

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Forest Service

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OR/WA

**Bureau of Land
Management**

**United States
Department of
Interior**

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Date: June 10, 2003

FS-Memorandum

**EMS TRANSMISSION June 11, 2003
BLM-Information Bulletin No. OR-2003-171**

To: Forest Service Forest Supervisors and Bureau of Land Management
District Managers

Subject: Pacific Northwest Fire and Aviation Management Line Officers Team

Over the last decade wildfires in the Pacific Northwest have become larger and more intense. Fire season 2002 was by far the largest in several decades. The complexities of fire and aviation management work continue to mount. Line Officers rely upon fire and aviation management staff for organizational readiness and counsel. Land management executives in the Pacific Northwest agree that interagency Line Officer Teams (LOTs) in each state can help to engage Line Officers in fire and aviation management decisions.

Each state LOT will develop their own charter. The basic purpose is to ensure that Line Officers are successful in implementing fire and aviation management expectations of agency executives. Suggested initial discussion topics include:

1. State-wide processes for mentoring, coaching and ensuring adequate qualifications for Line Officers who experience large incidents on their units
2. Optimizing suppression resource availability
3. Ensuring that interagency relationships in both states are strong
4. Providing a forum to surface fire and aviation management issues to agency executives

The teams that have been identified are:

WASHINGTON

John Phipps (Lead) – Forest Supervisor, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Forest
Bill Paleck – Park Superintendent, North Cascades National Park
Mark Kahley – Director, Resource Protection Division, Washington Department of Natural Resources
Sharon Yepa – Superintendent, Spokane Reservation
Don Voros – Regional Office, Fish & Wildlife Service
Bob Sheehan – Chelan District Ranger, Okanogan and Wenatchee Forests

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OREGON

Steve Ellis (Lead) – District Manager, Lakeview BLM
Jeff Blackwood – Forest Supervisor, Umatilla Forest
Denis Williamson – District Manager, Salem BLM
Cliff Liedke – Eastern Oregon Area Director, Oregon Department of Forestry
Dan Shults – Southern Oregon Area Director, Oregon Department of Forestry
Paul Young – Superintendent, Warm Springs Reservation

Deborah Schmidt – Cottage Grove District Ranger, Umpqua Forest

We encourage these teams to gather soon so that they are prepared for fire season 2003. We expect that these LOT teams will clearly add value to our fire and aviation management programs for the future.

/s/ Jim Golden (for)

LINDA GOODMAN
Regional Forester
Region 6
USDA Forest Service

/s/ Judy Ellen Nelson (for)

ELAINE M. BRONG
State Director
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