

FIRE MANAGEMENT REVIEW HELD

One of the more lively discussions at the NPS Annual Fire Management Program Review in Boise, Jan. 24-28, centered on qualifications for persons running prescribed fire programs. According to Dave Butts, NPS Branch of Fire Management, the initial proposal is for a standardized qualification structure, to be implemented in each Region on the basis of the Region's vegetative complexes as represented by fuel models. For instance, Butts explained, the experience needed for carrying out a low-fuel prairie grass fire is much less than that required for a California chaparral fire.

The meeting, attended by Regional fire coordinators and the NPS Branch of Fire Management staff, discussed implementation and status reports of the new FIREPRO activities, editing of a proposed new national fire report, and development of wildland fire equipment specifications.

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The *Oregonian* reports the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department has a satellite that makes it possible for the first time to project what elk habitat will be in the future. The satellite's sensors are said to be able to distinguish between cover that provides thermal protection and cover suitable for hiding, and to show how much forage is available. The new tool is being used in a study that is "likely to provide environmentalists and sportsmen's groups with a potent new weapon in their on-going debate with the timber industry and Forest Service over logging's impact on elk."