File Code: 5100
Route To:

Date: December 5, 2003

Subject: Identifying and Prioritizing Communities at Risk

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Job Corps, and WO Staff

The National Association of State Foresters led an interagency effort to develop consistent guidelines for collaboratively identifying and prioritizing communities at risk from wildland fire. Enclosed is a copy of the result of that effort, *"Field Guidance: Identifying and Prioritizing Communities at Risk"*. The Federal agencies were involved in development of these guidelines and the process has been endorsed by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council.

This *Field Guidance* satisfies requirement Goal Four of the *10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan*. The Field Guidance also provides a process for meeting the requirements of the *Memorandum of Understanding for The Development Of A Collaborative Fuels Treatment Program,* agreed to by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council, State Foresters and the National Association of Counties in January 2003.

The State Foresters will take the lead for implementing this process in their respective states. I urge you to become fully engaged with your State Forester, and other federal, Tribal and local partners to implement this process. Identifying and prioritizing communities at risk is essential if we are to effectively address the wildland urban interface issue. Equally important, we must continue to be committed to engaging local stakeholders early and often while identifying, implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of all fuels treatment projects.

I encourage each of you to familiarize yourself with the *Field Guidance*. I also encourage you to engage each of your State or regional administrators as well as key program managers in a discussion of its importance as well as expectations for application in setting priorities for the FY 2005 fuels program.

/s/ Dale N. Bosworth
DALE N. BOSWORTH
Chief

Enclosure