



FIRE LINES

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Southeastern Section of the Association for Fire Ecology

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Southern Fire Exchange Resource Center Goes Live

Throughout the SFE needs assessment in fall 2009, we consistently heard fire managers across southern states mention the need for a centralized, web-based hub for fire science information. Thus, one of our main focus areas is the new online [SFE Resource Center](#). The goals of the Resource Center are to improve access to the wide variety of southern fire information that is already available, organize new information and research results, and provide opportunities for fire managers, landowners, scientists, and others to interact. We are excited that the Resource Center was recently launched and continue to work on improvements and additional content.

Key features of the Resource Center include

- A structured way to **Ask an Expert** your questions regarding fire-related topics in the South. In this forum, you can browse the questions and answers already posted, or post a new question. The participating experts are located in the Southeast and nationwide, and all have interests in some aspect of fire management in the South.
- An open **Discussion Forum** where you can discuss fire-related interests and ideas with others.
- An **Events Calendar** that allows you to find fire-related trainings, conferences, workshops, webinars, and other events, with links to event websites.
- A **What's New** feature that is updated once to twice weekly with relevant and timely announcements for the southern fire community.
- Links to existing **Fire Science Libraries**, such as the Southern Fire Science Encyclopedia and Tall Timbers Fire Ecology Database; most of these resources are searchable to help you quickly find the information you need.
- Information to help **Plan Your Burn**, from burn permits, weather information, and map resources to links for **Models and Tools** that are used to predict fire behavior and smoke characteristics.
- **Products**, such as fact sheets, newsletters, and research summaries, reflecting the requests of fire users across the South and prioritized by the SFE Advisory Board.

We welcome and request your feedback! Send comments to sfe@ifas.ufl.edu. Also, please let us know if you have news, links, events, or other information you'd like to share on the Resource Center.

When to Conduct Prescribed Burns?

By John Weir, Research Associate
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When should we conduct prescribed burns? This is one of the main questions many landowners and managers often ask about prescribed burning. The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service addressed this critical question in a recent publication, *The Best Time of Year to Conduct Prescribed Burns* (NREM-2885 Fact Sheet). Timing of prescribed burns will vary depending upon geographic location, desirable ecological effects, and other specific land management goals and objectives. Timing also depends upon when the burn can be accomplished safely and under favorable weather conditions. When planning prescribed burns, it is important for fire managers to know and understand the number of days during a specific season or over the entire year that are actually available to conduct prescribed burns. *continued on page 2*

Fact Sheet Summary: When to Conduct Prescribed Burns? *continued from page 1*

Knowing these timeframes may allow managers to plan for and execute more burns during a given year than they might accomplish if trying to burn only during one season. This fact sheet summarizes 14 years of meteorological research in Oklahoma on the numbers of days and hours that would qualify as acceptable burning conditions. It concluded that burning can be conducted throughout the year in Oklahoma, not only during the traditional burn season. Conducting similar studies elsewhere will aid in determining in which season(s) of year it may be best to conduct prescribed fires. [Click here](#) to view the fact sheet.

Online Fire Science Resources: Part Three

We continue with the overviews of online fire science resources provided in the [February](#) and [March](#) issues of *Fire Lines* by describing the Treeseach website and the Wildfire Lessons Learned Center Library in this issue. In addition, a series of upcoming SFE fact-sheets will provide guidance on how to optimize your use of online resources. The first in this series has recently been released, *Getting the Most from Online Fire Resources: Tall Timbers Fire Ecology Database*. This fact sheet contains a brief description of the extensive database, tips for using it, and where to go for more information. [Click here](#) to view this fact sheet.

Treeseach provides online access to nearly all publications written by U.S. Forest Service Research and Development scientists since 2004, including publications in journals, technical papers, proceedings, and books. Publications prior to 2004 are being continuously added to the database. Over 33,000 publications are now available from all the USFS Research Stations, as well as the Forest Products Laboratory and the International Institute of Tropical Forestry. The Southern Research Station has over 7,100 publications in the database, including the 1968 description of the new (then) Keetch-Byram Drought Index (<http://treeseach.fs.fed.us/pubs/40>). You can search the database by author, keyword, originating Station or date; keyword searches look at both the title and abstract. For example, a search for the string ‘fire season of burn longleaf pine’ returned 167 articles through the Google™ search engine. The Advanced Search protocol offers some additional search fields but is a bit difficult to use. Full text of all publications can be viewed online or printed, usually in pdf format.

As part of the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center (LLC) mission to promote “a learning culture to enhance and sustain safe and effective work practices in the wildland fire community,” the [Center Library](#) provides access to thousands of reports, publications, incident reviews, and other documents and media. The documents are provided to the LLC from fire professionals worldwide and are organized in the library by topic area and media type. For example, you can browse over 50 main topic areas, ranging from air quality to GIS to fire education. After choosing a topic area, you can browse a list of related items and link those you wish to view. Within many topic areas, you can refine your search by viewing subtopic results. For example, after choosing Fire Effects, you can click the “plus” symbol on the right side of the screen and view results by the sub-topics Air, Fish and Wildlife, Monitoring, Soil, Vegetation, or Water. You can also browse by media type to find items such as case studies, presentations, press releases, or videos. Finally, you will want to explore the [Advances in Fire Practice](#) section of the website, where you can access monthly webinars, listen to podcast interviews with leading fire scientists and managers, and access numerous articles and fact sheets covering research and field innovation in wildland fire from around the country.

Save These Dates: Fall 2011 Webinars Announced!

The SFE has 4 webinars scheduled this fall. All webinars are from 12:00pm to 1:00pm (eastern) and hosted by the [Southern Forestry & Natural Resources Webinar Portal](#).

- September 28: [Using the Southern Fire Exchange Resource Center](#)
- October 19: [Using Smoke Prediction Models for Prescribed Burning Planning](#)
- November 16: [Prescribed Fire and the Public: Myths and Realities](#)
- December 14: [Interagency Fuel Treatment Decision Support System](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit the [SFE Calendar](#) to learn more about these and other upcoming workshops, trainings, field trips, and other opportunities for knowledge exchange and education.

Webinar: Fire, Climate, and Carbon: Past and Future

May 3, 2011

National Workshop on Climate and Forests

May 16-18, 2011
Flagstaff, Arizona

4th Fire in Eastern Oak Forests Conference

May 17-19, 2011
Springfield, Missouri

8th North American Forest Ecology Workshop

June 19-23, 2011
Roanoke, Virginia

Exploring the Mega-fire Reality Conference

November 14-17, 2011
Tallahassee, Florida
Abstract Deadline: May 6

To add an event to our calendar, please send the event information to sfe@ifas.ufl.edu.

REMINDERS

A national web-based survey is being conducted to evaluate the Joint Fire Science Program knowledge exchange consortia. If you have not yet responded, we encourage you to do so. To access the survey, visit:

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/
JJ5KBWD](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JJ5KBWD)

Applications for the AFE National Wildland Fire Certification Program are due April 30. [Click here](#) for more information.