



**Great Basin Fire Science Delivery - 2013 Annual Report to the Joint Fire Science Program**  
**Reporting Period: 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2013**

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

This year, the Great Basin Fire Science Delivery Project coordinated a variety of activities. Our primary focus was on synthesis development and website improvement. Both approaches addressed our participants' stated needs for relevant research and improved access to regional information and events.

**Activities** (general overview in Table 1):

*Five scientific literature syntheses* are in the works that will be published as US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station General Technical Reports (GTRs), or other peer-reviewed literature: (1) Fire effects on vegetation and soils in the great basin region: Response and site characteristics; (2) Livestock grazing effects on fuel loads for wildland fire in sagebrush dominated ecosystems; (3) Ecohydrologic impacts of rangeland fire on runoff and erosion: A literature synthesis; (4) Field guide to site recovery potential in sagebrush ecosystems: Evaluation of resilience and resistance to invasives, and predicting succession following treatment or disturbance; (5) A field guide to wind erosion as it relates to landscape assessment of post-fire stabilization.

*A more functional and attractive website* was released in August, with improved navigation and multiple ways to search for information. We updated the home page to reflect the fire- and fuels-focused topics of our regional research bibliography which was completed this spring. We also added an, "Ask an expert" button on the home page. We have received positive feedback about these changes. For example, one commenter stated,

*"I was recently looking for some webinars to add to one of my classes and I found the Great Basin site the easiest site to navigate and one of the only with the webinars up and available at any time! I really appreciate these as course tools, so thank you."*

*Our webinar series* continued with five webinar presentations and over 200 attendees. Two of our webinars were on database projects; LANDFIRE and the Land Treatment Digital Library, and had relatively low attendance. Next year our webinar line-up focuses on research results so we can determine if attendance is higher with these types of webinars. Webinars this year included: Fire effects on vegetation and soils in the Great Basin, Great Basin LANDFIRE, Using weather data and adaptive management to improve the probabilities of successful revegetation, Overview of the Land Treatment Digital Library, and Livestock grazing on fuel loads for wildland fire in sagebrush steppe ecosystems.

*Three field workshops* were conducted this season with 42 participants: the ecology of fuel treatments (White Pine Mountain Range, Ely area, NV), the effectiveness of rehabilitation techniques and seeding rates (southwestern ID), and 30 years of western juniper management in the Owyhee Mountains (ID).

*Providing answers to managers' questions* is still an important function and we've had five requests for information or contacts. This winter we intend to follow up with each requester to determine the impact of our assistance with these requests.

*Enhanced outreach through increased social media participation and activity:* (1) Mail Chimp list serve (Table 2) and Twitter followers both grew by over 100 members; (2) Continued Twitter and Facebook activity with 41 new tweets and 28 posts, respectively, for a potential audience of 2228 people; (3) Five new videos posted on our YouTube channel with 176 video views and 12 channel subscribers.

*Promoting our project at regional fire and land management conferences.* We displayed our project exhibit at the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Conference (Reno, NV), the Association for Fire Ecology Conference (Portland, OR), and gave a talk and poster at the Great Basin Consortium Conference (Boise, ID). These three events resulted in 21 new members on our list serve and seven new Twitter followers.

We continue to receive positive feedback about our work and products and feel that we are providing a needed service to managers and land management in the Great Basin region.

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

We are somewhat concerned about the decrease in average webinar attendance, but are looking forward to seeing if the next webinar season, which includes more research results and specifically requested topics, will be better attended. However, this has prompted us to think

about how to define success and whether maximizing participation is as important as providing information.

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

This year we became an equal partner in the Great Basin Consortium which strengthened our relationships with other resource information exchange organizations in the Great Basin. The Great Basin Consortium website is often one of the top five traffic sources to our website. We have been a part of the program committee for the upcoming conference: *Great Basin Consortium 3: A Landscape under Fire*. Through this partnership we hope to build more connections and collaborations between managers and scientists in agencies, universities, NGOs, tribes, and the private sector.

We are also working with partner organizations on two additional upcoming regional conferences. These efforts include collaboration with the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) Great Basin and Northwest Chapters and the Northwest Fire Science Consortium on the SER regional conference, *Collaborative Restoration: From Community Efforts to Landscape Scales*, in Redmond, Oregon next October and collaboration with Louisa Evers, Oregon State BLM, and the Great Basin Research and Management Partnership on a session titled, "Altered Fire Regimes in Cold Desert Rangelands" for the conference, *Large Wildland Fires: Social, Political, and Ecological Effects*, in Missoula, Montana in May.

We recently started collaborating with the Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative to share tribal contacts, with the possibility of co-sponsoring future Climate Change Adaptation Planning trainings for Great Basin tribes. We have also made some initial contacts with the Federally Recognized Tribe Extension (FRTE) Program and look forward to working with FRTE faculty in the coming year.

Extension Natural Resource Specialist, Ed Smith, has been in contact with us to explore how the nationally recognized *Living with Fire* program and the Great Basin Fire Science Delivery Project can complement each other.

With the JFSP's new research funding guidelines that ask investigators to contact the regional consortia, we continue to meet new scientists and learn about new and interesting research in the Great Basin. This has led to several possibilities for future collaborations. One of these projects is even involving land managers throughout the research process; so we are excited to see how this develops.

Collaborations with our fellow consortia are invaluable. This year we have worked with both the Northern and Southern Rockies Fire Science Networks to help answer questions from managers that span our boundaries, and we have started discussion about joint synthesis and webinar opportunities. The Great Basin Fire Science Delivery Project and our neighboring consortia have benefitted each other by sharing new information and events to use in our upcoming newsletters. In addition to these partnerships, all of the consortia help each other with ideas and day to day business questions. We recently worked together to complete a spreadsheet and questionnaire to help answer website questions and to determine group website needs.

The Joint Fire Science Program itself continues to be one of our most important partnerships for coordination and development of ideas, graphics, social media, analytics, organization, and fire science information!

**Table 1: 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	42
Field Consultations and Expert Cadres	1	26
Training Sessions	0	0
Workshops	0	0
Conferences and Symposia	0	0
Poster Presentations	2	870
Short Courses, Continuing Education Units	0	0
Academic Credit Courses	8	250
Talks and Personal Briefings About Consortium	1	170
Newsletters (printed or electronic distribution)	10	284
Fact Sheets and Handouts	0	0
Webinars	5	200
Tweets	41	188
Facebook Postings	28	31
Other Social Media	1	483
Blog Posts	0	0
Requests for Information, Assistance, or Referrals	5	23
Bibliography or Annotated Bibliography	1	0
Guidelines or Guidebooks	1	0
Syntheses	5	0
Encyclopedia	0	0
Database	3	0

**Table 2: Participation by Organization** (from mailing list subscribers)

<b>Organization</b>	<b># Participants</b>
Tribal Nations	9
States	22
Counties/Burroughs/Parishes	2
Cities and Local Communities	1
Regional Authorities	0
Private Landowner	0
Private Associations	0
Companies	7
Consultants	2
Foreign Organizations & Individuals	0
University and College Faculty or Researchers	63
University and College Students	6
Prescribed Fire Councils	0
Fire Learning Network and The Nature Conservancy	2
NGOs (not listed above)	17
Bureau of Indian Affairs	1
Bureau of Land Management	78
Fish and Wildlife Service	19
Forest Service (National Forests, Grasslands, State and Private Forestry)	46
Forest Service Research	7
US Geological Survey	9
National Park Service	7
Natural Resources Conservation Service	12
US Bureau of Reclamation	1
NOAA and National Weather Service	1
ARS	4
NASA	1
Department of Defense including Coast Guard	0
United States Fire Administration	0
Other	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>337</b>