



## Participant Announcement FY 2010 Sessions

### ***Session Dates:***

January 6, 2010	to	January 26, 2010
February 3, 2010	to	February 23, 2010
March 3, 2010	to	March 23, 2010
March 31, 2010	to	April 20, 2010

### ***Location:***

Tallahassee, Florida

### ***Cost:***

See section titled "Costs" for breakdown

### ***Prerequisites:***

1. Successful completion of S-290 (or agency equivalent)
2. Minimum of two (2) years experience in prescribed fire recommended
3. Qualified (or trainee) for RXB 3, 2, 1 (or agency equivalent)  
Qualified (or trainee) for FIRB (or agency equivalent)  
Qualified (or trainee) for FEMO (or agency equivalent)  
Qualified (or trainee) for ENGB (or agency equivalent)

**Applications for FY10 Sessions must be received at PFTC by October 5, 2009**

### ***Mission Statement:***

To provide opportunities for federal, state, local and tribal government agencies and other organizations to build skills and knowledge of prescribed fire, with an emphasis on field experience.

### ***Course Description/Objectives:***

The National Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center (PFTC), located in Tallahassee, Florida, is a facility designed to give individuals an opportunity to increase their prescribed fire practitioner skills. The 21-day sessions are designed to help facilitate the completion of prescribed fire task books. The Center provides opportunities to participate in large landscape prescribed burns involving the lands of several land management agencies in Florida and several surrounding states. A variety of uniformly applicable prescribed fire objectives and situations will be encountered in a field environment. **Applications from disciplines other than fire management are strongly encouraged.** While our primary mission is the training of individuals with task books related to RX quals the Center encourages all levels and disciplines of applicants who are interested in furthering their knowledge of RX fire.

### **Sessions:**

There will be four (4) 21-day sessions offered in FY 2010. Participants will be broken into teams of six. Each team of individuals will be a separate unit, working and studying together. The time allocated for the session will allow for approximately 8-12 days of actual prescribed burning, as well as 3-4 days of field or classroom instruction. Core topics presented are introductory in nature (presentations lasting from 1-4 hours each). The presenters are drawn from a national pool of subject matter experts. Supplementary topics will be presented if weather precludes field operations. PFTC's focus enables attendees to work toward the completion of items in their current NWCG task books. Field trips will be used to enhance the experience. All activities are strictly weather dependent.

PFTC will operate on the premise that every day will be a potential prescribed burning day to complement the core curriculum. Individuals will be expected to be **flexible** in their day-to-day activities in order to take advantage of every prescribed burning day. This may include working on acceptable burning days on weekends and any holidays that may fall within the cycle. One R&R day is set aside for each session.

All participants are expected to report to the PFTC "fire ready." This means having all necessary gear (personal and PPE) to go on fire duty for a 21-day assignment. **Participants will be on Per Diem for the 21-day session.** The policy at the PFTC is shared lodging rooms. The nature of the training program requires equal flexibility in lodging arrangements (from bunkhouses to cabins to motels). Many host units are in remote locations. It will not always be possible to return from prescribed burns at convenient times for meals and showers.

The informal topics offered as part of the core curriculum are:

- Smoke Management and Air Quality
- Prescribed Fire Burn Plans
- Prescribed Fire History and Use
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Fire Effects
- Cooperative Agreements
- Current Rx Fire Policy
- Fuels management in the wildland urban interface
- Supplementary topics may include: Ignition Methods (including aerial), Organizing Multiple Burns, GIS Applications, Software Overviews, Risk Assessment, Fire Ecology, and High Reliability Organizations.

Participants will not normally be able to complete their prescribed burning qualification task books during their assignment but can complete individual tasks leading up to qualification. Final certification hinges on the home unit.

### **Pre-work - Performance Evaluation:**

All participants will be required to complete pre-work and receive a performance evaluation. Pre-work will include a written description of the fuels on the participant's home unit, HRO audits of the participant's home unit and agency after viewing the DVD: Overview of High Reliability Organizations and Return to Cerro Grande, and reading the NWCG publication "A Guide for Prescribed Fire in Southern Forests". Final requirement for completing the 21-day session is receiving a "successful" performance evaluation from the module Field Coordinator.

### **Upper College Credit – Lower Division College Credit**

Participants attending the PFTC have the opportunity to acquire three (3) hours of upper division college credit through the School of Forest Resources and Conservation at the University of Florida. Applicants must register online for the course, based on the session they attend, through the University of Florida's Division of Continuing Education website (<http://www.cals.ufl.edu/distance/non-degree.shtml>) and click on the "online non-degree application". The cost is \$210 per credit hour regardless of state residency.

Session attendees may also apply for five (5) hours of lower division credit at the out-of-state tuition rate of approximately \$1200 through Tallahassee Community College's Fire Science or Forestry related degrees.

Participants are responsible for the cost and purchase of credits through the University of Florida or Tallahassee Community College. Participants may not register for credits through both institutions while attending one session.

### **Costs:**

There is no tuition. All participants will be responsible for covering their meals and lodging on their travel card. As stated above, most lodging sites are shared room situations. If there is a charge, the nightly fee will be divided.

**BIA, BLM and FWS participants:** the home unit will be responsible for covering base 8, overtime, transportation to and from PFTC, meals and lodging.

**NPS participants:** the home unit will be responsible for covering base 8 salary, travel to and from PFTC, and overtime incurred in route to and from PFTC. Arrangements have been made at the national level (through FMPC) to cover overtime, meals and lodging while attending PFTC. Request for account numbers should be directed to the FMPC Fuels Lead via the Regional Fuels Staff. Upon completion of the PFTC assignment, it will be necessary to provide the FMPC Fuels Lead with amount charged to the FMPC account.

**FS participants:** the home unit will be responsible for covering base 8 salary, travel to and from PFTC, and overtime incurred in route to and from PFTC. Costs for meals, lodging, and overtime while attending PFTC will be paid by PFTC since additional funds have been received to cover these expenses.

### **How to Apply:**

Please complete the PFTC application, and print a copy of your most recent IQCS master record showing all experience. All current positions, all training history and any task books that are not complete. Submit these forms to the Prescribed Fire Training Center by the **October 5, 2009** deadline. Be sure to provide all pertinent information, including documentation of minimum qualifications, to facilitate the selection process. All applications will be collated and forwarded as follows:

**All Forest Service applications will be forwarded to the Geographic Area Training Representative who will prioritize the applicants from their area.**

**All Department of Interior applications will be sent to their respective agency National Training Representative who will prioritize the applicants.**

Selected participants will be notified **by the end of October 2009**.

### **Additional Information Contact:**

Qualification • Session Questions  
Miranda Stuart – (ofc) 850/523-8637 or (cell) 850/728-8200

Task Book • Fire Training Questions  
Greg Seamon – (ofc) 850/523-8631 or (cell) 850/556-8613

Cost • Administrative Questions  
Carolyn Detwiler – (ofc) 850/523-8634 or (cell) 850/766-1693

Application Questions  
Lil Dyck – (ofc) 850/523-8635 or (cell) 850/766-1692