

## **NRFSN Fiscal Year 2013 Consortia Annual Progress Report**

### **1. How did things go during the year? Are you on track?**

As of September 30, 2013, the NRFSN is 1.5 years into implementation. This year's successes include developing relationships with tribal fire managers; increasing requests by researchers to help disseminate research via webinars, fieldtrips, workshops, and newsletter articles; increasing our mailing list by 43% (114 new subscribers with the most growth among Canadians, NGOs, researchers, students, BLM managers, and USFS managers); cultivating the Network of Fire Science Champions; high attendance at three field trips (with one of them feeding into the recent New York Times article - Into the Wildfire); and developing an online research needs survey that was requested and used by two other regional consortia.

### **2. Do you have any issues or concerns which the Program Office should know about?**

During this first round of implementation, we have continually assessed workload vs. capacity. It has been close, with workload sometimes exceeding capacity. To date, we are on track; however, we are dependent on partners to complete our synthesis deliverables and, as stated in our 2012 progress report, we were limited in our ability to host fieldtrips during Fall 2012 due to the 2012 Northern Rockies fire season. To increase capacity, as of mid-September, we have contracted an additional part-time staff member in Boise. She will compile content for an online resource database, the website, and newsletter; support fieldtrips and workshops; and build membership in the central and southern Idaho regions.

### **3. Briefly describe efforts of collaboration and coordination with other partnerships?**

Our first year and a half of implementation features the following collaborations and partnerships:

- 1) We continue to share a communication coordinator with the Great Northern LCC (GNLCC). This has been a great way to collaborate with the GNLCC. The shared coordinator cross-posts events between the two newsletters and facilitates cross-pollination of knowledge, products, and events. The GNLCC contributed a new computer for the shared coordinator.
- 2) We continue to partner with the Montana University System's Institute on Ecosystems at Montana State University (MSU), which enables us to share web resources with science and science delivery organizations such as the USGS Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center and the GNLCC. MSU contributes office space for the NRFSN coordinator.
- 3) Our partnership with the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) includes partnering with scientists to host fieldtrips, webinars, and workshops; and with the Science Application & Integration Program which contributes webmeeting software, conference lines, printing, and other such resources. RMRS contributes office space for our new Boise staff member.
- 4) We share a web database developer from the University of Idaho's Northwest Knowledge Network with FRAMES, albeit her time on NRFSN work is limited by multiple priorities. This shared position has fostered good two-way communication with FRAMES about best practices, resource hosting, etc.
- 5) We collaborate with the Wildland Fire Management RD&A, which provides expertise on outreach activities related to a variety of fire and fuels modeling tools.
- 6) Collaborating with the Salish Kootenai College and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to host the Fall 2012 Celebrating Traditional Knowledge and Fire workshop have strengthened relationships and understanding of issues surrounding traditional knowledge and fire.
- 7) We are collaborating with the NPS Branch of Wildland Fire, USFS Human Factors and Risk Management RD&A, Southern Rockies consortium, and Colorado State University to

produce an annotated bibliography on public communication about risk and fire management.

- 8) We collaborated with the Southwest consortium to conduct a fire science communication network study during Spring 2012. Results were shared with the NWCG Fuels Task Group on Workforce Development.
- 9) We interact frequently with neighboring consortia (GB, NW, SR, GP) to share best practices and to coordinate on serving those at our boundaries.