JOINT FIRE SCIENCE PROGRAM

Changing southwestern landscapes require new approaches to fire management collaboration. (Andreas Wion, 2025)

FACT SHEET

Adaptation Partnerships: Advancing Fire Management through Collaboration

A Joint Fire Science Program 5-Year Investment

Wildfire seasons are longer, fires are more severe, and opportunities for prescribed burning are shrinking. These shifts—driven by extreme weather events, invasive species, and expanding communities—demand new management approaches developed through sustained partnerships among scientists, practitioners, and other interested parties. JFSP is committed to fostering this collaborative work to drive on-the-ground adaptation to changing fire regimes.

The JFSP Governing Board has launched a five-year plan to:

- Strengthen partnerships and collaborations among scientists and practitioners working at the nexus of fire and adaptation.
- Foster collaborations that incorporate various perspectives, including Indigenous and local knowledge, in the development of new adaptation strategies.
- Funded targeted research to fill critical knowledge gaps on future fire regimes and appropriate management strategies.
- Leverage expertise and investments by partnering with other science organizations engaged in similar work.

Saguaro cactus (*Carnegiea gigantea*) burned in the 2020 Bush fire, Tonto National Forest, Arizona. Photo by Helen Rowe

Framework for Action

Three phases guide this long-term commitment:

Phase 1: Pilot Project
In partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center support collaborative efforts in New Mexico, Arizona, and Southern California. (**FY24**)

Phase 2: Regional Expansion
Extend funding to other fire-prone regions including the Northern Rockies, Northwest, Great Basin, Appalachian, Southeast, Southern Rockies, Alaska, and Pacific **(FY25–28)**

Phase 3: Targeted Research
Fund projects to address identified knowledge gaps, such as post-fire recovery and fuel treatment effectiveness. **(FY27 & FY29)**

Science to action in Southern California's Montane forests

Researchers are bringing forest and fire managers, scientists, Tribal partners, and community stakeholders together across Southern California's montane "sky island" forests to turn shared wildfire challenges into coordinated, science-based action. Through a series of collaborative workshops, spatial decision-support tools, and community convenings, this project is co-producing practical strategies to reduce wildfire risk, prioritize climate-resilient landscapes, and guide adaptive forest management. **ID: 24-2-01-3**

Spurring innovation in adaptation to altered fire regimes in the Sonoran Desert

Invasive grasses are fueling larger and more frequent fires in the Sonoran Desert, threatening the ecosystem as well as the tourism and recreation industries. Researchers are bringing wildfire and vegetation managers together across the Sonoran Desert through a series of three workshops to turn shared challenges with fire and invasive species into coordinated action. It is identifying practical techniques and stewardship approaches that are helping land managers reduce wildfire risk, extent, and impacts—while maintaining safety, ecological health, and cultural values. **ID: 24-2-01-4**

Accelerating Science to Action Partnerships (ASAP): Implementing science-driven adaptation strategies in the 2-3-2 Landscape

Current fuel treatments are not conducted at a scale commensurate with wildfires.It is critical to understand how local restoration work contributes to landscape-scale results. Using existing data and tools, the team is putting current forest restoration efforts into a broader regional context—examining how many small projects across a 5-million-acre area add up to real, measurable resilience. **ID: 24-2-01-6**

Photo: The 232 Partnership spans 2 states, 3 rivers, and two watersheds in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. Credit: Andreas Wion, 2025)

JFSP PROJECT ID: 25-2-01-2
From Flames to Fish: Development Of a Reproducible Model Of Co- Managment For Wildfire And Aquatic Species At Zena Creek Ranch, Idaho

JFSP PROJECT ID: 25-2-01-3
Increasing Oregonians' resilience to wildfires across alternative futures

JFSP PROJECT ID: 25-2-01-18
Accelerating science into action in fire-adapted wilderness ecosystems: Supporting wilderness prescribed fire through knowledge exchange and place-based partnerships

JFSP PROJECT ID: 25-2-01-4
Spurring evidence-based wildfire adaptation through place-based partnerships: What gets measured gets managed

Conclusion

Responding to changing fire regimes will succeed only through rigorous and enduring collaboration. Adaptation partnerships strengthen the relationships that make long-term progress possible. By connecting knowledge with action and ensuring lessons guide future efforts, JFSP is building a foundation for resilience across landscapes and communities.

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Research Supporting Sound Decisions

The **Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP)** provides research funding, exchange, and communication for science associated with wildland fire, fuels, and fire-impacted ecosystems to dynamically respond to the emerging needs of fire managers, practitioners, and policymakers.