



Participant Announcement FY 2016 Sessions

Session Dates:

January 10, 2016	to	January 29, 2016
February 7, 2016	to	February 26, 2016
March 6, 2016	to	March 25, 2016
April 10, 2016	to	April 29, 2016
June 5, 2016	to	June 24, 2016

Applications for FY2016 Sessions must be received at PFTC by October 20, 2015

Location:

Tallahassee, Florida

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 an entity designed to give individuals an opportunity to increase their prescribed fire practitioner skills. The 20-day sessions are designed to help facilitate the completion of prescribed fire task books. The Center provides opportunities to participate in prescribed burns involving the lands of land management agencies in Florida and several surrounding states. A variety of 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 prescribed fire.

Application Materials and Selection Criteria:

Individuals wanting to attend PFTC must fill out and submit the Participant Application form to be considered for the sessions. When filling in the Task Book section of the application, **your training assignment will be based on the first task book you list.** Any additional task books brought with you to the session may be worked on as opportunities allow. In addition you must submit a complete copy of your current IQCS master record, along with a **current red card with the trainee positions listed for any task book brought with you.**

Sessions:

There will be five (5) 20-day sessions offered in FY 2016. Participants will be broken into teams of six to seven. 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 to manage fatigue.

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 20-day assignment. **Participants will be on Per Diem or their agency/organization standard operating procedure for the 20-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 Case Studies.

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 is the responsibility of 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, reading the NWCG publication "A Guide for Prescribed Fire in Southern Forests", and an additional assignment to be provided once an applicant has been accepted to attend. Final requirement for completing the 20-day session is receiving a "successful" performance evaluation from the module Field Coordinator.

Upper 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. Contact should be made with Rhiannon Pollard, Distance Education Coordinator, prior to registering (Rhiannon-pollard@ufl.edu or 352.273.0184). The cost is \$295 per credit hour regardless of state residency. Participants are responsible for the cost and purchase of credits through the University of Florida.

Costs:

There is no tuition. All participants will be responsible for covering their meals and lodging costs 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.

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

USFS 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:

Complete the PFTC electronic application and submit by the **October 20, 2015** deadline.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1IX_4qINQ1u12QkRd6VyUPsDePaHofG_SES6th366dpw/viewform

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 mid November 2015 VIA EMAIL ONLY**. (A personal email is requested, so the Center can be assured you receive your notification.)

Additional Information Contact:

Qualifications • Session Questions

Greg Seamon – (ofc) 850.523.8631 or (cell) 850.556.8613
email: gseamon@ttrs.org

Cost • Administrative • Application Questions

Carolyn Detwiler – (ofc) 850.523.8634 or (cell) 850.766.1693
email: cdetwiler@fs.fed.us

The task book you will be working on must be reflected in your master IQCS record and on your red card. Your application will be incomplete and will not be considered for selection, if this requirement is not met.