

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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Information Bulletin No. 98-134

To: SD's, AD's, Center Directors  
From: Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning  
Subject: 1998 National Planning, Assessment, and Community Support (PACS)  
Workshop - Call for Nominees to Attend DD: 7/1/98

The PACS Group proposes to hold its 1998 National Planning/Assessment/Community Support Workshop December 7-11, 1998. This information bulletin is to inform managers and program leads about the proposed workshop, and to request nominations for attendance in order to obtain Departmental approval.

The first PACS Workshop, held in June 1997 in San Diego, concluded that, if the purpose of PACS is to "help managers make decisions," the next workshop must be oriented to managers. The target audience for the December Workshop, therefore, is managers who use planning, NEPA, assessment, and geosciences and work with communities to make decisions -- and the Field and State Office program specialists who support them.

Over 100 attendees at the 1997 PACS Workshop defined field customer needs, established integration of the various PACS functions at WO and field levels, and recommended a plan of action for priority work for the next 12 months. Through use of small focused breakout sessions, panel discussions highlighting collaborative planning successes, and plenary sessions focused on key issues and challenges, the Workshop was highly successful in charting a practical action plan this past year. The recent Workshop of SO planning/environmental coordinators focused on the need and potential agenda for this upcoming workshop.

A planning team of field and WO managers and specialists is developing a draft agenda. The workshop will build on the results of the 1997 workshop by following a theme of "Helping Managers Make Decisions." Presentations and breakout work group sessions will be oriented toward collaborative and community based planning and decision making, use of ecosystem and geographic sciences to enhance decision making in the BLM, and using the new planning guidance to update and sustain the planning base to support more effective decisions.

For the 1998 Workshop, approximately 120 BLM field and headquarters personnel (eight or nine per state plus 25 from PACS, national centers, and other Groups in headquarters) will be joined by 20 - 30 other agency and non-government cooperators. The information requested about each nominee is necessary to complete a detailed cost analysis to comply with Federal Travel Regulations, 41 CFR 301-1.102(b) and subsequent Departmental directives concerning *Approval for Conference Travel Exceeding 30 or More Federal Government Employees*.

Please provide the following information for each nominee by July 1, 1998: Name, Office, Series/Grade/Title, and one or two lines concerning specific objective(s) of the individual's attendance. If you have specific agenda items, case studies, success stories, etc. you would like featured at the Workshop, please forward these with the information about your nominees.

Information about your nominees and any specific agenda suggestions should be forwarded by electronic mail to either Roger Trimble (r55trimb) or Mary Linda

Ponticelli (mpontice) via GroupWise. In addition, if you have questions about the proposed PACS Workshop, please contact either Roger at 202-452-5119 or Mary Linda at 202-452-0364, or Group Manager David Williams at 202-452-7793.

Signed by:  
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Deputy Assistant Director  
Renewable Resource & Planning

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