

## PROGRAM UPDATE:

1. The Joint Apprenticeship Program has changed from a USFS Region 5 program to a national interagency program. An interagency agreement has been signed. It can be accessed at the BLM Training Unit's website, <http://www.fire.blm.gov/training/blmtrng/blmtrng.html>.
2. The program is being housed at the McClellan Business Park in Sacramento, CA.
3. The BLM is in the process of filling two new positions:
  - a. Interagency Training Coordinator (JATP-Sacramento), GS-1712-11/12 (FA331) – will serve as the BLM National Academy Coordinator
  - b. Wildland Fire Apprenticeship Program Assistant, (JATP - Sacramento), GS-1712-7/9 (FA331)
4. Once the above positions are filled, the BLM National Academy Coordinator will handle all matters concerning the program administration. Until that time, Ted Mason, FA331- BLM Training Unit at NIFC, will serve as your BLM national contact person for new apprentices. Lois Cunha, BLM California State Office, is the primary contact for all matters concerning current apprentices who have completed the Basic Academy last year and are now entering their Advanced Academy.
5. A training session for the State Academy Coordinators and Supervisors of Apprentices (SOAs) will be held at McClellan Business Park on January 23, 2003. The purpose of the training will be to go over the new agreement and operating plan for the program. State Academy Coordinators should contact Ted Mason to confirm their attendance and relay the number of SOA's that will also be attending.
6. Your state should have received the certificate of eligible applicants from the California State Office.
  - a. Once you make your selections for new hires, please forward their NAME, ADDRESS, SSN, and your first and second choice of Basic Academy start dates to Ted Mason, BLM Training Unit, as soon as possible. You will then be sent the appropriate number of Basic Academy pre-work packets for you to distribute to the students.
  - b. The BLM Training Unit will try to accommodate all requests for starts dates and notify you of the final outcome after all the students are placed.

Please coordinate the apprentice's hiring date to allow sufficient time for orientation and logistical needs prior to sending them to the Basic Academy in Sacramento. All incoming apprentices will need to pass the work capacity test at the arduous level and have their uniforms purchased before entering the academy.