Rx510 – Advanced Fire Effects

PEER LEARNING GROUP ASSIGNMENT

What is Peer Learning?

Peer learning is a process through which people learn from each other about issues or solve problems surrounding a specific topic. Typically, a group of peers reviews a presentation, document, model or idea presented by an individual or team, engages in discussion and provides constructive feedback in a non-confrontational manner. Usually a facilitator guides the process. The learning comes from describing and discussing the issue, receiving feedback from people who have faced similar situations, and sharing of new information. If the group reviews projects, a presenter may use the feedback and information from the group to improve their product.

How are we using Peer Learning Groups in Rx510?

1. Upon selection to the course, identify a local project that includes an element of fire or, a local wildland fire management issue. The project may be a prescribed fire plan or fire management plan in development stages or one already developed and in need of clarification or modification. The issue may be related to how your local unit plans or implements wildland fire on the ground or any unresolved impacts new wildland fire management policy is having on the local unit. If, in your current position, you do not have a project or issue to reference, then interview a peer or co-worker that is familiar with a suitable project or issue. Using this project or issue, use the respective form fill out the project description questions on the Peer Learning Group Project Description Form or the Peer Learning Issue Form.

2. Complete your Project or Issue Description Form and email it to wo_nafri_training@fs.fed.us at NAFRI January 18, 2013, so that copies can be made for other members of your Peer Learning Group.

3. At the course, the students will meet in assigned groups four times during the week. The first of these meetings is an opportunity to get to know your peer group members and receive a copy of each other's projects or issues. Please read your groups projects and issues before the second meeting. The remaining three meetings will be used to discuss the projects and issues and/or discuss ideas or possible solutions presented in the lectures. A facilitator will work with each group to guide the process. No formal presentation is required.

Rules of engagement:

Project Description:

a. Limit your project description to a maximum of 2 pages.
b. Do not prepare a PowerPoint or some other method of presentation outside the following template.
c. In addition to the 2-page project description, you may include a map of the project area if available electronically. This does not need to be elaborate. Consider showing roads, control

points, etc. If you do not have an electronic copy of your map, or can't scan your map, please bring a paper copy with you to the class.

d. Please come prepared to have to have frank, constructive discussions with your professional peers about the lectures and your project.

Issue Description:

a. Limit your issue paper to a maximum of one page.
b. Do not prepare a PowerPoint or some other method of presentation outside of the template
c. Clearly state the issue in a sentence or two.
d. Please provide a back ground discussion to expand or explain the issue. Issues must be related to a unit or topics identified in the course agenda. Please discuss how the issue relates to your job and how it is affecting the way in which you or your local fire management unit plans for or implements wildland fire management.
e. Please describe how your unit is currently dealing with the issue and any concerns you have as a result of the issue.
f. Please provide a paragraph of your thoughts on how your unit might resolve the issue.
g. Come prepared to have frank, constructive discussions with your peers. You will be asked by your facilitator to identify if any of the material presented has provided you with possible solution(s) to your issue.