**Burning Issues Symposium January 13-14, 2015 Brief Summary**

Day-and half workshop/symposium on January 13-14, 2015 held at Ft. Custer Training Center, Augusta, MI. The intent of the symposium was to give land managers, researchers, and fire practitioners an opportunity to hear from different areas of expertise in a format to help us find solutions to issues that complicate our fire work, such as competing objectives. ("When seeking information, researchers preferred communicating via published literature, but managers and administrators reported a preference for in-person communication.")

Day One included five topic sessions, with a lead speaker and panel members for each topic session. Topics included: invasive species and fire, herps and fire, insects and fire, oak restoration with fire, and fire operations: constraints/barriers to implementation. Seventy minutes was allotted per topic session (main speaker, panel shorts, questions) (30 minutes speaker, 10 minutes per panel member, and 20 minutes per question).

Day Two was a half day of facilitated and directed breakout groups with a 15-minute-per-group wrap up session. We had three breakout groups: oak restoration and fire, invasive species and fire, and a rare species and fire (combined insects and herpitile groups to have a critical mass for discussion). We intentionally did not do a breakout group for the Fire Operations Topic, since the implementation of fire is core to each of the other topic areas.

We had an AAR with planning committee Day Two to assess and improve. A symposium summary is in the works, which will be linked with PDF’s of the presentations, recordings of the five topic lead presentations, and contact lists and action items specific to the breakout groups. Symposium proceedings may be published in Natural Area Journal (Notes), Ecological Restoration (Notes), or similar format.

**Number of Attendees Day One:** 95

**Different Agencies and Groups Day One:**

* Bureau of Indian Affairs
* Conservation Districts (4 different Districts)
* Consultants and Contractors (5 different Consultants/Contractors)
* County Parks (1)
* Environmental Private Foundations (2 different Foundations)
* Fire Science Consortium (2 Consortia – LSFSC and TPOS)
* Land Conservancy’s (4 different Land Conservancy’s)
* Municipalities (1)
* Michigan Department of Natural Resources
* Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
* Michigan National Guard
* Natural Resource Conservation Services
* Nature Centers (4 different Nature Centers)
* The Stewardship Network
* Tribes and/or Bands (2 different Tribes)
* Universities and Colleges (5 different MI Universities)
* USDI Fish and Wildlife Service
* USDA Forest Service
* Zoo’s (1)

**Total: 19 different organizational categories, 40 different groups**