

S-493 - *FARSITE* FIRE AREA SIMULATOR
March 29 to April 2, 2004. Phoenix, AZ

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The course is broken into three parts. The first portion consists of pre-qualifying lessons: file management skills, basic GIS concepts and terms, appearance and functions of the *FARSITE* software, and Fire Behavior Prediction system. The second portion of the course continues: operation of the *FARSITE* software, practice developing components of *FARSITE* runs, fire behavior models, necessary file management and documentation to complete runs. A comprehensive exercise is also provided. The majority of the classroom portion of the course is dedicated to incorporation of the experience gained during the pre-classroom lessons into exercises based on actual planning and wildland fire examples.

During the course students will:

- Describe the GIS data needed to run the model so they can communicate with GIS specialists to obtain files compatible for input into *FARSITE*.
- Develop and use weather stream inputs from meteorological observations, forecasts, and scenarios.
- Demonstrate how to produce products for long-range temporal and spatial fire projections to support briefings and fire management planning.
- Discuss the information necessary to understand *FARSITE*, calibrate, validate and interpret the outputs to support management in fire use decision-making
- Identify potential applications of *FARSITE* and highlight their unique requirements.

OBJECTIVE: Upon completion of this course, students will have sufficient familiarity with *FARSITE* to develop advanced application skills needed in fire management. Students will have a working knowledge of *FARSITE* so that, given the required GIS data themes, the students can create landscapes, develop weather streams, run fire simulations, interpret outputs and understand the philosophy, limitations and assumptions of the model.

TARGET GROUP

The target group for this course includes:

- Individuals currently proficient with other fire behavior prediction models;
- Individuals destined for the S-590 Advanced Fire Behavior Interpretation course;
- Individuals currently active in the FBAN and/or LTAN positions;
- Individuals intending to use the model as a technical specialist;
- GIS specialists who support *FARSITE* data needs in conjunction with other fire management considerations; and
- Fuel Specialists and fire planners that are involved with fuel management planning.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

- S-490 - Advanced Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations.
- S-491 - NFDERS recommended but not required.
- Proficiency in, and understanding of the basic fire spread models including inputs, output vectors, live and dead fuel moistures, and the assumptions and limitations of the models.
- Students must be adept at working within the directory structures in Windows and in the use of Windows Explorer file management and folder structures.

Note: a limited number of seats are available for auditing the course for those not meeting the prerequisites such as academics, GIS specialists, planners, and resource specialists.

Acceptance into the course will depend on the nominee's successful completion of approximately 15-20 hours of pre-qualifying course work. Upon notification of final acceptance into the course, students are required to complete 12 course units of pre-classroom distance learning, requiring an additional 20-40 hours of study. The classroom component of the course is 32 hours.

COURSE HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: Selected students will be required to bring a notebook PC to the course with the following minimum specifications:

	MINIMUM	RECOMMEND	PERFORMANCE
Windows Operating System	98/Me	NT4/2000/XP	2000/XP
Memory	64MB	256MB	1GB
Number of Processors: Pentium II, III, or IV or equivalent	1-400MHz	1 or 2-1.5GHz	2 or 4-1.5GHz
Free hard drive space	500MB	20GB	50GB
Display resolution	800 x 600	1280 x 1024	Dual Monitors
Mouse or Pointer	required	required	required

S-493 *FARSITE* Fire Area Simulator is equivalent in detail and complexity to a 400 level university course. Nominees should be prepared to schedule time to study, practice on exercises, and meet deadlines just as they would take a university course. Completion of this course is an investment in your career, whether you work in resources, fire management or geographic information systems.

NOMINATION PROCESS: Forest Service (FS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and National Park Service (NPS) and state or local government employees will submit their nomination forms through their Geographical Area Training Representative for forwarding to the coordinator. All others please call the course coordinator for nomination submission process.

All nominations must be submitted on the NWCG training nomination form.

Course Coordinator: Don Washco, 602-906-5535

Course Location: BLM-NTC, Phoenix, AZ

Course Dates (classroom): March 29 to April 2, 2004

Tuition: \$300

Nomination Due: November 1, 2003