



SOUTHERN Fire Exchange

Uniting Fire Science and Natural Resource Management



SFE Fact Sheet 2012-2

Getting the Most from Online Fire Resources: FRAMES and the Southern Fire Portal

Angela M. Reid

WHAT ARE FRAMES AND THE SOUTHERN FIRE PORTAL?

The Fire Research and Management Exchange System, or FRAMES (www.frames.gov), is a unique website aimed at information exchange and technology transfer among all wildland fire stakeholders and was developed by the University of Idaho in collaboration with the US Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station and the US Geological Survey. FRAMES provides users with national fire-related information, a platform for data sharing and storage, access to fire-related models, fire decision support tools, and information to support fire planning, operation, and post-fire monitoring. Much of the FRAMES website content and resources can be located by clicking on three main menu tabs: *Topics*, *Regions*, and *Partner Sites*. The Southern Fire Portal is one of the geographic divisions within FRAMES and provides fire information specifically relevant to the southeastern United States and the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

TOPICS

The *Topics* tab is best utilized when the primary interest of the user is to access information on a specific fire-related subject area (Figure 1). Currently, there are 26 subject area pages, each containing a brief description of the information found on that page, followed by a list of posted notices and access to cataloged resources relevant to that subject area. Notices can include any kind of information including conference and meeting announcements, job openings, request for proposals, or other subject-related information. Subjects with active content management (Emissions and Smoke, Fire History, Fire Behavior) include a variety of relevant information resources, either directly or through links. FRAMES is actively seeking experts to manage each of the other subject areas.

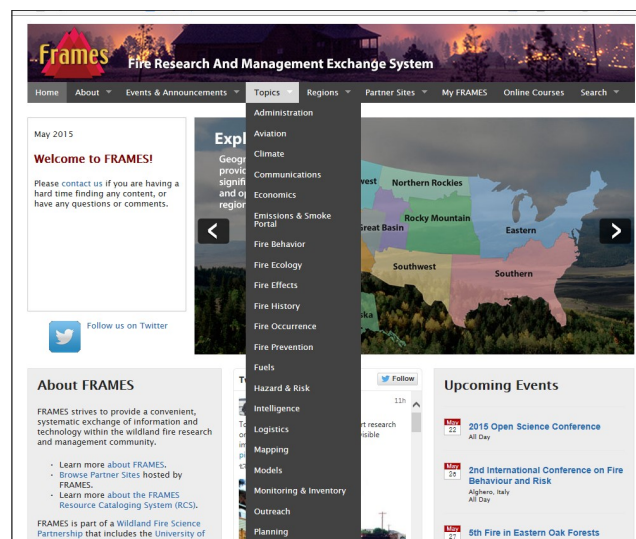


Figure 1. A partial list of the topics available on the FRAMES homepage.

REGIONS

The *Regions* tab allows you to select a specific geographic area of interest. Relevant wildland fire information is divided by geographic location to better facilitate collaboration between regional researchers and fire managers. The United States is divided into nine different areas, aligned with federal Geographic Area Coordination Centers: Alaska, Great Basin, Rocky Mountain, California, Northern Rockies, Northwest, Southwest, Eastern, and Southern. Each area has a webpage which provides area-specific links, access to cataloged resources, as well as more general notices that might interest the regional community.

The Southern Fire Portal (SFP) is best used to find fire information relevant to the southern US by using the Southern Resources search function at the bottom of the webpage (Figure 2) and by exploring links to various resources on the webpage as well as on the External Links tab at the bottom. Regional deliverables funded by the

The Southern Fire Portal (SFP) provides information about fire science and technology relevant to the southern United States. This 13 state area includes Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia, as well as Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Our goal is to provide "one-stop shopping" for resource managers, decision makers, scientists, students, and communities who want access to the results of efforts to understand and manage fire and fuels on lands in the southern United States.

Upcoming Events

- Assessing Wildfire Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone Seminar**
Double Tree Hotel
8:00 am - 4:30 pm
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Assessing Wildfire Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone Seminar
- 2015 Open Science Conference**
All Day
2015 Open Science Conference
- Webinar - Vortices and Wildland Fire (rescheduled)**
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Check out the JFSP Fire Exchanges located in this region

- Southern Fire Exchange**
- Oak Woodlands and Forests Fire Consortium**
- Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists**
- Great Plains Fire Science Exchange**

Highlighted Sites

- The Tall Timbers Research Station** maintains the E.V. Komarek Fire Ecology Database, which provides access to over 26,000 bibliographic citations.
- The Encyclopedia of Southern Fire Science (ESFS)** contains over 600 pages of peer-reviewed syntheses of scientific knowledge about fire science in the southern US.

Cataloged Resources | Related FRAMES Sites | Announcements/Jobs | Upcoming Events | Past Events | External Links

If you would like to search the entire [Resource Catalog](#) (not just the records within this category), please go to the [Search](#) page.

Southern Resources:

20 Records found in 0.00 seconds

Search: Kobziar [Search] [Reset]

Filter Results

- Type** [v]
- Topic** [v]
- Person** [v]
- Year** [v]
- Source** [v]

Southern Fire Exchange (SFE)
The Southern Fire Exchange (SFE) is a new regional program for fire science delivery across the southeastern United States, created with funding from the Joint Fire Science Program. The SFE ...
Person: Kobziar
Year: 2011
Resource Group: WebPage
Source: FRAMES

Tracking postfire successional trajectories in a plant community adapted to high-severity fire
In order to develop management strategies that maintain native biodiversity in plant communities adapted to high-severity fire, an understanding of natural postfire succession in the target ...
Person: Freeman, Kobziar
Year: 2011
Resource Group: Document
Source: FRAMES

Figure 2. The homepage of the Southern Fire Portal; useful regional links are found in the left-hand column along with a search box for the Resource Catalog.

Joint Fire Science Program and the National Fire Plan, as well as other regional resources, are accessible by using the Southern Resources search function with five different filters (Figure 2, bottom left) (browse and search functions are discussed in detail below in the Resource Cataloging System section). While the records are not comprehensive, they provide an excellent starting point. The links lead to other regional fire partners or informative websites such as Tall Timbers Research Station, the Encyclopedia of Southern Fire Science, and the Southern Fire Exchange (SFE). The SFE website is similar to SFP in what it offers users; they both provide links to other fire resources and notices of upcoming events and activities in the fire community, but there are several differences. For example, the SFP provides a searchable database of fire information resources while the SFE provides links and information about such databases as well as new summaries of research via fact sheets and newsletters. The SFE also has substantial resources related to prescribed burning and a forum to pro-

vide opportunities for the southern fire community to discuss fire related topics, questions, and issues.

PARTNER SITES

The *Partner Sites* tab will lead you to a growing list of fire-related websites which are hosted by FRAMES but developed and maintained by partners. FRAMES offers website hosting services for wildland fire researchers and managers to assist in information dissemination, in addition to a suite of collaboration services that support data sharing and partnership in fire research and management. While many of the internet sites on the Partner Sites page are open to the public, some require a log in and offer a secure and private space for collaboration and project management.

RESOURCE CATALOGING SYSTEM

The FRAMES Resource Cataloging System (RCS) is a tool for wildland fire and other natural resource professionals to

search for information about fire research and management resources, and also to catalog information about resources they have produced. The RCS has been designed to provide information about multiple types of resources (i.e., broader than just publications or datasets). In addition, it provides information about relationships between resources, such as when a project produces a tool, is described by a document, and has an associated dataset. The RCS currently holds approximately 16,000 records and provides access to 30,000 citations in the Tall Timbers E.V. Komarek Fire Ecology Database. The goal is to have natural resource professionals, once trained to use the system, add their own resources to the system for others to see. Currently, only FRAMES staff members and select individuals from partner sites are able to use the catalog entry interface but as the RCS develops, access will increase. Resource entries are under one of the six current resource groups: projects, tools, documents, web pages, data, and programs, with a seventh group to be added soon for media resources such as archived webinars.

The Resource Catalog can be searched from almost every page within the FRAMES site by clicking on Search at the right side of the upper navigation bar (Figure 2). A

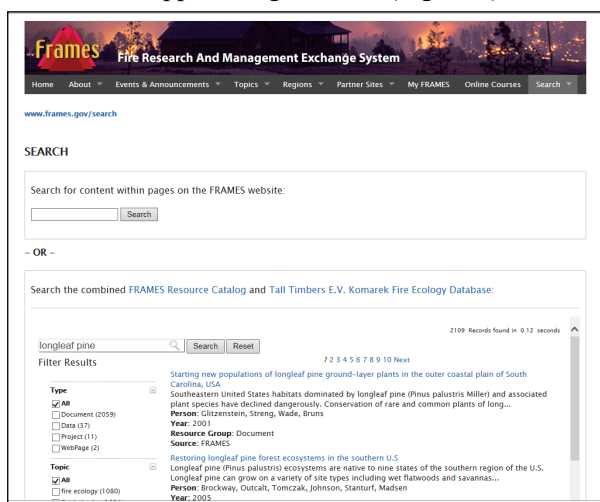


Figure 3. Search results for “longleaf pine” records in the FRAMES Resource Catalog and the Tall Timbers E.V. Komarek Fire Ecology Database.

FRAMES subject area and geographic area is assigned to each record, as well as relevant partner sites and collections. Additional key words are associated with each record to further assist in narrowing searches to the most relevant entries. Once a word is typed in the search box and the search key is selected, the results page displays a list of all resources containing the search term and the total number of results (Figure 3). Each of the seven filters to the left of the list of resources has multiple options which can then be checked to help refine your search. (Figure 3). Do not check the filter options until after the list is produced for your search box term(s). Be sure to push the Reset button before entering another search term. The Search button on the top navigation bar includes a nifty “Recent Journal Articles” tab which goes back 12 months for quick searches of recent literature.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

FRAMES is an exceptional website assisting information transfer and collaboration. To find more information, visit the “About FRAMES” webpage, which provides several downloadable brochures as well as annual reports (<https://www.frames.gov/about/about-frames>). Questions about FRAMES can be emailed to contact@frames.gov.

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For more information on the Southern Fire Exchange, visit www.southernfireexchange.org or email contactus@southernfireexchange.org.

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