



SOUTHERN Fire Exchange

Uniting Fire Science and Natural Resource Management



FIRE LINES

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Southeastern Section of the Association for Fire Ecology

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Learn more about our [Partners](#) and the [JFSP Fire Science Exchange Network](#).

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Climate Change and Southeastern Fire Potential Revisited

In the [September-October, 2013 *Fire Lines*](#) issue, we summarized a study of how projected changes in future meteorological parameters might impact wildfire potential in the South. The conclusion was that fire potential would likely increase with drier and warmer conditions in the spring, but impacts would vary geographically. New research just published in the *International Journal of Wildland Fire* by Jeffrey Prestemon and seven other authors, addressed the same question, but with a more complex analysis of both climate and human/social changes over 50 years.

The authors first built models for different ecological regions in the Southeast for wildfire area burned by lightning and human causes based on precipitation, temperature, potential evapotranspiration, forest land use, human population and personal income between 1992 and 2010. Using parameters from these models, they projected wildfire area burned from 2011 to 2060 under nine climate scenarios and population/land use changes projected in the Southern Forest Futures Project and most recent USFS Resource Planning Act Assessment.

As in the previous study, fire potential, expressed as area burned by lightning ignitions, would increase over the 50-year period as a result of warmer and drier weather. By state, that burn area could increase as little as 11% in Florida to as much as 189% in Kentucky, with an overall increase of 34% across the region. However, when factoring in likely increases in population and infrastructure to support that population and respond to fire, human-caused wildfire acres were projected to decrease by a small amount, with a total net increase in lightning + human-caused wildfire acres of only a few percentage points by 2060. The analyses also demonstrated that the 90% bounds around the estimates were generally several hundred thousand acres, indicative of the large uncertainties in the future projections of population and social changes, as well as climate parameters.

By accounting for human factors in addition to possible climate changes, Prestemon et al provide a more comprehensive estimation of how wildfire potential might actually change in the future. Nonetheless, the authors conclude "Our results show that there is ample scope for either increases or decreases in annual wildfire area burned when viewed Southeast wide. Hence, wildland fire managers and environmental policymakers concerned with how wildfire may affect the costs and

losses accruing from wildfire and its management, as well as the air quality implications of such changes, would do well to plan for either eventuality."

The full article is available online: <http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/51077>

Jeffrey P. Prestemon, Uma Shankar, Aijun Xiu, K. Talgo, D. Yang, Ernest Dixon IV, Donald McKenzie and Karen L. Abt. 2016. Projecting wildfire area burned in the southeastern United States, 2011–60. *International Journal of Wildland Fire* 25:715–729.

By including social and population changes in addition to climate change, the results show only a very small average increase in total acres burned, and the authors suggest that future planning for fire management should consider scenarios for both increasing and decreasing wildfire area.



DEET Reduces Flame Resistance of Nomex

Research has shown that a combination of DEET applied to exposed skin and Permethrin applied to clothing can effectively repel mosquitos and ticks under some of the most extreme circumstances.

A recent issue of the NFPA newsletter, *Fire Break*, provided an excellent reminder for fire professionals using bug spray this summer by sharing a *Fire Tech Tips* publication from the USDA Forest Service. This publication summarizes research that looked at how DEET effects the flame resistance material Nomex®. The study concluded that DEET reduced the flame resistance of Nomex clothing. It is recommended that fire professionals only apply DEET to their skin, not their Nomex clothing. Permethrin, on the other hand, is a very effective insecticide that can be applied to Nomex clothing without reducing the clothing's flame resistance, but Permethrin should not be sprayed on skin.



Georgia to Host the 2016 NASF Annual Meeting



The 2016 National Association of State Foresters (NASF) Annual Meeting will be held September 19-22, 2016 at the Hilton Savannah DeSoto in Savannah, Georgia. The Georgia Forestry Commission has partnered with NASF to host forestry and wildfire leaders for a week of business, learning, and networking. [Click here](#) for the meeting agenda and registration information.

New in the OK Wildland Tailgate Series: Fire Environment Weather

The Oklahoma Forestry Services has a great resource for fire managers, firefighters, and landowners called the *Oklahoma Wildland Tailgate Series*. The series includes several short, interesting documents on various topics that are designed to facilitate informal training. The latest in the series covers *fire weather* and provides background information on weather elements that all those working with fire should know and a set of questions and answers to help apply weather knowledge in fire situations.



Firewise Ask an Expert Virtual Workshop Series

Firewise is hosting a set of *virtual workshops* that will feature leading researchers and practitioners on different wildfire-related topics. Each presentation will connect wildfire stakeholders with subject matter experts in an interactive, online setting and allow time for questions and comments after the presentation.

- Power of Embers: July 27, 3 pm ET
- Home Ignition Zone: August 16, 3 pm ET
- Understanding Insurance in the Wildland Urban Interface: September 15, 2 pm ET
- Community Risk Reduction Success Stories: October 11, 1 pm ET
- Wildland Urban Legends: November 9, 3 pm ET

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit the [SFE Calendar](#) to learn more about upcoming events. To add an event to our calendar, [email us](#) the event information.

PFC Meetings

See page 3 for listing of meeting dates

Webinars

Firewise Virtual Workshop Series: Power of Embers
July 27, 3pm ET (*see left for more workshops*)

EPA Changes to the Regional Haze Rule
July 27, 2016, 2:30-4pm ET

Desired Forest Condition Metrics & Wildlife Habitat Models for Open Pine Habitat & Species
August 2, 2pm ET

Finding the Best Science Available on Fire Effects and Fire Regimes in Southeastern Ecosystems
August 31, 1pm ET

How Important Is It to Mimic Natural Fire Regimes in the Southeastern Coastal Plain?
October 11, 1pm ET

Workshops and Trainings

S-130/190 Training
August 9-12, 2016
Gainesville, FL

Use Prescribed Fire Safely and Effectively
September 27, 2016
Munson, FL

Prescribed Fire for Wildlife
October 25-28, 2016
Tallahassee, FL

Central Appalachians FLN
November 2-3, 2016
Wintergreen Resort, VA

Georgia Blue Ridge FLN Annual Workshop
November 29, 2016
Blairsville, GA

Prescribed Burning Workshop
December 14-16, 2016
Clinton, LA

Conferences

2016 Natl Assoc of State Foresters Annual Meeting
September 19-22, 2016
Savannah, GA

The Wildlife Society's 2016 Annual Conference
October 15-19, 2016
Raleigh, NC

11th Biennial Longleaf Conference
November 1-4, 2016
Savannah, GA

Society of American Foresters National Convention
November 2-6, 2016
Madison, WI

IAWF 2nd International Smoke Symposium
November 14-17, 2016
Long Beach, CA

Upcoming SFE Webinars



Finding the Best Science Available on Fire Effects and Fire Regimes in Southeastern Ecosystems

Wednesday, August 31st | 1:00 - 2:00 PM ET

Looking for species specific fire effects information to include in your management or burn plan? The Fire Effects Information System (FEIS) probably has what you're looking for! During this webinar, presenters Robin Innes and Ilana Abrahamson with the USDA Forest Service will introduce several new resources that have been integrated into the FEIS system.

Registration required: <https://feis.eventbrite.com>



How Important Is It to Mimic Natural Fire Regimes in the Southeastern Coastal Plain?

Tuesday, October 11th | 1:00 - 2:00 PM ET

Join presenter Reed Noss, Provost's Distinguished Research Professor at the University of Central Florida, as he discusses natural fire regimes for the southeastern Coastal Plain and how current management practices may or may not mimic important aspects of those fire regimes.

Registration required: <http://reednoss.eventbrite.com>

Save the Date for Your State's PFC Meeting

It's that time of year—the fall 2016 Prescribed Fire Council meetings dates and agendas have been set for councils across the Southeast. Meeting agendas include presentations, partner updates, field tours, and time for networking. We look forward to seeing many of you and sharing information about tools for burn planning, a new fire behavior model, fires and ticks, and more. Continuing education credits are usually available for attendance.

NORTH CAROLINA PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL

August 16-17, 2016

Plymouth, NC

Field trip planned to Goose Creek State Park on August 17

[Meeting Information and Registration](#)

ALABAMA PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL

Meeting Theme: As a burner, are YOU a good neighbor?

September 1, 2016

Auburn, AL

[Agenda and Registration](#)

SOUTH CAROLINA PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL

Meeting Theme: Fire Birds

September 21-22, 2016

Edgefield, SC

[Meeting Information and Registration](#)

LOUISIANA PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL

September 28, 2016

Alexandria, LA

GEORGIA PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL

September 29, 2016

Tifton, GA

Registration information will be available soon on the [GA PFC website](#)

NORTH FLORIDA PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL

October 12, 2016

Tallahassee, FL

Registration information will be available soon on the [Florida PFC webpage](#)

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL

PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL MEETING

November 4, 2016

Savannah, GA

Save the date for this regional meeting, which will be a post conference event at the [11th Biennial Longleaf Conference](#)



SOUTHEASTERN REGION COHESIVE WILDLAND FIRE STRATEGY UPDATE

By Gary C. Wood, Southeastern Regional Coordinator

Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy

The southeastern region's National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy website (www.southernwildfire.net) has been redesigned! Check out the website's enhanced site navigation, additional southeastern success stories, resources and news, and streamlined design. You can also sign up to receive the [SE Cohesive Strategy Newsletter](#) by email. This publication by the Southeast Region Strategy Committee highlights Cohesive Strategy progress and demonstrations of success across the Southeast. [Check out recent issues](#). Your stories are welcome for future issues; please send them to gwood@southernforests.org and hcampbell@sref.info.



NEWS AND REMINDERS

NEW SFE WEBINARS POSTED

Two recent Southern Fire Exchange webinars are now available for viewing at any time.

- [Legal Liability for Prescribed Fire in the Southeast](#)
- [Development of a Micro-UAV for Prescribed Fire Ignition](#)

LONGLEAF CONE FORECAST

The US Forest Service recently released the [Longleaf Pine Cone Prospects for 2016 and 2017 Report](#), which forecasts longleaf pine cone production in the southern region.

LANDFIRE BIOPHYSICAL SETTINGS (BPS) REVIEW

The LANDFIRE BpS review deadline has been extended to October 31, 2016. [Click here](#) for details on how to help improve more than 1,000 BpS descriptions. You can also [check out a map](#) to see which areas are still in need of review.

JOB OPPORTUNITY AT PFTC

An outreach notice for the [Prescribed Fire Training Center's Operations Specialist](#) has been posted. This position is stationed in Tallahassee, FL and delivers experiential learning opportunities in prescribed fire.

FIRESCIENCE.GOV

Join [JFSP's FireScience.gov email list](#) and receive weekly announcements with fire science and management news.

FIRE LINES CONTRIBUTIONS

Send your fire-related news, field stories, or photos to [contactus@southernfireexchange.org](#) to be included in future issues of Fire Lines.



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Sneak Peek at JFSP Research Topics for 2017

The Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) recently released a [Notice of Intent](#) describing potential topics for the JFSP FY17 funding solicitation. While final topics will not be released until



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Research Supporting Sound Decisions

September 2016, this early notice allows those interested in the topics to begin considering ideas with potential partners and collaborators. Topics include:

- Landscape fuel treatment as a fire management strategy
- Effects of wildfire as a treatment
- Post-fire recovery
- Fire effects on herbaceous species, shrubs, and seed banks
- Validating mesoscale, atmospheric boundary prediction models and tools
- Factors that affect the co-management of fire “risk”
- Graduate Research Innovation (GRIN) Awards
- Fire and Smoke Model Evaluation Experiment (FASMEE) – Phase 2

The Southern Fire Exchange is available to partner in the development and execution of science delivery programs for proposals. Please feel free to [email us](#) a message regarding your ideas. We will send details on obtaining SFE letters of support this fall, when JFSP releases the Funding Opportunity Notice.

Women-in-Fire Training Exchange (WTREX)

October 17-28, 2016, Northern California | Applications Due July 31, 2016

A new prescribed fire training exchange is being offered this fall—one that focuses on the role of women's leadership and perspective in fire management. The WTREX team plans to “bring 40 fire practitioners together in northern California to restore fire to the landscape, build new networks and partnerships, and work toward a more equitable, inclusive, and effective fire management culture.” To learn more, visit the [WTREX webpage](#) or [read a blog post](#) by organizer, Lenya Quinn-Davidson. Funding may be available to assist participants from the southern states with travel. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact [Jennifer Evans](#) after you are selected for WTREX. For information about additional TREX opportunities, visit the [TNC Conservation Gateway website](#).

Apply for 2016 AFE Certification!

Application Deadline Extended: September 1, 2016

The Association of Fire Ecology (AFE) is now accepting applications for the 2016 Wildland Fire Professional Certification and the Wildland Fire Academic Program Certification. All applicants must be current members of AFE. A committee will review the applications, and certificate notifications will be sent in December.



Wildland Fire Professional Certification

Six certifications for individuals are available, reflecting various levels of experience and education: Wildland Fire Technician, Wildland Fire Practitioner, Wildland Fire Manager, Senior Wildland Fire Manager, Wildland Fire Ecologist, and Senior Wildland Fire Ecologist. [Click here](#) to learn more about the certification program, the qualifications for each certificate, and how to apply. You can also check out a list of [certified professionals](#).

Wildland Fire Academic Program Certification

This certification recognizes academic programs which prepare future fire professionals. Certified programs should attract more students into their programs, and these programs will be listed on the AFE website, newsletter, and promotional materials. [Click here](#) to learn more about the certification program and to access the certification guidebook and application. Join the [eight academic programs](#) across the nation that have already been certified.