



Forest
Service

Intermountain Region

324 25th Street
Ogden, UT 84401

File Code: 5100/40205100, 4020
Route To: (5100)

Date: May 23, 2013

Subject: Study of Idaho Counties Fire Readiness

To: Payette Forest Supervisor, Boise Forest Supervisor, Sawtooth Forest Supervisor,
Salmon Challis Forest Supervisor, and Caribou-Targhee Forest Supervisor

A group of researchers from North Carolina State University, including Dr. Toddi Steelman and Dr. Branda Nowell, have requested help gathering information from our employees. Because of the value of this information to the Forest Service, we encourage your assistance.

They will be asking forest level and district personnel on your forest involved with wildfire response (e.g., District Rangers, District Resource Advisors, District Public Affairs/Information Officers, District Law Enforcement Officers) to participate in a survey. The success of this project is contingent upon getting quality feedback.

The project will focus on 113 counties across Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington that are at high risk for wildfires to study community preparedness and coordination in response to large wildfire. They hope to improve wildfire management by providing information that can inform how the many agencies, organizations, and groups involved in wildfire preparedness and response can better organize to achieve a common goal - more wildfire resilient communities.

This work is funded by the National Science Foundation and the Joint Fire Science Program. A central component of the project will be a comprehensive county-level assessment involving approximately 40 organizations, community groups, and agencies key to wildfire incident response in all 113 counties. At the end of the study, your forest will receive a county level report that details your collective level of preparedness for you and your cooperators and how it compares to other counties in your state and within the four state study area. Additional copies of reports from the project will also be sent to you. This important work can lead to better coordination and readiness for wildland fire support in the future. If you are contacted by Drs. Steelman and Nowell, we encourage you to support their efforts.

Thank you,

/s/ Marlene Finley (for)
NORA B. RASURE
Regional Forester

Enclosure



cc: Marlene Finley
Chris Iverson
Susan A Stewart
Elizabeth W Lund