

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Oregon State Office  
P.O. Box 2965  
Portland, OR 97208**

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October 21, 2003

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To: All District Managers and Deputy State Directors  
From: Deputy State Director for Resource Planning, Use and Protection  
Subject: Natural Resources Institute Postponed this Academic Year 2003-04

Due to a decline in budgets and the change in workforce demographics of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service (FS), the Natural Resources Institute (NRI) program has been postponed for academic year 2003-04. Interest and budgets permitting, NRI is anticipated to be held in academic year 2004-05. Information is available at the following website: <http://www.cfr.washington.edu/outreach/nri/NRIhome.html>.

The NRI is a high-quality continuing education opportunity offered by the University of Washington, Washington State University, and Oregon State University that focuses on current science and system approaches to ecosystem-based management, coupled with decision making and integrated problem solving in team settings. For six consecutive years the Oregon State Office (OSO) has sponsored three to six Oregon/Washington BLM employees per year to attend NRI. The OSO has also encouraged you to support as many additional employees as your budgets allow.

As indicated by participants in the past six years of the program, this education is among the best that many have had in their BLM careers. Participants have been professional foresters, landscape analyzers, soil scientists, geneticists, wildlife biologists, silviculturists, ecologists, hydrologists, fisheries biologists, and fire ecologists who have been working for land management agencies, organizations, and companies. It is relevant to employees in a wide range of disciplines and positions and invaluable for Interdisciplinary Team participants.

NRI engages in a quality improvement process through oversight by the Continuing Education Coordinating Committee (CECC). The CECC meets semiannually to coordinate and collaborate on courses, conferences, workshops, and other educational activities designed for working professionals in natural resources management and scientific research. They are planning to meet this fall and discuss the program and the agency educational needs.

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If you have specific questions about the program, please contact Jeannette Griese (OR-931) at 503-808-6182.

**Districts with Unions** are reminded to notify their unions of this Information Bulletin and satisfy any bargaining obligations before implementation. Your servicing Human Resources Office or Labor Relations Specialist can provide you assistance in this matter.

Signed by  
/s/ Judy Ellen Nelson  
(Acting)

Authenticated by  
Mary O'Leary  
Management Assistant

Distribution  
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