training at the zone level. It is zone training and should be on the needs analysis with a need to tie in with the business group.

## NRCG analysis

Even though some courses have low numbers we have to put them on anyway. This winter the Plans session was offered, so next winter we'll offer the Logistics session.

Eastern zone has been seeing a number drop so it was suggested to keep County people in mind when offering courses. It was stated that NRCG curriculum is not attracting South Central Montana zone and the East zone, and kind of seeing a trend for the whole state. One concern is that Federal agencies are under mandate to offer certain classes and therefore are restricted with courses the training center offers. Not all of those courses meet the needs of the locals and what it costs to send one person to the Northern Rockies for a course, you can send someone for a two week training somewhere else.

The spreadsheet showing the number of people planned to go to individual courses was reviewed and updated. There will be an S-420 course offered this year. And the 420 course will be rotated with the Pacific Northwest, Northern Rockies and Great Basins. There will be 3 teams and in addition there will be one team from Great Basin and one team from the Pacific Northwest.

- **Local fire management leadership** course is dictated by agency administrators to offer that course so it will be available this year.
- **RX-310** - assuming we offer it next winter, it will be a 3 session year, the next year will be 2 sessions.
- **Fire line leadership courses:** These are either tuition based or agency funded courses and are a federal requirements because of complexity, it does need to be offered at the geographical level.
- **Sandtable and computer simulators - Which courses have broad appeal for State and Federal agencies?** - Train the trainer simulators and computer Sandtable course. They haven't defined how they are distributing the software for these courses yet, but it was suggested to have separate courses for the Sandtable course and the Computer simulation course. Funding issues with national computer simulation is an issue at this time and we don't have enough computers to train on the simulation. Sandtable is a course people want.
- **Incident medical specialist** - this is a Northern Rockies program. This course should have broad appeal to encourage more participation.
- **S-403** - There is a need to put on an S-403 Information officer course. This course hasn't been offered in 3 years. If we could do this course in the region, it would be great.

- **Weather station maintenance** – most people would like to have this course for local troubleshooting. DNRC and Northern Idaho would like to see this course offered. It was added to the spreadsheet.
- **Helibase Manager** – 371 was skipped this year, should offer it next year. Consensus was to keep this course on the spreadsheet.
- **Safety Officer** – Line safety officers were taking it not just Type 1, 2, 3 were taking the course, doing 4 Sandtables within that course. Larger portion of people going to that course are going for Type 3. According to the draft 1509, there is no training required. Have 203 for information maybe should have a 204 for safety. After discussion consensus was that this course is needed. Field manager's course guide has a revision and will be in line with 310-1.
- Development of a 320 class, bringing in interagency partners, would be a big enticement to have Type 3 qualifications for taking care of business at home. This would enhance getting local support to go to Northern Rockies Training Center.
- **Smoke modeling** – Tuition course because of specific instructor skills. Pass on this one for now.
- Logistics curriculum was added to the spreadsheet with same format as last few years, offering Plans one year and Logistics the next.
- **Dispatch curriculum** - Aircraft dispatcher 310 was offered this year. 311 was offered last year, 310 is offered every two years and 311 or 312 (aircraft dispatcher) every other year. It was suggested to offer 312 (aircraft dispatcher) next year. **After discussion it was decided to offer the 312 course for this upcoming year.**
- **Intermediate air operations S-370** – numbers are down from previous years. There has been no support in including in 310.1. NWCG may be able to identify it as a course to enhance skills and abilities. It has been offered but is not a required course. It was felt that as budgets are cut people won't be sent. **It was decided to wait another year to offer this course.**
- **Helicopter Manager** – NRTC did offer this course last year. Because of all the aviation shortages, they cannot afford to not offer it. This is a basic class to get people going. **It was decided to keep this course on the list.**
- **Fire computer technical Specialist** – Talk to Steve Simon to see what he wants to do. (Was called Computer tech specialists above) **Workshop Simon could offer as needed.**
- **FI-310** – Wildland fire investigator case development. Have not put this course on before and it is the next step up from the 210 class. Agency LEO's would not attend, they do their own training. This course is more generic to prepare a case for trial to cross all jurisdictional boundaries. LEO's will be teaching the course with attorneys and criminal investigators present. This course is being developed. Want to offer in

late spring in the Northern Rockies because field work will need to be done. Package may be finalized by May of 2007. **After discussion, put in the mix for now, add to spreadsheet.**

- **S430** – operations section chief – Haven't offered it in two years, 2007 will be the third year. It was decided to add to the list and look at numbers in the fall – if numbers don't support it, drop from the list for 2007.
- **S378** - Air attack – been offering it every other year with 8-10 Northern Rockies folks going to the course with the intent on air attack qualifications. **Look at for 2008.**
- **S360** – Finance/administration unit leader – was put on last year. After discussion it was added to the list.
- **S-445** – Required training to be a training specialist on an incident – has a lot of good information for people who are or may be assisting zone training reps. Only thing in curriculum that talks about 310-1, performance based system and maintaining task books.
- ICS for executives has been combined with I-400. This course has never put on in Northern Rockies.
- **M-480** – multi-agency coordinating group. This was not put on the list.
- **S-400** incident commander – This was not put on the list.
- **S481** – incident business advisor – new course in the curriculum – It was recommended to let this course mature another year before put on list.
- **S- 340** human resource specialist course is being offered this year.
- **S-375** - Airport support group supervisor – training supports development. This is not a required course. Did have a full course this spring in Albuquerque. This course was considered as a swing course. This course was not added to the list.
- **358** course will be offered this spring.
- **Intelligence officer** – This is not a course but they teach it as a course to support the MACK group. Need pretty strong computer person. – **BIN - Ask dispatchers meeting tomorrow.**

The skills courses were reviewed in the curriculum and they appeal to the broadest audience. In looking at the leadership curriculum and then IQCS courses understanding that they primarily cater to federal agencies. About 85% of participation of Northern Rockies in NRCG training program is Federal employees and need to meet the needs of suppression and prescribed fire.

- **RX-310, RX410, S-490, and RX-300** - Prescribed fire courses. It was proposed that all four courses be in NRTC curriculum. All agreed.
- **RX341** – a new NRTC course. The group agreed to let this course mature it isn't complete yet.

- **S491** – pretty critical course and managing wildland fire for resource benefit. Added both courses to list.
- **M-581** Fire program management – required in 401 series. Moderate complexity level. Put on 2 sessions this year, one next year then could do one every other year. Add on list for next year. **Pre-work needs to be identified in announcement. Agreement to put on list.**
- IQCS training – Dispatchers are probably best to make decisions on what IQCS training is needed next year. Students who took the IQCS training said it was way too fast and they didn't get anything out of it. Maybe better to do more one on one with FMO's instead of a big group tailored to what the FMO's need, having someone go around to the different areas. IQCS is a national program and may take 2-3 years to mature. If this course were to be offered at the training center, there are computer support and facilities there. After talking to the ICQS group; make a practice model we could work with. The user's guide is pretty good and Frank will ask for a practice model that would be available. After discussion it was decided to not include this course in the curriculum.
- **Individual A courses** to be taught outside of ACE with limited federal agency instructors available. These courses are primarily federal requirements. Determine if we are going to get an ACE in the Northern Rockies, try and get ACE in Missoula and if not try and have one-on-one courses. This will be discussed further at the Fall meeting.

**BIN:** Fire line leadership courses L380 and L381 – proposes to wait till tomorrow to talk about these because funding resources are coming down the line.

**BIN** – take a look at the proposal for N. Rockies to develop a 204, or 304, safety officer course.

The ACE conference is going on. **BIN - Where to have the ACE conference in 2007?** Talk with Chris to put it on here, Billings and Bozeman has the facilities as well.

### **5109.17/310-1 Discussions**

In Perusing through the documents RXI-2 and RXI-1, positions were eliminated and replaced with firing boss. In reviewing the firing boss task book it was noticed that all tasks have to be done on a wildfire incident. There haven't been any requests for firing boss at the dispatch units. A firing boss has not been ordered in the last 8 or 9 years. Sally said the BLM is not happy with the change going from ignition to firing. There is a new firing boss task book under the resource boss where you had to be a single resource boss to get a firing boss task book. If the task book is re-written and allows for prescribed fire, everything is okay; if not we have some problems. A new firing boss task book will be reissued and will include prescribed fire. They should be on the web within the

next 6 weeks or so. There is recognition from NWCG that those things need to be changed.

If a task book had been issued already, it is okay to forth with the training. But not to issue any new task books. 310-1 gives you till Dec 31, 2008 to complete any 2000 task books. The confusion is that they have done away with RXI.

Bob will identify a due date for 5109 comments (it does not match the 310 document) and after the meeting the FS group can discuss any issues they have with the 5109.17.

READ - The Resource Advisor curriculum was revised in 2004 and may have dropped it in the 5109 to be in compliance with 310. The red book has verbiage on fire line requirements for non-fire personnel on an incident and general sense of resource advisors to be able to go to fire line have to have guard school to be able to go on the fire line even for BAER positions and to take visitors to the fire line. Bob can ask the question what happened to it in the 5109.17 and 310.1.

**310.1** - Wish they would have done a better job putting down what was the required training. All required training should be listed together.

Tim e-mailed regarding contractor training - RT130 or equivalent and what it had to cover and hours 4 or 8. 4 hours for the contractor training in the 310.1 is agency specific. The blue pages dictate specifics for contractors. NRCG board is deemed the agency in this case. The business committee set 4 hours for contractor training. There was an exhibit in the blue pages with description of what the training must contain.

310.1 - Training is the responsibility of the local hosting agency. Documentation of contractor training and their employees is the responsibility of the contractor. It is the contractor's responsibility to provide a task book. An agency person can be an evaluator for a contractor but can't certify them.

There are very few people that meet requirements to be carded as equipment inspectors. If contractors meet all 5109 requirements, card them, but if not; it is okay to use them locally.

It is up to the individual agency policy to re-certify contractors if they have lost their currency.

Discussion regarding AD requirements. If someone retires from the State and wants to become an AD for the Forest Service their qualifications do not come with them because they departed from the State agency. ADs have to meet the

5109.17 requirements and have to go back to school. Prior version in 5109.17 spoke specifically to that and gave flexibility for staff officer to make that determination. In the new version they took that verbiage out. This issue will be taken to Sharon Allenbreckt. Bob proposes that when the person retires and they have a current red card and if they came to the Forest Service within 3 years and are hired they can be hired as an AD and they have a valid red card. See Page 7 of 13 M which says they have to meet 5109.17 requirements. Have to be currently employed by the State, but if they are not, they don't qualify. **Bin - Carol will right something up regarding this issue and it will be revisited tomorrow.**

### **Procedure for auditing classes in NR**

Bob reviewed the draft procedures with the group line by line. He would like this group to present recommendations to the training working team. The audits have been done at the NRTC. Zone training reps are seeing similar issues, comments, regarding zone training and geographic training. Come up with some recommendations to present to the training working team in May and look at it Nationally. If we are not successful we may go to TWT and then we may have to propose a draft to the NRCG board.

First paragraph

1. Talking specific NRCG courses
2. Procedures agreed to would be valid for zone training sessions.

Background:

Reviewed and discussed. Need to have some verbiage that says when the zone says it is a priority, the coordinator reviews that seriously. Pre-course requirements may come into play. NRTC screens the nominations to see if they have the prerequisites for the course.

It was felt by some that the nominations for NRTC courses are done at the agency level and the training center didn't need to screen the nominations. Selections for courses are made a couple months before the course and in every case NRCG re-looks at the requirements up until the course takes place. Anybody that wants to go to NRTC needs to go through their zoned training committee first. Last sentence second paragraph - Sentence should read "In most cases (instead of all cases) NRCG member agency employees who meet ....."

Quality check - It is up to all of us at every level to make sure people are qualified before going to training. The training center really takes that seriously.

Northern Rockies take priority people then will open the course to other NWCG agencies to fill the class.

Audit Criteria is in the field manager course guide. Audits should be the exception to the rule. If the zone passes a person up, the agency involved should send a letter in directly supporting that person to audit the class. If slots are already in the needs analysis spreadsheet then it should be okay.

With budget cuts there are going to be a lot of people watching and the best case scenario is certification. If someone is going to a course and not getting certified because they are missing some of the other qualifications that is not the best case. It was thought by some that local people should be able to take local training and their agency should be responsible.

The Field Manager course guide and 310-1 guidelines don't give flexibility to circumvent the training system. As complicated as the training system is complicated and we need to do a better job of planning. Need to look down the road 18 months or more. Some attendees are Local government and are not employees so they can't plan 2 years ahead not knowing if those people are going to be around that long. National fire administration is looking at the system and when they pull all that together it may give us more flexibility in the next year or so.

NWCG agencies have agreed to set up policies for training and certification. Other agencies are allowed to audit the course and get a letter but don't get a certificate. They are not trying to circumvent the process.

The zone training rep really needs to make a case and talk to the training specialist (coordinator of the training) first and then to Bob if need be. Use the Remarks section of the nomination form.

The final paragraph was reviewed.

Bob will propose to the NWCG training committee that it will be a larger issue for need and interest for local and state participation regarding the diversion policy for NWCG and non-NWCG members auditing courses. We'll have to go on a case by case basis this year.

It was felt by some that if a nomination came through the local committee, NWCG should support the local zone decisions by the time it has gone through the zone; it has passed through two inspections before it is sent to the training center. Sandy suggested documenting reasons for submitting the nomination, as long as slots were allocated and identified, identify special needs as they come up and maybe follow up with a phone call.

Bob proposes that we take this draft and give to the training working team and let them know they need to address it or we will address it for them. Bob makes the promise that he will review each nomination on a one on one individual basis for every audit request the NRTC receives. Brian - will put it in a question format for TWT for tomorrow's meeting. (Get a clearer direction on qualified vs. certified.)

### **Task Group Presentations**

**S-420 Bottleneck Recommendations** - For safety officers and information the training would help only if all teams ordered up both safety officer and PIOF to assist their information people, (IC's need to instruct their people to do that). The teams weren't willing to bring in the safety officer-3 because they didn't have a strike team leader. If you took all the type 2 trainees and got task books signed off for 420 and gave them ratings, you would solve that problem because they are all division supervisor qualified. For both safety officer and information officer, we need to look at teams. There is not a clear understanding of what a type 3 safety officer was.

We need to look at the folks and see if they can be signed off on task books. Can send a bunch of Line 3 that are Type 2 qualified except for 420 class.

You all need to be aware that nationally some teams want totally qualified type 2 safety officers and information officers. Team meetings are a good place to have this discussion. Jack DeGolia is the lead information officer around.

Region 6 proposed to have a shadow concept. Pre-identify S420 students appoint student with a team to be evaluated, use this as a class. This concept works well and has to be on FS land. A cadre of instructors went out with them as well. These students need to be committed and go out when called. NRCG has \$50,000 set aside for funding. The key is; when we get people through these courses they have to go out there and participate.

NWCG is looking into L480 replacing S420. We don't need a complete team, can send 7 safety officers to the course. Ultimately it will be an NWCG decision.

Ops committee- teams going to be able to carry 6 mentored individuals that are 420 or 520 candidates. Have room for 6 trainees and 6 mentored individuals.

### **NRTC Funding Evaluation**

At fall NRTC zone training meeting Mike Kapinski talked about costs associated with the training at NRTC. By this meeting we would have a draft report and move forward to the NRTC board. Frank Waterman, Mike K, Neil Nelson, Alan Crisman, Larry, and Bob Labarcheck reviewed some information and asked for

additional information. This handout is the additional information that was shared (see handout). They wanted some type of listing of courses that were hosted at NRTC and who they appealed to. NWCG courses include 310.1 courses. Tuition funded courses include aviation, contract officer rep, fire procurement, leadership, M581 courses, etc. NRCG courses, incident medical specialist, meeting and workshop, etc. This gives us a general sense of where we are going. There doesn't appear to be any telling trends in the data. The second page is NRTC costs – these vary from year to year.

In the funding formula NRCG state partners, and NRCG dept of interior partners are asked to kick in 65 days a year for staff, \$12,000 and costs go up 3% a year, for fixed costs. What drives the seat cost is the number of students that are attracted to the Northern Rockies Training Center. As the number of students go up the per seat cost goes down, when number of students goes down, cost of seat goes up. There was a big spike in students in 2004 when the national fire plan was implemented with a big influx of money from federal and state agencies.

Ways to reduce costs to member agencies at the training center was looked at. Some ways to reduce costs include: looking at out of area tuition rate and raising that rate to \$470, if tuition costs go up, will the out of area students still come? Other geographic area costs are around \$300 on average. There was discussion regarding other training sessions and what they charge.

Look at cancellation rates. In some courses looks like the course is full and then when the training starts ends up 75% full. Agencies need to realize every time we don't fill up the course, it raises the seat cost. If we filled every seat, every time it would reduce cost by 10%. Fire management training is not cheap. Any type of training is expensive.

We need to run NRTC more like a business, if it gets into a situation where there are small numbers of students we need to come offer courses to out of area students or don't put on the course. As federal agencies downsize to a smaller workforce we need to be looking at downsizing the courses. Maybe need to have agencies pay extra for smaller classes if the class size is small.

There was discussion on finding out how much it costs to put on courses so everyone knows what we are dealing with. Bob prefers the training specialists work on improving the quality of training and not worry about the costs of the training but realizes we may need that detailed information in the near future. When the training center started, it was pay as you go and it was difficult to have program continuity. The current funding formula has given the program stability and able to plan a curriculum.

There was a discussion regarding funding, class size, and increasing seat charges. Training season for FS has always been Dec - May. That poses a problem when people are on details when the training is in session. FS funds everything up front, other agencies pay the tuition, if someone doesn't show up without notice from IDL, IDL is charged. There is no penalty for a FS person not showing up for the training because it has been paid up front. We need to let the coordinators know there is a cost. If there were courses that cost more than others, they should be charged accordingly. If one course has a lot more materials, they should charge more for the course.

The committee will work on this and take the information back with the hope to ultimately have a new funding formula and have it ready by next State fiscal year in June 2006.

Special tuitions were not added in to the figures on the worksheet handed out. Tuition goes up if there are cancellations.

Dept of interior agencies -State of Montana, BLM, US Fish and Wildlife Services, refuge in the Northern Rockies, National parks only Glacier and Yellowstone - , North Dakota, DNRC, IDL. All these agencies are in a cost pool and all pay 65 days of salary for NRTC employees. The Forest Service pays the rest of the salaries, facility cost, and fund about \$24,000 for Forest Service instructors paid up front. Some people in the group think there should be a cancellation fee and out of area students should pay at least what we are paying if not more.

This is a briefing process on where we are to date. Everyone will have the opportunity for feedback.

**Draft training schedule** - Bob gave out the draft training schedule of courses that was agreed to yesterday for everyone to review.

Audit date for the response on 5109.17 is March 24<sup>th</sup>. Forest Service people met at the end of the meeting to discuss issues.

Last revision of S130 was December of 2003 but was not posted until 2005.

### **NRCG Committee Reports**

- Business - talked about Best value.
- Operations - We have 8 teams this year. Revamp the charter slightly, few word changes. One big change is there will be one IMT plant, not three. Dan Cassidy was selected to be the ops committee.
- Prevention - Tim - had their meeting this week. 2007 Northern Rockies will be hosting the prevention workshop in Mohab and Coeur D'Alene

- April 30-May 4<sup>th</sup>. Mike Dannenburg is IC for it. Received word from Great Basin conference because they were worried only having 9 registrants so didn't know if they are going to have it or not, so if you are sending folks, please get them registered.
- Other agencies involved in prevention, peace officers, fire prevention and other associations on prevention committee.
  - Fire Use – Are planning fire use modules. Module structure for ordering. Want local modules to get people pre-identified. George was asking if one of the type 2 teams would step up to help Type 3 teams. Appropriate management response, fire is fire. Maybe state employees will be more available if they buy into the response that fire is fire.
  - Equipment – Tim – The main discussion was about Best Value and where that is headed. Some questions about equipment and training for those contractor, etc. They discussed COTR course that was held in Belgrade last week, changed the name of that course. Inspector's workshop will be in Coeur D'Alene March 28-30<sup>th</sup>. There are about 60 people signed up for that now. If you have people there are one or two more slots. If they are going to be doing inspections, they need to be there because there are a lot of recent changes. The people that take this course can do inspections for Best Value. For this initial one they really need to go to the course. There are a group of 4 core inspectors going through the region to maintain consistency to oversee inspections on equipment. The changes are in the solicitation. The training is heavy on Best Value contracting, working hard on inspection forms, helping core inspection teams April 8<sup>th</sup> – May 15<sup>th</sup>. Solicitation went out 24<sup>th</sup> of Feb and closes this week. Pre-bid proposal contractors will be attending these meetings. Training committee has been asked to help with training modules.
  - Aviation

**Best Value Standard Evaluation Form:** Changes were made to the form. L180 package is in the S130. The new S130 package came out last spring 2005 but the 5109.17 says 2003. Each one of dispatch zones will have training with Tim supervising. If you need to get on the solicitation, sign up with Tim.

It takes a lot of coordination to set up the inspections. There were 700 pieces of equipment but some have dropped out so we won't know the specifics till May 24<sup>th</sup> when it closes. Debbie has to have any changes in before March 24<sup>th</sup>, so get comments to Frank ASAP. All contractors have to be contacted.

**Standards for evaluations** – All contractors are expecting these evaluations. Need to incorporate a baseline in training so the contractors have a shot at equal evaluation. There are specific instructions when performance evaluations are being sent out. No matter how much we train, everybody evaluates differently.

If we are using the number system, everyone is using the number system. The first inspections are on Lolo NF in Plains April 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Great Falls April 10-15<sup>th</sup>. Missoula area April 10-15<sup>th</sup>, Bozeman and Dillon 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, Lewistown and Miles City may be told to go to Billings or Great Falls. Kootenai April 24<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, Helena 24<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. Bitterroot area first of May, all these dates are tentative. It will be a good 6 weeks of inspections. In order to be on Best Value contractors have to go to one of these locations and have their names in by March 24<sup>th</sup>.

There are rumors that some contractors are coming together forming big companies but they still have to bid by piece of equipment and go through the solicitation. The equipment and people have to be there for the inspection and all that will determine if they get inspected.

Potable water trucks will also be inspected. Busses were going to be considered, but they won't be inspected until the time they will be used.

There is going to be some training for contractors regarding the EaTIS program on Saturday and Sunday. There is a user-handbook on the website as well.

Some ERA's are being cancelled by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

March 7, 2006

**Review and wrap up of any discussions left over from yesterday.**

**Final acceptance of IQCS Implementation Plan-**

IQCS plan – Frank didn't get any comments regarding the IQCS plan. No one had any changes or comments. **Neil made motion for approval, it was accepted.**

**Driving Tribal/BIA vehicles-Buttercup**

Due to an accident that happened with BIA where a person was hired who had 4 DWIs, came to work with 4 x the legal limit of alcohol. He ended up driving on wrong side of the road and killed 4 people. Now, the BIA requires a driver authorization to get driving records for AD employees who need to drive. What happened last year is that ADs were hired for fires as EMT's or safety officers, we had to hire drivers for them to get around. Buttercup wanted to let you know that if you hire ADs that have to drive, they need a government license or driver approval letter which authorizes them to drive government vehicles, government leased vehicles and agency owned vehicles. The approval letter should come from a FMO, dispatcher, or whoever hires them. Those letters need to be on the AD at the incident they are driving on. We have to go through an authorization to get a state or tribal driving record. Buttercup will

send Kathy the template for the authorization letter and she will pass it on through the mailing list.

### **Leadership Training-Cunningham**

Federal issue - Leadership training L-180 is required training as a 5109.17 requirement, other L courses are supplemental training. Costs are significant at \$750 on up with strong support from the Department of Interior. Some DNRC courses 380 and 381 but cost is a real bottleneck for State agencies but for the Federal agencies there is strong national direction to move forward. In the past 3 years in Northern Rockies has made it available to Forest Service. Now we can share seats with other agencies such as BIA and we can allow them into the classes and they are allowing Forest Service employees into their classes. Bob will send out more specific information. If the training is not at the training center costs are higher for facilities, etc. L380 course will be in Eastern zone last week in April and there are additional costs but all agencies are sharing in the costs.

### **BIN -**

- Take a look at the proposal for N. Rockies to develop a 204, or 304, safety officer course.
- Where to have the ACE conference in 2007? **Buttercup and Bob will follow-up trying to get the ACE conference in Missoula.**
- Intelligence officer - not a course but they teach it as a course to support the MACK group. Upward reporting-type things. Need pretty strong computer person. **Ask dispatchers meeting tomorrow**
- BIN: Fire line leadership courses L380 and L381 - propose to wait till tomorrow to talk about these because funding resources are coming down the line.

**Fall meeting** - The Fall meeting was scheduled for October 25-26 in Missoula, nominations are due Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. Bring nominations to the meeting with summary by course and local training meetings have to be the week of the 10<sup>th</sup>. All looked at needs analysis. Bob will develop a template and get them out to everyone to use for zone priorities. Allocations out to zones before the zone meetings would be great. If you have the out of area nominations, get them in as soon as possible hard copy. Course coordinator meeting will be after the training meeting.

Rocky Mountain region had 5 courses that nominations were due earlier than Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, so watch their website to make sure when nominations are due. Rosie will try and send a message out for early classes. Kitty will try and do I 300 before I400. I 300 trying to do at least 2 weeks before Northern Rockies does the I400 course. Local schedules are posted on websites.

Salish Kootenai College is interested in putting on some courses in basic fire fighting but we don't know if that will get off the ground yet. State people might want to get in on some of those courses. College credit will be given.

College of Great Falls has an AA degree in fire management. Missoula and Billings are trying to get a program off the ground as well. Helena has a program.

Buttercup is putting on Basic fire fighter training June 12-16<sup>th</sup> in Ronan. If someone needs to put people in there, contact him.

There is a change in engine academy with practical skills in ICS. This year they are doing a 180 and a safety weekend. It will meet all requirements for standards for survival, com issues, safety, and situational awareness. It meets all the requirements of refresher for safety.

Kudos to Bob and his staff for all the work they do.