NATIONAL NEWS ADVISORY: Use through Monday, November 30, 2009

Hundreds of Scientists to Gather at the Fourth International Fire Ecology and Management Congress on "Fire as a Global Process"

The Association for Fire Ecology Hosts Hundreds of Fire Scientists, Managers, and Policymakers to Discuss the "Burning Issues" of Fire Science and Management.

Scientists from Five Different Continents Will Present More Than 125 Oral Presentations, 60 Posters, Special Plenary Sessions, Keynote Addresses, Field Trips and Workshops.

WHO: The Association for Fire Ecology (AFE), Joint Fire Sciences Program, Tall Timbers Research Station, and other university, nonprofit, and agency co-sponsors

WHAT: The Fourth International Fire Ecology and Management Congress on "Fire as a Global Process." This will be the largest fire science conference in the world this year. Keynote speakers include former U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt, and a plenary panel of top scientists, managers, and policymakers from all over the world presenting groundbreaking research, evolving policy, and management applications of wildland fire issues in a global context. A preliminary list of keynote and plenary speakers and the agenda is available at http://www.fireecology.net/Congress09/Home. There will be excellent opportunities for interviews with keynote speakers, conference attendees, and organizers at the event in Savannah. Additionally, a news teleconference focusing on the issue of carbon sequestration and fire management will be held from the Fire Congress.

WHERE: Savannah, Georgia. Fire Congress events held at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront, 100 General McIntosh Boulevard in Savannah. Hotel info: 912-233-7722

WHEN: November 30 to December 4, 2009. The Keynote address with Bruce Babbitt will be held on Dec. 2nd. Field trips occur on Dec. 4th and 5th and Workshops will start on Nov. 30th. Opening plenary speakers and concurrent panels occur all day from Dec. 1st to 4th. The news teleconference will occur on Tuesday, December 1st from 2:00pm to 3:00pm Eastern/11:00am to 12:00pm Pacific. (More details on how to participate in the news teleconference will be issued in a forthcoming press advisory.)

WHY: Fire is a worldwide phenomenon that influences global ecosystem patterns and processes including vegetation, wildlife habitat, the carbon cycle, and climate. Although humans and fire have always coexisted, recent wildfire disasters in North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia have revealed that our capacity to manage fire and live sustainably within fire-prone landscapes is becoming more difficult as unfolding climate change alters fire regimes. Of particular importance is determining the role of fire in global carbon storage and greenhouse gas emission regulations. AFE's Fourth International Fire Ecology and Management Congress will bring together

some of the world's top fire scientists, managers, and policymakers to discuss some of the "burning issues" affecting fire ecology and management across the globe.

For more information, call:

Dr. Timothy Ingalsbee, 541-338-7671 (AFE Fire Congress Media Coordinator)

Dr. Sandra Rideout-Hanzak, 806-742-2843 (AFE Fire Congress Steering Committee Chair)

or log onto http://www.fireecology.net/Congress09/Home

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