



SOUTHERN Fire Exchange



ANNUAL REPORT



2016



JOINT
FIRE SCIENCE
PROGRAM

Cover Photos: David Godwin

Reaching More Managers with Fire Science

In 2016, the Southern Fire Exchange (SFE) continued to work toward our mission of increasing the availability and application of fire science information for fire and natural resource managers in the Southeast. By being strategic and flexible, we achieved several exciting program accomplishments while simultaneously establishing partnerships that will extend our reach to new audiences in the future.

Southern Fire Exchange Website

The SFE website (www.southernfireexchange.org) received 7,929 visitors in 2016. As in previous years, website use has increased, with 14.8% more sessions and 11.6% more page views than in 2015. Visitors used the SFE search function to find information on topics such as muck fire, smoke, emissions, weather, Avenza and GIS maps, and FEIS—all topics for which we have existing resources on the website.

7929
Visitors to the SFE Website

Fire Lines Electronic Newsletter

The bimonthly SFE *Fire Lines* newsletter continues to be a popular and valued resource for regional fire managers and scientists. Newsletter articles in 2016 highlighted research results on topics ranging from the influence of liability on prescribed burning to how fire affects wildlife food sources in longleaf pine ecosystems. The SFE email list now includes over 2,000 fire managers, scientists, landowners, community members, and students. We started building our contact list in 2012, and we've had steady growth of 30 to 40% each year since.

30%
2016 Growth for SFE Email List

Fire Ecology Database

The Tall Timbers Research Station E.V. Komarek Fire Ecology Database contains over 32,800 citations for fire science and research literature. In 2016, more than 1,200 new citations were added to the database, and 26,774 unique visitors accessed database record pages on the FRAMES website—up from 20,331 unique users in 2015. The scope of the database reaches far beyond the Southeast, as it contains citations for research conducted throughout the United States and internationally as well.

1,200
Citations Added to the Fire Ecology Database

Partnerships and Collaborations

The SFE developed new partnerships and reinforced existing partnerships with regional groups such as the newly formed Prescribed Fire Science Consortium at Tall Timbers Research Station, the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative (ALRI) Longleaf Implementation Teams, the Southeastern Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS), the Southern Region of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy, the joint multi-state/EPA Fire and Air Quality Working Group, and several others. Working collaboratively with others in the region has provided new science delivery opportunities and allowed all organizations involved to more efficiently meet program goals.

52

Number of Partners Worked with to Deliver Fire Science



Photo: David Godwin

SFE field workshop held in partnership with the USFS Southern Research Station at the Palustris Experimental Forest on the Kisatchie National Forest in central Louisiana. Workshop participants from three states learned about cutting-edge research related to longleaf pine planting, site-preparation and controlled burning.

Connecting Managers and Researchers

The SFE encourages interaction between researchers and managers through webinars, field tours, and other events. These events provide an opportunity for researchers to share their findings, and for managers to provide feedback, ask questions, and discuss the application of results. In addition, SFE played key roles in program development for the 2016 IAWF International Smoke Symposium in California and for the AFE International Congress on Fire Ecology and Management in Florida next November. Both conferences have placed heavy emphasis on manager-friendly information.



Webinars

In 2016, the SFE hosted a record-breaking 11 webinars with more than 2,070 registrations, 1,049 live participants, and 1,422 archived views. The results of post-webinar participant evaluations demonstrate that almost all respondents are satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the webinar. Most importantly, the majority of respondents (91%) report learning new information as the webinar increased their knowledge of the topic by "some" or "very much." In addition, SFE webinars have been used as training aids for the Everglades National Park Wildland Fire Program, Georgia Interagency Prescribed Burn Teams, and as resources at Florida Certified Prescribed Burner Courses.

"SFE is very helpful in many ways. I especially like the webinars and info sheets." - SFE Program Participant



Field Tours and Workshops

The SFE led 4 workshops and field tours and contributed to 6 workshops and field tours organized by partner organizations. Collectively, these events connected with over 350 attendees who manage more than 2 million acres across the Southeast. Field tour participants provided positive feedback through post-event surveys, reporting an average rating of 9 for their likelihood to use information from the field tour/workshop in the future (scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being definitely will).

"I will use [what I learned] to better know how prescribed burns will affect a stand. This knowledge will be used in developing prescriptions for other stands." - SFE Field Tour Participant



1,600

People Reached
through PFC and
Other Organizational
Meetings

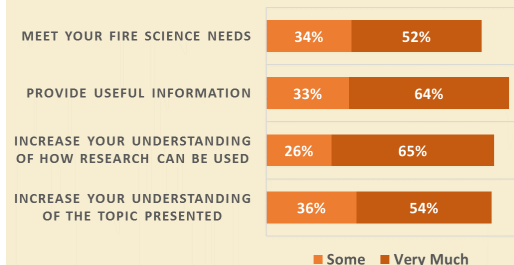
Partner Presentations

In 2016, SFE provided updates and research highlights at 19 meetings hosted by Prescribed Fire Councils (PFC) and other organizations—reaching over 1,600 people in 8 states. Results from surveys conducted at PFC meetings show that respondents increased their understanding of the topic presented and of how research findings can be used in fire management activities. In addition, respondents thought the presentation provided useful information and covered topics that addressed their fire information needs. Respondents recommend having SFE presentations at future events (average rating of 8.8 on scale of 1 to 10, where 10 is definitely recommend).

"SFE always presents relevant and current topics on prescribed fire that are useful and informative." - SFE Program Participant

"You have a great network of professionals that you've built to draw from, a tremendous asset to the council!" - SFE Program Participant

TO WHAT EXTENT DID THE PRESENTATION:
(n=104)



The Source for Fire Science Information in the South

www.southernfireexchange.org

contactus@southernfireexchange.org



**SOUTHERN
Fire Exchange**

Who We Are

The Southern Fire Exchange (SFE) is a regional wildland fire science communication program funded by the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) and administered by a collaborative team from the University of Florida, North Carolina State University, Tall Timbers Research Station, and the Southern Research Station of the U.S. Forest Service.

Our Mission

To increase the availability and application of fire science information for natural resource management, and to serve as a conduit for fire managers to share new research needs with the research community.

How We're Unique

In a region with many fire-related organizations, partnerships, and advocacy groups, the SFE maintains the position of an unbiased broker of fire science information and does not advocate or lobby for specific management outcomes. Instead, we are committed to ensuring that the most relevant fire science is available to natural resource managers.

Fire Science Exchange Network

As a member of the JFSP Fire Science Exchange Network, the SFE supports natural resource managers and researchers in the “yellow pine” regions of the southern U.S. We work closely with the Oak Woodlands and Forests Fire Consortium and the Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists (CAFMS) to share information and resources across state and ecosystem boundaries in the region.



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