



# 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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### IN THIS ISSUE

- Approximating Post-Hurricane Fuel Loads 1
- Community Perceptions of Fuel Treatments 1
- Partner Spotlight: The Jones Center 2
- SFE Mini-grant Program 2
- New Publications 2
- Upcoming Events 2

### Approximating Post-Hurricane Fuel Loads

With hurricane season fast approaching, it is likely that somewhere in the South forests will be damaged by winds this summer. In the aftermath of such wind damage, fire and forest managers may need to estimate fuel loads and downed woody material as they plan clean up or future fire hazards. Stereo photo series provide one tool for such approximations. The first such series in the South was prepared by Dale Wade and others in 1993 after Hurricane Hugo and covered loblolly and longleaf pine in the Carolinas ([www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/2356](http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/2356)). Research following Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne (2004), Katrina (2005), and Ike (2008) resulted in a new US Forest Service publication for approximating fuel loads along the Coastal Plain. The information that accompanies each set of stereo photos can be used to assess live and dead fuels for prescribed fire planning and input into fire behavior models for estimating fuel consumption, fire behavior, smoke production, and fire effects. It is most applicable to mixed loblolly and shortleaf pine with hardwood understories along the Gulf Coast, and to sand pine and scrub systems in Florida.



PHOTO CREDIT: USDA FOREST SERVICE

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Vihnanek, R., Balog, C., Wright, C., Ottmar, R., and Kelly, J. 2009. Stereo photo series for quantifying natural fuels. Volume XII: Post-hurricane fuels in forests of the Southeast United States. USDA Forest Service Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-803. ([www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/35751](http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/35751)).

### Community Perceptions of Fuel Treatments

Community and homeowner perceptions of agency actions and recommendations for mitigating fuel hazards and fire risk have been the topic of research projects nationwide. The key question in a recent study published in the *International Journal of Wildland Fire* was "What influences citizen acceptance of agency fuel management (prescribed burning or mechanical reduction) efforts on adjacent public lands?" Although the study was conducted in Oregon and Utah, it is likely relevant in other areas where communities already have a reasonably high level of trust in the agencies that manage public lands adjacent to their homes. The only factor that significantly influenced citizen acceptance in this study was their confidence in managers' abilities to use specific treatments. Although important in several other studies, just a general level of trust was not a deciding factor in the Oregon and Utah communities. These results suggest that citizen support is built on strong fire manager-community relationships and demonstrated competency in specific decisions, including activities other than fire management. All the studies support the importance of trust and competency for building a prescribed fire program. It is essential to know your community when seeking their support.



PHOTO CREDIT: COTTON RANDALL

Toman, E., Stidham, M., Shindler, B., McCaffrey, S. 2011. Reducing fuels in the wildland-urban interface: community perceptions of agency fuels treatments. *International Journal of Wildland Fire* 20(3): 340-349.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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[www.southernfireexchange.org](http://www.southernfireexchange.org)

## Partner Spotlight: The Jones Center

Established in 1991, on the grounds of a historical quail hunting reserve, the **Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center at Ichauway** in southwest Georgia includes 29,000 acres of longleaf pine forests, depressional wetlands, streams, and old-field habitats. The Jones Center's mission is "to understand, to demonstrate, and to promote excellence in natural resource management and conservation on the landscape of the southeastern coastal plain..." by focusing on research, conservation, and education programs. Many



PHOTO CREDIT: JONES CENTER STAFF

of these programs collaborate with universities, agencies, and organizations throughout the Southeast. In fact, over 100 graduate students, interns, or apprentices have conducted or are currently conducting research at Ichauway. Research results and knowledge generated at the Center are shared with natural resource professionals, landowners, policy-makers, and students through workshops, field days, and short courses.

The Jones Center has an active fire management program, burning 12,000 to 14,000 acres each year—with a goal of burning 60 percent of the total property annually. Prescribed fire is used to meet numerous objectives in longleaf pine ecosystems which include hazardous fuel reduction, woody understory maintenance, experimental research, habitat management, forest regeneration/restoration, and "hands-on" educational training. For more information about the Jones Center, including details of their prescribed fire conservation, research, and education programs, visit [www.jonesctr.org](http://www.jonesctr.org).

## SFE Mini-grant Program

The Southern Fire Exchange is offering a new mini-grant program to support the production of research syntheses, webinars, and fact sheets on high priority topics related to wildland and prescribed fire. All applicants must submit a current resume/CV and an example of a document or presentation that they have produced (e.g., factsheet, PowerPoint® lecture, published paper, synthesis) that demonstrates their qualifications. Mini-grant recipients will receive \$300 for each factsheet, \$500 for the development and delivery of a webinar, and \$1000 for each research synthesis. Applicants can apply for multiple projects, but planning for overlapping timeframes must be explained in detail. Check the [SFE Resource Center](#) for additional details and the application, which will be posted soon.

## New Publications

The Southern Fire Exchange partnered with Jennifer Costanza, Postdoctoral Research Associate at North Carolina State University, to summarize recent research that investigated stakeholder perceptions of fire management in eastern North Carolina, where a partnership has been established to promote prescribed burning in the longleaf pine ecosystem. A new SFE Research Highlight provides a brief review of the research article, which was published in *Ecology and Society*. [Click here](#) to view this research highlight.

A new publication by Oklahoma State Extension provides information on growing season burns in the grasslands of Oklahoma, Texas, and surrounding states. Topics covered include growing season fire effects on plants and wildlife; how to conduct growing season burns with regard to personal safety, smoke, fire behavior, and escape fires; and management implications. [Click here](#) to view this fact sheet, E-1025 Burning in the Growing Season.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit the [SFE Calendar](#) to learn more about upcoming workshops, trainings, field trips, demonstrations, 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](mailto:sfe@ifas.ufl.edu).

**Emissions, Energy Returns, and Economics of Forest Residues**  
LLC-JFSP-IAWF Webinar  
June 28, 3pm to 4pm (EDT)

**Fire on the Mountain: North Carolina PFC Annual Meeting**  
August 16-17, 2011  
Wilkesboro, North Carolina

**CAFMS Workshop: Smoke Management in the Southern Appalachians**  
August 24, 2011  
Charlottesville, Virginia

**SFE Workshop: Fuel Management**  
September, 2011 (Date TBA)  
Olstee, Florida

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Shortleaf Pine Conference**  
September 20-22, 2011  
Huntsville, Alabama

**Georgia PFC Annual Meeting**  
September 29, 2011  
Tifton, Georgia

**9<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Fire and Forest Meteorology**  
October 18-20, 2011  
Palm Springs, California

**38<sup>th</sup> Annual Natural Areas Conference**  
November 1-4, 2011  
Tallahassee, Florida

**Exploring the Mega-fire Reality Conference**  
November 14-17, 2011  
Tallahassee, Florida