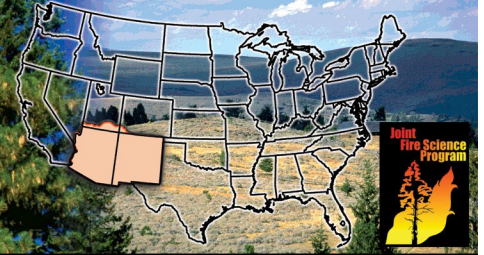




**SOUTHWEST
FIRE SCIENCE
CONSORTIUM**

A JFSP KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE CONSORTIUM



Southwest Fire Science Consortium

Summer 2011 Newsletter

September 2011

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IDEAS?

Do you have suggestions for webinars, workshops, field trips, newsletter feature notes, or anything else? Please let us know!

CONTACT US...

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Visit Our Website

<http://swfireconsortium.org>

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Featured Note: Geospatially Linked Burn Plans

We will work with FRAMES to develop a searchable database containing prescribed fire burn plans across the Southwest. While agencies may have archives of past burn plans, it is often difficult to share or access these across a range of agencies and organizations.

By sharing successful or difficult burn plans, managers can learn from each other and we can archive on-the-ground experience. Burn plans will be searchable and tied to spatial attributes.

If you have a burn plan that you're proud of or that you feel others can learn from please send it along with a couple of sentences about the lessons learned from the burn to the SWFSC coordinator (Barbara.Wolfson@nau.edu).

Our first burn plan was provided courtesy of Lann Moore, Socorro BLM Field Office. The Pelona Mountain prescribed burn area was approximately 147,382 acres. Vegetation types ranged from open grasslands to dense piñon-juniper to ponderosa pine. Resource goals and objectives for this burn included reversal of the trend for piñon-juniper encroachment into grasslands, removal of decadent grass fuels, limiting woody species intrusion, and fire reintroduction in ponderosa pine stands.

Early preparations, such as holding lines, tree removal, and cultural sites, for a burn this large is key. This helped expedite aerial ignition and allowed them to burn larger areas at a time. The crew observed the ponderosa pine



Photo by Lann Moore

areas held up well to a hot, dry June burn, while killing young piñon-juniper in the understory. They observed that backing and flanking fire best achieved desired fire effects in both ponderosa and piñon-juniper. However in dense piñon-juniper stands a head fire was required to achieve desired fire effects across the landscape. Because this is a wilderness study area, targeted thinning treatments to increase fuel loading and therefore fire intensity, were not possible.

Top 10 Fire Management Searches

Through surveys, meetings and workshops, the fire community expressed their most pressing questions and information needs. The SWFSC has partnered with FRAMES to help fire managers access important fire science information related to the Southwest's top fire management issues. The FRAMES website provides access to data,

documents, websites, projects, and tools pertaining to ten critical areas of interest.

The top ten fire management searches are as follows:

- Fire & Climate Change
- Fire & Invasive Species
- Fire & Threatened or Endangered Species
- Fire Season

- Fire Severity and Patch Size
- Fuel Treatments
- Prescribed Fire
- Southwest Fire History
- Webinars
- Wildlife & Fire

To view these searches, click [here](#) or visit our website: <http://swfireconsortium.org>

SW Fire Ecology Conference— Feb 27-Mar 1, 2012

The SWFSC, along with the Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) and Humboldt State University, will sponsor the Southwest Fire Ecology Conference, Fire Landscapes, Wildlife & People: Building Alliances for Restoring Ecosystem Resilience. This year's conference will be held at La Fonda Hotel in Santa Fe, New Mexico February 27– March 1, 2012.

The official Call for Papers will be open through **October 1, 2011**.

Topic categories include:

- Mixed Severity Fire Regimes & Management
- Collaborations & Alliance Building for Fire Management
- Ecosystem Resilience & Climate Change
- Fire and Ecological Restoration

- Fire & Wildlife
- Fire Management & Fire Ecology in Mexico
- Fire Ecology & Effects
- Smoke Management
- Fire Effects on Cultural Resources/ Traditional Ecological Knowledge

This Conference will engage researchers, decision makers, and practitioners across disciplines in friendly roundtable discussions on key issues, informed by scientific and practitioner talks, and panel debates.

To submit an abstract on the Conference Website, click [here](#) or visit the website: <http://humboldt.edu/swfire>

Travel grants are available through the Consortium. Please [contact us](#) for more information!

Coming Soon... 2011 Fire Season Roadshow

"This spring, we will sponsor field trips to some of the most interesting Southwestern fires of the 2011 Fire Season ..."

What a fire season! And it's not over yet. How many of you would like to see some of the fires of the 2011 Fire Season?

This spring, we will sponsor field trips to some of the most interesting Southwestern fire sites of the 2011 Fire Season. We will be accompanied by local managers and/or scien-

tists, who will show us unique aspects of each fire we visit. Topics covered could include: fire behavior/effects, BAER treatments, watershed issues, landscape scale fire implications, and more.

If you have ideas or would like to lead a group on a 2011 fire with which you are familiar, please [contact us](#).

News From Other Collaboratives

The Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative (SRLCC) received funding for six major projects in 2011 totaling nearly \$385,000. Projects range from collaborative enhancement/assistance to restoration monitoring to watershed vulnerability assessments.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation recently announced \$1.2 million in WaterSMART Applied Science Grants for nine projects

in the SRLCC. For information contact: [Avra Morgan](#) or [Greg Watson](#).

The Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (DLCC) is refining a Governance Document, Operational Plan, and FY2012 Annual Work Plan. They are also selecting WaterSMART projects for funding through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. For information contact: [Avra Morgan](#) or [Christina Voita](#).

EVENTS

Consortium Webinar:

Fuel Treatment Effectiveness on the Wallow Fire. Pam Bostwick, Judy Palmer, Jim Pitts. October 19, 2011, [FULL-recording available](#) shortly after.

Conferences:

Southwest Fire Ecology Conference, Fire Landscapes, Wildlife & People: Building Alliances for Restoring Ecosystem Resilience, AFE, SWFSC, HSU. February 27– March 1, 2012, Santa Fe, New Mexico. For information click [here](#).

Training Opportunities:

[Arizona Wildfire Academy](#), Prescott, AZ — March 10-16, 2012

Sierra Blanca Wildland Fire Academy, Ruidoso, NM — 2012 dates to be announced. (for 2011 info [click here](#))

Free Presentations:

"Firescape: A comprehensive response to landscape-scale fire and ecosystem management in southern AZ" -D. Falk, B. Gebow. 12pm September 16, Rm. [225 Bio Sciences East](#), University of Arizona, **Tucson, AZ**.

"Evolution of Fire Adaptive Traits in Mediterranean Ecosystems" -Jon Keeley. 4pm October 5, Rm. 017 [Southwest Forest Sciences Complex](#), Northern Arizona University, **Flagstaff, AZ**.

"Ecosystem thresholds and interactions among broad-scale tree mortality, fire, and erosion dynamics-with illustrations from Southwestern landscapes to Planet Earth" -Craig Allen. 4pm October 19, Rm. 017 [Southwest Forest Sciences Complex](#), Northern Arizona University, **Flagstaff, AZ**.

Most Interesting Tweet:

New Paper: [Recent trends in post-wildfire seeding in western US forests: costs and seed mixes.](#)

To add an event to our newsletter or website, please [contact us](#). (swfireconsortium@gmail.com)