

## NATIONAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

### **AWARD NAME: “EXCELLENCE IN ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT” through Fuels Treatment Projects**

Fire is a significant ecological process in most ecosystems managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Its effect on ecological systems is dramatic and immediate. As a management tool, fire by itself or in combination with other treatment methods, is used to maintain or restore ecosystems, to help achieve desired future conditions, and to protect life, property and ecosystem values that could be degraded by wildfire. The award categories are for units or groups and individuals that have substantially advanced the use of fire as a tool to improve the health of the land. These awards recognize those who have made significant contributions in support of prescribed fire and fire use.

**The Unit/Group Award** will recognize accomplishments of an office or group in leadership, management, planning, local and interagency coordination, implementation, contracting, and monitoring within the fuels program that meets the evaluation criteria.

**The Individual Award** will recognize accomplishments of an individual for providing leadership in the areas of science, education, partnership, or other exceptional contribution to advancing the fuels program that meets the evaluation criteria.

**Frequency:** The Unit/Group award and/or the Individual award may be presented annually. The award(s) will be presented at the National Fire and Aviation Conference and will consist of a plaque and a monetary award.

**Nominations:** State Offices may submit more than one nomination. Submit nominations to the Office of Fire and Aviation by November 15, 2002. Each nomination should indicate whether it is for the “Unit/Group” or “Individual” award. Nomination(s) should include a one page narrative describing the overall prescribed fire, fire use, or fuels treatment project(s), plan(s), or accomplishment(s) and an explanation of how these actions contributed to protecting and improving natural resources and/or meeting land management objectives. Additional documentation not to exceed two pages should address each of the evaluation criteria discussed below.

**SELECTION:** The selection of the unit/group(s) and/or individual(s) will be made by an awards committee consisting of, at least, a representative of the Director, Office of Fire and Aviation, a Field Manager and a prescribed fire or fire use specialist. The names of the selected unit/group(s) and/or individual(s) will be forwarded to the Director of the BLM by the Director, Office of Fire and Aviation, for national recognition.

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA UNIT/GROUP AWARD:**

Each nomination will be evaluated against the following criteria. Nominations should address each criterion separately and are limited to two pages for all the criteria.

1. Meeting land management and/or ecosystem objectives using prescribed fire, fire use, and/or in combination with other treatment methods.

**Objective:** Discuss how the project, plan, or program has helped to sustain and/or restore ecosystems(s) in support of land management objectives.

**Criteria:** Directly tie the project, plan or program to existing management plan objectives. Discuss multi-resource benefit as appropriate. Describe and discuss excellence in all stages of planning, implementing, and monitoring.

2. Fuels treatment projects on a landscape scale.

**Objective:** Discuss how the project, plan, or program supports a landscape scale in support of ecosystem management.

**Criteria:** Discuss how the nomination promotes or restores native diversity of biological communities. Projects should be large scale and/or long-term efforts to restore the landscape. Provide a cost overview for the project.

## **OR**

- 2A. Unique Fuel Treatment Project Accomplishments

**Objective:** Discuss unique or unusual projects or programs such as work in unique ecosystems, T&E or sensitive species habitat improvement, or projects related to WSA, RNA, ACEC or other special management areas.

**Criteria:** Discuss why the project is unique or unusual. Describe the specific objectives of the project and the end results. Describe unusual technical difficulties and solutions. Provide a cost overview for the project.

3. Coordination and Cooperation

**Objective:** Discuss internal and external coordination and cooperation.

**Criteria:** Describe the internal interdisciplinary process. Describe any interagency efforts; include both Federal and state agencies. Describe coordination and cooperative efforts with private individuals and groups. Discuss any non-agency assistance during the implementation of the project.

4. Public Education and Involvement

**Objective:** Describe any public education or awareness effort conducted in connection with the nomination.

**Criteria:** Describe how public education and awareness efforts were used to gain public acceptance and support for the fuel treatment projects in support of ecosystem management. Discuss any unique public relations problems and the solutions developed. Describe any unique or unusual media involvement.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA INDIVIDUAL AWARD:**

Each nomination will be evaluated against the following criteria. Nominations should address each criterion separately, and are limited to two pages for the criteria.

1. Individual Effort

**Objective:** Describe significant individual effort.

**Criteria:** Describe unique or significant efforts related to a specific project, program, or plan; or describe a significant ongoing individual effort related to fuels treatment programs and/or projects.

2. Leadership

**Objective:** Describe significant leadership efforts in the fuels treatment program.

**Criteria:** Describe the internal leadership relating to the fuels treatment programs/projects. Describe efforts with external individuals and groups that have supported the use of fire to maintain and restore ecosystems and meet land management objectives.

3. Technical Support

**Objective:** Describe significant technical accomplishments.

**Criteria:** Describe specific technical accomplishments related to project planning, implementation, training, monitoring, public participation, and public education. Tie the above accomplishments to specific projects or show a significant contribution to the overall program.

## **BLM's NATIONAL WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE MITIGATION AWARD**

### **AWARD NAME: "National Wildland Urban Interface Award"**

The risk of wildfires to people (civilians and firefighters), communities and watersheds is reduced by addressing a community's wildfire vulnerability, restoring and maintaining the health, sustainability and resiliency of fire-prone ecosystems, and addressing local fire protection through collaborative efforts at all levels.

**The BLM's National Wildland Urban Interface Unit/Group Award** recognizes the exceptional accomplishments of an office or group in leadership, planning, implementation, management, and maintenance of community Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) mitigation programs(s) that meet the evaluation criteria.

**The BLM's National Wildland Urban Interface Individual Award** recognizes the exceptional accomplishments of an individual for leadership and effort in the areas of partnerships, public participation and education, collaborative project planning and implementation, and other contributions in advancing community WUI mitigation that meets the evaluation criteria.

**Frequency:** The Unit/Group Award and/or the Individual Award may be presented annually. The award(s) will be presented at the National Fire and Aviation Conference and will consist of a souvenir and a monetary award.

**Nominations:** Nominations must be submitted through a State Office. States may submit more than one award nomination. Submit nomination to the Office of Fire and Aviation by November 15, 2002. Each nomination should indicate whether it is for the "Unit/Group" or "Individual" award. Nomination(s) should include a one-page narrative describing accomplishments in WUI risk assessment, community education and action, fuels treatment, and an explanation of how these actions contributed to reducing a community's exposure to wildfire. Additional documentation (two pages or less) should address the award's evaluation criteria.

**Selection:** An awards committee consisting of, at a minimum, a representative of the Director, Office of Fire and Aviation, a Field Manager, and a specialist in community protection and assistance will make the selection of the unit/group(s) and/or individual(s). The Director, Office of Fire and Aviation will forward the names of the selected unit/group(s) and/or individual(s) to the BLM Director, for national recognition.

## **UNIT/GROUP AWARD EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

Each unit/group nomination will be evaluated against the following criteria. Nominations should address each criterion individually, provide accomplishment measurements, a cost overview of the project and be limited to two pages total. Indicate significant and exceptional actions taken in connection with WUI mitigation (i.e., communities, homes and watershed made more fire resistant; acres of WUI treated for hazardous fuel reduction, rural fire departments assisted, etc.) Indicate the development and/or use of social and wildland fire science, the use of indigenous knowledge and partnerships, etc.

### 1. Wildland Urban Interface Community Mitigation

**Objective:** The WUI project, plan or program reduces the wildfire exposure to WUI community(ies) with the National Fire Plan.

**Criteria:** Discuss how WUI hazard mitigation objectives were developed and achieved. Describe how the project(s) addresses specific community values such as fire resistant structures, healthy watersheds, level of local fire protection, etc.

### 2. Unique Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Accomplishments

**Objective:** The WUI project, plan or program employed unique or exceptional projects, partnerships or programs.

**Criteria:** Discuss why and how the project is unique and/or exceptional. Describe the objectives of the project and how innovative means achieved program goals. Describe how solutions were achieved in challenging situations.

### 3. Coordination and Cooperation

**Objective:** Comprehensive coordination and cooperation

**Criteria:** Describe interdisciplinary processes and partners (i.e. level of coordination with scientists, technical specialists and special interest groups). Describe interagency efforts, including collaboration with Federal, state and county agencies. Describe coordination and cooperative efforts with other stakeholders, private individuals and groups.

4. Public Education and Involvement

**Objective:** Community understanding and participation.

**Criteria:** Describe how public awareness, education and involvement assisted in planning and implementing the mitigation program. Discuss unique public involvement and solutions. Describe any unique or unusual partnership involvement.

**INDIVIDUAL AWARD-EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

Each nomination will be evaluated against the following criteria. Nominations should address each criterion separately and be limited to two pages.

1. Leadership

**Objective:** Substantial individual leadership in community WUI mitigation programs.

**Criteria:** Describe the leadership efforts of the individual in development and implementation of WUI projects. Describe achievements with individuals and groups that support effective methods of wildfire risk reduction to WUI communities.

2. Individual Effort

**Objective:** Significant individual accomplishment.

**Criteria:** Describe unique or significant efforts related to a specific WUI project, program or plan; or describe significant ongoing individual efforts that created or influenced WUI community mitigation program(s).

3. Partnership Development

**Objective:** Development of significant partnerships and their accomplishments.

**Criteria:** Describe the development of partnerships and their resulting accomplishments in project planning, implementation, training, monitoring, public education and participation, etc. Show the relationship of these accomplishments to specific projects or show a significant contribution to the overall WUI mitigation program.