



JOINT
FIRE SCIENCE
PROGRAM



S O U T H E R N
Fire Exchange

2014

Annual Report



David Godwin

Southern Fire Exchange



Who We Are

A regional wildland fire science communication program funded by the federal Joint Fire Science Program and administered by a collaborative Leadership Team from the University of Florida, North Carolina State University, Tall Timbers Research Station, and the Southern Research Station of the US Forest Service.

Our Mission

To increase the availability and application of fire science knowledge and tools for natural resource management, and to serve as a conduit for fire managers to share new research needs with the research community.

How We're Unique

In a region with many fire-related organizations, partnerships, and advocacy groups, the Southern Fire Exchange (SFE) maintains the position of an unbiased broker of fire science information and does not advocate or lobby for specific management outcomes. Instead, we are committed to ensuring that the most relevant fire science is placed in the hands of natural resource managers.

"Your organization is a great resource for prescribed burning.

I just recommended your site to a colleague this morning.

Keep up the good work!"

-Doug Wassum, North Carolina NRCS

Fire Science Exchange Network



As a member of the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) nationwide Fire Science Exchange Network, the SFE is focused on supporting natural resource managers and researchers in the traditional “yellow pine” regions of the southern U.S. We work closely with our neighbors in the Oak Woodlands and Forests Fire Consortium and the Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists (CAFMS) to share information and resources across state and ecosystem boundaries in the region.



“I work mainly with private landowners. The information and examples I gained today will be used to encourage landowners to restore native ecosystems.”
- SFE Workshop Participant



Larry Kornak

Program Accomplishments

In 2014 the SFE continued to build on the strong foundation of activities that we began implementing in 2010. By also focusing on interactive learning opportunities, such as field tours and workshops, we made strides toward helping fire managers incorporate science into their decision making and management activities.

Southern Fire Exchange Website

A Growing Resource for Fire Science

The SFE website (www.southernfireexchange.org) received 6,396 visitors in 2014, up from 6,283 in 2013-with 2,260 unique users viewing at least one of the 19 new fact sheets, 10-minute interviews, or other publications produced during this time period. Survey results from the JFSP national online survey confirm that fire managers in the Southeast are increasingly aware of the SFE and accessing information through our website, webinars, and published products.

Fire Lines Electronic Newsletter

Keeping the Fire Community Informed

The bimonthly SFE *Fire Lines* newsletter has become a trusted source of wildland fire science news and information in the region. The SFE email newsletter distribution list has increased 21% since the beginning of 2014, to over 1,150 fire managers, scientists, landowners, community members, and students. Results from the national JFSP survey show that *Fire Lines* and the SFE website are two of our most popular and valued fire science communication programs.

Webinars

Technology for Reaching a Broad Audience

The 2014 SFE webinar program hosted 14 webinars that connected with nearly 1,000 live participants from across the country and world. Feedback demonstrated that this was a highly effective program with 97% of webinar participants indicating that they were satisfied with the presentations. The webinar presentations are archived on [YouTube](#) and have already received over 1,500 views.

Field Tours and Workshops

Uniting Fire Science and Natural Resource Management

In 2014, SFE significantly expanded our field tour and workshop program. We collaborated with existing and new partners to organize or present at 8 field tours and workshops reaching at least 320 managers, researchers, students, and private landowners. These events were tremendously popular and surveys showed that participants were learning new fire science concepts and tools, and planned to incorporate their new knowledge into future fire-management activities. Such activities also serve to expand and cement partnerships, which are continuously growing through these and other face-to-face programs.



Partner Presentations

Opportunities for Connections and Feedback

The SFE has continued our success in reaching fire managers through presentations to Prescribed Fire Councils (PFC), partner organizations, and the Southern Group of State Foresters. In 2014 SFE provided updates and research highlights at 19 meetings in 8 states, reaching over 1,600 people! Audience surveys following these presentations have been invaluable for planning future SFE programs and identifying regional fire science needs. In addition, through these meetings and events we have distributed over 1,000 fact sheets, including the very popular [Dale Wade Series](#) on prescribed burning.

Researcher Collaboration

Science Outreach from the Source

The SFE is committed to working directly with the region's many fire researchers to improve fire science communication and incorporation in management. In addition to hosting researchers on our webinars and utilizing scientist reviews in our publications, in 2014 we worked closely with 10 principle investigators to improve the science outreach efforts for their proposed research projects. We invite other researchers in the region to contact us to discuss opportunities for fire science delivery.



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Bright Futures

Program Planning for 2015 - 2018

As part of the Joint Fire Science Program funding renewal process, the SFE Leadership Team and Advisory Board have developed an exciting program of work that will continue existing programs and unveil new Southern Fire Exchange activities through 2018.



Improved Access and New Ventures

Look for Website Upgrades and Fire Circles

Upcoming SFE programs will increase field-based learning opportunities for managers and researchers. Engaging workshops and field tours starting in 2015 will be strategically distributed across the South to connect local managers and scientists. Also in 2015, the Leadership Team will begin a new series of collaborative “Fire Circle” workshops designed to use science to address local land management problems in targeted workshops. Finally, pay attention to our website as SFE will be rolling out exciting website upgrades in 2015 that will significantly improve access to our online resources as well as resources available through other regional exchanges.

Uniting Fire Science and Natural Resource Management



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Lead Institutions



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NC STATE
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