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Transmitted via Email

March 19, 2008

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 190-8-15

SUBJECT: FY-2008 ECOLOGICAL SCIENCE TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Purpose. To obtain area prioritization for participation at this summer's ECS training courses.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2008.

ACTION REQUIRED BY APRIL 18, 2008

Attached to this bulletin is your approved 2008 State Training Plan. This plan includes your initial participant lists for the following Ecological Science training courses

- Conservation Planning Course (July 28 – August 1 in Redwood Falls)
- Wetland Delineation (Reg-4) Course (June 16 – June 20 in Redwood Falls)
- Bismarck PMC Plant Materials (August 12 – 14 in Bismarck)
- Cultural Resources (August 18 – 20 in St. Cloud)

By April 18 each ASTC needs to: 1) review the submitted list of participants from their Area, 2) add or remove names and, 3) provide a ranked list of priority participants by course to Charles Montgomery.

When determining participant attendance keep in mind the prerequisites for the following courses:

CONSERVATION PLANNING COURSE

1. Awareness of the National USDA Conservation Program including pertinent policy and procedures. Each participant must successfully complete Modules 1-5 of the Conservation Planning Course (000019 - Conservation Planning - Part I). This requirement can be achieved by accessing and completing the on-line version of the training at: <http://elearning.sc.egov.usda.gov/>.
2. Knowledge and ability to plan and implement conservation practices common to their geographic area.
3. Knowledge of NRCS Field Office Technical Guide practice standards and specifications for common conservation practices identified as being important in their geographic location.
4. Demonstrated skill in applying approved erosion prediction technology, including the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE2) and the Wind Erosion Equation for common sites in their geographic location.
5. Knowledge of applicable site vulnerability assessment tools, which could include the Leaching Index and Soil Pesticide Interaction Ratings for common sites in their geographic location.
6. Knowledge of the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation System.



7. Awareness of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and how it relates to NRCS policy, conservation planning and plan implementation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

1. Each participant must successfully complete on-line Modules 1-6

Based on your Area prioritization of participants Paul Flynn, SRC and Charles Montgomery, SAO, will develop a final approved attendance list for each of these courses. Course participants will be notified of their selection for each course through a separate bulletin

Direct your questions on the information in this bulletin to Charles Montgomery, SAO.

/s/

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

Dist: ASTC