



**Great Basin Fire Science Delivery - 2012 Annual Report to the Joint Fire Science Program  
Reporting Period: 1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012**

**Describe how things went during the year. Are you on track?**

The Great Basin Science Delivery Project focused on providing our participants with relevant research and events for our region, expanding outreach, and developing our information synthesis component. Our Steering Committee met in late August and assessed the project's current direction and products. One significant outcome was our name-change to "Great Basin Fire Science Delivery," which better unites us with our fellow Knowledge Exchange Consortia, and enhances our subject identity while maintaining our unique regional identity.

**Accomplishments this year:**

A webinar series with a substantial increase in attendees over the previous year.

Partnering with the Color Country District BLM and the SageSTEP project on our three field workshops: the Beaver River Watershed and the Milford Flat Fire workshop (Beaver, UT); the Woodlands, Sagebrush, and Fuels Treatments workshop (Alturas, CA); and the Sagebrush and Fire workshop (Idaho Falls, ID). All were well attended and we received positive feedback.

Continuing to provide answers to managers' questions. After the Alturas SageSTEP tour one manager contacted us with several excellent prescription burn questions that were directed to appropriate experts. We are now considering producing a literature synthesis based on these questions.

Collaborating with the USGS on website enhancements. We released our new website in March 2012. Improvements include RSS feeds that allow subscribers to be automatically notified when new content is available, information organized by topic, webinar video streaming, faster loading speeds, and a shorter and more specific website address. On average our website receives 283 visits by 174 unique visitors each month, for 4.5 minutes per visit.

Initiating a Great Basin Fire Science Delivery YouTube channel that has expanded our audience beyond our regional list serve to the general public. These webinar videos have received 353 views since we created it in March 2012.

Expanded and enhanced outreach by:

- 1) Using Mail Chimp as our email newsletter host. See Table 1 for a list of participants by agency. We experienced a large drop in subscribers in the conversion, but because our current subscribers are more engaged, our email open rates are higher and our bounce rates are lower. We have received positive feedback about, and thanks for, the email updates.
- 2) Establishing both Twitter and Facebook accounts. We connected our Mail chimp emails to our Twitter account which expanded our audience from 279 subscribers to a potential of 4,911 people. Our Facebook page was just established last month and we are planning to expand our use of this social media tool.
- 3) Promoting our project at regional fire and land management conferences. We displayed our project exhibit at the Intermountain West Fire Ecology Conference (Snowbird, UT) and the Society for Range Management Annual Meeting (Spokane, WA). These exhibits have raised awareness about our project and helped us connect with potential new partners. These two events resulted in 21 new members on our list serve.

Scientific literature syntheses: "Fire Effects on Vegetation and Soils in the Great Basin Region and the Role of Site Characteristics," which will be posted on our website next month, and "Grazing Effects on Fuels Loads for Wildland Fire in Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystems," which is currently in review.

A temporary Information Technician was hired to synthesize Great Basin research into seven new topic areas: 1) Climate and Fire, 2) Fire Ecology and Effects, 3) Fire Surrogates and Fuels Management, 4) Post-fire Rehabilitation, 5) Landscape Assessment and Prioritization, 6) Restoration, and 7) Wildland-Urban Interface.

From the feedback we receive, we feel we are providing a needed service to managers and that our work is benefitting land management in the Great Basin region. See Table 2 for a list of participation by activity.

#### **Issues or concerns which the program office should know about?**

Our only concern is the new funding cycle which runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, biennially. The June 30<sup>th</sup> end date is problematic if the JFSP's funding arrives at the BLM Nevada State Office in mid-June, as it did this year. A mid-June arrival results in funding not being accessible until mid-September because it must pass the BLM's budget office and the University of Nevada's Office

of Sponsored Projects, which is a three-month process. This means that rather than the full two-year cycle that the JFSP has planned, our fund accessibility cycle will be 2.5 months shorter (mid-September to June 30<sup>th</sup> biennially). Assuming our project success continues and we receive additional funding, we have identified two possible solutions: 1) The JFSP releases project funds in March so that they will arrive at the BLM in early April, ensuring accessibility by June 30<sup>th</sup>, or 2) The JFSP continues to allow carryover of unused funds into the next cycle so that on paper our cycle date can be July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, but in reality our cycle date will be September 18<sup>th</sup> to September 17<sup>th</sup>. All else seems to be running smoothly.

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

We continued to deepen our relationships with the Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GB LCC), the Sagebrush Steppe Treatment Evaluation Project (SageSTEP), land management agencies, and our fellow Knowledge Exchange Consortia. For the next two years, our project and the GB LCC have split the cost of the Great Basin Research and Management Partnership web resources; the consortia database, the Great Basin bibliography, the science locator, and the metadata server. We also met with the GB LCC in June to discuss ways that we can better partner and share needed information with our respective audiences. We partnered with the Color Country District BLM and the SageSTEP project on our three field workshops this year. The Fire Science Delivery project and Sage STEP also made outreach efforts to one another's members and increased our respective participants by 30 and 25 people. SageSTEP's social science lead, Mark Brunson, accepted our invitation to become a member of the Great Basin Fire Science Delivery steering committee.

We have a new opportunity to partner with the Cedar City BLM Field Office and the Ecologically-Based Invasive Plant Management project on a fuel management video project next year. We have also received three new inquiries from research scientists about partnering to improve dissemination of their research studies, and to incorporate management implications into their proposals for the latest JFSP funding announcements. This has been an important opportunity for researchers to learn more about our project, and for us to improve our knowledge about current and potential research in the Great Basin.

We continued to deepen our collaboration and coordination efforts with our fellow Knowledge Exchange Consortia through planning joint sessions, poster presentations, and conference exhibits for the Human Dimensions in Wildland Fire Conference (April 2012), the International Fire Ecology and Management Conference (December 2012), and the Society for Range Management Annual Meeting (February 2013). We also draw upon one another's experiences to address issues related to Mail Chimp templates, website ideas, Twitter questions, reporting questions, and other project activities.

The partnership with the JFSP itself has been excellent. This includes Marjie Brown with social media assistance, Jennifer Kapus with logo and masthead production, Molly Hunter for keeping us organized and up-to-date, and Tim Swedberg and John Cissel for the progress in making JFSP-funded research more accessible to us in general and regionally.

**Table 1: Participation by Organization** (from mailing list subscribers)

<b>Organization</b>	<b># Participants</b>
Tribal Nations	1
States	15
Counties/Burroughs/Parishes	1
Cities and Local Communities	0
Regional Authorities	0
Private Landowner	0
Private Associations	0
Companies	4
Consultants	4
Foreign Organizations & Individuals	0
University and College Faculty or Researchers	51
University and College Students	4
Prescribed Fire Councils	0
Fire Learning Network and The Nature Conservancy	1
NGOs (not listed above)	11
Bureau of Indian Affairs	0
Bureau of Land Management	75
Fish and Wildlife Service	19
Forest Service (National Forests, Grasslands, State and Private Forestry)	38
Forest Service Research	7
Geological Survey	7
National Park Service	7
Natural Resources Conservation Service	6
US Bureau of Reclamation	1
NOAA and National Weather Service	1
ARS	5
NASA	1
Department of Defense including Coast Guard	0
United States Fire Administration	0
Other	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>271</b>

**Table 2: Activities and Participation**

<b>Activity</b> (conducted, hosted, organized, facilitated, sponsored, or produced)	<b>Completed Activities</b>	<b>Estimated Total # Participants</b>
Field Trip, Tour, Demonstration or Roadshow	3	98
Field Consultations and Expert Cadres	1	26
Training Sessions	0	0
Workshops	0	0
Conferences and Symposia	0	0
Poster Presentations	3	1,800
Short Courses, Continuing Education Units	0	0
Academic Credit Courses	7	225
Talks and Personal Briefings About Consortium	3	75
Newsletters (printed or electronic distribution)	39	97
Fact Sheets and Handouts	0	0
Webinars	8	486
Tweets	112	508
Facebook Postings	0	0
Other Social Media	1	353
Blog Posts	7	12
Requests for Information, Assistance, or Referrals	6	17
Bibliography or Annotated Bibliography	1	0
Guidelines or Guidebooks	0	0
Syntheses	2	
Encyclopedia	0	0
Database	1	0