

**Airtanker Base Operations Unit
Meeting Notes**

Date and Time

February 5, 2025

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 Bohannon	X
BLM- Melissa Fry	X	NASF – Josh Agustin	X	USFS- Cindy Matthews	X
USFS – Annie Johnson	X				

**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)	X
BLM – Courtney Christensen (WGC)	X	USFS – Kelly Mathis (WGC)	X		

An email was sent to the airtanker base distribution list explaining the new structure of the Airtanker Base Operations Unit (ABOU) and how it fits in with the newly created Interagency Airtanker and Scooper Operations Subcommittee (IASOS).

The ABOU had the annual in-person meeting January 22nd – 24th in San Marcos, California. The ABOU and the ABOU Working Group Chairs were at the meeting. The meeting focused on:

- Reviewing the changes that were made to the SABO, adding additional information, and creating a summary of the changes that are proposed.
- The new FLIGHT interface was discussed.
- The annual PowerPoint presentation was completed highlighting the work the ABOU has been working on.
- The SOPs/Charter were updated to reflect the ABOU organization/ name change.
- New FAQs were submitted to NWCG for consideration to be 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.

- **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 has identified people who will primarily focus on FLIGHT.
 - FLIGHT is undergoing some changes and will become even more user-friendly in the coming months. The new interface was shown to the ABOU during the in-person meeting.

- **Standards for Airtanker Base Operations Working Group (SABOWG)**
 - The SABO has been updated to reflect many of the suggested changes, and new information since the last publication.
 - It has been submitted to the IASOS for review. Once the review is complete the IASOS will submit to NIAC for approval.

- **Airtanker Base Training and Qualifications Working Group (ABTQWG)**
 - The Working Group has been working on a Fixed Wing Parking Tender course, however it has been paused. More information should be coming soon on when it will resume.
 - The National Airtanker Base/ SEAT Manager Workshop is still 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 (SEATWG)**
 - 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 Working Group Recruitment**
 - Any volunteers for any of the Working Groups should be submitted to your agency ABOU representative.