

Human Dimensions of Resource Management

In this update:

Special Feature: Community Fire Preparedness Case Studies

Research: Perspectives on Prescribed Fire in the South: Does Ethnicity Matter?

Upcoming Event: 2nd Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire Conference

Literature: The Public and Wildland Fire Management: Social Science Findings for Managers

Website: Human Dimensions.Gov

Special Feature: Community Fire Preparedness Case Studies

Communities across the U.S. have voiced increasing concern about how they can better prepare for wildfire. Even in areas of the country not traditionally thought of as having high fire risk, storms, changing climate, and pest/disease outbreaks have increased concern about the potential for catastrophic fire. In areas where fire is viewed as a natural part of the ecosystem, the fact that more and more people choose these places to live in means that there is a potential for major fire impacts. A team of scientists funded by the National Fire Plan visited communities across the country to identify the activities communities are undertaking to increase wildfire preparedness, and the resources necessary to support these activities. The project was led by the North Central Research Station, in cooperation with the Pacific Northwest Research Station, University of Florida, University of Minnesota, and Southern Oregon University.

The resulting case studies have helped direct and generate support for wildland fire preparedness activities in communities across the country. To view the case study summaries visit:

www.ncrs.fs.fed.us/4803/focus/fire/community_preparedness/cp_case_studies/

Research: Perspectives on Prescribed Fire in the South: Does Ethnicity Matter?

Researchers from the U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station and North Dakota State University assessed preferences for prescribed fire in the southern United States. They found that the majority of the respondents favored the use of prescribed fire, though opinions on prescribed fire and its side effects between different groups varied. African Americans and Hispanics were less supportive and were more concerned about the side effects of prescribed fire than whites. They also observed that females tended to be more concerned about the side effects of prescribed fire than males. In addition, education had no effect on preference for the use of prescribed fire in general. Concern over side effects of prescribed fire decreased for respondents with higher education levels.

For more information on this research visit: www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/ja_lim001.pdf

Upcoming Event: 2nd Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire Conference

Human behavior is the basis of many serious wildland fire management problems including: firefighter and public safety, public response during fires, community and homeowner fire protection and hazard mitigation, and much more. Over the years fire researchers and practitioners have developed a significant body of knowledge about many of these social aspects of fire management. Each group brings key competencies, perspectives and experiences to the table. This conference, which will be held April 26-29, 2010 in San Antonio, TX, will provide participants with an opportunity to present, discuss, and learn about the latest research findings, management innovations, and best practices in the U.S. and elsewhere, and will offer a variety of means to share information including individual presentations, panel discussions, and round table forums.

For more information about this event visit: www.iawfonline.org/texas2010/

For more upcoming events visit InterfaceSouth at: www.interfacesouth.org/resources/events.html

Literature: The Public and Wildland Fire Management: Social Science Findings for Managers

This document, developed by the U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station, highlights some of the key research findings that have emerged that may be of interest to individuals working to decrease wildfire hazard on both private and public lands. Articles are grouped in three general topic areas: 1) public views and acceptance of fuels management, 2) working with homeowners and communities, and 3) tools that can help with understanding social issues.

To view this literature visit: www.wildfirelessons.net/documents/gtr_nrs1.pdf

For more literature on WUI issues visit InterfaceSouth: www.interfacesouth.org/resources/literature.html

Website: Human Dimensions.Gov

This website is an interactive informational website and a portal with featured links related to the human dimensions of natural resource management. It has a strong focus on the application of social science concepts, methods, and information and it allows users to access credible on-line information. The primary audience for this website is natural resource management professionals and may be helpful for both students and researchers.

To view this website visit: www.hd.gov

For more web links about interface issues visit: www.interfacesouth.org/resources/websites.html

Contact Us!

If you have any questions or comments please contact Annie Hermansen-Baez, ahermansen@fs.fed.us, 352-376-3271 or the project intern at swuintern@yahoo.com

Disclaimer: InterfaceSouth is not responsible or liable for content and opinion expressed within this bulletin.