



August 2009

Regional Fire Science Delivery

“We get a fire hose of information, and it’s often delivered with the fog-nozzle on” (Seth White PNW-GTR-599, 2004)

Another often-heard phrase is “use the best available science”. But managers often don’t know what information is already available nor the quality and applicability of that research to their management plans and projects. Another problem is the research may not be integrated in a context meaningful to management. And while the research may be of the highest quality and peer-reviewed, demonstration of science findings in the field is often lacking.

Everett M. Rogers, author of **Diffusion of Innovations** (Free Press-Simon & Schuster, 2003) states, “Getting a new idea adopted, even when it has obvious advantages, is difficult. Many innovations require a lengthy period of many years from the time when they become available to the time when they are widely adopted. Therefore, a common problem for many individuals and organizations is how to speed up the rate of diffusion of an innovation”.

The Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) seeks to accelerate the awareness, understanding, and adoption of wildland fire science information by federal, tribal, state, local, and private stakeholders within identified regions. Our vision is a national network of regional consortia comprised of interested management and science stakeholders working together to tailor and **actively demonstrate** existing information to benefit management of a large ecologically similar region.

As one proposal stated, “We propose an innovative approach to regional science delivery and outreach: Let the users control it. Start-to-finish, field-project-based collaborations where both managers and researchers learn by doing will be our primary focus. “

Another proposal stated, “Despite the availability of fire science information for our region through journals and other print media, websites, field days, conferences, videos and presentations of many kinds, workshop participants and field personnel repeatedly articulated unmet needs for technical assistance including:

- Translation of new research into guidance for field practice
- Critical analyses of published research, addressing applicability and generalizability
- Assistance with organization, analysis and interpretation of monitoring data
- Analysis of court decisions related to current or proposed agency operations
- Synthetic literature reviews with management implications
- Increased information exchange among managers, scientists and stakeholders
- A web-based clearinghouse of information applicable to research & management activities
- Collaborative research & management projects that address adaptive management needs”

The following nine areas are initially supported for further planning. The JFSP Governing Board will continue to seek opportunities to build a national fire science delivery network devoted to the needs of fire managers.

| Project ID | Proposed Regional Consortium |
|------------|---|
| 09-4-1-3 | Development of a California Fire Science Delivery Consortium |
| 09-4-1-7 | Developing a Southwest Fire Science Consortium (Portions of Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico including deserts) |
| 09-4-1-8 | Wildland Fire Science Delivery and Outreach in Alaska |
| 09-4-1-9 | Pacific Northwest Regional Consortium for Enhanced Fire Science Delivery and Trial Adoption (Oregon and Washington with the exception of the Great Basin) |
| 09-4-1-11 | Developing a fire-science network and delivery system for the northern Lake States (Conifer forests in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan) |
| 09-4-1-13 | Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists (CAFMS) - Development Proposal (Portions of Pennsylvania to Alabama) |
| 09-4-1-16 | Southern Rocky Mountain Ecoregion Science and Delivery (Portions of eastern Wyoming, Colorado, and northeastern New Mexico) |
| 09-4-1-21 | Putting Fire Science on the Ground - Increasing the Southern Exposure (The coastal plain and Piedmont from Virginia to Texas) |
| 09-4-1-27 | Learning Together: Great Basin Science Delivery (Portions of California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah) |

For more information or to view the project proposal abstracts visit the JFSP website at: <http://www.firescience.gov>

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