



NORTHWEST FIRE SCIENCE CONSORTIUM

The Northwest Fire Science Consortium is part of a national network of consortia established by the Joint Fire Science Program to accelerate the awareness, understanding, and adoption of wildland fire science information by federal, tribal, state, local, & private stakeholders in the PNW

*Progress
Report for
FY 15*



Northwest Fire Science Consortium

Progress Report – Fiscal year 2015

Prepared by Janean Creighton – November 6, 2015

JFSP Project Number: 11-S-3-8

The Northwest Fire Science Consortium (NWFSC) is a comprehensive fire science delivery system designed to enhance the exchange of existing fire science and technologies throughout the region, and encourage fire and land management stakeholders to evaluate and adopt relevant fire science. The NWFSC has been steadily developing since early 2012, and has provided outreach to a wide variety of fire science users throughout the Northwest. Table 1 summarizes our activities from October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015.

Table 1. Summary of completed NWFSC activities 10/1/2014 to 9/30/2015

| Activity (conducted, hosted, facilitated and sponsored) | Number of activities during FY 2015 | Total participants/reach |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| In-person outreach | | |
| Field tours | 4 | 96 |
| Personal briefings and talks | 9 | 370 |
| Workshops | 8 | 246 |
| Printed materials | | |
| Science applications field guides | 2 | |
| Fire Science Synthesis | 1 | |
| Research briefs | 2 | |
| Fire science general | 1 | |
| Fire Facts | 2 | |
| Web based outreach | | |
| Webinars | 6 | 375 (including views on YouTube) |
| Facebook postings | 340 | 319 likes |
| Tweets | 958 | 1,030 followers |
| Flickr postings | 135 | 3488 views |
| Electronic Newsletters (sent to list serve and also posted on twitter and Facebook) | 17 | 260 list serve subscribers |
| Video | 1 | 140 views (YouTube) |
| Publications database additions | 200 | |

Our priority areas for the current funding cycle were established as: 1) Smoke in Washington and Oregon: air quality and cross-boundary issues with prescribed fire; 2) Managing Moist Mixed-conifer in Washington & Oregon: the complexity of a mixed-fire regime, definition of “mixed severity”, and spotted owls and marbled murrelet habitat; 3) Landscape level planning: collaborative natural resource management and coupled human and natural ecosystems; 4) Fire and riparian and aquatic systems: interactions between fish and fire management. Our activities and deliverables focused on these areas for the most part, though we recognized that additional topics and issues arise unexpectedly and when possible, we tried to address them.

Accomplishments for FY 15

The completed activities and deliverables summarized in table 1 are detailed below followed by the associated evaluation results. We feel we have been successful in many of our approaches to meet the needs of the diverse set of fire science users in the Pacific Northwest. Concerted effort was made to center our outreach on site-specific information that that would help in strategic planning, management project planning, and resolution of ongoing debates regarding specific controversial conditions and practices.

Social media

- Facebook page with postings of upcoming events, fire news stories of interest, new publications, etc. 340 postings, 319 likes (*FY14: 83 postings, 122 likes*)
- Twitter feed @NWFireScience. 958 tweets, 1030 followers (*FY14: 322 tweets, 615 followers*)
- Electronic Newsletter – 17 issues of [News Digest](#) sent to list serve and simultaneously posted on Facebook and Twitter. 260 list serve subscribers. (*FY14: 220 subscribers*)
- Flickr – 135 photos posted, 3488 views
- [YouTube](#) – currently posted all NWFSC webinars and videos

Printed media

- Fire and Fuels Field Guide #2: [Tracking progress: The monitoring process used in CFLRP in the PNW](#) (EWP WP #54)
- Fire and Fuels Field Guide #3: [Not all fires are wild: Understanding fire and it's use as a management tool](#) (EM 9114)
- Research Brief #5: [Influences on wildfire burn severity: treatment and landscape drivers in an extreme event](#)
- Research Brief #6: [Restoring the west: Forest restoration needs in Oregon and Washington](#)
- Fire Facts #1: [What is Fire Severity?](#)
- Fire Facts #2: [What is Fire Intensity?](#)
- Fires Science Synthesis: [Drivers of wildfire suppression costs](#) (EWP WP #53)

Webinars ([archived on-line](#))

- A new approach to evaluate forest structure restoration needs across Oregon & Washington
- Vulnerability of spring Chinook and bull trout to broad-scale disturbance processes: wildfire and climate change
- Fire severity and post-fire vegetation recovery in riparian areas of two Oregon fires
- Climate & weather outlook for the 2015 fire season in the PNW
- Large incident risk assessments: The roles of the agency administrator and the resource specialist
- Drivers of wildfire suppression costs

Video

- [Fire science, adaptive management: Landscape restoration at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge](#)

Web page (activity from 10/1/14 to 9/30/15)

- 5,704 sessions
- Total of 13,592 pages views
- 3,636 users; 38% returning visitors
- Most commonly visited pages: Publications Library, Events Calendar, Current Fire Information

Technical Field Tours

- [Prescribed fire use in habitat restoration: Turnbull NWR](#), April 14, 2015.
- Fire as an ecosystem process for reducing hazardous fuels: Ashland Forest Resiliency Project, April 16, 2015. *Partners: Oregon Prescribed Fire Council, S. Oregon Prescribed Fire Network, Oregon Forest Resources Institute*
- [Fire without borders: Observations, experiences, and lessons learned from the 36-Pit fire](#), May 29, 2015. *Partners: Oregon Forest Resources Institute, OSU Extension*
- Post-fire treatments after the Bailey Butte Fire, Ochoco NF, June 29, 2015. *Partners: Oregon Forest Resources Institute, OSU Extension*

Workshops

- Oregon Master Naturalist and Citizens Fire Academy Training: Fire in the WUI, October 2014, Sisters, OR. *Partner: OSU Extension.*
- [Preparing for wildfires: Moving from crisis to opportunity](#), March 10-12, 2015, Tucson AZ. *Partners: Western Rural Development Center, SW Fire Science Consortium.*
- Smoke management issues: 2015 and beyond, April 15, 2015, Medford, OR. *Partners: Oregon Prescribed Fire Council, S. Oregon Prescribed Fire Network.*
- Wildfire workshops for landowners in the Blue Mountains, April 28, 29 & 30, 2015. John Day, OR, Baker City, OR, Dayton, WA. *Partners: OSU Extension, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, Washington State University Extension.*
- Post-fire discussion forum: Impacts and implications for management, June 17, 2015. John Day, OR. *Partner: Sustainable Northwest*

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Plans for FY 16

The NWFSC has a full schedule of activities for the duration of this funding cycle, which ends June 30, 2016, including the development of additional research briefs, Fire Facts, two additional syntheses, one covering smoke and prescribed fire, and the other focusing on the NEPA process. We have recently co-sponsored a workshop with our partner, the Center for Natural Lands Management on the use of prescribed fire in the management of threatened and endangered species in the Puget Sound region of Washington State, and have begun our fall webinar series which explores the relationship of insect outbreaks and fire severity in western forests. Other events that are coming up in 2016 include, State of the State: Forest Health Symposium in February of 2016, Central Oregon Fire Science Symposium, in the spring of 2016, a workshop on fire and fuel reduction treatments in riparian zones in the Klamath-Siskiyou region of S. Oregon, in March of 2016.

Governing Committees 2014 to 2016

Management Committee

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| David Seesholtz: | USFS PNW Research Station |
| Janean Creighton: | Oregon State University Extension |
| Jim Johnson: | Oregon State University Extension |
| Carrie Berger: | Oregon State University Extension |
| Tom DeMeo: | USFS Region 6 Ecology Program |
| Christine Olsen: | Oregon State University |
| Emily Jane Davis: | Oregon State University |
| Cassandra Moseley: | University of Oregon Ecosystem Workforce Program |
| Autumn Ellison: | University of Oregon Ecosystem Workforce Program |
| Mark Stern: | The Nature Conservancy |
| Patrick Shannon: | Sustainable Northwest |
| Sarah Hamman: | Center for Natural Lands Management |

NWFSC Advisory Board 2014-2016

| | |
|---|--|
| Bill Aney – Eastside Restoration Coordinator | USFS Region 6 |
| Ryan Haugo – Fire Ecologist | The Nature Conservancy |
| Jamie Tolfree – Facilitator | South Gifford Pinchot Collaborative |
| Ellen Eberhardt – Technical Information Specialist | USFS - Pacific Wildland Fire Sciences Lab |
| Sarah Foster – Assistant Division Manager | Washington State DNR |
| Sean Hopkins – Smoke Management | WA Department of Ecology |
| Geoff Babb – Fire Ecologist | BLM - Central Oregon Fire Management Service |
| Vacant | Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration |
| Vacant | Bureau of Indian Affairs |
| Karen Kopper – Fire Ecologist | National Park Service |
| Carrie Phillips – Forest & Coastal Research Manager | US Geological Survey |
| Jennifer Croft– Assistant District Ranger | USFS – Okanogan-Wenatchee NF |
| Cyndi Sidles – Fire Ecologist | US Fish and Wildlife |