

FACT SHEET

From Fieldwork to Firelines

Fire Science in Practice

The Fire Science Exchange Network (FSEN) is a knowledge exchange organization funded by the Joint Fire Science Program. It is made up of 15 regional exchanges across the United States. Collaboration among fire managers, practitioners, and scientists allows each exchange to:

- Bridge the gap between science and management
- Implement research findings on the ground
- Facilitate active knowledge exchange between participants

This fact sheet celebrates the work of the FSEN by featuring five stories that highlight the societal impacts of the exchanges' work on the ground.

The 5 Societal Impacts*

- 1 Connectivity**
Led to new or strengthened relationships, partnerships, or networks
- 2 Conceptual**
Changed people's knowledge about or awareness of an issue
- 3 Capacity Building**
Enhanced the skills, expertise, or resources of organizations or people
- 4 Instrumental**
Changed plans, decisions, practices, or policies
- 5 Socio-environmental**
Changed social and/or ecological systems



An attendee peruses materials from the NWFSC at the Oregon Post-Fire Research and Monitoring Symposium in February, 2023.

Credit: Autumn Ellison

1. Northwest Fire Science Consortium (NWFSC)

Cross-Boundary Resiliency

The consortium sponsored events with numerous partners working at a variety of scales across the west, including the 5th Annual Cohesive Strategy Workshop (11/2022); Oregon Post-Fire Research and Monitoring Symposium (2/2023); Cross-Boundary Landscape Restoration Workshop (4/2023); and the 2023 Oregon Society of American Foresters Annual Meeting (6/2023).



OUTCOMES: At each of these events, the NWFSC hosted exhibitor tables to share recent publications, networked with new partners, and grew their overall audience with new subscribers to their listserv.

2. Great Basin Fire Science Exchange (GBFSE)

Western Forbs Project and Field Guide

The Western Forbs Project reached a milestone in 2023 with the launch of WesternForbs.org, a resource offering detailed reviews of 50 priority forb species vital to Great Basin ecosystem diversity and restoration. A new field guide was also developed to aid seed collectors, growers, and land managers.



OUTCOMES: With 10,000 active users, the project—led by BLM, U.S. Forest Service, Great Basin Fire Science Exchange, and University of Nevada, Reno—is enhancing post-fire restoration decision-making while providing accessible, science-based tools that improve practitioner knowledge and capacity.

Cover photo for the Field Guide Companion to Western Forbs: Volume 1 with ID, ecology, and seed collection tips for 30 species.

Credit: Corey Gucker

Field trip participants gather at the 2024 NE-MW Prescribed Fire Science & Management Workshop participants at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve..

Credit: Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission



3. Lake States Fire Science Consortium

Panels, Forums, Workshops

The LSFSC blends panels, forums, and workshops to share fire science across the Eastern U.S. Initiatives like the Fueling Collaboration Panel Series, NE-MW Regional Forums, and hands-on Signature Workshops have engaged 3,000+ participants. These efforts advance knowledge sharing, skill development, and networks that support prescribed fire, ecosystem restoration, and workforce capacity.



OUTCOMES: Outcomes include stronger collaboration, expanded practitioner skills, and science-informed fire management across the region.

4. Alaska Fire Science Consortium (AFSC)

Seasonal and Topical Workshops

In FY25, the Alaska Fire Science Consortium strengthened its role in Alaska's fire management community by delivering two hybrid seasonal workshops and supporting a topical fuels treatment workshop with the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group. These events featured new research, technology updates, and agency-scientist dialogue on wildfire planning, fuels, and monitoring. AFSC's technical support ensured broad hybrid participation and archived access.



OUTCOMES: Embedding fire science delivery in Alaska's interagency framework, expanding AFSC's role as organizer, and improving practitioner access to actionable knowledge.



Firefighters set controlled burns within a Kenai Peninsula fuel break in 2019 to reduce fuels and boost fire management effectiveness.

Credit: Nathan Perrine

5. California Fire Science Consortium (CFSC)

Co-hosting the San Gabriel Valley Wildfire Adaptation Summit

The Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Module's co-hosting of the 2022 San Gabriel Valley Wildfire Adaptation Summit bridged gaps between fire scientists, planners, builders, and landscapers, accelerating the spread of risk-reduction best practices across Southern California. Follow-up efforts show how science-driven partnerships can drive systemic change and empower professionals to implement wildfire-resilient strategies in vulnerable communities.

These homes in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) illustrate the presence and importance of defensible space.

Credit: Suzanne Allman



OUTCOMES: The WUI Module's engagement built enduring partnerships that fostered certifications, professional development, and the scaling of best practices—creating a template for broader wildfire adaptation across California and beyond.

Conclusion

JFSP provides research funding, exchange, and communication for wildland fire, fuels, and fire-impacted ecosystems. We are proud of and appreciate all the exchanges for their hard work sharing relevant science and strengthening partnerships and collaborations. Their effort is leading to demonstrated outcomes of improved application of science to inform effective land and fire management.

For more information on FSEN activities, visit www.firescience.gov.

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Research Supporting Sound Decisions

*Adapted and modified from Meadow and Owen's 'A Guidebook for Natural and Physical Scientists Looking to Make a Difference' Guidebook.