

**Airtanker Base Operations Unit
Meeting Notes**

Date and Time

December 4, 2024

Time: 1100-1200 PST

ABOU

Cadre (Agency/Name):	<small>check</small>	Cadre (Agency/Name)	<small>check</small>	Cadre (Agency/Name)	<small>check</small>
BLM – Angie Forbes		USFS – Jared Bohrman		USFS- Justin Bohannan	X
BLM- Melissa Fry	X	NASF – Josh Agustin	X	USFS- Cindy Matthews	X
USFS – Annie Johnson					

**Associate Members (AM), Working Group Chairs
(WGC), NWCG Representative**

Cadre (Agency/Name):	<small>check</small>	Cadre (Agency/Name)	<small>check</small>	Cadre (Agency/Name)	<small>check</small>
USFS – Leslie Casavan (AM)		BLM – Kristina Curtis (AM)		NWCG – David Schultz	X
BLM – Jake Lloyd (WGC)	X	USFS- James Snell (WGC)	X	BLM – Mary Loan (WGC)	
BLM – Courtney Christensen (WGC)	X	USFS – Kelly Mathis (WGC)	X		

NWCG has updated the websites to reflect the changes with the newly created Interagency Airtanker and Scooper Operations Subcommittee, the new Units, and Working Groups. If there are any issues with the links or webpages let the ABOU know.

The SOPs/Charter for the IABS (soon to be the ABOU) have been updated and signed. These are posted on the ABOU website.

The ABOU is working on updating the Q&A on the IABS website with new questions. The questions have been finalized and will be sent to NWCG for consideration of publication. The Q&A information will be taken from the questions that were asked during the National Airtanker Base Manager workshop in Tucson in February 2024.

Subject Matter Experts for the NWCG Incident Performance and Training Modernization (IPTM) process have been identified. Work will begin in 2025. [Incident Performance and Training Modernization \(IPTM\) | NWCG](#)

The ABOU members, Associate Members, and Working Group Chairs will meet for the annual in-person meeting the week of January 21st, 2025, in San Marcos, California. Travel on Tuesday, January 21st and Friday, January 24th.

- **NWCG Airtanker Base Application Working Group**
 - The Airtanker Base Application Working Group has been working on updates to the NWCG Airtanker Base Directory.
 - The Working Group is working to identify a person who will primarily focus on FLIGHT.
 - The Working Group is continuing to work on gaining approval for the Directory to be a ForeFlight layer.
 - FLIGHT is undergoing some changes and will become even more user-friendly in the coming months. It will be discussed at the in-person meeting in January.

- **Standards for Airtanker Base Operations Working Group (SABOWG)**
 - The deadline for comments for the 2025 SABO was December 1st, 2024.
 - New updates have been identified because of previous Quality Assurance visits.
 - The Working Group will be meeting in early December 2024 and work on edits and updates for the 2025 version. Approximately half a dozen comments were received.

- **Airtanker Base Training and Qualifications Working Group (ABTQWG)**
 - The Working Group is continuing to work on a NWCG FWPT class and is getting closer to completion.
 - The National Airtanker Base/ SEAT Manager Workshop is available on-demand in the Wildland Fire Learning Portal.

- **Airtanker Base Operational Risk Management Working Group (ABORMWG)**
 - The Working Group is working on a variety of checklists for airtanker bases to use as a part of SMS.
 - The Working Group will be working on 6MFS suggestions.
 - The daily GAR will be updated with the goal of completion in early 2025.

- **SEAT Working Group**
 - The Working Group may work on a 'cheat sheet' regarding the new contract.
 - The Working Group is also working on updates to the SEAT Manager class. Although the actual class is not scheduled to be re-done, the group is ensuring that the material that is covered is relevant to changes that have occurred since the class was created.

- **ABOU Recruitment**
 - Any volunteers for any of the Working Groups should be submitted to your agency ABOU representative or through the QR code.