

NWCG CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER #94
The Advanced Wildfire Calculations, S-490 Course Packaging
February 8, 2008

BACKGROUND

The Advanced Wildfire Calculations, S-490 course is currently being prepared for certification. The last revision of this course was completed in January 1993. Due to content updates associated with the rapidly changes in technology and advances in fire behavior prediction methods the revision process for this course usually takes between 4-6 years to complete. Additionally the course has a very short shelf life for the same reasons.

CURRENT STATUS

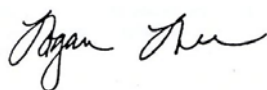
S-490 Instructor cadres, Fire Behavior Committee members and SME's for the current revision were verbally surveyed and all agreed the content is being augmented significantly by the field. They also feel that the content for the course is constantly changing due to new research findings and technology improvements resulting in the printed material from the cache becoming outdated rapidly.

RECOMMENDATION

With the limited number of courses offered annually and with the large amount of course augmentation it is recommended that the Advanced Wildfire Calculations, S-490 course be packaged in a CD format only for stock in the cache. By not stocking the hard copy of the course we realize it will put additional workload to reproduce course material on the field but feel that the benefits outweigh the extra workload.

APPROVED / (DENIED)
(circle one)

SIGNATURE



3/6/08

TWT Chair

Date

cc: Chair, Fire Environment Working Team
cc: Geographic Area Training Specialists

3/6/08 – After discussions with the GATRs and TWT members, the decision was made to deny this issue paper. Training centers do not have the printing capacity to print complete courses from CD. The color printing requirement for the S-490 Student Workbook compounds the issue.