



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Forestry

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"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

I'm sure a lot of you know by now that Jim Walker was promoted to the Fire Operations Manager at the end of last year. With that vacancy, additional modifications were made to the structure of the program management and I became the Workforce Capacity & Policy Manager. This position encompasses the Protection Contracting Unit and other technical specialists.

As the Central Oregon District Forester for the last seven years, I became very familiar with the need for contract crews, so I'm looking forward to working with all of you in helping provide the needed crews for the coming fire season. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call myself or another member of the contract unit.

The Contract Unit developed a response for numerous inquiries and questions about the Language Skills Assessment. This response is below and I hope it provides the answers you all were seeking.

Sincerely,

Robert (Bob) Young
Workforce Capacity & Policy Manager
Oregon Department of Forestry
503-945-7434

March 21, 2007

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The Oregon Department of Forestry Protection Contract Unit has received several Contractor concerns about the Language Skills Assessment (LSA) and the ability to comply with the proposed 2007 Firefighting Crew solicitation requirement. This letter is intended to provide clarification to some of the LSA concerns.

- **First, LSA certification will be a requirement of the 2007 Interagency Fire Crew Agreement for all STCR, CRWB, FFT1 and ICT5 positions.**
- **Completion of the LSA certification will not be required at solicitation closing date and time but will be required before award. All supervisor positions listed above and offered on company manifest at bid closing will have to be LSA certified before they can be utilized or represented in supervisor positions by contractor. NOTE: LSA certification must be completed no later than July 15, 2007.**
- **For crew(s) award consideration offered by proposal, all crews(s) must meet the crew requirement standards for supervision. Award of crew(s) may be contingent on the LSA certification of the supervisors offered at the solicitation closing date and time. Any supervisor that fails the LSA must be identified as a FFT2 with red dot on Incident Qualification Card.**
- **If LSA training is not available for testing supervisors, other than the ones offered on company manifest at solicitation closing, inspections at the incidents will monitor LSA. These inspections will have no currency other than at the monitored incident and will not be added to incident qualification cards.**
- **LSA tests completed last year on the pilot program are no longer valid and must be re-taken.**

I sincerely hope this clarification will relieve some of the concerns over LSA. The 2007 solicitation is in draft review and should hopefully be released within the next two weeks.