

November 15, 2012

Northern Utah Interagency Fire Center

Great Basin Coordinating Group Fall Meeting

Nelda St. Clair, Chris Delaney, John Glenn, Tracy Swenson, Sid Beckman, Dave Curry, Rex McKnight, Sue Stewart, Tenna Biggs, Scott Rasmussen, Steve Douglas, Mike Morcom, Ruta Glinski, Paul Petersen, Leon Ben, Jesse Duhnkrack, Tracy Dunford, Sheldon Wimmer, Nancy Ellsworth, Carol Salo, Steve Shaw.

Committee Updates

Business (Carol Salo): Agreement for Heavy Equipment Inspection needs to be re-newed. Group agreed to keep it with Steve Waters. Carol Salo is working on a funding for BLM.

Buying Teams. Issue with how many days they are spending on assignments and the fact that there are a limited amount of people to fill these teams. Sue suggests trying to zone fires with Finance groups better.

Paul suggests that we need to strongly encourage people out of Operations positions and participate in other functions such as Finance, Plans and Logistics. Group agreed to add verbiage in IMT nomination letter that encourages applicants to consider the other functions.

Shortage of rental cars was an issue, especially in Idaho. Need to consider how to get enough cars to meet the needs during periods of high fire activity. GSA short term lease may be option if we can foresee a need. GSA and or the rental car companies pre-position cars/trucks if we can give them the proper notice. Dispatch Center Managers and Incident Business Leads should consider notifying rental car companies within their area that an increase in demand for rental cars is expected.

Related issue; Jessica- Concern that some expanded dispatch centers or IBA's are not approving orders for four wheel drive emergency response vehicle (ambulances) with ALS. This is an **action item** for the business group.

Business (Ruta): Issue with paying for baggage fees for crews traveling via commercial airlines. Issue is having to be present to pay for the fees, can't pay with credit care over the phone. Contract was set up when baggage fees were non-existent (SATO). This is an issue for all GACC's. Issue paper going to NMAC/GMAC meetings in January.

Training (Tenna Biggs): GB Priority Program. Establish a trainee coordinator to assure GB priority trainee's are being tracked and making sure the priority positions are getting timely training. Tenna and the GB training committee, along with Agency reps would identify priority trainees. Other GACC's are also taking on this role and can work between GACC's for training opportunities also.

Operations (Paul Petersen): Vote needed by GBCG to approve new chair for Operations Committee (Tracy Swenson).

Action 1 -T2IA Crew certification, of Agency crews. Assure the crew is meeting standards before dispatch. **Supported by GBCG.** Action 2 – Recommend support to adopt the Great Basin Air-to-Group Naming Conventional nationally. **Supported by GBCG.** Action 3 – Develop a National Guard Operating Plan for the Great Basin for all States. **Supported by GBCG.** Action 4 – Scooper use and the aviation group setting up pre -season coordination. **Supported by GBCG.** Action 5 – Change to all IMT members applying annually and IC’s staying on 3 year commitment. Need to discuss the Deputy position as 1 or 3 year commitment. **Supported by GBCG.** Action 6 – Current number of of IC’s & trainee’s in the GB would allow each team to have either a fully qualified Deputy or Trainee. These positions would be part of the negotiated 17 positions. **Supported by GBCG.**

Discussion: Ensure IC’s are moving trainee’s through the system as fast as possible. The GBCG will/should have a direct contact with the IC’s three time per year (Fall, Spring, mid Summer). Potentially a GBCG liaison to each team (List needs to be developed). **Action Item:** Roles and responsibilities will be put together by Paul Petersen and Rex McKight. GBCG will look closely at the C&G positions and aviation. Liaison to each team TBD.

February 12 & 13 will be the Team Selection meetings and pseudo IMT meetings & Spring Ops and GBCG meetings, with GB OPS, GBCG and IC’s. **Action Item:** Tracy S. Beth and Mike need to work out an agenda and assure the intent is being met for all.

GBCG Information-1: Energy development hazards. BLM FOG sub group working on the issue. Delaney lead for GB Ops. Presentation at IMT’s & IC’s in a webinar format.

GBCG Information-2:
ICAP Business Rules

- Attach master record to application
- IC’s 3yrs commitment Team member 1yr commitment and must apply annually.
- Qualifications coordinator- Make clear in email that goes to the field.
- Agency Administrator is the Agency Representative.
- Limit application to 2 teams and the pool.

GBCG Information-3: Cache Loss and Damage Reports. Beth, Delaney, Scott Rasmussen, to lead for action items, GB cache coordination on items and loss use rates.

GBCG Information-4: Recommend using a Helicopter Coordinator at the GACC when activity warrants. This would not interfere or conflict with GMAC Aviation Operations and would be discontinued when the GMAC in in place. EGB and WGB Center Manager support the recommendation. Issue paper presented with the specifics of how they would work with the

Coordination Center. Ruta, issue with Aircraft 'personnel' notifying aircraft and their crews to move to a new assignment. This is the job of the Coordination Centers.

GBCG Information-5: Review IMT evaluation form. Make recommendations for change. Shaw, Lund, Rosenthal, Kidd, DRAFT due February 12.

GBCG Information-6: IMT Rotations: Tracy Swenson, Shane Freeman, Jana, Nancy, Tracy Dunford, Develop how the rotations would look for 5 teams. Due by February 12.

GBCG Information-7: OITS- Operations IT subgroup. Charter is 90% complete. Tracy Swenson is chair. Will be compiling CTSP and IC to further line out group, issues, and IT equipment.

IC Group Action:-1 Develop a standard Dutch Creek Protocols for all GB IMT. Beth Lund lead.

IC Group Action:-2 Recommend using the Lesson Learned center format for closeouts and packages. Recommend IC group take lead on development. GBCG to send out to AA standard format for closeout packages in conjunction with annual letter. April 15th for the letter to the AA's.

IC's – Beth Lund. Beth is the chair and Mike Whalen will be the Co-chair. Plan to have the Charter prepared by February meeting at NUIFC (or sooner). Council will recommend to Ops Committee how deputies and trainee's are distributed to each of the IMT's. IC's are supportive of the T1 development team but are unsure of how it will work for the 2013 season. They will solicit their team members for interest. IC didn't get a chance to work on the logistics of Sectional breakout information for all IMT members in place of the traditional IMT meetings.

Prevention Mitigation Committee- (Tracy Dunford) Nothing to Report

Dispatch Committee (Leon Ben) – New Chairperson, Cathy Baird. Updated Charter for the GBCG to review and sign. Dispatcher work shop will probably be in April, in Elko or Reno. Workshop agenda and travel caps are a concern. Trying to put together a Supply & ordering SOP for the Basin. IT issues between agencies seems to be an issue with different time frames on updates to equipment and software. This may be an interpretation or local problem and Nelda is going to assure the software versions are current (**action item**). Dispatchers feel that writing SafeComs are not being done because they feel they will be reprimanded. Leon is going to follow up on the specifics of this and will advise the GBCG (**action item**). Aircraft dispatching needs to be followed more closely, especially with airtankers and flight following. DI 1202's (fire report) are not being done consistently. This may be a workshop topic at the Dispatch meetings in the Spring. John Glenn- the 2013 Red Book is going to have a Dispatch section. This is new and will be a work in progress.

CISM- (Nelda St. Clair) Powerpoint.

FPA: (Sue Stewart) Sue from the R4 Director position is dissatisfied with FPA and (paraphrase) is not getting better and is not a functional tool. She has been told that it is being used to develop USFS budgets but has not seen it. John Glenn-believes that the GAO is looking into the product and what it has produced (or not).

Cohesive Strategy: (Sue Stewart) We are into Phase three which divided the country geographically (we are in the West). Committees were put together for each of the Geo area's to come up with an implementation phase. Working on Risk based on Landfire (FPA) mapping. Keep in mind the past success' we have and try to employ those to what we can use for the future. In GB the USFS is looking at two locations (Island Park & Stanley) in Idaho that identify fire adapted areas where the communities can support themselves when fire enters their area/community. Model fire around these areas and then model with treatment(s) to show what the potential success can be. This will get buy-in from the public and how the EMS will come together to identify a Fire Adapted Community under the Cohesive Strategy umbrella. The Phase three end result is in a final edit mode, and should be out soon. John Glenn: Says the budgeting at the WO level for fuels in DOI is on a major chopping block in Congress and that OMB is extremely critical and we better be prepared for lean years. Concentrate on the message of large number of structure loss'. Key is the WUI still.

MAC group AAR- (Nelda St. Clair) Powerpoint.

Discussion of where to establish the group for both the trial run and if they are mobilized in 2013. Group agreed to use the Great Basin Training Unit at NIFC for MAC Operations in 2013. Also need to decide if we'll actually hold a Spring MAC group meeting. USFS needs to make sure they can get approval to travel.

Succession Planning (Mike Morcom)- Presented paper to John Glenn addressing how we may move one T2 IMT to the T1 status pro-actively through training and experience. Some concerns with (from IMT's) on the actual mechanics of how this will be done.

John Glenn – review of National perspective. Not a high number of fires, but significant fires in the WUI with many structures lost. Focusing on safety and the loss of life. Emphasized the shortage of resources everywhere. Having to prioritize the Resources was very hard to do especially T1 crews and the consequences of T2 crews not being capable. Looked at PL's on a moving 5 day average. Predictive Services did a great job, especially with lightning events. Large airtanker management was a key issue. Problems and concerns at NMAC, info sharing, clear text, use of single clearing house, how information was passed down (inconsistently). FTP sites were/are not secure.