



Department of Interior

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Interior Regions 8, 9, 10, and 12

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Interior Regions 5/7
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U.S. Forest Service
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State Agencies
Idaho
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January 22, 2026

GBCG Memo 2026-01

To: Great Basin Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (GB MAC)
Aviation Safety Assistance Team (ASAT) Members
Fire and Aviation Safety Teams (FAST) Members

From: Great Basin Coordinating Group Chair

Subject: 2026 GB MAC Outreach Memorandum

The Great Basin Coordinating Group (GBCG) and the Great Basin Coordination Center (GBCC) are reaching out to individuals interested in engaging as members of the Great Basin Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (GB MAC) support staff. The Great Basin is also seeking individuals who would like to serve as Aviation Safety and Technical Assistance Team Members (ASTAT) or on Fire and Aviation Safety Teams (FAST).

There will be MAC training held during the Spring IMT Meeting April 2, 2026, at the Silver Legacy Resort and Casino. This training will be limited to maximum of 40 people, to assist us in our planning efforts for this training please register through the following link by March 20th:

[2026 Great Basin MAC Training](#)

The GB MAC utilizes a supporting staff of technical specialists to perform the necessary data collection and intelligence assessments to frame decisions that prioritize Complex and Type 3 incidents within the Great Basin and for allocating critical resources. The support staff frame GB MAC decision-making and subsequently interfaces with the GBCG and GBCC staff members to implement those decisions.

Given that MAC operations are "coordination" and not "incident command" the MAC Support staff positions are not ICS positions. The technical specialists fulfilling MAC Support roles do not necessarily have specific ICS qualifications noted on their red cards. However, ICS-qualified individuals are often recruited to fill MAC Support positions given that their ICS skills and experience are a useful analog to their staff support roles in serving GB MAC.

Individual GB MAC support staff positions (technical specialists) are the following:

- GB MAC Coordinator
- GB MAC Aviation
- GB MAC Administrative Support
- GB MAC Operations Coordinator
- GB MAC Crew Coordinator

- GB MAC Intelligence/Planning Support Specialist
- GB MAC Decision Support Specialists
- GB MAC Safety Coordinator

Additionally, during high levels of aviation and fire activity, it is possible for the GBCG to request an Aviation Safety and Technical Assistance Team (ASTAT) and/or a Fire and Aviation Safety Team (FAST). ASTAT's purpose is to enhance risk management, efficiency, effectiveness, and provide technical assistance while reviewing aviation operations.

ASTAT support positions are the following:

- ASTAT Team Leader
- Aviation Safety Manager
- Operations Specialist (helicopter and/or fixed wing)
- Pilot Inspector
- Maintenance Inspector
- Avionics Inspector (optional)
- Aircraft Dispatcher (optional)

Fire and Aviation Safety Teams (FAST) assist Agency Administrators during periods of high fire activity by assessing policy, rules, regulations, and management oversight relating to operational issues, and provide guidance to ensure fire and aviation programs are conducted safely.

FAST support positions are the following:

- FAST Team Leader (usually an Agency Administrator or Fire Program Lead)
- Fire Safety/Health Specialist
- Fire Operations Specialist
- Aviation Specialist

For all positions associated with FAST, ASAT, and GB MAC the Great Basin Coordinating Group is looking for individuals who want to lead, are effective team players, and who want to productively contribute to strategic incident coordination and management. The skills that GB MAC technical specialists, ASAT members, and FAST members bring to their specific roles are a function of the job skills and experience they have accumulated in the past.

More information can be found in Great Basin MAC Handbook, which highlights the role of each MAC Support Specialist as well as their daily responsibilities within the context of GB MAC operations.

Brock Uhlig
Chair, Great Basin Coordinating Group