

Operations Committee Meeting
February 15-16, 2006
Missoula, Montana

George Weldon

- NRCG thanks you for your past and current participation
- Perception biased toward selecting federal agencies in selecting team configuration – need to recognize and ensure we provide opportunities for new folks who have stepped up
- Explore having one of our Type 2 teams fill in as a fire use team in the national rotation
- Moving toward appropriate management response – agency administrators will continue to challenge us on team configurations relating to cost efficiency
- Agency Administrators are committed to keeping teams functional and operational
 - o Administrative – need to change some things from State and local government standpoint
 - o Type 1 and Type 2 Teams mobilized to wildland fire – the goal is to move toward not calling the incidents fire use or suppression – need to take forward to NRCG. Need to address the State's standpoint on fire use.
 - o Feds need clearer understanding of what State and local folks need
 - o How to incorporate non-traditional folks into system – get feedback to Bob Lippincott.
- NIMO – there will be 2 teams this year - one in Boise and one in Atlanta, hopefully in place by the first of June; job announcements are out now.
- Best Value Contracting – water handling equipment and buses for this year; still have capabilities of EERAs to get the other resources Teams will need.
- Need to develop a pool of LTANs, where ICs can pull the trigger and have a few folks come to the incident for a short duration.

Team Selections/Issues

Reaffirm commitment to the Northern Rockies to maintain the integrity of the Northern Rockies teams. The focus was to completely fill rosters for the Type 2 and Fire Use Teams before the Type 1 Teams.

- Recommendation to the NRCG BOD: 2 Type 1, 6 Type 2, and 2 Fire Use Teams
- ICs need to submit rosters to Neil Nelson by March 1
- Bret Waters -- Need documentation (letter from Steve Frye) to get Bret Waters approved to move to ICT2 trainee. Bob Lippincott to followup.
- A formal request to the leadership of the Albuquerque Service Center needs to be made with our finance position needs.

- ❑ Bob Gilman will get a letter out to those people who had applied and were not picked.

The National Mob Guide states the team numbers for out of area assignments are 27 long team, 6 trainees, option of 6 additional 420/520 mentorees, and 17 support positions negotiated between the IC and the Agency Administrator of the requesting unit for a total of 59.

The National Mobe Guide for 2005 states that Type 1 Teams will be considered ineligible for national assignment if the primary IC is unavailable or it is necessary to have more than two (2) substitutes to fill Command/General Staff positions. This is not changing for 2006. If the Command and General staff are available on one team but not another, we should use the one that has members available – the goal is to field the best possible team.

We need to work toward each command and general staff position having a mentoring person.

Strike Team Leader bottleneck – need to get trainees out; need to talk about this subject at the Operations Functional breakout session at the Teams meeting.

Need to make a commitment to get local government folks involved.

Fire Use/Type 2 Team Issue – Proposal to identify a Type 2 team that might step up into national fire use rotation during the Southwest Area's fire season (April-June) and the Southwest Area would commit a Type 2 team during our fire season (July-September). This is a 10-person team with the IC being Type 2 qualified – does not need to be a FUM1. An LTAN and FUMA will be assigned to the team. Dave Larsen, Stan Benes and Chuck Stanich expressed an interest.

Type 3 Teams – Jack Kirkendall is still gathering information. He hopes to have a proposal by the April IMT meeting. Need to make sure there is a local government contact on the task group – Doug Williams and Mike Denny are possibilities.

Trainee Lists – Lists need to be built and have available at the zone dispatch centers.

Team Plans

It was decided that the Northern Rockies would have one Incident Management Team Plan rather than 3 separate ones. Any comments on the team plans need to be submitted to the Zone Team Coordinators.

Operations Committee Charter

Bob Lippincott will update the charter with the suggested changes and will send a draft out to the Ops Committee for final comments before and sending to the NRCG BOD for approval.

520/620 – Cunningham

NRCG Operations Committee is the decision maker on priorities. Bob Cunningham is the communications link between NAFRI and the Operations Committee. 520 will be presented every year with a 5-6 day course. There will be 6 teams each year. 620 and 520 will not be evaluated in the same format.

Some of the challenges are:

- How we going to back fill on type 2 teams
 - Plea to begin a better job of out year planning for getting our people trained and qualified in these positions.
 - Contact people and walk them thru the process
 - Propose next year revamp the process
 - Go to States for finance folks
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- Nominations need to go to the local training coordinator and then communicated to the Operations Committee and Bob Cunningham
 - The Operations Committee, at their fall meeting, will make final candidate prioritizations for the Feb. 2007.

Aviation – Rick Hafenfeld

Rick Hafenfeld is the Aviation Liaison to the Operations Committee.

Rick handed out a white paper that was sent out to all interagency aviation folks. The purpose of the white paper was to identify ways to increase the number of qualified individuals who can participate on incident management teams.

Hafenfeld will provide a recommendation to NRCG.

The Super tanker (747) is alive and well. Testing of mountain drops will be taking place in March .

Rick is the FS committee rep on the joint parachute project between FS/BLM.

Tim Murphy – Equipment Training Inventory System (EaTIS)

Tim handed out a timeline for Water Handling Equipment.

The FS has nationally adopted EaTIS. Regions 1, 5 & 6 will be using it this year. A database will be created to track performance ratings. Hope that NRCG will have money to contract out inspections in 2007.

The FS may be looking at busses for Best Value contracting this year as well. We need to make sure the BIA is involved.

EaTIS 101 training manual is currently on NRCG web site. There will be Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) sessions around the Geographic Area.

Narrow Band/Wide Band – Bob Gilman

Eight people from the Geographic Area attended train the trainer on narrow band/wide band. There will be a presentation at the Operations and Logistics breakouts at the Teams meeting in April. NIFC is willing to come to a couple of places (eastside/westside) to present a 1-day session in order to get the info down to the users. It would be geared towards station managers, engine operators as opposed to communications types. Phil Gill will get back to Gilman about a date for the eastside.

Zone Reports

North Idaho – The Clear/Nez dispatch center is now the Grangeville Interagency Dispatch Center (GVC) located in Grangeville; have several vacancy announcements out for dispatch jobs in the new center. Will be sending some engines to R-3 on severity requests; 31 vacancies – advertised 15; Coeur d’Alene has 1 assistant center manager position vacant.

Western Zone – trying to fill some key positions this year; 29 applications received for aircraft dispatcher position at Missoula Dispatch Center; will be sending a few resources down to R-3 on severity; BRF – possibly going to north/south zone FMO reducing to 4.

Northwest Zone – hired DNRC Unit Manager at Olney; Ed Leizer detailed in as assistant for Alan Chrisman on the Flathead NF; Steve LeFever assistant center manager at Kootenai Dispatch; a few folks down to the Southeast; a few vacancies on the KNF.

Eastern Montana – Miles City – big turnover of engine bosses and senior firefighters; 2 new dispatchers; DNRC has 4 people now with DNRC; Billings Dispatch Center – new IA office last year – Custer NF is co-locating with BLM State office.

John Monzie - Doug Williams hired as Rural Fire Coordinator based in Ft. Benton; meeting with National Guard in April; added another Type 2 helicopter; 2 kitchens for sure this year.

George Weldon – Pat Garbut, Fuels and Fire Use in RO, starting Monday, Feb. 21.

Kathy Elzig - Northern Rockies Dispatcher’s workshop in Helena March 7-9

Rory Laws - all NR IHCs have T3 organization in place – could use in Northern Rockies

Bob Gilman - Managing the Unexpected Workshop May 23-25; good for IA folks; staff ride to I-90 fire.

Greg Greenhoe

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) under Department of Homeland Security is a member of the NWCG and sits on the board. The USFA is going around the country and training up all hazard type 3 teams, developing ICS skills as well as management skills. They are trying to build short incident management teams to handle the smaller, less complex incidents such as train derailments, tornadoes. So far, 25 sites have been trained. Part of the program is to shadow current Type 2 incident management teams. There would be 8-10 people. These teams would make their own travel arrangements, provide their own transportation, take care of their own time, would come with a training liaison and be looking for a 7-10 day assignment. The USFA has an agreement with the FS which would pick up the support costs like food, sleeping bags, etc. when they are on a wildland fire incident.