



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Pacific  
Northwest  
Region

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**File Code:** 1300  
**Route To:**

**Date:** December 20, 2012

**Subject:** Request for Help on Research Project - North Carolina State University

**To:** John Laurence, Forest Supervisor, Wallowa-Whitman NF

A group of researchers from North Carolina State University have requested help with a survey they will be doing. Because of the value of this information to the Forest Service, I am encouraging your assistance.

They will need your assistance with two things. First, in the next week the researchers ask you to send an email to the Fire Management Officers on your Districts inviting them to participate in a survey. The survey will take approximately 45 minutes to complete. District FMO participation in this survey is essential for the research project's success. The research team will draft this email so as not to put any undue burden on you. They will also follow up with a phone call to see if you have any questions about the study and its benefits.

Second, they would like to enlist your help in encouraging other 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 in the coming weeks. Their participation is also very important. At the time this survey is sent out, the researchers will contact you again with a letter to send out to your other personnel encouraging them to participate. Please help them by forwarding the email to your forest personnel to encourage their participation.

The research project will focus on 120 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 themselves to create more wildfire resilient communities.

Their work is funded by the National Science Foundation and the Joint Fire Science Program and is fully supported by Tom Harbor, National Director of Fire and Aviation Management. 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 120 counties. At the end of the study, your forest will receive a county level report that details your level of preparedness 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.



I have spoken with members of the North Carolina State University research team and believe their work merits our support and participation.

For more information visit <http://www.firechasers.ncsu.edu/> or contact Dr. Branda Nowell at [branda\\_nowell@ncsu.edu](mailto:branda_nowell@ncsu.edu).

*/s/ Margaret Y. Mitchell (for)*

KENT P. CONNAUGHTON  
Regional Forester

cc: toddi.steelman  
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