

Burning Issues

Spring 2002

Index

- 2 To Pakistan,
And Home
Again
- 4 GEOMAC
- 6 Developing
Leaders
- 8 New Faces at
NIFC
- 10 NIFC
Volunteer
Program

Fire Directors Select Final Four Fire Shelter Designs

The leadership of the Federal wildland firefighting agencies, the USDA Forest Service, and the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Fish and Wildlife Service, have forwarded four designs for final testing as the new generation of fire shelters.

The fire shelter is carried by all Federal, State and local wildland firefighters, and is always a protective device of last resort. All the wildland firefighting agencies continue to emphasize, through training and briefings, that avoiding entrapment is the best means of firefighter safety. Firefighters who follow the safety tenets of the 10 Standard Firefighting Orders and LCES – Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes and Safety Zones should never need to use their fire shelter.

The Forest Service's Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) has been leading the research and testing for the new shelter design since early 1998. Cooperators in development of the testing and design of the new generation of shelters include the University of Alberta, the Underwriter's Laboratory, NASA, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, SGS-US Testing Company, Inc. and others.

Although MTDC had baseline data about the testing of the current fire shelter, the scientists and engineers acknowledged the lack of consistent testing protocols for new fire shelter materials, so developing the tests was the first step in the process. Given that field conditions vary widely, the tests needed to be repeatable in a laboratory for accuracy and fairness.

Once the testing parameters were developed, many private companies expressed interest and provided products for testing. These proposed materials for the new fire shelter were tested for strength, resistance to a variety of thermal, radiant, and convective heat conditions, weight, bulk, and size. Cost of materials is also a factor given the limited budgets maintained by rural and volunteer firefighters. The product will be consistent with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 1977) standards.

After the final four designs complete further testing, the Federal Fire and Aviation Leadership Council will select the preferred product based on the survivability and durability criteria, and physical characteristics. MTDC will provide the design specifications of the selected shelter. The production and quality control of the new fire shelters will be directed through a General Services Administration (GSA) contract. The new fire shelters should be available in June 2003.



To Pakistan, And Home Again

Bill Laspina’s holiday experience was about as atypical as can be imagined. Rather than spending it at home with friends and family, he ended up serving a two-month assignment in Pakistan, helping to provide assistance to the people in neighboring Afghanistan.

Laspina served as an administrative officer for a “Disaster Assistance Response Team,” or DART, that was charged with overseeing and accounting for worldwide humanitarian aid destined for the Afghan people. He left Idaho on November 13th, and returned on January 15th. He worked with the United Nations, the International Red Cross and numerous non-governmental relief organizations trying to assist Afghans in need.

“A DART is just like one of our incident command teams that gets sent to a fire. They both have the same basic management responsibilities, although DARTs are much smaller,” Laspina said.



Bill Laspina and two security guards in front of the DART team’s hotel.



Laspina gave these two orphans 10 rupees every morning, that’s about six cents.

the time on the DART, so I ended up doing lots of assignments. I was the administrative officer, the logistics chief, worked in security, and was the communications officer, too.”

Among his responsibilities was the task of finding local people to “fill out the DART.”

Laspina hired drivers, interpreters, staff assistants and others from the local Pakistani population. The United States has a longtime presence in Islamabad, where Laspina spent most of his time. He had little trouble finding people who were willing, able and ready to be hired to fill out the DART organization.

Laspina also was charged with finding supplies and equipment needed for the DART. That meant trips to local markets to purchase the goods and products the team needed. Laspina said that the merchants were happy to do business with him, and that he never felt in danger.

“The reception we received in Pakistan was pretty good. I had lots of contact with the local people in the local markets. I didn’t have a single bad trip,” he said. “I made many new friends.”

But he noticed differences in Peshawar, a city only 45 miles from the Afghan border. “We were always security-conscious, but the farther north we got, the more tension or intimidation I felt,” he says. “I’d go to the market in Peshawar and realize that there were probably some people who weren’t really happy about Americans in general.”

His driver doubled as a translator, but Laspina says that he was “amazed” at the number of people, particularly merchants, who spoke English.

The work day was long. For the first couple of weeks, 14 to 16 hour days were the norm. It eased off somewhat after that, but days off were rare, and an eight-hour workday unheard of.

“There was lots to do,” said Laspina. “And we had only days to get things done, not weeks.”



“My position as the administrative officer was more like what a planning and logistics chief would do on an incident team,” he said. “We only had five or six people most of

The climate and terrain of Islamabad remind Laspina of southern California. “Lots of rolling hills, scrub oak, and fine, flashy fuels.” Temperatures were mild, highs in the 70s during November, and cooling to the 50s later in December and January. Pakistan and the region are enduring a five-year drought. It only rained once during Laspina’s stay, “and that was about six drops,” he said.

“Pakistan is on the same longitude as our southeastern states. The fruits and vegetables they grow there are amazing. Heads of lettuce this big,” he said, holding his hands about 20 inches apart. “And the flowers! There were flower vendors on every street corner.”

Laspina ended up in Pakistan through a reimbursable agreement between BLM and the Forest Service that is coordinated by the Office of Fire and Aviation’s International Program. Most of the requests for international support come from the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). Tom Frey, Coordinator of the International Program spent almost a month in Pakistan with the DART last fall, serving as a military liaison.

Laspina said that his lasting impression of Pakistan was the remoteness of the country and the poverty that prevailed outside of the major cities. “It is a very poor country,” he said.

Laspina doesn’t view his service in Pakistan as anything out of the ordinary. “I was just doing my job. Whatever I did over there is what I normally do here.”

Since returning to the United States, he’s been approached by OFDA to serve on two more assignments, one in West Africa. He had to turn them both down for a variety of reasons. Previously, Bill worked on assignments for OFDA in Washington, D.C., and on a short assessment trip to Honduras.

Would he like to serve abroad again? Laspina leaves no doubt. “It seems I always got stuck at a desk in DC. I much prefer going out.”



Vegetable market in Islamabad.



A porter carried items purchased at the Islamabad market on his head.



Fruit stand at the Islamabad market.



GEOMAC

The Mystery Solved: Fire Internet Map Server Technology and GeoMAC

Uh-oh, GeoMAC is not what you think – or maybe it is. Follow me for a moment, and I think we can clear up some common misunderstandings related to fire internet mapping, fire incident mapping, and GeoMAC. Here we go...

Data Collection

Before maps and information can be displayed, data must be collected and organized. This is where “geospatial technology applications” come in. These programs collect, extract, store, and distribute geospatial data referenced to a precise location on the Earth’s surface. Geospatial technology includes infrared mapping, remote sensing, satellite positioning systems such as Global Positioning System (GPS), and geographic information systems (GIS) which assemble, store, manipulate and display data. Data can be obtained from local sources, such as the fire perimeter on an incident, regional sources, such as weather stations, and national sources, such as national fire situation report.

Displaying Data

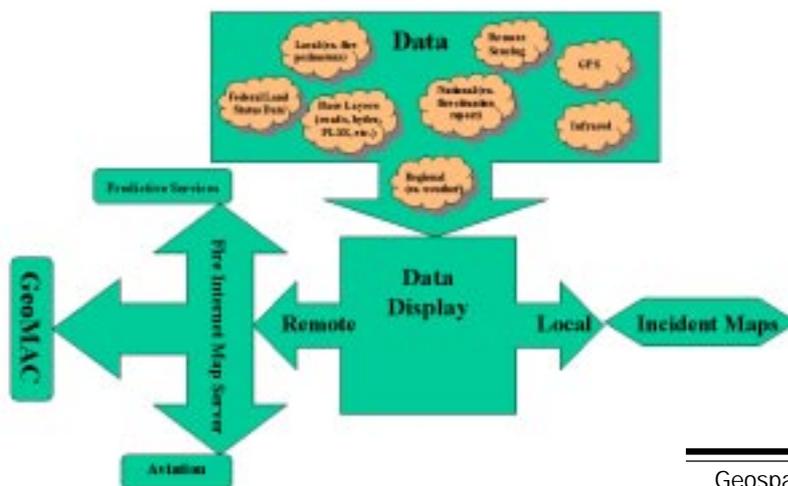
Once information is collected, organized and stored, it can be displayed and used locally, or, through the use of internet map server technology, displayed and used remotely.

Remote Output/Display

Internet-Based Mapping

Internet Map Server (IMS) technology offers internet-based, interactive, geospatial information. When this technology is used to support fire with fire-related applications, we call it a Fire Internet Map Server (FIMS). Through FIMS, users can output or display information according to their needs.

(Continued on page 5)



Geospatial technology such as GPS units and ArcView software *collect and organize* data; internet mapping server technology *displays* and can *distribute* data.



The Mystery Solved: Fire Internet Map Server Technology and GeoMAC

(Continued on page 5)

GeoMAC

Now let's talk GeoMAC. GeoMAC is a prototype application, a test if you will, of IMS technology in support of fire. GeoMAC is one of many applications that can serve up maps on the internet. GeoMAC was developed as a proof-of-concept for IMS technology as a tool for fire managers. GeoMAC was built during the 2000 wildland fire season to help national, regional and geographic area managers make decisions on where to assign firefighters, equipment and aircraft. *It was not designed to display the level of detail needed by an incident to plan strategies and tactics.*

Fire Weather Prediction

Another potential application of IMS for fire support is to provide a method for integrating predictive service products with fire information, fire weather/danger, and other spatial data. Computer and geographic



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information such as acres burned or a fire perimeter, and the current FIMS application of GeoMAC cannot provide the level of detail required by an incident. Though geospatial information can be downloaded from the internet, generally, the incident stores and manipulates all of the information it uses to develop fire management strategies and tactics locally. This information is not available to remote users/viewers and the incident has limited ability to access remote data.



Sample GeoMAC map.

New NPS Arrowhead

In 2001, the National Park Service introduced a new look for the symbol of our agency – the National Park Service Arrowhead logo. The design changes took place to make for a more contemporary look and feel, yet it still conveys the significance and symbolism of our cultural and natural resource values through the use of the sequoia tree, mountain, and bison. You may have already seen the new logo on some materials, including brochures, newspapers/newsletters, signs, websites, displays and other graphics material. It was designed in black and white, grayscale, color, shaded and flat, giving many options to designers using different mediums. The new arrowhead was introduced in conjunction with other changes to NPS design layouts that give a uniform identity to the National Park Service. You'll be sure to see a lot more of the new arrowhead in the future.



Old Arrowhead

New Arrowheads

DEVELOPING LEADERS IN WILDLAND FIRE

BACKGROUND

Every time a fatality occurs on a wildland fire, an investigation team is dispatched to discover what happened and why. And nearly every time the team lists its findings, lack of effective leadership is identified as contributing to the accident. Despite efforts to correct practices or procedures that contribute to injuries and fatalities, a coordinated approach to leadership development has been slow in coming.

A Leadership Committee has been established, under the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's Training Working Team, to prepare an interagency, national strategy for developing leaders in wildland fire through an integrated program of training, development and assessment. The wildland fire leadership program aims to develop leaders who can make timely decisions in high stress situations that get the job done without compromising firefighter safety.

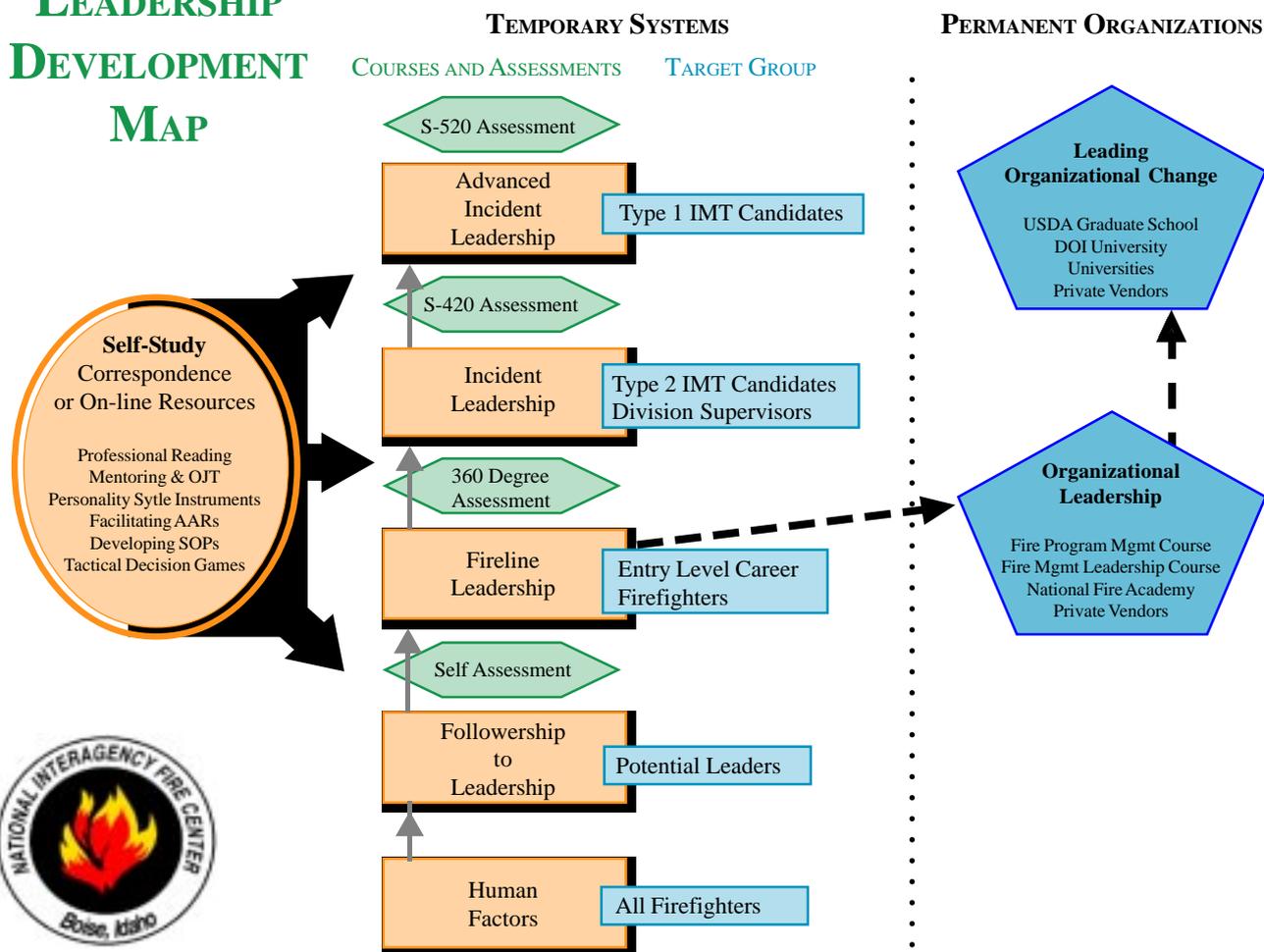
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

An integrated and progressive leadership curriculum, supplemented with leadership assessment and on-the-job experience, is being established. Five courses provide the foundation for the program, in addition to self-study correspondence courses which will be developed:

- Human Factors: NWCG Product; 4 hours at local unit with local instructor
- Followership to Leadership: Under development; 8 hours at local unit with local instructor
- Fireline Leadership: Contract course with private vendor; 40 hours currently delivered at Wildland Fire Apprenticeship Academy and other locations. Cost: \$900 per student.
- Incident Leadership: Contract course with private vendor to be developed; 32 hours. Cost: Unknown.
- Advanced Incident Leadership: Under development; 32 hours at NARTC.

(Continued on page 6)

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MAP



DEVELOPING LEADERS IN WILDLAND FIRE

(Continued from page 7)

TARGET AUDIENCES

Employees who are progressing within the wildland fire qualifications system are eligible for the proposed leadership development process. They will be involved in the program from the beginning to the end of their careers. There are five levels of development related to the employee's training, experience and stage of career, however, not all employees will reach all levels.

INTENDED AUDIENCE	STAGE OF CAREER	COURSE TITLE
Followers (i.e., FFT2)	Inception	Human Factors
Developing Leaders (i.e., FFT2 to FFT1)	Transition	Followership to Leadership
Leader of People (i.e., CRWB; RXI2)	Early Maturation	Fireline Leadership
Leader of Leaders (i.e., DIVS; Type 2 IMT Command Staff)	Maturation	Incident Leadership
Leader of Organizations (i.e., Type I IMT Command Staff, Area Command)	Pinnacle	Advanced Incident Leadership

STATUS OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Leadership Committee has developed a plan for implementing 14 action items aimed at enhancing leadership development in wildland fire. Full implementation of all action items will take at least three years. These include designating new leadership courses in the Publications Management System; eliminating or modifying courses that will be replaced or supplemented by leadership courses; developing self study courses and assessment tools; conducting needs analyses; and adopting a common set of leadership values and principles (see below).

WILDLAND FIRE LEADERSHIP VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

VALUES	PRINCIPLES
DUTY	Be proficient in your job, both technically and as a leader.
	Make sound and timely decisions.
	Ensure that tasks are understood, supervised and accomplished.
	Develop your subordinates for the future.
RESPECT	Know your subordinates and look out for their well being.
	Keep your subordinates informed.
	Build the team.
	Employ your subordinates in accordance with their capabilities.
INTEGRITY	Know yourself and seek improvement.
	Seek responsibility and accept responsibility for your actions.
	Set the example.

View the entire Leadership report at <http://www.fire.blm.gov/training/blmtrng/blmtrng.html>



What's New in the National Park Service?

Coming...

Dale Miracle is the new Capital Equipment/Facilities Specialist with the National Park Service. He comes to us from Bandelier National Monument where he served as Assistant Fire Management Officer. His federal career began here at "BIFC" in 1968, where he was a BLM firefighter on a hotshot crew stationed at the base. Later, the position evolved to working in the BLM Fire Operations Branch, assembling wildland fire engines in the winter and functioning in fire incident management positions in the summer months. In 1985 he transferred to the Phoenix District BLM as a Fire Control Officer, and in 1998, he moved to the Albuquerque District BLM, first as an Assistant Fire Management Officer, then as the Fire Management Officer, where he remained in the position until May 2000 when he transferred to the National Park Service.

Dale is married and has no children except for their four-legged one, a cat. He is currently building a new house in Boise with the hopes of being moved in by the end of March.

John Segar is the new WUI Coordinator for the National Park Service. He has worked for the NPS, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and most recently as Zone FMO on the Boise NF. John began his career as a firefighter in 1979 and since then, has worked in various positions, including NPS ranger, firefighter, prescribed fire specialist (Everglades National Park, Florida) and FMO (Natchez Trace Parkway, Mississippi). He has also worked as a Zone FMO for FWS (NE, SD, KS, CO) and as a hotshot for the USDA Forest Service. John lives in Boise and spends his free time with his family. He enjoys skiing, hiking, and other outdoor activities.

And going...

Three people from the National Park Service have chosen to begin a new life of leisure.

Ann Brown, Budget Analyst in the NPS office, has left us for better, less stressful days. She retired on March 1, after



Dale Miracle and John Segar

eighteen years with the NPS Fire Management Office. Now our question is, "How will we ever fill her shoes?" The office certainly won't be the same with Ann gone. She is such a warm spirited person, full of smiles, and a great sense of humor. She plans on spending her retirement days working in the yard, making crafts, watching the sun rise, traveling, and cooking dinners for her husband. We will miss her, but since she has already been back, we look forward to her visits!

Gary Johnson retired from the Fire Management Program Center in January. Gary started his government career when he was 19 years old with USFS in 1966. While working for them he earned a degree in Forest Management and graduated in 1971. With this experience and degree under his belt, he started working for the California District Fire Management Office as a smokejumper and helicopter manager. Later he worked in Oregon and Alaska, and finally came to good ol' Idaho. He started working at NIFC with the BLM National Aviation Office in 1996. Finally, in April of 1999, he started working for the National Park Service as the Aviation Operations and Safety Specialist. We enjoyed working with Gary while he was here with us, but he has chosen a new career field...stay at home dad. He felt it was time for him to spend more time with his family. He has been at this new job for three months now and he says he loves it. He looks forward for summer to arrive so that he and his family can go fishing and camping. Gary's wife, Kathy Johnson, continues to work for the Boise National Forest, as a biologist. It sounds like they are both enjoying Gary's retirement. We have missed seeing Gary around the office, but he has promised to come visit us. His position has not yet been filled, but his replacement will be located at NIFC.

Continued on page 9



What's New in the NPS? (cont.)

Continued from page 8

Rick Gale officially retired January 3rd from the Deputy Chief Ranger position with the National Park Service, after having planned a year ago to make the big move. Rick's 41 years of service began in 1958, where he worked as a fire control aid at Lava Beds National Monument. Later, he worked in a variety of fire and ranger jobs at Sequoia-Kings Canyon NP, Yosemite NP, Coulee Dam (now Lake Roosevelt NRA), Glacier NP,

Lake Mead NRA, Grand Canyon NP, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, the NPS Fire Management Program Center in Boise and in Ranger Activities in the Washington Office. Rick plans to spend some time golfing in Arizona, although you can still see Rick every once in a while on base. Rick's position has been advertised as a GS-0401-14/15 Fire Management Officer and will be located in Washington, DC.

NIFC Welcomes...

More than 40 new employees have joined NIFC, and we'd like to welcome them all!

Aaron Nyberg	Security Guard - BLM
Adam Vashro	Contract Employee - OAS
Andrew Bellcourt	Deputy, Fire Operations - BIA
Anita Personius	Office Clerk - BIA
Charles Redman	Fire Weather - NWS
Dave Stumhofer	Pilot -USDA Forest Service
David Decker	Hydro-Meteorological Technician - NWS
Deanna Mendiola	Administrative Assistant - BLM
Dennis Peterson	Contract Employee - OAS
Derinda Rapp	Staff Assistant - BLM
Dave Opalenik	Computer Specialist - OAS
Dawn Graham	Purchasing Agent - BLM
Dennis Dupuis	Deputy, Fire Use and Fuels
Ed Hollenshead	National Safety Officer -USDA Forest Service
Evy Neff	Office Automation Clerk - BLM
Faye Chandler	Computer Specialist -USDA Forest Service
Gaylene Shaffer	Budget and Accounting Analyst -USDA Forest Service
Hallie Locklear	National Fire Program Technician - FWS
Jeff Cardin	Pilot -USDA Forest Service
Larry Van Bussum	Staff Meteorologist to NIFC - NWS
Linnea Keating	National RAWS Coordinator -USDA Forest Service
Lisa McDevitt	Chief, Business Practices Group - BLM
Jason Becker	Telecommunications Specialist - BLM
Jay Breidenbach	Hydrologist, NWS
John Fitchner	Equipment Development Specialist - BLM
John Loutzow	Supervisory IT Specialist (Customer Support) - BLM
Jon Turner	Procurement Clerk -USDA Forest Service
Kathy Collins	Staff Assistant - BLM
Kolleen Shelley	National RAWS Coordinator -USDA Forest Service
Mark Jackson	Fire Effects Specialist - BIA
Michael Proud	Fire Weather - NWS
Mike Benscoter	Fire Management Specialist (WUI) - FWS
Mike Van Hemelryck	Fuels Program Assistant - NPS
Pat Norbury	Pilot -USDA Forest Service
Paul Solarz	Branch Chief, Equipment and Chemicals -USDA Forest Service
Paula Nasiatka	Lessons Learned, SAFE - NPS
Rufina Villicana	Budget Analyst - BIA
Sandy Tripp	Program Analyst - BLM
Sherry Garey	Grants/Agreements Specialist - BLM
Stephanie Assumuss	Office Automation Clerk - BLM
Sue Irvin	Accounting Technician - BLM
Susan Flores	Personnel Clerk - BLM
Terry Kelly	Staff Assistant - BLM
Venetia Gempler	Public Affairs Specialist - BLM



Fire Education, Prevention, and Information Specialists

The NPS fire communications and education group met at NIFC for the first time in November 2001 for a workshop titled, "Fire Connections." The primary participants were the newest NPS "fire hires" who are dedicated to fire communications. The objectives of the meeting were to provide communication and education tools for field use, provide baseline information on fire management, and to initiate a discussion on goals for national and local fire education, prevention, and information programs within the NPS. The group worked on developing a Communications Plan for the NPS Fire Communications and Education program. On-base staff from other agencies was invited to attend the workshop to obtain a better perspective on the NPS Fire Communications and Education Program. Interagency partners provided learning opportunities for the participants by leading sessions and discussions during the week in Boise. The group is hoping to hold annual meetings to continue its learning and networking.



Fire Education, Prevention and Information Specialists (Left to Right:) **1st row (kneeling/sitting)** — Jody Lyle - *Sequoia and Kings Canyon NP*; Roberta D'Amico - *Fire Management Program Center*; Jennifer Chapman - *Point Reyes NS*; Scott Sticha - *Rocky Mountain NP*; Amy Phillips - *Southeast Regional Office* **2nd row (kneeling)** — Carol Jandrall - *Whiskeytown NRA* **3rd row (standing)** — Liz Roberts - *Fire Management Program Center*; Angela Smith - *Ozark NSR*; Lori Iverson - *Grand Teton NP*; Marty O'Toole - *Santa Monica Mountains NRA*; Allison Jackson - *Buffalo NR*; Scott Isaacson - *Lassen Volcanic NP*; Tina Boehle - *Fire Management Program Center* **4th row (standing behind)** — David Eaker - *Zion NP*; Kathleen Harter - *Midwest Regional Office*; Jim Whittington - *Bandelier NM* **Not pictured** — Barb Stewart - *Northeast Regional Office*; Donna Nemeth - *Grand Canyon NP*; Morgan Miller - *Alaska Regional Office*; Dusty Warner - *Acadia NP*

Remodeling Continues at NIFC

The Base Maintenance staff continues to keep busy working on improvement projects around the base.

The Planning and Resources staff will be moving into a newly remodeled area on the second floor of the Jack Wilson Building in the near future. Several walls were removed to make additional space available and carpet and lights will be installed shortly. The Human Resources suite on the first floor will be the next area to undergo a transformation with the addition of a new office, updated lights, carpet and paint.

The Denver Service Center engineers are currently working on plans for a remodel of the first floor and a second floor addition for 410A (IRM building). Construction is expected to begin this fall.



The Great Basin Cache rest rooms are undergoing a total make-over and will be finished around the first of April. A new rest room is also being added on the second floor.

A new boiler has been installed at the Smokejumper facility. This new system will be energy efficient, cost effective and will be much safer than the 40 year old pressure boiler that was replaced.

After six years of planning, the ramp resurfacing project will begin about April 1st. You can expect to see a lot of industrial traffic for several weeks.

We are still at an increased state of security awareness and you may expect this level to continue.

NIFC gardener, Dale Hasteed, will retire on April 3rd after 30 years of service. An open house is planned to honor Dale so watch for further information. A new gardener, Christopher Nash, will begin work on March 25th.

NIFC's Volunteer Program

People volunteer for a wide variety of reasons. They may want to explore a career, keep some skills alive, earn academic credit, keep busy, or maybe just feel needed. NIFC has a lot to offer potential volunteers.

Many people assume that the major reason we recruit volunteers is that there isn't enough money to do the necessary work. Volunteers are not merely a "second choice," they help us stretch our budgets way beyond what we otherwise might be able to afford and they can diversify and expand the skills we already have at NIFC.

To assess whether or not you could use a volunteer in your group, ask yourself the following questions:

1. What activities must be accomplished.
2. What activities are not being accomplished.
3. What activities would we like to accomplish.
4. Which of these activities could a volunteer accomplish.

Please contact Pam Johansen (x5456) in External Affairs if you are interested in placing a volunteer. "I can answer any of your questions and I'll do the recruiting for you," Johansen said. If you know of someone who may be interested in volunteering, you can direct them to Pam for further assistance.

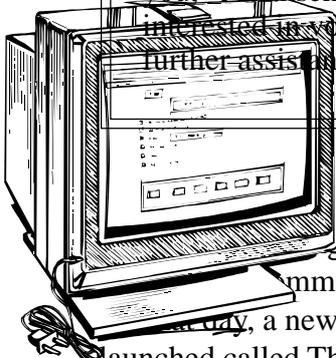
Length of Service Awards

30 years

Jay Thietten
Dale Halsted
James Stires - BIA
Bill Casey
Steve Nemore

20 Years

Doris Batdorf
Kurt La Rue
Eric Reynolds
Wini Sorensen



National Park Service's new intranet site!

... news for the National Park community on February 12, 2002. ... a new communications tool was launched called The Fire Line. An internal website, located at <http://inside.nps.gov/fire>, The Fire Line will provide a new avenue for accessing tools and resources at all levels of the National Park Service fire program. The goal is for the national fire management office to communicate more effectively with our internal audience, those working in the parks, regional and other national offices.

... posted to the website FireNet at <http://www.nps.gov/fire>. Using both these websites, information will be available to all. Thanks to Tina Boehle, webmaster for FireNet and The Fire Line, the cyber highway is starting to make a little more sense.

Information that is relevant to our external audience, including interagency partners, is



Fire Success Stories

Last year, after sending out a request via e-mail for fire success stories in the National Park Service, a number of parks provided excellent materials. The stories covered the spectrum of fire management – from wildland fire use, to creating fuel breaks and other fuel reduction projects, to assisting rural communities through the Rural Fire Assistance program and successful education and outreach efforts as a result of interpretive and school programs. Each story is unique and collectively they present the full scope of the NPS Fire Management. The 2001 stories have been compiled and can be located on FireNet at <http://www.nps.gov/fire/success/index.htm>. In addition, 2002 stories are already starting to flow in and promise to outdo the number received in 2001. Another web page, also accessible through <http://www.nps.gov/fire/success/index.htm>, highlights the 2002 successes. Here's one of the stories submitted in 2001 that illustrates the exciting things happening in NPS.

Yellowstone Uses Historic Fire Truck to Educate about Fire

Now in its second season of use, a 1963 International fire truck is being used as a tool to educate about forest and fire ecology as well as fire management. Throughout the summer fire rangers Holly McRae and Cheryn Fairbairn drove all over Yellowstone National Park, stopping in popular pull-offs, and attracting attention wherever they went. During late summer, there were many opportunities to park the truck in view of smoke from wildland fires occurring in the park.

Many visitors were curious as to the presence of an old fire truck at Yellowstone and the truck was like a magnet wherever McRae and Fairbairn went. The fire rangers used the interpretive opportunity that the truck created to talk about fire at the park. This year, the truck became even more of a mobile museum with the addition of

interpretive panels on each side of the firetruck that used photos and text to tell about the stages of fire, fire ecology, and fire management.

McRae and Fairbairn didn't spend all their time in the

truck; in order to reach other audiences, they frequently roved the Mt. Washburn Trail to the fire lookout at the summit talking to visitors about fire. In addition, each



McRae and Fairbairn used this 1963 fire truck to educate park visitors.

presented an evening illustrated program about fire at various park campgrounds. One of the fire rangers also obtained firefighter qualifications in order to fight fires in the park. During the Arthur Fire, both rangers served as Information Officers.

Between roving the trail, doing programs, and travelling the park in the 1963 International fire truck, the fire rangers created quite an impression and were able to share the story of fire with many visitors.

There are many more success stories on the FireNet website, take a few minutes and check out our successes.

Annual Wildland Firefighter Refresher Training

Visit the new web site at:

http://www.nifc.gov/safety_study/annual-refresh/

