



SOUTHERN Fire Exchange

A JFSP Knowledge Exchange Consortium



FIRE LINES

A Joint Newsletter of the Southern Fire Exchange and the Southeastern Section of the Association for Fire Ecology

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JFSP Knowledge Exchange Consortia

In 2010, the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) created a nationwide network of regional knowledge exchange consortia. The JFSP vision is for this collaborative science delivery network to accelerate the awareness, understanding, and adoption of wildland fire science information by federal, tribal, state, local, and private stakeholders within ecologically similar regions. Six guiding principles lay the foundation for the consortia: to be inclusive, to serve as neutral science partners, to be end-user driven, to operate collaboratively, to pursue innovative communication methods, and to facilitate the flow of fire science information.

Eight consortia, including the **Southern Fire Exchange (SFE)**, have completed a needs assessment phase and are in their first year of science delivery activities. As this program grows, more consortia may come on board to fill regional gaps. For example, six additional consortia are currently working through a needs assessment and proposal development for parts of the Northwest and Midwest.



The consortia regions are primarily based on ecosystem type. For example, the SFE focuses science delivery for yellow pine ecosystems, while the **Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists (CAFMS)** focuses on mountain pine and hardwood ecosystems. Because both consortia are working within Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Alabama, some of you may have the opportunity to work with both SFE and CAFMS. The two consortia are working closely to determine commonalities in membership and ways to optimize our collective resources.

Visit the **JFSP** website for more information and to access a list of key contacts. Also, visit the following consortia websites to learn about their programs, activities, and partners.

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| Alaska Fire Science Consortium | Lake States Fire Science Consortium |
| California Fire Science Delivery Consortium | Southern Fire Exchange |
| Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists | Southern Rocky Mountain Ecoregion Consortium |
| Great Basin Science Delivery Project | Southwest Fire Science Consortium |

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact us for more information, to provide feedback, or to join the listserve. Email general correspondence to sfe@ifas.ufl.edu.

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Providing Input for Fire Research

JFSP is an important source of funding for fire and fuels research nationwide. A key function of the consortia program is to allow practitioners to provide input about future research priorities to the JFSP Governing Board. The Board will review research topics submitted by each consortium, along with input from other sources, to develop future Requests for Applications (RFAs). From our needs assessment and requests for input, SFE compiled and submitted two research topics that are currently being considered for the 2012 RFAs:

- 1) A regional/national study that will focus on herbicide and fire effects and interactions
- 2) A regional/national study to develop methods for tracking actual acres burned using prescribed fire, and for quantifying the relationship between prescribed burn characteristics and wildfire risk reduction

We are now collecting southern research needs and ideas for the 2013 RFAs. Please send your topics and ideas to sfe@ifas.ufl.edu.

JFSP Invests in the Future with AFE Grant Program

In cooperation with the JFSP, the [Association for Fire Ecology](#) (AFE) developed a first-of-its-kind competitive grant program for graduate studies in fire science. The Graduate Research Innovation award (GRIN) was generously sponsored by JFSP, and drew 39 applications. GRIN supports original research in fire ecology, management, science, or human dimensions, and requires that each proposal be developed and written by a graduate student. An independent review panel of 12 experts in fire science evaluated the proposals, and provided feedback to help students improve their proposal writing and scientific research skills. Although originally slated to support three awardees, the JFSP Board of Directors was so impressed with the quality of the applications that they funded seven students, for a total of approximately \$175,000. The SFE and the Southeast Section of AFE has much to be proud



GRIN award recipients David Godwin (left) and Adam Watts (right), with their advisor Dr. Leda Kobziar. PHOTO BY DAVID GODWIN.

of: Two of their members, David Godwin and Adam Watts (both at the University of Florida) were chosen to receive the GRIN award. Mr. Godwin's research addresses carbon dynamics in roller chopped and burned pine flatwoods, while Mr. Watts's research explores fire behavior and effects in cypress domes. Each project includes SFE-supported workshop demonstrations and presentations, so be on the lookout for the results of JFSP's investment in the future! To learn more about their work, email David at drg2814@ufl.edu or Adam at acwatts@ufl.edu.

Monthly Webinar Series

The Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center, the International Association of Wildland Fire, and JFSP co-host a monthly webinar series designed to increase dialogue between researchers, managers, and practitioners. The next webinar, on May 26, will be presented by Robert Keane who will discuss potential interacting effects of climate change, pathogens, and wild-fire on the distribution and density of whitebark pine. Information about upcoming webinars is available on the [Lessons Learned Center](#) website. [Click here](#) to access the webinar archive, which currently contains 11 webinars.

Predicting Smoke Movement

Smoke management is one of the most important considerations in fire prescriptions. A variety of models have been developed for integrating many factors into reliable predictions of smoke dispersal and effects. A new Southern Fire Exchange fact sheet introduces the primary models that can be used for most prescribed fire in the South, such as Simple Smoke Screening, VSmoke, and HYSPLIT. In a survey of almost 1000 southern fire managers in 2009, over half identified better smoke modeling and prediction as an important information need ([click here](#) to view the needs assessment summary). This and subsequent fact sheets are steps toward meeting that need by assuring that users are aware of existing technology. [Click here](#) to view this fact sheet.

SFE Forums Gain Momentum

The SFE Discussion and Ask an Expert Forums are gaining new members daily. Members have recently been discussing dormant season burns and dry weather conditions, and how to use prescribed fire to reduce loblolly pines in a longleaf plantation. To become a forum member, [click here](#) and create your account. You can then create a new thread for the topic/question you would like to discuss, or you can view and respond to previous posts. The Ask an Expert Forums contain several sub-forums related to different topics in fire management and science applications. We currently have more than 15 registered experts willing to provide feedback on posted questions. Post some new questions for them! If you are interested in being part of our expert group, please email sfe@ifas.ufl.edu.

Follow SFE on Twitter!

The Southern Fire Exchange is now on Twitter! Follow us [@SEFireScience](#) for news and announcements regarding fire science in the Southeast.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit the [SFE Calendar](#) to learn more about upcoming workshops, trainings, field trips, and other opportunities for knowledge exchange and education. To add an event to our calendar, please send the event information to sfe@ifas.ufl.edu.

LLC-JFSP-IAWF Webinars

3pm to 4pm (EDT)

May 26: [Simulating Vegetation, Fire, and Climate Dynamics](#)

June 28: [Emissions, Energy Returns and Economics of Utilizing Forest Residues](#)

8th North American Forest Ecology Workshop

June 19-23, 2011

Roanoke, Virginia

9th Symposium on Fire and Forest Meteorology

October 18-20, 2011

Palm Springs, California

38th Annual Natural Areas Conference

November 1-4, 2011

Tallahassee, Florida

Exploring the Mega-fire Reality Conference

November 14-17, 2011

Tallahassee, Florida

REMINDERS

A national web-based survey is being conducted to evaluate the JFSP knowledge exchange consortia. If you have not yet responded, we encourage you to do so. To access the survey, visit: www.surveymonkey.com/s/J5KBWD. The survey closes June 30.

The [38th Annual Natural Areas Conference](#) call for abstracts is open. The conference theme is Adaptation and Protection of Biodiversity in a Changing World, with sessions focused on Fire Management. Deadline for abstracts is May 27.