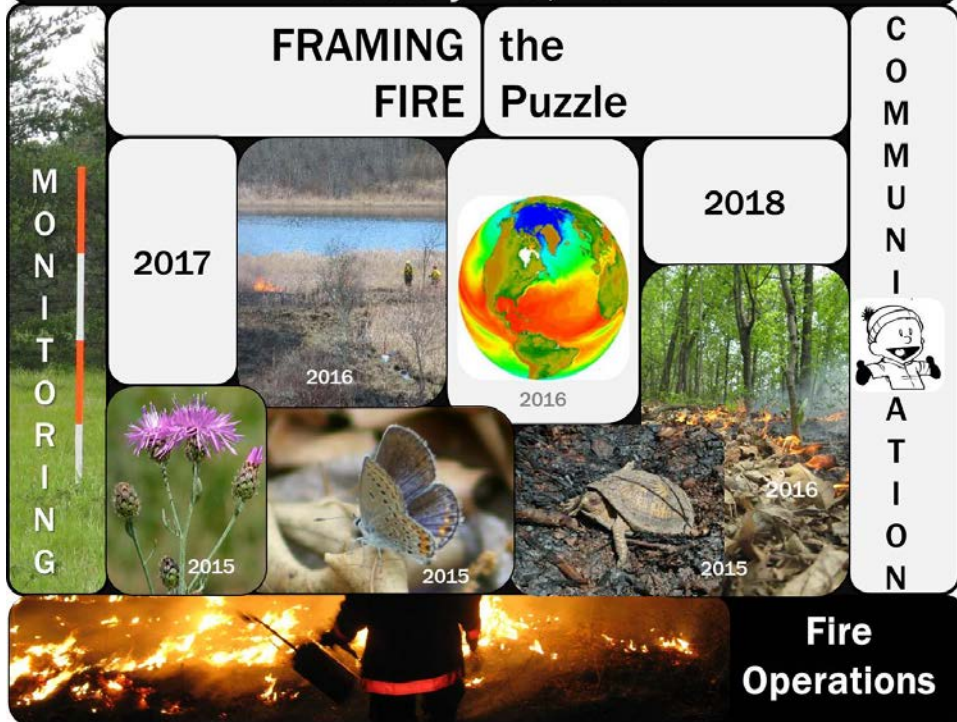


Burning Issues Symposium

February 2-3, 2016



Burning Issues Symposium: How Do We Integrate Competing Wildland Fire Objectives in Land Management and Restoration?

The intent of gathering for this 1.5 day event is to help tear down the walls or road blocks that keep us from fully achieving our objectives or from performing at full capacity. Following up on the success of the 2015 Burning Issues Symposium, we will again be hosting a two day event on February 2-3, 2016, at Fort Custer National Training Center (FCTC), Augusta, MI. This wildland fire symposium is designed to enable land managers, researchers and fire practitioners an opportunity to hear and learn from different areas of expertise in a format which will help us to identify gaps in knowledge and communication, and work toward solutions to issues that complicate our collective wildland fire work.

Sponsored By:



Burning Issues Symposium

DAY ONE - February 2, 2016

We will be discussing four key topics that are relevant across the state of Michigan and the Upper Midwest. We have invited multiple speakers for each topic who will share their expertise and help us explore the principles and details that underlie successful research, resource management, and fire operations. There will be a panel discussion after each topic session.

DAY ONE AGENDA

0800 - 0900

REGISTRATION

0900 - 0920 **Welcome and Overview - Planning Team**

0920 - 1040 **Fire in Transition: Adapting to a Changing Climate**

Brian Palik (Research Ecologist, Northern Research Station, USDA Forest Service)

Ralph Grundel (Research Ecologist, Lake Michigan Ecological Station/Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, US Geological Survey)

Persephone Whelan (Asst. Fire Management Officer, Huron-Manistee National Forests)

1040 - 1100

BREAK

1100 - 1220 **Boots in the Water: Case Studies of Fire in Wetland Restoration**

Mike Kost (Curator of Native Plants, University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum)

Matt Zine (Conservation Biologist & Burn Boss, Natural Heritage Conservation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources)

Mike McCuiston (Vice President of Physical Resources, Edward Lowe Foundation)

1220 - 1320

LUNCH

1320 - 1440 **Lessons Learned Restoring Oak Systems - Ecology, Silviculture, and Fire Management in the Central Hardwoods Region**

Todd Hutchinson (Research Ecologist, Northern Research Station, USDA Forest Service)

Chris Thornton (Forest Silviculturist, Hoosier National Forest)

Thad Herzberger (Zone Fire Management Officer, US Fish and Wildlife Service)

1440 - 1500

BREAK

1500 - 1620 **Achieving the Perfect Burn: Effectively Communicating the "Fire Vision" from Planning through Implementation**

Maureen McDonough (Forest Sociology and Social Forestry, Michigan State University)

1620 - 1645 **Wrap-up and Overview Day Two - Planning Team**

Burning Issues Symposium

DAY TWO - February 3, 2016

We will reconvene for the morning in smaller groups for facilitated sessions that will address challenges and uncertainties emphasized throughout the sessions on Day One. The break-out sessions are a rare opportunity for participants from a wide range of organizations, and experiences, to engage with each other on specific issues. These sessions are planned with and for the diverse community interacting around fire-related issues, and seek to build the understanding and communication to support further work toward collaborative solutions.

DAY TWO AGENDA

0830 - 0845 Overview/ Instructions - Planning Team

0845 - 0900 Moving to Breakout Rooms

0900 - 1100 CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Breakout One:

What was the question? Defining Uncertainties in Using Fire to Manage Wetlands

The objective of this session is to explore, define and document uncertainties associated with using fire to manage wetland habitats. Short-term outcomes include networking and knowledge sharing among members of the research and management community. The session will also identify information needs that the fire science exchanges can use to plan future field events and other activities. In the longer term, the session can also identify science needs that can be communicated to the research community.

Breakout Two:

Back From the Future – ‘Backcasting’ From A Desired Future For Fire and Oak Research and Management

Using fire to manage oak systems for regeneration, ecosystem restoration, and climate adaptation is a long-term process. “Backcasting” is a planning tool that uses a vision of future success to identify the steps needed to get there. This session asks the overarching question, “Which actions do you want the community to be taking five years from now with respect to oak systems and fire?” Specific questions may include: What resources will be needed? What steps are necessary to have support from within your organization, and from stakeholders outside your organization? Who will be your chief collaborators? What new knowledge will you need to take action?

Breakout Three:

Achieving the Perfect Burn: Effectively Communicating the “Fire Vision” from Planning through Implementation

This session is focused on the communication skills needed to develop and define the fire vision, and the types of communication needed between disciplines within organizations, and across organizations that use fire. The session will explore and practice, using fire decision examples, the tools for reducing conflict and increasing understanding, and tools for building collaboration and consensus.

1100 - 1115 Moving back to Auditorium

1115 - 1200 Outbriefing from Breakout Groups and Concluding Remarks

12:00 AM End of Symposium & LUNCH

Burning Issues Symposium

Registration: Thanks to Fort Custer Training Center we are able to keep costs low with a reasonable registration fee that includes lunch, snacks and coffee on both days: **Early Bird** registration \$55 by December 18, 2015; **Regular** registration \$65 by January 8, 2015; **Late** registration \$75 by January 22, 2016; and a **Reduced Rate** registration for students/ volunteers/ private landowners at \$35 (*Reduced Rate has limited capacity. Please contact Jack McGowan-Stinski mcgowan-stinski.1@osu.edu for the Reduced Rate Code*).

Click [HERE](#) to REGISTER

Lodging: Available at FCTC at a maximum rate of \$50 per night. Current rate is \$35 per night. Note: rooms are semi-private. Rooms have a single twin bed and share a bathroom (toilet and shower) with one adjacent room. *Call 269.731.6126 to reserve a room.* Other lodging options are available in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Organizers and Planning Team

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