



Northern Rockies Fire Science Network

A JFSP FIRE SCIENCE EXCHANGE NETWORK

Media Guide

2026

Information Resources

[InciWeb: Wildland Fire Application Information](#)

[Portal](#) - InciWeb is a national database for current or recent fire activity developed to provide the public with a single source of incident-related information. It can be used to get the most up-to-date details about incident type, size, containment level, etc.

[Northern Rockies Coordination Center: Predictive Services](#) - Seasonal outlooks and predicted fire danger for the Northern Rockies region.

[National Interagency Fire Center: Statistics](#) -

The statistics page from the National Interagency Fire Center tallies numbers from current incidents to provide a broad overview of wildfire across the country. The page provides a large-scale look at the current fire year, including number of acres burned, number of personnel assigned to wildfires, etc.

[Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory](#) - Tools, products, and research related to all aspects of wildland fire. This includes synthesized research summaries and fact sheets on relevant fire-related topics.

[Wildfire Risk to Communities](#) - An interactive website created by the U.S. Forest Service to help communities understand wildfire risk and provide resources to manage and mitigate that risk. This tool can be used to understand how fire-prone any given community is.

[NASA FIRMS](#) - The Fire Information for Resource Management System from NASA provides active fire data in the form of both a global fire map and a U.S./Canada Fire Map. This resource is primarily helpful for data visualization.

[NOAA Fire Weather Tools](#) - NOAA's fire weather tools include seasonal weather predictions, drought tools, and smoke models that can predict the impact of smoke on air quality and visibility.

[Watch Duty: Wildfire Maps & Alerts](#) - Watch Duty is a user-friendly app that provides a real-time wildfire map and alerts, evacuation orders, and more.

[MT Fire Info](#) - MT Fire Info is hosted by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, designed to provide Montana-specific wildfire information. The site includes current fire information and resources for preparedness and prevention.

[Idaho Department of Lands Fire Information](#) - The IDL fire information and resources is a one-stop shop for all things fire in Idaho, including wildfire alerts, Idaho fire map, burn permit information, and more.

[Northern Rockies Fire Science Network Hot Topic Pages](#) - A curated collection of resources related to important fire and fuels topics in the region. Each Hot Topic includes links to the most relevant research briefs, syntheses, reports, and journal articles, as well as related events.

[Joint Fire Science Program/Fire Science Exchange Network](#) - NRFSN is just one of 15 regional fire science exchange networks around the country, funded by the Joint Fire Science Program. Looking for resources in a different region? Visit JFSP to find the corresponding exchange network.

Fire Ecology Resources

[Fire Effects Information System \(FEIS\)](#) - The Fire Effects Information System is an online collection of scientific literature syntheses about fire effects on species and ecosystems in the United States.

[The Association of Fire Ecology](#) - This page compiles resources to provide an introduction to fire ecology, research, glossaries, and more.

[FRAMES World of Wildland Fire](#) - This video series was created to provide short videos on basic fire science and more advanced wildland fire topics.

The Northern Rockies Fire Science Network (NRFSN) serves as a go-to resource for managers and scientists involved in fire and fuels management in the Northern Rockies. Funded by the Joint Fire Science Program, NRFSN is one of 15 Fire Science Exchange Networks across the country. The network facilitates knowledge exchange by bringing people together to strengthen collaborations, synthesize science, and enhance science application around critical management issues.



Expert Source List

Federal, State, Tribal

U.S. Forest Service, Northern Rockies Fire Communications Lead: Mariah Leuschen
mariah.leuschen-lonergan@usda.gov | (406) 548-1174

U.S. Forest Service National Press Office and Research and Development Inquiries:
sm.fs.pressoffice@usda.gov

Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation, Communications Director: Moira Davin
mdavin@mt.gov | (406) 444-0465

Idaho Department of Lands, Public Information Officer: Sharla Arledge
sarledge@idl.idaho.gov | (208) 334-0286

Intertribal Timber Council President/Colville Tribe Executive Director: Cody Desautel
cody.desautel@colvilletribes.com | (509) 634-2238

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes Division of Fire: Ron Swaney
ron.swaney@cskt.org | (406) -676-2550

Spokane Tribe of Indians Fire Management Fire Management Office:
(509) 258-4566

University of Montana

Philip Higuera, Professor of Fire Ecology:
Directs the PaleoEcology and Fire Ecology Lab. Work spans western North America and reveals how fire activity has varied with climate in recent decades and in the distant past.

philip.higuera@umontana.edu | (406) 599-8908

Valentijn Hoff, Interim Director National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis:

Currently serving as the Interim Director of the FireCenter in addition to his role as Prescribed Fire Program Manager, involved in fire management for 27 years. Works with scientists, natural resource managers, students, and landowners on the intersection of fire management, science, and workforce development.

valentijn.hoff@firecenter.umont.edu

Andrew Larson, Professor of Forest Ecology, Wilderness Institute Director:

Long-term change in forest ecosystems, particularly related to natural disturbances and forest structural development; fuel reduction treatments and fire-forest management interactions, including post-fire forest management and salvage logging.

a.larson@umontana.edu | (406) 243-5521

Laurie Yung, Professor of Natural Resource Social Science, Program Director:

Social aspects of conservation and natural resource management, including wildland fire governance and how organizations work across boundaries to scale up mitigation work to reduce wildfire risk.

laurie.yung@umontana.edu | (406) 243-6934

Brent Ruby, Professor, Director of Montana Center for Work Physiology and Exercise Metabolism:

Evaluating the physiology of wildfire suppression and management and the impacts the work has on the overall health of fire crews.

brent.ruby@umontana.edu | (406) 243-2117

University of Idaho

Luigi Boschetti, Professor of Remote Sensing:

Global monitoring of fires and forests, fire-vegetation-carbon system dynamics, Earth observation data science and GeoAI.

luigi@uidaho.edu | (208) 885-6508

Charles Goebel, Professor and Head, Department of Forest, Rangeland and Fire Sciences:

Forest and fire ecology, forest restoration, fire history, wildland fire education.

cgoebel@uidaho.edu | (208) 885-7311

Grant Harley, Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Geography:

Forest fire ecology, drought, floods, wildfires, insect outbreaks, and dendrochronology.

gcharley@uidaho.edu | (208) 885-0950

Heather Heward, Research Assistant Professor:

Prescribed burning (President and Founder of Idaho Prescribed Fire Council), wildland fire training and education, and fire and fuel monitoring and modeling.

hheward@uidaho.edu

Robert Keefe, Associate Professor, Director of U of I Experimental Forest:

Forest and fuels management, treatment costs, prescribed fire use, and wildland firefighter safety.

robk@uidaho.edu | (208) 310-0269

Leda Kobziar, Professor of Wildland Fire Science:

Fire ecology, fire and fuels management, prescribed burning, smoke and fire microbiology (pyroaerobiology), and the human health impacts of wildfire.

lkobziar@uidaho.edu | (208) 885-0118

Jessica Miesel, Associate Professor of Wildland Fire Science, Director, IFIRE Combustion Laboratory:

Wildland fire ecology, biogeochemistry, fire effects on soils, fire behavior and effects.

jmiesel@uidaho.edu

Travis Paveglio, Professor of Natural Resource Sociology, Director of the University of Idaho Wildland Fire Center:

Community wildfire preparedness, social vulnerability, fire-adapted communities, and wildfire communication.

paveglio@uidaho.edu | (509) 595-1607

Chelsea Pennick, Association Director of the Policy Analysis Group:

State and federal fire policy analysis and evaluation, wildfire suppression funding, rural impacts, and collaborative forest management.

chelseap@uidaho.edu

Salish Kootenai College

Cameron Naficy, Professor of Wildland Fire:

Landscape disturbance dynamics, social-ecological linkages, forest monitoring tools, ecological thresholds in temperate forests of North America.

cameron_naficy@skc.edu

Virgil Dupuis, Extension Director:

Extension programming, including air quality monitoring across the Flathead Reservation.

virgil_dupuis@skc.edu

Montana State University

David McWethy, Professor (Dept of Earth Sciences):

How past and present human and natural disturbances shape vegetation and ecosystems; paleoecology, fire ecology.

dmcwethy@montana.edu | (406) 579-9995

Georgia Harrison, Assistant Professor (Dept of Animal & Range Sciences):

Research includes rangeland ecology and fire ecology.

georgia.harrison@montana.edu | (406) 994-5558

Peter Kolb, Extension Forestry Specialist:

Education and outreach to private forest landowners across Montana.

peter.kolb@mso.umt.edu | (406) 243-4705



Bringing people together and sharing knowledge in the Northern Rockies



Learn more at: nrfirescience.org