

Enhancing Fire Science Exchange: The Northern Rockies Fire Science Network

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Abstract:

The Northern Rocky Mountain region is one of the most fire-prone regions in the United States. With a history of large fires that have shaped national policy, including the fires of 1910 and 2000 in Idaho and Montana and the Yellowstone fires of 1988, this region is projected to have many large severe fires in the future. Communication about fire science needs and science products is critical to effective, science-informed management. Despite the concentration of fire scientists and fire research in this region, land managers struggle to sort through available scientific information; find the right tools, models, and applications to make management decisions; and access expertise relevant to management questions. The Northern Rockies Fire Science Network is being developed to assist managers in the Northern Rockies by offering a single place where managers can access the latest knowledge and tools supporting fire and fuels management in this region. The Fire Science Network will also help identify regional research priorities, build and strengthen relationships among managers, scientists, and other science delivery partnerships in the region, and work to overcome barriers associated with the different cultures of science and management. This presentation describes the background, vision, and goal behind the Network and illustrates examples of the types of activities and services the network can provide. It also describes the Fire Science Network's first priority: the conduct of a regional needs assessment to gather feedback on which activities to prioritize.

Presenter Bio: A fire social science analyst, Vita Wright works in a shared position between the USFS Human Factors & Risk Management RD&A and the NPS Branch of Wildland Fire. She is also pursuing her PhD at the University of Montana, where she is studying individual and organizational influences to the use of fire science. Previously, Vita developed and led the interagency Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute's Research Application Program, which focused on wilderness science application. She currently focuses on organizational culture and organizational learning in support of fire decision making, safety, and the integration of science with management.

Learning from Escaped Prescribed Fire Reviews

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Abstract:

Over the past decade, the wildland fire community has developed a number of innovative methods for conducting a review following escape of a prescribed fire. The stated purpose been to identify methods that not only meet policy requirements, but to reduce future