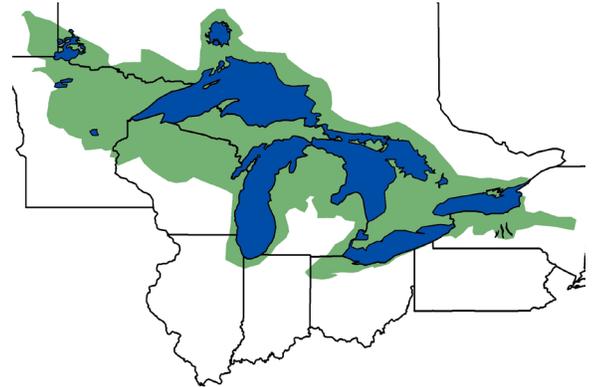




Lake States Knowledge Gaps Assessment Project

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The purpose of the Lake States Fire Science Consortium “Gaps in Knowledge” analysis project is to identify the current status of fire science information in the Lake States region. This project includes identifying the type of information that exists (i.e., ecosystem type, what was measured, whether information was developed from field studies or simulation models, etc.), the quantity of information that exists (i.e., how many publications in each ecosystem type or topic), and the quality of information for each topic (i.e., whether the information provided was based on a limited number of observations versus a controlled and replicated scientific investigation).



The project was developed to increase the awareness of existing regional fire science information, and as a result increase the ability of resource managers and planners to make the most appropriate land and fire management decisions using region-specific information. We anticipate that our assessment of the current status of regional fire science information will help guide future research efforts to provide information on topics that remain poorly understood. Finally, we hope that identifying gaps in knowledge will facilitate new manager-scientist partnerships that provide rigorous scientific information to inform regional management issues.

We will use the information we collected to develop region-specific research syntheses and meta-analyses. We anticipate that these projects will include research briefs directed to the management community, and a peer-reviewed journal article that addresses the current status and future needs for fire science information in the Lake States.

Products completed include an online, searchable database of regional fire science publications, a webinar identifying major gaps in regional knowledge, a review article on fire effects on soil, and poster presentations addressing fire effects on arthropods, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, invasive species and other vegetation. *For a current list of products developed from the Knowledge Gaps Assessment, go to: <http://www.lakestatesfiresci.net/KnowledgeGapProject.htm>*

MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 1) Managers value rapid access to relevant fire science information. Information from the Lake States region can be more challenging to locate compared to abundant information from western regions
- 2) The *Knowledge Gaps Assessment Project* was designed to increase awareness of fire science information relevant to Lake States ecosystems
- 3) The project is on-going. Visit the project page on the LSFSC website to access products completed to date: <http://www.lakestatesfiresci.net/KnowledgeGapProject.htm>

Want to learn more?

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Research Brief for Resource Managers