



**SOUTHERN
Fire Exchange**
Uniting Fire Science and Natural Resource Management



SFE Fact Sheet 2012-3

Getting the Most from Online Fire Resources: Joint Fire Science Program's *Firescience.gov*

Angela M. Reid

WHAT DOES THE JOINT FIRE SCIENCE PROGRAM OFFER ONLINE?

The Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) website (www.firescience.gov) provides a free-access wildland fire science information resource providing research summaries and project findings. The primary goal of the website is to accelerate the dissemination and use of new wildland fire science research and information by both governmental and private partners. The JFSP website provides three main types of publications: Fire Science Digests, Fire Science Briefs, and Syntheses. Fire Science Digests are summaries of information on a current issue within the fire science community, largely drawn from JFSP research. Fire Science Briefs are summaries of specific completed research projects funded by the JFSP. Regional Fire Science Exchanges (see below) are also producing a variety of briefs and fact sheets that serve the same purpose. Syntheses provide a comprehensive review of current knowledge on a specific topic. The JFSP website is also the primary gateway for principal investigators to interact with JFSP on funded research projects; this role of the website will not be described in this factsheet.

USING THE JOINT FIRE SCIENCE PROGRAM ONLINE INFORMATION RESOURCE

The JFSP homepage (Figure 1) presents information in several ways. The main topic menu across the top left of the homepage provides four options in addition to the "Home" tab: Funding, Research, Publications, and Newsletters. The Research page allows both browsing and search capabilities for publications and reports produced by all JFSP-funded research projects (Figure 2). Information on the research page is catalogued by two tabbed subpages: Ongoing Research, with project titles and Principal Investigator names; and Completed Research, with all final reports. Additional information about each project can be located by clicking on individual project titles. The three Search functions in the middle of the Research page are identical to the search functions in the top right corner of all JFSP pages and are described later under Search Tools. The Publications page has three tabs for Digests, Briefs and Syntheses, each catalogued in chronological order. Newsletters were initiated in 2012 as a



Figure 1. The homepage of the JFSP website has a menu along the top which will guide the user to information on JFSP funding, research, publications, or past newsletters. (Screen capture 5/26/15)

weekly highlight of key research topics, publications, and upcoming events.

Beneath this menu is a rotating news panel that shows new or highlighted information on the JFSP website; these research topics are updated often. To the right of the news panel are links to JFSP's Facebook, Twitter and Scribd pages, as well as a sign up to receive JFSP's Friday Flash E-news. On the lower part of the homepage are boxes titled Fire Science Exchange Network, Lines of Work, and Events. The Fire Science Exchange Network page provides links to all the JFSP regional exchanges / consortia, including the Southern Fire Exchange, as well as additional information on the general function and goals of the exchanges. Clicking on the regional map on the JFSP home page will open a larger map where you can click on a specific region to go directly to that regional exchange website.

JFSP Lines of Work guide JFSP investments over a period of three or more years and address complicated and high priority management issues. Lines of Work focus

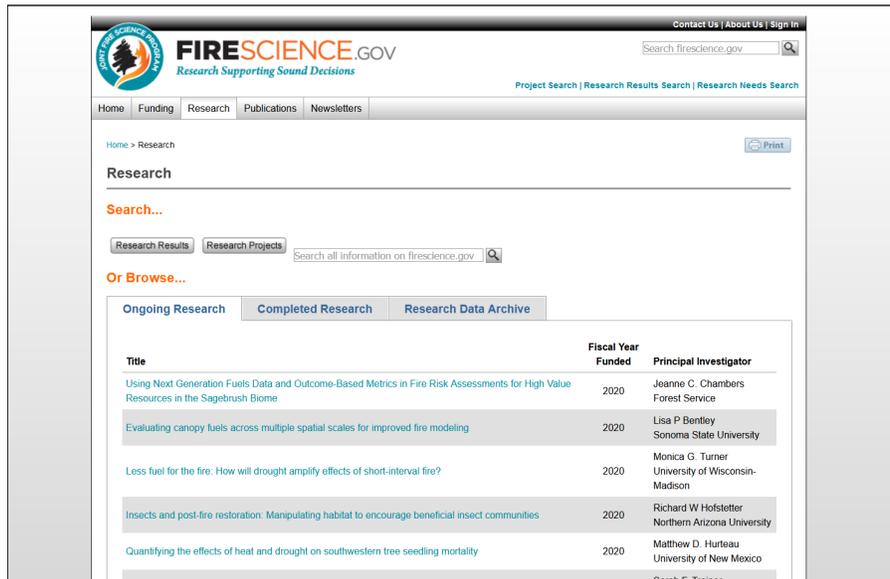


Figure 2. The Research webpage allows browsing and searching of Joint Fire Science Program publications and research reports.

diverse research approaches and projects on the development of integrated solutions and information relevant to the major issue. The three current Lines of Work are Smoke Management and Air Quality, Fuel Treatment Effects and Effectiveness, and Software Tools and Systems (focused on the Interagency Fuel Treatment Decision Support System (IFT-DSS)). New Lines of Work may be added in the future after a detailed “problem framing” process. Additional background information on each line and several summary reports on fuel treatments are available on the Lines of Work subpages. The Events box provides information and links to registration for upcoming events, such as webinars and workshops, as well as providing a link to past webinars that have been archived.

SEARCH TOOLS

There are several different search tools to maximize the utility of the Firescience.gov website, located in the upper right corner of each page (Figure 1). The basic search tool allows you to put any word or string of words into the ‘Search firescience.gov’ box and click the magnifying glass to search all documents on the website for matching words or phrases. On the research page, you can search “all information on firescience.gov,” “Research Results,” or “Research Projects.” The “all information” searchbox

searches through all the “findings” that have been reported at the conclusion of JFSP research projects. The Research Results button leads to 10 filters, nine of which contain a list of options for entries in each filter. The bottom box is for specific search terms. If nothing is entered in any of the 10 filter boxes, the search produces the total list of all JFSP findings. The ‘findings’ list is fine-tuned depending on how many of the filters are used and the search terms in the last box. The Project Search tool (called Research Projects on the Research page) locates specific completed and ongoing projects based on a smaller number of attributes: project category, researcher name, year project was funded or completed, and location of project.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

More information about the JFSP can be found by selecting “About Us” from the menu on the top right of any screen. This page provides links to JFSP’s program review and research priorities, information about members of the governing board, and a “Related Associations” page with links to several other websites with fire-related information. The JFSP website was completely renovated in 2012, and there may be additional refinements and fine tuning in the future.

Author

Angela M. Reid, Fire Ecology Specialist, Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy, Tallahassee, Florida

(Revised by A. Dixon on 29-Jan-2021)



For more information on the Southern Fire Exchange, visit www.southernfireexchange.org or email contactus@southernfireexchange.org.

