



Great Basin Fire Science Exchange - Annual Report

Reporting Period: October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015

Highlights – Seeding Webinar Series and Recognition in the Secretarial Order 3336 Final Report

One of our FY 2015 highlights was the “Right Seed, In the Right Place, At the Right Time,” webinar series. This was a series of 16 webinars on seeding topics ranging from seed collection and purchase to application and restoration. There were 870 attendees and over 1,110 video views. We received a lot of positive feedback such as,

“Just wanted to say that this series has been extremely useful and on point for my botany program/veg restoration world this year. Thanks for handling and keep up the good fire sci network work!” -Acting Regional Botanist, USFS Regions 2 and 4.

Another highlight was recognition in the Final Report for Secretarial Order 3336: An Integrated Rangeland fire Management Strategy. The report states that with the help of our Great Basin partners, including the Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative, the Great Basin Fire Science Exchange website will be the go to website for science information on fire and fuels management to conserve and restore sagebrush ecosystems.

Academic Courses

The University of Idaho added three new online academic courses this year, 1) Fire Ecology, 2) Principles of Vegetation Measurement and Assessment, and 3) Ecological Monitoring and Assessment, for a total of 9 online courses and 4 classroom courses incorporating Great Basin fire and fuels content. These courses were attended by a total of 211 students, 60% of which are practicing fire or natural resource professionals. Also new this fall, the Fire Ecology and Management professional degree became available as an online option in the Masters of Natural Resources program. Finally, all of these courses were peer reviewed and passed the Framework for Effective Courses here at the University of Idaho.

Talks, Briefs, Conferences

Between our coordinator, steering committee members, and fellow exchange colleagues the Great Basin Fire Science Exchange exhibited, presented, or had a poster at 10 meetings/conferences this year:

- Society for Ecological Restoration, Redmond, OR
- The Next Steppe: Sage-grouse and Wildfire, Boise, ID
- Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities, Reno, NV
- Society for Range Management, Sacramento, CA
- NASA Applied Science Program - Wildfire Program 2015 Annual Review, Salt Lake City, UT
- Great Basin Consortium 4th Annual Conference, Boise, ID
- Managing Pinyon-Juniper Expansion in Sagebrush Ecosystems: Next Steppe for the Bi-State Forum, Minden, NV
- USFS Region 4 Fuels Meeting, Ogden, UT
- Wildland Urban Interface 2015, Reno, NV
- International Association of Wildland Fire, Boise, ID

Our presence at these events resulted in project exposure to over 1,400 people and 99 additions to our list serve (Tables 1 and 2). In addition to these events, we had briefings with BLM leadership, the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station and USDA Agricultural Research Service leadership teams, and presented at the USFS Intermountain West meeting.

Participation

Our list serve continues to maintain stable numbers in most categories since last year, but has seen growth in the number of individuals from companies, university faculty, Forest Service management, and NGO's (Table 2). People are still learning about us, and it is important that we continue our outreach efforts not only to reach new audiences, but to maintain relevance with current audiences. At a conference last month an attendee stated that the reason for our Exchange's success was that we always show up and talk to people. The increase in the amount of feedback and number of requests for information, field workshops, and webinars we receive reflect these efforts.

Partnerships

Partnerships with our federal agencies and fellow science outreach projects strengthened this year with the release of Secretarial Order 3336: Rangeland Fire Prevention, Management, and Restoration and its subsequent reports and strategy. We are working more closely with the Great Basin and Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, the Great Basin Research and Management Partnership, and the USGS to make our website more

comprehensive and user-friendly, and to increase our ability to share new products with each other. We have been working with these partners in addition to the SageSTEP project and other research partners to produce the new Great Basin Fact Sheet Series with seven fact sheets this year covering topics such as fuel breaks, erosion, and seeding techniques. This series has been an instant success with over 1,000 views in the first three months.

We are developing a deeper partnership with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) as we work together on the fifth annual Great Basin Consortium/WAFWA-sponsored science and management meeting titled, Sagebrush Ecosystem Conservation: All Hands, all Lands, scheduled in February 2016. And we are finally beginning to develop relationships with state and local partners (in Nevada) as we help state and local agencies and groups communicate with each other about the formation of a Nevada Prescribed Fire Council.

Comparison to Planned Work and Moving Forward

Comparing our plan of work to the activities we accomplished this year, we have had successes and failures. We successfully produced a widely attended seeding webinar series with the Great Basin Native Plant Project and other partners, we created the first seven of 15 science and management fact sheets, we published two field guides, we began transitioning to our new website, we held a successful field workshop, and we hired part-time program support to help us with all of these tasks. However, we also intended to develop video shorts, revive our Restoration Cadre, start a dialogue with our tribal contacts, and publish two more information syntheses, which did not occur. These are all still in our docket for FY 2016.

Table 1: Activities and Participation

Activity (conducted, hosted, organized, facilitated, sponsored, or produced)	Completed Activities	Estimated Total # Participants
Talks and Personal Briefings About The Exchange	3	350
Newsletters Produced	31	500
Fact Sheets and Handouts Produced	7	1,023
Tweets	80	654
Facebook Postings	88	204
Other Social Media	0	0
Blog Posts	0	0
Webinars	18	948
Podcasts	0	0
Guidelines or Guidebooks	2	1,300
Syntheses	0	0
Encyclopedia	0	0
Database	5	152
Conferences/Workshops	7	1,420

Conference or Symposia Presentation*	2	230
Poster Presentation*	4	24
Short Courses and Continuing Education Units	0	0
Academic Credit Courses	14	211
Bibliography or Annotated Bibliography	1	0
Video/Vimeo productions	0	0
Requests for Information, Assistance, or Referrals	16	22
Field Trip, Tour, Demonstration or Roadshow	1	44
Field Consultations and Expert Cadres	1	26
Training Sessions	0	0
Leadership Briefings	3	23

* # participants at the talk or poster not entire conference

Table 2: Participation by Organization (as shown from your mailing list subscribers)

Organization	# Participants
Tribal Nations	7
States	35
Counties/Burroughs/Parishes	6
Cities and Local Communities	4
Regional Authorities	0
Private Landowner	2
Private Associations	0
Companies	13
Consultants	6
Foreign Organizations & Individuals	4
University and College Faculty or Researchers	104
University and College Students	10
Prescribed Fire Councils	0
Fire Learning Network and The Nature Conservancy	2
NGOs (not listed above)	33
Bureau of Indian Affairs	3
Bureau of Land Management	113
Fish and Wildlife Service	27
Forest Service (National Forests, Grasslands, State and Private Forestry)	77
Forest Service Research	8
Geological Survey	11
National Park Service	12
Natural Resources Conservation Service	19
US Bureau of Reclamation	0
NOAA and National Weather Service	2

ARS	4
NASA	1
Department of Defense including Coast Guard	0
United States Fire Administration	0
Other	15
Total	518