



Fire Science Continuing Education Opportunities for Natural Resource and Fire Managers

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INTRODUCTION

Natural resource and fire managers are most effective when they are committed to and engaged in a process of life-long learning. Contemporary opportunities for continuing education are not limited to formal classroom experiences. Learning can take place during short field workshops, through online videos, or during week long field training activities. This document was developed for a presentation to the Alabama Prescribed Fire Council annual meeting in 2014 and provides summaries of a variety of training and continuing education opportunities available for natural resource and fire managers in the South.

ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAMS

University of Florida Online Masters Degree

MS (non-thesis) Ecological Restoration
Entirely online. 30 graduate credit hours.
No penalty for out-of state students.
<http://sfrc.ufl.edu/distance>

University of Idaho Online Masters Degree

MNR Masters of Natural Resources: Focus on Fire Ecology
Entirely online. 30 graduate credit hours.
Requires a project.
<https://sitecore.uidaho.edu/cnr/grad-programs/on-campus-degrees/master-of-natural-resources>

COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

Certified Prescribed Burn Manager Courses

Host: State Forestry Commission
Timing: Usually offered several times annually.
Location: Varies per state
Course topics often include:
-Prescribed Fire Laws and Rules
-Fire Behavior
-Burning Methods
-Smoke management

NWCG Wildland Fire Courses

Host: National Wildland Fire Training
Timing: Offered throughout the year.
Location: Varies
Different NWCG wildland fire courses throughout the year.
Nomination process varies with host agency.
<https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/training-courses>

“As professional wildland fire management leaders, we need to become fire ecologists, recognizing the fundamental fire ecology of each of these regimes and our need to coordinate our management activities so that they are in line with ecological processes.”
-Tom Harbour, USFS

COURSES AND WORKSHOPS CONTINUED

The Longleaf Alliance Workshops and Courses

Host: The Longleaf Alliance
Timing: Usually offered several times annually.
Locations vary: AL, GA, SC, NC, MS, FL
Courses offer CFE credits.
Course titles include:
-Longleaf 101
-Understory Restoration 201
-Herbicides and Longleaf 201
<http://www.longleafalliance.org/>

J. W. Jones Center Ecological Forestry Workshop

Host: Joseph W. Jones Center
Timing: Offered infrequently.
Location: GA
Course topics include:
-Longleaf Pine Restoration
-Multiple-use / Multiple Age Class Management
-Prescribed Fire Management
-Field tours
<http://www.jonesctr.org>

PFTC Prescribed Fire Field Courses

Host: Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center (PFTC)
Timing: Offered several times annually.
Location: Sessions burn across the SE US
Field based courses for experiential education provide opportunities for NWCG task book assignments.
Courses include:
-Agency Administrator Prescribed Fire Workshop
-Resource Specialist Prescribed Fire Workshop
-20-Day Prescribed Fire Field Session
<http://www.fws.gov/fire/pftc/>

ONLINE RESOURCES

Fire in the Field Training (NWCG Courses)

Host: ITM Inc. and Local Agencies

Timing: Offered throughout the year.

Location: AL, SC, NC, MS, FL

Courses partner with fire agencies and count towards NWCG credit.

Course titles include:

-FIF100 (S-130/S-190/I-100)

-FIF200 (S-131/S-133/S-231)

-FIF300 (S-230/S-290/G-231)

<http://www.fireinthefield.net/>

North Carolina State University Online Wildland Fire Science Course

Host: North Carolina State University

Timing: Offered during the spring academic semester.

Location: Online

Course is open to anyone regardless of current NCSU enrollment. Registration starts in October. Contact the NCSU forestry department for information.

Course topics include:

-Wildland Fire Behavior

-Fire and Smoke Modeling

-Fire Ecology

-Fire Management

<http://cnr.ncsu.edu/fer/>

Online Basic Prescribed Fire Training

Host: Oklahoma State University

Timing: Offered throughout the year.

Location: Online with a Midwest focus.

May be eligible for NRCS credit

Course topics include:

-Fire Prescriptions

-Ignitions

-Smoke Management

-Fire Effects

<http://campus.extension.org/>

Webinars

Hosts: Southern Regional Forestry Extension Program
Southern Fire Exchange

Timing: Offered Frequently

Location: Online.

Webinars can be eligible for CFE credits. Check either website for upcoming and archived webinars.

Webinar topics vary but include:

-Prescribed Fire

-Forest Management

-Climate Change

<http://www.forestrywebinars.net>

<http://www.southernfireexchange.org>

WE WANT YOUR SUGGESTIONS

Opportunities for continuing education in fire science and fire management change constantly. The programs, activities, and resources listed here should not be considered comprehensive or static. Additional opportunities can often be discovered by connecting with other natural resource and fire managers in your area. If you know of a valuable training resource that should be added to this list please consider sharing it with the Southern Fire Exchange (contactus@southernfireexchange.org).

Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher (WFSTAR)

Host: National Interagency Fire Center

Timing: Offered throughout the year.

Location: Online.

Not for credit video modules with fire safety topics. Often used in RT-130 annual refresher courses.

Topics include:

-Fire Behavior / Weather

-Equipment

-LCES

-Medical

-Aviation

<http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar/>

Lessons Learned Center Webinars and Reports

Host: Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center

Timing: Offered throughout the year.

Location: Online

Factsheets, Lessons Learned Reports, Forum Community

Webinar topics include:

-Technology in fire and aviation management

-Burning in the wildland urban interface

-Fuel treatments and wildland fire

<http://www.wildfirelessons.net>

FIELD EVENTS

Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX)

Host: TNC Fire Learning Networks (FLN)

Timing: Offered throughout the year.

Location: Varies (NM, VA, TX, OK, NC, CA)

Events that bring together practitioners (new and experienced) to learn about prescribed fire and work on NWCG task book requirements. Most events last about a week and have lodging and meals included.

<http://bit.ly/1nOLiFT>

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



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Fire Exchange**