



JOINT
FIRE SCIENCE
PROGRAM

FLAMES: Forging the Future of Wildland Fire

The **Fire Leaders And Managers, Emerging Scientists — or FLAMES — program** is a graduate student opportunity developed by the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP). FLAMES combines research funding with field experience, mentorship, and practitioner engagement to prepare emerging scientists for leadership in wildland fire.

Why FLAMES?

FLAMES pairs graduate research with real-world fire management experience, combining fieldwork, mentorship, and cohort learning to prepare the next generation of fire leaders. It builds on JFSP's previous Graduate Research Innovation (GRIN) award, adding practitioner engagement and career development to that foundation.

Key Program Features



RESEARCH SUPPORT

Supplement an existing thesis or dissertation project.



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Complete at least two weeks of approved practical experience related to fire management and relevant to student's area of expertise.



SCIENCE EXCHANGE

Participate in an in-person event with fire practitioners.



COHORT LEARNING

Join a national cohort for JFSP-organized meetings, virtual calls, networking, and mentorship.



PRACTITIONER PRODUCT

Translate research into at least one management-focused product.

Attendees of a June 2025 workshop observe post-fire landscapes on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Washington. Student attendance at science exchanges like this prepares emerging scientists for leadership in wildland fire.

Credit: John Marshall

GRIN	FLAMES
Individual research award	Structured cohort program
Research-focused	Research, field experience, and professional development
Limited practitioner engagement	Practitioner engagement required
No field requirement	At least two weeks of practical experience
Up to \$25,000	Up to \$40,000

Experiential Learning Examples

- ➔ Prescribed fire training
- ➔ TREX participation
- ➔ Wildfire assignments
- ➔ Practitioner shadowing
- ➔ Research prescribed fires
- ➔ The Nature Conservancy Fire Use Modules
- ➔ Operational fire training

Who Can Apply?

Current master's and doctoral students at U.S. colleges or universities studying wildland fire or related physical, biological, or social sciences may apply.

The faculty advisor serves as principal investigator and submits the proposal, but the student should lead its development. Previous GRIN or FLAMES recipients are not eligible.

Eligible Research

Projects must address at least one of these topics:

- Fuels management
- Changing fire environments
- Emissions and air quality
- Fire effects and recovery
- Human dimensions of fire management

FLAMES supplements an approved thesis or dissertation; it does not fund an entire graduate program.

Funding

Awards are capped at \$40,000, including indirect costs.

Funds may support salary, research expenses, travel, training, personal protective equipment, and experiential learning. Tuition and university fees are not covered.

Prescribed fire practitioners discuss plans in the field. Exposure to operational fire management helps students connect science with practice.

Credit: Jess Downey



Student Requirements

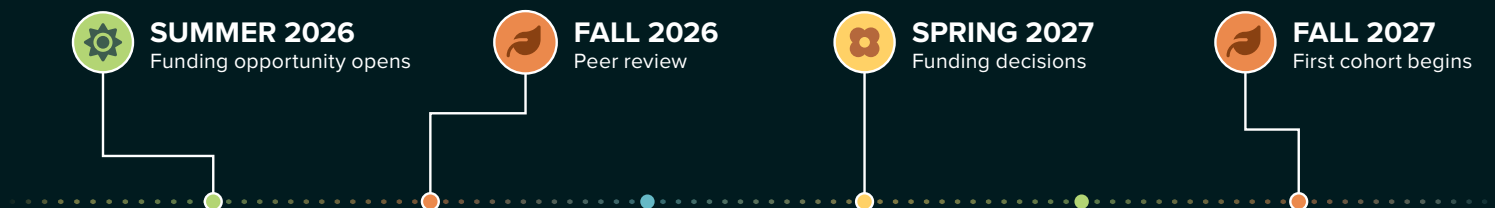
- 1** Complete the proposed research.
- 2** Complete at least two weeks of JFSP-approved fire management experience during the project period.
- 3** Participate in cohort meetings and calls, and attend at least one in-person science exchange event.
- 4** Produce at least one practitioner-focused product.
- 5** Remain enrolled while completing the work.

Products may include a fact sheet, webinar, infographic, podcast, or story map.

What Makes a Strong Proposal?

- **Scientific Merit:** A clear, credible, and achievable research approach.
- **Management Relevance:** A direct connection to fire management or policy needs.
- **Practical Application:** A clear path from findings to decisions or practice.
- **Meaningful Engagement:** Substantive interaction with practitioners.

Timeline



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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.