



# SOUTHERN Fire Exchange

Uniting Fire Science and Natural Resource Management



## FIRE LINES

A Bimonthly Newsletter of the Southern Fire Exchange

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

Visit the SFE Resource Center  
[www.southernfireexchange.org](http://www.southernfireexchange.org)



### Join Us April 27 for the Next SFE Webinar

Fuels are one of the three elements of the fire triangle. In this webinar, Dr. Joe O'Brien with the U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station will use examples from southeastern U.S. fire ecology to highlight the complex relationships linking forest structure, natural fuels, and wildland fire. These interactions are frequently underappreciated and oversimplified in the wildland fire community. A better understanding of natural fuels can improve land management at multiple levels and fuels can act as a bridge linking the fire ops, forestry and ecology professional communities. [Click here to register for the webinar.](#)



### Tools Designed for Managers in the Southeast: Use Them This Spring!

#### SimpleFFMC

With the dry spring fire season already here in parts of the Southeast, estimating dead fuel moisture content is critical for spring burn prescriptions or other fire management activities. A new tool for calculating fine dead fuel moisture content was created by Matt Jolly (USFS, Missoula Fire Science Lab) and Jim Brenner (retired, Florida Forest Service) and was introduced last fall in the SFE fact sheet [SimpleFFMC: A New Calculator for Fine Fuel Moisture Content](#) and in a [SFE webinar](#) that is archived and can be viewed at anytime. The fact sheet describes the few steps in the easy-to-use online calculator available at <http://www.wfas.net/ffmc/>. Take advantage of this new tool built for the Southeast!

#### Fuel Treatments Photo Guide

The [Fuel Treatments in Pine Flatwoods: A Photo Series Guide](#) is another useful resource that can assist you with management decisions. This photo series guide illustrates three fuel manipulation treatments (Mow, Burn, and Mow and Burn) compared to untreated conditions, and captures the succession of post treatment understory and fuels recovery in southern pine flatwoods forests. You can use the photos and accompanying data to compare observed conditions in pine flatwoods forests and to support management decision-making regarding prescribed fire or fuels treatment implementation, timing, and consequences for potential wildfire activity.



### SFE Survey Reminder

We hope you received the invitation to participate in the survey to provide feedback on the Joint Fire Science Program's Fire Science Exchange Network. The information collected will be used to assess SFE's progress toward meeting our goals and to shape future SFE programming. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey, if you have not already. Thank you!

[Click here to take the survey!](#)



## AFE Fire Congress: Proposal Reminder

### FireVision 20/20: A 20 Year Reflection and Look into the Future

**November 28 - December 2, 2017 | Orlando, Florida**

The 7th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress is gearing up to be a great event you will not want to miss! A tentative schedule is now available, along with an excellent list of plenary speakers. The Call for Proposals is open, with several ways for you to participate. Click on the links below for instructions and submission forms.

- ⇒ [Call for Workshops, Trainings, and Courses](#) ~ Deadline May 1, 2017
- ⇒ [Call for Interactive Fire Circles](#) ~ Deadline August 1, 2017
- ⇒ [Call for Oral & Poster Presentation Abstracts](#) ~ Deadline August 1, 2017 for Oral Presentations and September 15, 2017 for Poster Presentations
- ⇒ [Call for Attached Meetings](#) ~ Deadline September 15, 2017

## Updated IFTDSS Is Now Available!

A new version of the Interagency Fuels Treatment Decision Support System (IFTDSS) is now live! This web application makes fuels treatment planning and analysis more efficient and effective, and allows users to acquire, edit, and view data as well as perform a variety of fire behavior, risk assessment, and fire effects analyses for planning and reporting. Watch this [four-minute video](#) that introduces the updated IFTDSS and [check the new website](#), which includes an overview, FLAMMAP, Reports, and some limited fuels treatment options.

If you test out the new IFTDSS, the project team would like to hear your feedback. You can use the [Ideas Exchange Forum](#) to share your thoughts about how to make IFTDSS better.

## New LANDFIRE Practitioners' Guide

LANDFIRE's suite of spatial data layers is a valuable resource for land managers because they stretch "wall-to-wall" across the U.S., are created with a consistent methodology, and are updated over time. The data are designed to support broad-scale land management activities, and users are encouraged to critique and modify them as needed for local application. The new guide [Modifying LANDFIRE Geospatial Data for Local Applications](#) (Helmbrecht and Blankenship, 2016) provides an easy-to-understand introduction to each of the LANDFIRE products, explains where and how to look for common problems with the data, and offers guidance on how to complete common modification tasks. This guide is an excellent resource for anyone working with LANDFIRE data, but will be especially helpful to users who need to refine the data for local application.

## Longleaf Challenge

The Southern Fire Exchange recently worked with several partners on an innovative outreach event—the 2017 Longleaf Challenge for North Florida and South Georgia Boy Scouts. The camporee event took place at the 500 acre Wallwood Boy Scout Reservation in Gadsden County, Florida and was tied to a collaborative longleaf pine forest restoration project on portions of the property. Over the course of a Saturday in late February, 90 Scouts participated in over 12 different activity stations scattered around the camp designed to teach them about longleaf pine forest ecology and management and prescribed fire. [Read this news article](#) that was featured in the Tallahassee Democrat and [check out the photo album](#) to see more images from the event.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### Webinars

#### [The Ecology of Fuels](#)

April 27, 1pm Eastern

#### [Fundamental Research on How Wildfires Spread](#)

May 2, 1pm Eastern

### Trainings

#### [Longleaf Academy: Longleaf 101](#)

May 23-25, 2017

Stockton, AL

#### [S-131 Firefighter Type 1 Training](#)

June 13, 8am to 5pm ET

Gainesville, FL

#### [Longleaf Academy: Herbicides & Longleaf](#)

June 13-15, 2017

Tuskegee, AL

#### [S-215 Fire Operations in the Wildland/Urban Interface](#)

June 14-15, 8am to 5pm ET

Gainesville, FL

### Workshops and Conferences

#### [National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day](#)

May 6, 2017

Locations Nationwide

#### [Prescribed Burning Workshop](#)

May 16-18, 2017

Florien, LA

#### [Southern Blue Ridge FLN Annual Workshop](#)

May 16-18, 2017

Hiawassee, GA

#### [CAFMS Road Trip](#)

#### [Lessons Learned from 2016 Wildfire Season](#)

**\*\*Save the Date, more info coming soon**

June 6-8, 2017

Tennessee and North Carolina

#### [Natural Areas Conference](#)

October 10-12, 2017

Fort Collins, CO

#### [Sustaining Oak Forests in the 21st Century through Science-based Management](#)

October 24-26, 2017

Knoxville, TN

#### [Society of American Foresters National Convention](#)

November 15-19, 2017

Albuquerque, NM

#### [2017 AFE International Fire Congress](#)

November 28-December 2, 2017

Orlando, FL



## NEWS AND REMINDERS

### NEW TELE WORKSHOP RFP

You are invited to apply to host a 2-day Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively (TELE) workshop for your organization or partnership. This workshop provides data and practical techniques to help you understand your audience and target outreach activities to specific types of landowners. [Click here](#) for additional information and to [download the application](#).

### COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

The North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange recently published a new research brief for managers which shares research results on [fire and fuel management communication strategies](#). Among other interesting results that might influence your next communication efforts, the study found that interactive communications, such as public meetings and field trips, are more effective than one-way communications, such as brochures and newsletters.

### INDOOR AIR QUALITY DURING WILDLAND FIRES

An archived version of the NWCG Smoke Committee's [webinar on indoor air quality](#) during wildland fire incidents is now available online. You can also check out [related publications](#).

### UPDATED FIREWISE TOOLKIT

Check out the newly [revised Firewise toolkit](#) and find helpful resources including a Guide to Firewise Principles, a Firewise Tips Checklist for Homeowners, Tips for High Fire Danger Days, and more!

### CAFMS UPDATE

Our neighboring fire science exchange in the Appalachian region—the Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers & Scientists—recently posted a recording of their webinar [Mobile Mapping: An Introduction to Avenza Maps](#) and presentations from the workshop [Burning Issue: Sparking Effective Communication About Fire](#).

### JFSP BOARD MEETING FIELD TOUR

In April, the SFE was pleased to host the Joint Fire Science Program Governing Board for a field tour with the Osceola National Forest. [Check out photos here](#).



The Southern Fire Exchange is funded through the Joint Fire Science Program, in agreement with the United States Forest Service, Southern Research Station. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## New SFE Fact Sheet:

### Prescribed Fire and Wildfire Risk Reduction

Researchers have been studying how prescribed fire influences wildfire in pine flatwoods ecosystems for more than 50 years. A [new 2-page SFE fact sheet](#) summarizes five studies that approached this topic from various angles and arrived at similar conclusions: **Prescribed fire reduces wildfire risk, intensity, and size in southern pine flatwoods ecosystems, but for a relatively short time.**

### 2016 SFE Annual Report

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. We reached 1,600 people through presentations at Prescribed Fire Council meetings, grew our email list by 30%, and 99% of survey respondents were “satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with our webinars! 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. Read our [2016 Annual Report](#).



### Wildland Fire Sensors Challenge

Six federal agencies are sponsoring the [Wildland Fire Sensors Challenge](#) for the development of an accurate, low-cost, and low-maintenance air quality monitoring system that can be used during a wildfire or controlled fire. Developers are encouraged to submit a prototype sensor system that measures fine particulate matter, carbon monoxide, ozone, and carbon dioxide. Written submissions are due Nov. 22, 2017 and prototypes are due Jan. 5, 2018. The award pool is \$60,000, which may be awarded to one winner or divided into several partial awards. [Click here](#) to learn more.

### Century of Wildland Fire Research: Videos Available

In March, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened a workshop in Washington DC to examine and discuss the contributions of the past century of wildland fire research, how this information may be used by managers and decision makers, and the most pressing research needs for the coming decades. [Videos and slide presentations](#) from the event are archived online, with topics including fire regimes, fire and fuels management, and mapping fire and fire effects.

### New Synthesis: Appalachian Fire History

A new US Forest Service publication, [Fire History of the Appalachian Region: A Review and Synthesis](#), explores fire history from Alabama north to New England. The report synthesizes investigations of Appalachian fire history using proxy evidence, witness trees, fire-scarred trees, stand age structure, and soil and sediment charcoal. These proxies suggest frequent burning in this region in the past and guidance for the restoration of fire dependent ecosystems.

### Apply Now for 2017 AFE Certification!

The Association of Fire Ecology (AFE) is now accepting applications for the 2017 Wildland Fire Professional Certification and the Wildland Fire Academic Program Certification. All applicants must be current members of AFE. Applications are due July 1, 2017.



#### 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.