

Final report Fourth International Symposium on Fire Economics, Planning, and Policy: Climate Change and Wildfires

The PSW Research Station sponsored the international symposium on fire economics, planning, and policy: climate change and wildfires. The symposium was held in Mexico City, Mexico from November 5-11, 2012. We brought together 125 scientists, academicians, natural resource managers, fire and fuel managers, and fire practitioners from agencies with fire protection responsibilities in 18 countries. This was an opportunity for policy makers, natural resource managers, and fire managers and practitioners to exchange ideas and learn from mutual concerns and experiences. The symposium was a response to numerous reports in the USA and abroad recognizing the importance of optimizing fire management costs and the need to understand better the relationship between climate change and wildfires, and their potential impacts on community fire safety, reduction of costs to society, and reduction in fire risks. Results presented showed a relationship between more and longer periods of droughts under climate change conditions and increases in wildland fire occurrences. Predicted higher temperatures due to climate change would result in more intense wildfires, thus increasing the potential socioeconomic and natural resource damages. Providing information on current and potential future conditions help communities to be better prepared to respond to these events.

The Symposium produced a book of abstracts and a Pacific Southwest Research Station General Technical Report Proceedings (PSW-GTR-245) available electronically at English: <http://treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/44244> and Spanish: <http://treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/44565>. A CD version of the proceedings will be available shortly.

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