

The Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM) would like to thank you for your participation in our special session during the 3rd International Fire Ecology and Management Congress in San Diego, CA. Our special session at the congress, and the overall congress itself, provided a great opportunity for us to work with the wildland fire management community on needs for weather, climate, and smoke information.

As you recall from our session, we are working to assess these needs, as part of our longer-term effort to complete a comprehensive, National Wildland Fire Weather Needs Assessment report. A key part of this is the OFCM Wildland Fire Weather Needs Questionnaire, which we distributed at the Fire Congress. If you've not already done so, please take some time to complete the questionnaire and return it to us so that we can benefit from your valuable input.

Background:

The Western Governors' Association (WGA) requested the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's OFCM complete a national needs assessment report of federal, state, and local fire managers' needs for weather information in their wildfire and prescribed-fire decision-making processes, to include a framework to meet those needs by the National Weather Service and the federal wildland fire agencies' Predictive Services.

As part of this assessment, we have developed a Wildland Fire Weather Needs Questionnaire, which is being made available to the wildland fire community and will allow us to collect and synthesize these needs. In addition to wildland fire needs, this questionnaire also includes important smoke management information, and all results will be shared with the fire weather community to facilitate operational improvements. In summary, we are fully committed to providing the WGA with a comprehensive assessment of fire weather needs and, as a result, are seeking your input to make this assessment as complete as possible.

Instructions:

If you do not have the one from the fire congress, a copy can be easily accessed at www.ofcm.gov/fireweather/questionnaire.html. Once completed, please send it to us via fax, email, or standard mail. We prefer to receive it via fax or email but will accept standard mail as well.

Email: david.andrus@noaa.gov.

Fax: 301-427-2007

Mail: OFCM Fire Questionnaire, 8455 Colesville Road, Suite 1500, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Questionnaires must be received at OFCM by December 22, 2006, in order to be processed and used in this important needs assessment. If you have any questions, please contact my project lead, U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel David Andrus. He can be reached at 301-427-2002 or david.andrus@noaa.gov.

I sincerely thank you for expending your time and energy on this vital questionnaire.

Best regards,

Samuel P. Williamson

Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research