

Fire Science Programs

The University of Idaho is a partner in fire science and research programs that benefit people of the state, region and nation.

Fire Research and Management Exchange (FRAMES) provides agency and municipal decision makers with a clearinghouse of up-to-date information and decision resources for a science-based approach to managing wildland fire. It is a virtual shopping mall, a cyber-infrastructure providing services, information and tools for managers and links them with scientists. Primary funding comes from the U.S. Forest Service.

FRAMES partners are the University of Idaho, the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station, the Joint Fire Science Program, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, USFS Wildland Fire Management Research Development and Applications, and the Wildland Fire Science Partnership.

The National Interagency Fuels Technology Transfer (NIFTT) project combines with FRAMES to provide training courses on the latest techniques, tools and approaches to wildland fire management. NIFTT's mission is to provide land managers with science-based analysis tools and training focused on the assessment of fire behavior, fire effects, fire regimes and vegetation dynamics.

Using the FRAMES web portal, fire managers can run models that predict fire behavior and severity, access resource allocation assistance modules, run simulations and visualizations, map potential damage and loss and threats to municipalities, get guidance on how to implement post-fire restoration projects and receive training on a variety of topics offered by NIFTT.

Accomplishments

In FY 2013, FRAMES and NIFTT supported wildland fire and natural resource professionals and served thousands of users and other visitors each month. The FRAMES portal supports and hosts 16 federal websites that provide a variety of services including online training for wildland fire professionals, archives of wildland fire related webinars, and the National Wildland Fire Coordinating Group's Smoke Committee site and Smoke Management Guide.

Since 2010, FRAMES has supported the Joint Fire Science Program-funded Knowledge Exchange Consortia, a national network formed to accelerate the awareness, understanding and adoption of wildland fire science information by stakeholders within ecologically similar regions. FRAMES is providing web and/or resource cataloging support to consortia in Alaska, the Southern Rockies, the Southwest, the South, the Northern Rockies and the Pacific Northwest.



The FRAMES Resource Cataloging System now houses more than 13,000 records and provides access to an additional 26,900 records from the Tall Timbers E.V. Komarek Fire Ecology Database. Managers can use the system to keep an historical “bundled” record of data, documents and tools used during a project.

Prospects

Throughout 2013, U.S. Forest Service labs, NIFTT, and Joint Fire Science Program consortia will continue to grow the FRAMES Resource Cataloging System by adding new records.

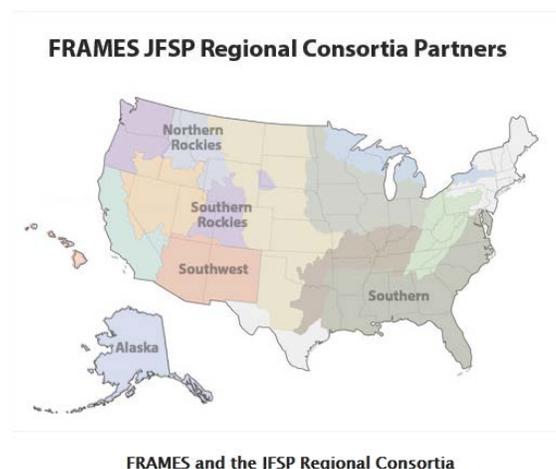
Researchers from the Forest Service and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory are partnering with FRAMES to serve a Biomass Emission Factor Database funded by the federal Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program.

FRAMES also is partnering with Idaho EPSCoR and Idaho National Laboratory to build the University of Idaho-based Northwest Knowledge Network for research data storage, retrieval and preservation, which will provide data services and tools to researchers throughout the region. FRAMES have been recognized by the National Science Foundation for its leadership in cyber infrastructure.

To learn more about FRAMES, please visit www.frames.gov.

Consequences of Reduced Funding

Today’s fire managers must make complex decisions to balance fire costs and benefits with the need to protect people, property, and other resources. Accumulated fuels, climate change, and diversifying landscapes will lead to more and larger fires in the future, adding further management challenges. The FRAMES and NIFTT programs at the University of Idaho and their strong connection with federal agencies and other universities improve the management of wildland fire by integrating science, technology, education and practical experience. FRAMES and NIFTT connect and inform wildfire managers, scientists, educators, and students. The result is improved decision making which contributes to the saving of lives, property and ecological values.



For more information, please contact:

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