

JFSP Final Report Summary

Project #: 16-2-01-33

Title: Overlapping layers of fire management examined through the lens of post-fire erosion

Principal Investigator:

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Objectives:

To provide a 'best practices' tool for decision makers conducting Wildfire Hazard Assessments at the Wildland Urban Interface that includes the incorporation of site-specific science in decision-making by answering the following questions:

- What is the structure of stakeholder interaction during the creation of Boise's Wildfire Hazard Assessment?
- How is science (in the context of post-fire debris flow models) used and communicated by stakeholders within this structure?

Proposed deliverables:

Webinar with Great Basin Fire Science Exchange

Monthly 'brown bag' lunches or meetings with WUI community and stakeholders

Conference presentation

Thesis

Status of data collection and analysis

Complete

Status of deliverables/findings

Complete

Status of metadata/datasets

Complete

Notes/interesting findings

- Stakeholders at the wildland urban interface (WUI) address wildfire problems with distinct sets of policy themes. Stakeholder policies at the Boise WUI addressed wildfire hazards under one of

four themes: manipulating, reducing exposure to, reducing vulnerability to, or increasing the ability to respond to a wildfire hazard.

- Boise WUI stakeholders lay responsibility to implement WUI policies on different people. All policies explained in this study were written to be implemented by either an individual, a group of people or the government. City-level policy often relies on individuals to implement the policies set forth, while state and federal policies are written to be implemented within their own level of government, rather than being passed onto communities or individual homeowners.
- Despite having unique sets of policies to address wildfire hazards, managers interviewed described a similar set of wildfire problems that they presently face at the Boise WUI. Continued expansion of the WUI and human-caused wildfire hazards were both described frequently by managers and stakeholders interviewed.
- When prompted to describe what attributes of science make it useful when making decisions at the WUI, the majority of managers describe useful science as that which 1) draws boundaries, 2) helps allocate funding, and 3) can be understood quickly. While managers described many attributes of what makes science useful to them as they make decisions at the WUI, these three descriptions recurred throughout many of the interviews.

Future work:

Similar studies should be conducted in additional WUI areas.

Final recommendation

Project is complete.