

The Thousand Hour Time Lag Fuel Project Nevada State Office

Site Selection Criteria – Locate a site that is representative of the species that are of concern. This site should be on a south or southwest aspect, with a typical mix of canopy cover. Ensure that there is enough material present on the site to collect samples for many years; otherwise it may become necessary to change locations, which will lead to a loss in the continuity of your database. Downed fuels should be at least two years old, sound, and not punky (rotting), or excessively cracked. Recently blown over or pushed trees make up the best site, because the dead fuels are completely exposed to the air and will not absorb moisture from the ground. If possible set up a rain gauge on the site to track precipitation accumulation, and also try to note duration through observation or by a close weather station.

Documentation of the Sample Site – Mark the boundaries of the sampling site with steel posts or temporarily with tree paint. Plot the location of the site on a 7½-quadrangle map and include detailed written instructions on the location; include – easily recognized landmarks, highway numbers, etc. Include a legal description, name of the site, latitude and longitude, elevation, slope, and aspect, the age of the stand, the predominant species, and the maximum canopy cover in the site description. Send a copy of the description to the Nevada State Office (NSO).

Site Numbering – Give the NSO a call, to set up the site numbering process. The first three letters of the site will be the three letter designator used at the National level, followed by the number of the district and then an alpha letter to distinguish the site from other sites on that district. For example, if the Toiyabe National Forest had two thousand hour sites on the Carson City Ranger District, their site numbers would be TOF1A and TOF1B.

Sampling Instructions – Samples are taken every two weeks, following a schedule that is set up each February. The sampling container, zip lock bags, and sample data sheet are all supplied by the NSO and will be mailed to you along with a self-addressed mailing

label (to return samples to the NSO). The sample results are published on the individual sampling site web pages and are also posted in the bi-weekly report on the NSO fuels web page (<http://www.nv.blm.gov/fuels>).

The equipment that needs to be provided in order to collect samples includes: a bow saw, belt weather kit, pen or pencil, cooler, and clipboard. After arriving at the site you need to start filling out the sample data sheet. Then take the weather and record that information. It is helpful to note in the remarks section any precipitation that has fallen, if samples are snow covered or damp, or if grasses or other vegetation are present at the site. It is also beneficial to track the greenup and curing process throughout the summer. In the future the aforementioned information will enable you to better predict the intensity that may be experienced during the fire season.

A bow saw will be used to collect the 10 samples (NOT A CHAINSAW). The samples that are collected should be between three and eight inches in diameter. Sampling at less than three inches, reflects the 100 hour fuels and may skew the 1000 hour data. Cut the rounds as thin as possible, but not so thin that they fall apart. The first time that samples are collected you can select where you are going to cut, but it is important to ensure that you are cutting in non-exposed wood. However, the second time that samples are collected, there will be 10 stubs that have been exposed to the air for weeks. Before additional samples are cut from these limbs, cut about an inch off of the exposed ends (do not use this as a sample). Do not cut all of the samples from the same limb or pole. In order to obtain a good site representation, collect samples throughout the site from different down and dead material. The same limbs can be used during subsequent sample collections, as long as the exposed ends are cut off before taking samples from these limbs. Write the sample number (i.e. 1, 2, 3, etc.) on each sample with a pen or a pencil before it is completely cut off of the limb. Try to remove the bark if it will easily break off before the sample is put into the zip lock bag. Make sure the bag is sealed, and then place it into a cooler to keep it out of the sun. Before leaving the site make that the sample data form has been completely filled out.

After returning to the office, take the samples out of the cooler, then place them into the mailing container sent to you, and make sure that the top is sealed. Try to use the old mailing box again, if in good shape, and also place the sample data sheet inside the box. Seal the box and place the self-addressed mailing label over the old address label, then mail it to the NSO as soon as possible.

If you have any question, please call Sandy Gregory at (775) 861-6514. Samples will be sent to the following address:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
P.O. Box 12000
RENO, NEVADA 89520