

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Office of Fire and Aviation
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To: State Directors

From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: Announcement of Fire Regime Condition Class Assessment Training
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Recent interagency documents, such as the Cohesive Fuels Strategy and the 10 Year Comprehensive Plan, emphasize the importance of accurately describing Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC), assessing changes in fire regimes, and their collective use in land management decision-making. The FRCC concept is a fundamental theme in fire management planning, performance measures, and accomplishment reporting for Bureau fuels treatment projects. There have been no consistent means to measure and describe FRCC at the project scale, other than subjective estimates of changes in fire regimes and landscape conditions.

An interagency working group is completing a project scale FRCC assessment process, which will be presented at a training session March 17–21, 2003, in Tucson, Arizona. The purpose of this session is to train the audience in the design, methodology, and process for FRCC assessment. Topics presented will include uses of the FRCC process, potential natural vegetation theory, and management implications related to FRCC assessment. The target audience includes regional experts in fuels and fire ecology from both the Eastern and Western United States. These trainers will serve as state and regional advisors, and be the point-of-contact to assist in future FRCC training.

There are 85 slots available and due to the nationwide audience expected and training facility limitations, each state is allowed up to 4 nominations.

Offices are to prioritize and submit their nominations to Doug Havlina, BLM Fire Ecologist, by Wednesday, February 12, 2003. He can be reached at (208) 387-5061, or e-mail him at dhavlina@nifc.blm.gov. Those selected for training will be notified by Friday, February 14, 2003. Training facility details are being finalized, and will be shared in a subsequent Information Bulletin.

There will be a follow-up Western United States project scale FRCC Review and Refinement workshop April 8–10, 2003, that will further critique the FRCC protocols. At this workshop, reference conditions will be refined through customized modeling for specific regions of the Western United States. Please contact Ayn Shilsky, Landscape Ecologist with The Nature Conservancy, at (720) 974-7063 for further information regarding the scheduled FRCC workshop in April.

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