MEMO

To: Great Basin Training Committee
From: ITOC

RE: Technology Systems Training Coordination

Issue: As we increase our use of technology to engage in, suppress, plan, and forecast activities in wildland and prescribed fire operations and support, a solid foundation for planning, coordination, and hosting of training for this technology is needed. At present, training as it relates to this technology is left up to the Region and State Training Specialists or Leads to plan for, coordinate, and host. This is not an efficient, effective, or timely method of providing the training needed to implement this technology.

Discussion:

Technology Systems such as IQCS, ROSS, I-Suite, BEHAVE, MIS, FPA, WFSA, and NFPORS (among others) are systems that required by the Fire and Aviation Management community in order to complete day to day activities as well as in the support of incidents. Training for these systems has been hit or miss at best, with the lack of overall coordination by the Geographic Area Training Units. Local Units or State/Regional entities have been tasked with managing this without the infrastructure to do so. The current NWCG course offerings at the Great Basin Training Unit is quite extensive, however there are training needs above and beyond NWCG curriculum.

Impact/Consequences:

The consequences of this lack of coordination are that we are not providing the training necessary in a timely manner to meet the needs of the employees tasked with utilizing these systems. In addition, several individuals are duplicating efforts of planning, coordination, and hosting of courses and are competing for instructors. The worst case scenario is that people who are in need of training are not receiving it. This in and of itself causes a loss of productivity and higher potential for errors.

In addition, due to budget cuts, there is the potential need to start charging tuition to pay for travel and per diem for instructors. The individual groups do not have the capacity to process tuition payments and make payments to instructors.

Recommendations:

 The Idaho Training Oversight Committee recommends that the Great Basin Training Committee handle the planning and scheduling of technology systems training and the Great Basin Training Unit coordinate and host systems training related to Fire and Aviation Management activities. The GBTU has the infrastructure to coordinate, host and execute financial procedures to manage these trainings as they do with the current

NWCG curriculum. Further, if needed, we recommend that the Great Basin Coordinating group finance one additional detailer to coordinate these course offerings.