

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Nevada State Office
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, Nevada 89520-0006

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To: Field Managers, Nevada

From: Chief, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: Start Date for the Great Basin Live Fuel Moisture Project **DD: 03/29/2004**

The Great Basin Live Fuel Moisture Project (GBLFMP) will begin on March 29, 2004. This is the twenty-first year of the project. The web site that was established in 2000 will continue to be used this year, the URL address is still: <http://www.nv.blm.gov/fuels>. We will only send a hard copy of the Great Basin Live Fuel Moisture Report to those who do not have Internet access or request the report. Please inform the project coordinator (Sandy Gregory) by official mail if you would like to receive a hard copy of this report by March 29, 2004. Online access to the GBLFMP reports provides program participants with near real time information. As soon as the samples are processed, the results are posted on the web site. In addition to the information regarding fuel moisture values that the web site provides it also contains additional fuels information, such as burning indices and fire potential maps.

If you cannot reach the fuel moisture site or if inclement weather conditions make it impossible to sample, please notify the project coordinator. We are requesting all participants to follow the sampling schedule in Attachment 1-1. This will require the sampling of sagebrush every two weeks by your staff from the established fuel moisture sites. The 1000-hour sampling will follow the same schedule. If you should have questions regarding sampling procedures for either live fuel moisture or 1000-hour sites, please check the web site for instructions or contact the project coordinator.

The fuel moisture data is used for long-term assessment evaluations. This assessment will look at long-range (field season) fuel moisture trends, climatology and potential risk. It is important that the field offices follow the sampling schedule and send the samples to the Nevada State Office for processing. This ensures that established scientific methods and sampling standards are met to maintain data quality and integrity.

Some Agencies/Field Offices have reported that their present live fuel moisture sites have become depleted or the site no longer represents general fuel conditions. If you would like to change or add a site to your area, please notify the project coordinator before you begin sampling the site.

There are a few requirements and some documentation that is needed if you change sites. They are as follows:

The site must be on a south aspect and contain about five acres. Mark the boundaries of the sample site with steel posts. Elevation, slope, aspect, legal description, latitude/longitude and name of the site are needed. Plot the location, on a map and provide sufficiently detailed written information of locations, access routes, highway number or name, and the distance from easily recognized landmarks, etc.

For any of the field offices that still have sampling tubes at their respective units, please continue to use them. The remainder of the sampling tubes will be mailed out the week of March 22, 2004. Return mailing labels are included in each sampling tube. Please insure that all returned samples are mailed to P. O. Box 12000, Reno, Nevada 89520-0006. Fuel sample containers should not be hand carried to the Nevada State Office (NSO) due to security reasons.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact the office of Fire and Aviation, attention Sandy Gregory at (775) 861-6514.

Signed by:
Kevin Hull, Chief
Office of Fire and Aviation

Authenticated by:
Cindy Savoie
Logistics Coordinator

1 Attachment:

1. Great Basin Live Fuel Moisture Project Sampling Schedule 2004 (1p)

GREAT BASIN LIVE FUEL MOISTURE PROJECT

SAMPLING SCHEDULE 2004

MARCH 29

APRIL 12

APRIL 26

MAY 10

MAY 24

JUNE 7

JUNE 21

JULY 5

JULY 19

AUGUST 2

AUGUST 16

AUGUST 30

SEPTEMBER 13

SEPTEMBER 27

OCTOBER 11

OCTOBER 25