

# Global Fire Monitoring Center Assistance Report

Study conducted by: Jodi Camrud

March 23 - March 31, 2001

Freiburg, Germany

## Purpose:

The purpose of this study was to review the process of how the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) inputs and updates the U.S. and North American wildland fire and fire weather information onto the GFMC internet site and then to recommend areas of possible collaboration between the Bureau of Land Management's National Office of Fire and Aviation (OF&A) and the GFMC.

## Background:

The OF&A has interfaced with the Global Fire Monitoring Center for several years. The primary activity of the GFMC is to provide a central point for information on global fire activity. Another product of the GFMC is the semi-annual publication *International Forest Fire News* (IFFN). The OF&A contribute articles to IFFN and supports its publication.

The director of the GFMC, Dr. Johann Goldammer, has been the driving force behind the GFMC and has worked diligently to make the center useful and successful. Dr. Goldammer is interested in using technology to improve the quality of the GFMC and reduce the direct workload on his limited staff. He approached OF&A with a proposal to have OF&A become the focal point for providing a daily consolidated report to GFMC on fire activity in the U.S. and potentially the rest of North America. He has stated that it now takes several hours a day to input the U.S. information onto the GFMC website. Prior to discussing areas of possible additional collaboration, the OF&A wanted to conduct an assessment of the systems presently being used by the GFMC, including time commitments.

The GFMC is located at the University of Freiburg in Freiburg, Germany. The GFMC is a part of the Fire Ecology Research Group at the University. Information on the GFMC program is available on the Internet at the following address:

<http://www.uni-freiburg.de/fireglobe>



## ITINERARY/TRAVEL:

Jodi spent the first day, March 25, in eastern Germany obtaining a brief overview of Germany's Fire Program. She met with the German Forest Service and other officials who were discussing a prescribed burn plan in that area.

Jodi spent March 26<sup>th</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> in the GFMC office. She learned about the organization of the GFMC and its goals. She discussed, with GFMC the staff, how they envisioned possible further collaboration with the OF&A.

**Jodi Camrud with Dr. Johann Goldhammer (right), GFMC and Gunter Naumann, Pietz District of the German Forest Service**

**FINDINGS:**

The GFMC collects and analyzes a great deal of information on wildland fire related issues on a daily basis and there is a lack of adequate time and personnel to format and post the new information on the GFMC website.

Many limitations were placed on the GFMC which uses the Freiburg University server, including formatting, prioritizing, and accessing. These limitations have reduced the interconnectivity of the GFMC with other sites and has caused delays of the exchange of information.

The staff at the GFMC is continuing to plan on ways to improve the website by determining the target audience, as well as the goals for the website.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

After reviewing the GFMC's current situation, Jodi provided suggestions to the GFMC and recommended to GFMC and the OF&A several potential areas for further collaboration between the GFMC and OF&A. OF&A accepted the following recommendations for further review:

1. Look into methods that might be available to further strengthen the GFMC's ability to produce the IFFN and to improve the GFMC website.
2. Further investigate the possibility of hosting staff from the GFMC in the U.S. during the 2001 fire season in order to provide the staff with a better understanding of how the interagency fire management system works and of how fire information products are produced and distributed at the various levels within the system.