**Burning Issues 2 Symposium Evaluation Forms Summary**

**January 13-14, 2015**

**Fort Custer, MI**

* ***95 attendees; 32 evaluations forms submitted***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Prior Interaction with either TPOS or LSFSC (check all that apply)** | | | |
| email newsletter | 10 |  |  |
| conference | 14 |  |  |
| field event | 7 |  |  |
| webinar | 1 |  |  |
| Interaction with Consortia Management Team or Advisory Board | 15 |  |  |
| First Interaction | 8 |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **What is your affiliation? (check all that apply)** | | | | |
| Private landowner | 2 |  |  |  |
| Federal | 5 |  |  |  |
| State | 10 |  |  |  |
| Consultant | 2 |  |  |  |
| Non-profit | 7 |  |  |  |
| Academia | 3 |  |  |  |
| Local Govt/County/Township, etc. | 5 |  |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **How many acres do you manage?** | |
| none listed | 17 |
| Not Applicable | 2 |
| 1 - 100 | 1 |
| 101-500 | 4 |
| 501-1000 |  |
| 1001-10,000 | 4 |
| 10,001-50,000 | 1 |
| 50,001-100,00 | 1 |
| >100,001 | 2 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Please tell us whether or not each of the following areas describe your involvement with fire** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Involvement** | **Yes** | **No** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fire Suppression/Volunteer Fire Department | 7 | 25 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wildlife Habitat Management | 32 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Forage/Rangeland Management | 8 | 24 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Silviculture/Timber Management | 12 | 20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Supervision/Planning | 22 | 10 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Burn Boss | 9 | 23 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Crew Member | 21 | 11 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Outreach/Education | 19 | 13 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Volunteer | 13 | 19 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Research/Monitoring | 16 | 16 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | N/A |
| I gained knowledge today that I will use to change how I apply prescribed fire. | 10 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| I gained knowledge today that I will use to alter my objectives for prescribed fire. | 7 | 13 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| I gained knowledge today that I will use to change how I monitor the outcomes of prescribed fire management. | 8 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| I plan to stay in touch with at least one fellow participant to exchange ideas and knowledge. | 15 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Based on this event, I will seek information from the fire science consortia in the future. | 18 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Based on this event, I am interested in co-hosting an event with the consortia and prescribed fire council. | 3 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 7 |

**What other topics would you like to see covered in a format like this in the future?**

*(Similar comments were condensed and placed under headings)*

Species/Habitat/Weather/Smoke Topics:

* + fire effects on other animal species (birds, bats, snakes)
  + comparison of fire effects between habitat types (forested versus savanna, wetland versus upland types)
  + Fire use in wetlands restoration (fens, marshes, sedge meadows, etc.)
  + Monitoring
  + Climate change
  + Fire effects on aquatic ecosystems
  + Rare plants
  + Continue invasive species and fire discussion; what invasive species are fire-adapted versus not fire-adapted.
  + Carbon and air pollution results from fire and smoke; compare air pollution from fires versus industry
  + Old Field restoration – how can fire work to extend management into adjacent old fields. Outcomes may not be “high quality” habitat but be additive to biodiversity
  + What are fire researchers doing in other parts of country (SE US, long leaf pine, seems more info available on invasive’s). Use the knowledge from the South to compare/contrast with gaps in knowledge in North. Maybe invite speakers from southern fire councils, or southern researchers, do one session tract o comparison of habitats and species and fire south to north?

Fire Operations and Fire Planning Topics:

* + Specific examples of how ecological objectives can be incorporated into burn plans (versus what a goal is), and then discussion of specific weather, season, ignition patterns, fire spread patterns that would accomplish these objectives. Case studies/examples
  + New or innovative ignition methods
  + Overview of types of burn breaks and combinations
  + Wildland urban interface – burning in the urban environment versus rural
  + Comparison of how practical/feasible fire operations help and hurt meeting certain objectives
  + History of non-human fire frequency – how did species evolve pre-human fire
  + How to manage fire but keep large down woody debris in habitat
  + Discussion/training on how to support local land managers without technical expertise in how to plan and initiate fire restoration projects

**Do you have additional comments or suggestions?**

*(Similar comments were condensed and placed under headings)*

Symposium Content:

* + Liked multiple speakers for each topic, and keeping on schedule
  + Topics brought up new ways of thinking/awareness
  + Excellent coverage of “burning issues”
  + Allow speakers equal time slots; 10 minutes too short for some good information transfer
  + benefited from the diversity of practical topics and knowledgeable speakers
  + Great Job! Nice Format, Good Speakers!
  + This was great for me a) from an environmental educator’s perspective (always good to gather more information), and b) because it harkened back to college days and classes. Good Stuff!
  + Before establishing a new database or places to collect knowledge, first we need to know what sources exist versus what actually needs to be created. Could the Consortia develop that comparison of the different sources of info that already exist?
  + It appeared the participant list was heavy on managers and fire practitioners; we need to continue to make connections with other groups, like endangered species and other species specialists. Target these non-fire managers and specialists for next meeting; use the managers who attended BI2 to help recruit the individuals they think would benefit from attending/presenting.
  + Seemed to have overlap with MPFC annual meeting; coordinate with MPFC so that the 2 meetings compliment rather than compete.
  + Really liked the breakout groups Day Two
  + Excellent topics (really liked integrating wildlife, and oak restoration, and fire operations. Great selection of speakers (Lars was a standout for oaks).
  + Encourage any researchers who are presenting to clearly articulate any applications or “lessons learned”; avoid too much discussion of site-specific data, focus on the general lessons learned and how to apply to other sites
  + Great overview for a “newbie”; presentations well organized and understandable to those with not a lot of technical expertise

Facility/Food/Directions:

* + Auditorium was a little cool, but rest of facility was excellent
  + Provide reminder information a day or two before event, including driving directions and map, and the extra time to pass through security
  + Make sure the cost of lodging is accurate in next year’s flyer and announcements
  + Please have water available next meeting
  + Food: too much sugar/processed carbs; how about more fruit and raw vegies