



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

SFE Webinar: Mark your Calendar for October 5 th	1
Partner Spotlight: US Department of Defense, Eglin Air Force Base	1
New SFE Fact Sheets for Public Education Efforts	2
Workshops in Raleigh	2
Upcoming Events	2
Online Tool: TACCIMO	3
Updated Manual: Introduction to Prescribed Fires in Southern Ecosystems	3
Cohesive Strategy Updates	3
New Book: Modelling, Monitoring, and Management	3
News and Reminders	3

SFE Webinar: Mark your Calendar for October 5th

Wildfire Effects on Forest Structure and Soils in Big Cypress National Preserve, Florida October 5, 2012; 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm (EDT)

We are excited to announce our first webinar this fall! Adam Watts, Postdoctoral Research Ecologist at the University of Florida, School of Forest Resource and Conservation Fire Lab, will present the results of studies conducted in Big Cypress National Preserve (Florida) on delayed mortality from wildfire in pondcypress and on smoldering combustion in the organic soil found in cypress swamps. Although infrequent, fires in wetlands such as cypress swamps can shape their composition and structure. These effects arise through direct mortality and indirectly from the consumption of soil. This webinar will highlight the role and effects of fire in cypress swamps and provide implications for natural resource managers. For webinar access information, [click here](#).



PHOTO BY LARRY KORHNAK, UF

Dr. Watts also recently prepared a SFE fact sheet that summarizes these findings and highlights the role and effects of fire in cypress swamps for natural resource managers. [Click here](#) to view the fact sheet.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For general questions and to provide feedback, email sfe@ifas.ufl.edu.

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Learn more about our [Partners](#) and the [JFSP Knowledge Exchange Consortia](#).

Visit the SFE Resource Center www.southernfireexchange.org



Partner Spotlight: US Department of Defense, Eglin Air Force Base

The [US Department of Defense](#) manages large tracts of land in the Southeast and maintains an active prescribed fire program on many of its properties. In particular at [Eglin Air Force Base](#), fire is frequently used as a tool to reduce wildfire risk and to maintain and enhance fire-adapted ecosystems located on the 464,000 acre base in Florida's panhandle. With a history of burning for more than 50 years, Eglin has expanded its program and is now home to the new Air Force Wildland Fire Center. This Center "serves a mission of environmental sustainment alongside military mission support and demonstrates how both can thrive through careful fire management." This new program will include responsibilities for other Air Force lands nationwide—setting wildland fire policy and standards, tracking Air Force firefighter qualifications, and assisting other Air Force bases with program planning and implementation. In addition, Eglin provides both National Wildfire Coordinating Group and experiential trainings onsite. Department of Defense employees, along with US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agency firefighters have received both field and classroom instruction through these trainings. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Air Force Wildland Fire Center.



PHOTO BY US AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

continued on page 2

New SFE Fact Sheets for Public Education Efforts

The Southern Fire Exchange recently published fact sheets to assist with public education and communication efforts around the Southeast. Thanks to author and SFE team member John Diaz of North Carolina State University!

Two of the fact sheets address common questions the public often asks about prescribed burning. Although they are specific to Florida and North Carolina, many of the answers are equally applicable in other states. If you have resources you would like to see included or specific questions for your state that should be addressed, please let us know.

- * [Effects of Prescribed Fire and Wildfire: Frequently Asked Questions from North Carolina](#)
- * [Effects of Prescribed Fire and Wildfire: Frequently Asked Questions from Florida](#)

Health effects of smoke and economic impacts of wildfire are topics that are frequently raised by community members during and after a wildfire. To help managers address these topics, we have two new fact sheets that summarize related research findings.

- * [Economic Impacts of Wildfire](#) shares results from two studies to illustrate that impacts are significantly larger than the often-quoted primary indicators of suppression costs and homes lost. This information can help public officials, community leaders, and local citizens understand the larger wildfire impacts on economies, infrastructure, and society in general.
- * [Health Effects of Wildland Fire Smoke](#) summarizes five studies that have documented health effects in the United States, Canada, and Australia. It provides a valuable resource that fire managers, public information officers, and others in similar roles can use for answering some of those difficult questions about wildland fire smoke.

Workshops in Raleigh: February 18, 2013

A slate of 17 different workshops is available for professional development at IAWF's 4th International Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, February 18-22. Workshop topics range from NWCG's RX-310 (Introduction to Fire Effects) to basic use of BehavePlus and smoke models for prescribed fire planning to new, highly technical smoke dispersion models. Check out the [full list of workshops](#) and then register for one or more of them. This is a rare opportunity in the South to combine professional development training and a top notch international conference on topics and issues directly related to your job.

US DoD, Eglin Air Force Base *continued from page 1*

Eglin is also the site of cutting edge fire research that is being conducted as part of the RxCADRE—the Prescribed Fire Combustion and Atmospheric Dynamics Research Experiment. This team of collaborators from U.S. Forest Service Research Stations, Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center, University of Idaho, University of Montana, San Jose State University, and the Rochester Institute of Technology pooled their operational and in-kind resources to collect fuels, fire, and meteorological data on prescribed fires in 2008. The RxCadre was recently awarded \$2 million for a 5-year project that will begin this fall. Read more about the RxCadre in a recent [CompassLive](#) article or [Fire Lines 2\(1\)](#).

Eglin fire program members have played key roles in the Southern Fire Exchange by providing feedback and direction on our Advisory Board and by contributing to our newsletter and forums. You can keep up with current Air Force Center for Engineering and the

Environment news on Twitter [@USAFCEE](#) and Department of Defense natural resource management news [@DoDNatRes](#). Another Department of Defense installation, Camp LeJeune Marine Corps Base in North Carolina, will be the destination for the field trip at the end of the 4th Fire Behavior and Fuel Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina February 22, 2013.



Wildfire near Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. PHOTO BY US AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit the [SFE Calendar](#) and the [JFSP Calendar](#) to learn more about upcoming workshops, trainings, webinars, field trips, demonstrations, and other professional development opportunities. To add an event to our calendar, send the event information to sfe@ifas.ufl.edu.

PFC Meetings

Georgia PFC

September 26, 2012
Tifton, Georgia

South Carolina PFC

October 4, 2012
Batesburg-Leesville, South Carolina

Central Florida PFC

October 19, 2012
Kissimmee, Florida

North Florida PFC

October 23, 2012
Tallahassee, Florida

Webinars

Wildfire Effects on Forest Structure and Soils

October 5, 2012
12:00pm to 1:00 pm (EDT)
Host: [SFE](#)

Introduction to IFTDSS

October 18, 2012
3:00pm to 4:00pm (EDT)
Host: [LLC-IAWF-JFSP](#)

Conferences

9th Biennial Regional Longleaf Conference

October 23-26, 2012
Nacogdoches, Texas

AFE Fire Ecology and Management Congress

December 3-7, 2012
Portland, Oregon

IAWF 4th Fire Behavior and Fuels Management Conference

February 18-22, 2013
Raleigh, North Carolina

Workshops and Trainings

Hardwood Management Tour

October 4, 2012
Batesville, Arkansas

Prescribed Fire and Timber Quality

October 16-17, 2012
Poplar Bluff, Missouri

Rx Fire Workshop for Resource Specialists

Applications due: October 25, 2012
Workshop: December 2-7, 2012
Various locations, Florida

20 Day Rx Fire Training Sessions

Applications due: October 12, 2012
Six available sessions, Jan-June 2013
Tallahassee, Florida

REMINDERS AND NEWS

LOOK FOR SFE AT PFC MEETINGS!

Southern Fire Exchange team members will be giving presentations at upcoming Prescribed Fire Council meetings in South Carolina (October 4), Central Florida (October 19), and North Florida (October 23). Look for us there!

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Texas Tech University's Department of Natural Resources Management is accepting applications for M.S. and Ph.D. students beginning January 2013. More information is available at www.fireecologylab.blogspot.com.

PUBLIC ATTITUDES REPORT

Eight Questions Answered: Social Science and Wildfire summarizes findings for key questions that were addressed during a comprehensive literature review of public attitudes about fire management. The full report, by Sarah McCaffrey and Christine Olsen, will be available soon.

FIRE ADAPATED COMMUNITIES

Check out the new *Fire Adapted Communities* website, which explains the concept of preparing a community to withstand and survive a wildfire with little or no additional suppression resources. The website puts tried and true mitigation tools and ordinances under one umbrella.

CONNECT WITH SFE

Get frequent fire-related updates, links, events, and information by following *SFE on Twitter* (@SEFireScience) and finding *SFE on Facebook*.

FIRE LINES CONTRIBUTIONS

We'd love to include your fire-related news, project or research summaries, field stories, photos, and more in future issues of *Fire Lines*. Please contact Annie Oxarart at oxarart@ufl.edu.

Online Tool: TACCIMO

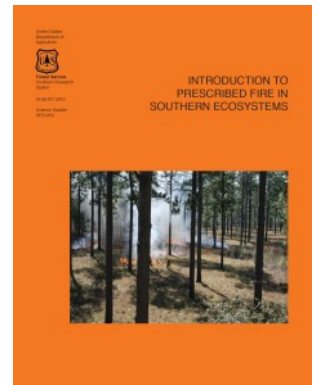
TACCIMO, the Template for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Management Options, is a web-based tool that connects forest planning to current climate change science. This interactive resource, developed by the USDA Forest Service, is for federal, state, and private land managers. You can **Explore** quotations from scientific literature related to many factors, including fire. Under the fire section, you'll find information related to effects of climate change and management adaptation options for fire suppression, fuel treatments, general impacts, wildfire impacts, and wildfire trends. You can also **Generate a Report** of climate change projections for states, counties, and national forests, or a report of science literature based on a series of user-defined selections. Quick start and comprehensive **How to Use Guides** are available for each of TACCIMO's tools. One of the workshops in Raleigh next February (see article on page 2) will focus on how to optimize your use of TACCIMO.



Updated Manual:

Introduction to Prescribed Fires in Southern Ecosystems

For many years, *A Guide for Prescribed Fire in Southern Forests* has been the standard handbook for prescribed fire managers and practitioners in the South. The USFS Southern Research Station recently updated the publication (*Introduction to Prescribed Fires in Southern Ecosystems*) to include current fire science research and management practices. Led by Tom Waldrop and Scott Goodrick, the updated version has several rewritten sections and a list of up-to-date suggested readings. This guide helps “resource managers plan and execute prescribed burns in southern forests and grasslands” and includes sections on reasons for prescribed burning; environmental effects; weather and fuel considerations; fire techniques; smoke management; and planning, executing, and evaluating prescribed burns. The weather and smoke management sections are particularly noteworthy for the new information they contain.



Cohesive Strategy Monthly Updates

The *Southeastern Regional Strategy Committee* is sharing monthly updates to keep the southern fire community informed about Cohesive Strategy activities. The **September Update** provides information about input opportunities that will guide the regional action plan and subsequent implementation activities. Each monthly update features a southern success story with the *Texas Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal* being highlighted in August's update and Georgia's *Greater Okefenokee Association of Landowners (GOAL)* being highlighted in September's update.

New Book: Modelling, Monitoring, and Management

A new collection of papers presented at the Third International Conference on Modelling, Monitoring and Management of Forest Fires is now available. *Modelling, Monitoring and Management of Forest Fires III* includes papers that discuss the latest research and applications of available tools to analyze and predict the spread of forest fires both to prevent or reduce major loss of life and property and to avoid damage to the environment. **Click here** to read a description of the book. You can also **view the conference abstracts**.

