



Participant Announcement – Regular Session FY 2021 Sessions

Session Dates:

January 10, 2021	to	January 29, 2021
February 14, 2021	to	March 5, 2021
March 14, 2021	to	April 2, 2021
April 11, 2021	to	April 30, 2021
June 6, 2021	to	June 25, 2021

Applications for FY2021 Sessions must be completed in the Wildland Fire Learning Portal by October 16, 2020

Location:

Tallahassee, Florida

Mission Statement:

To maintain a national interagency center of excellence for prescribed fire, with an emphasis on actual field experience, in order to increase skills and knowledge and to build confidence in the application of prescribed fire.

Course Description/Objectives:

The National Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center (PFTC), located in Tallahassee, Florida, is an entity designed to give individuals an opportunity to increase their prescribed fire practitioner skills. The 20-day sessions are designed to help facilitate the completion of prescribed fire task books. The Center provides opportunities to participate in prescribed burns involving the lands of land management agencies in Florida and several surrounding states. A variety of applicable prescribed fire objectives and situations will be encountered in a field environment. **Applications from disciplines other than fire management are strongly encouraged.** While our primary mission is the training of individuals with task books related to RX quals the Center encourages all levels and disciplines of applicants who are interested in furthering their knowledge of prescribed fire.

Application Materials and Selection Criteria:

Individuals wanting to attend PFTC must fill out and submit the Participant Application form to be considered for the sessions. When filling in the Task Book section of the application, **your training**

assignment will be based on the first task book you list. Any additional task books brought with you to the session may be worked on as opportunities allow. In addition you must submit a complete copy of your current IQCS / IQS master record, along with a **current red card with the trainee positions listed for any task book brought with you.**

Sessions:

There will be five (5) 20-day sessions offered in FY 2021. Participants will be broken into teams of six to seven. Each team of individuals will be a separate unit, working and studying together. The time allocated for the session will allow for approximately 8-12 days of actual prescribed burning, as well as 3-4 days of field or classroom instruction. Core topics presented are introductory in nature (presentations lasting from 1-4 hours each). The presenters are drawn from a national pool of subject matter experts. Supplementary topics will be presented if weather precludes field operations. PFTC's focus enables attendees to work toward the completion of items in their current NWCG task books. Field trips will be used to enhance the experience. All activities are strictly weather dependent.

PFTC will operate on the premise that every day will be a potential prescribed burning day to complement the core curriculum. Individuals will be expected to be **fluid** in their day-to-day activities in order to take advantage of every prescribed burning day. This may include working on acceptable burning days, on weekends, and any holidays that may fall within the cycle. One R&R day is set aside for each session to manage fatigue.

All participants are expected to report to the PFTC "fire ready." This means having all necessary gear (personal and PPE) to go on fire duty for a 20-day assignment. **Participants will be on Per Diem or their agency/organization standard operating procedure for the 20-day session.** Due to COVID19, all participants in the 2021 Sessions will have their own room when lodged in a hotel. The nature of the training program requires equal flexibility in lodging arrangements (from bunkhouses to cabins to hotels). Many host units are in remote locations. It will not always be possible to return from prescribed burns at convenient times for meals and showers.

The informal topics offered as part of the core curriculum are:

- Smoke Management and Air Quality
- Prescribed Fire Burn Plans
- Prescribed Fire History and Use
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Fire Effects
- Cooperative Agreements
- Current Rx Fire Policy
- Fuels management in the wildland urban interface
- Supplementary topics may include: Ignition Methods (including aerial), Organizing Multiple Burns, GIS Applications, Software Overviews, Risk Assessment, Fire Ecology, and Case Studies.

Participants will not normally be able to complete their prescribed burning qualification task books during their assignment but can complete individual tasks leading up to qualification. Final certification is the responsibility of the home unit.

Pre-work - Performance Evaluation:

All participants will be required to complete pre-work and receive a performance evaluation. Pre-work will include a written description of the fuels on the participant's home unit, reading the NWCG publication "A Guide for Prescribed Fire in Southern Forests", and an additional assignment to be provided once an applicant has been accepted to attend. Final requirement for completing the 20-day session is receiving a "successful" performance evaluation from the module Field Coordinator.

Costs:

There is no tuition. **ALL PARTICIPANTS** will be responsible for covering their meals and lodging on their travel card, personal credit card or cash. **ALL participants will be on Per Diem** or their agency/organization standard operating procedure during the 20 day session.

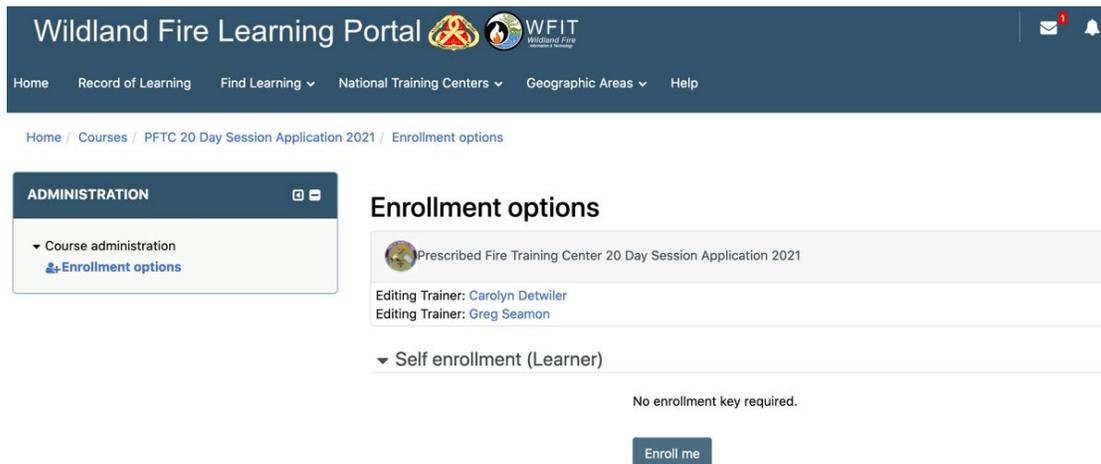
FWS, BIA, BLM, and NPS participants: the home unit will be responsible for covering base 8, overtime, transportation to and from PFTC, lodging, and meals.

USFS participants: the home unit will be responsible for covering base 8 salary, travel to and from PFTC, and overtime incurred in route to and from PFTC. Costs for meals, lodging, and overtime while attending PFTC will be paid by PFTC since additional funds have been received to cover these expenses. A charge code will be provided at the beginning of your selected session for overtime and final travel voucher.

Private Sector and International participants: the sponsoring organization will be responsible for covering salary, transportation to and from PFTC, lodging, and meals.

How to Apply:

Applications will be going through the Wildland Fire Learning Portal. Click on the link below and it will take you to the login screen. If you have an account, login and you will be directed to the "Enrollment Options" screen, click on "Enroll Me" and you will automatically be directed to the application. **If you don't have an account**, follow the directions for creating one on the Learning Portal Site. Once you receive notification you have an account, come back to this announcement and following the directions above.



The screenshot shows the Wildland Fire Learning Portal interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Record of Learning', 'Find Learning', 'National Training Centers', 'Geographic Areas', and 'Help'. The breadcrumb trail is 'Home / Courses / PFTC 20 Day Session Application 2021 / Enrollment options'. On the left, the 'ADMINISTRATION' sidebar lists 'Course administration' and 'Enrollment options'. The main content area is titled 'Enrollment options' and displays details for the 'Prescribed Fire Training Center 20 Day Session Application 2021', including editing trainers Carolyn Detwiler and Greg Seamon. A 'Self enrollment (Learner)' section is visible with the note 'No enrollment key required.' and an 'Enroll me' button.

Click on the [PFTC electronic application](#), complete and submit by the **October 16, 2020** deadline along with the signed session application approval form. Be sure to provide all pertinent information, including documentation of minimum qualifications, to facilitate the selection process. All applications will be collated and forwarded as follows:

All Forest Service applications will be forwarded to the Geographic Area Training Representative who will prioritize the applicants from their area.

All Department of Interior applications will be sent to their respective agency National Training Representative who will prioritize the applicants.

Selected participants will be notified **by mid November 2020 VIA EMAIL ONLY**. (A personal email is requested, so the Center can be assured you receive your notification.)

The task book you will be working on must be reflected in your master IQCS record and on your red card. Your application will be incomplete and will not be considered for selection, if this requirement is not met.

Additional Information Contact:

Qualifications • Session Questions

Greg Seamon – (ofc) 850.523.8631 or (cell) 850.556.8613

email: gseamon@talstimbers.org

Cost • Administrative • Application Questions

Carolyn Detwiler – (ofc) 850.523.8634 or (cell) 850.320.1790

email: carolyn.detwiler@usda.gov