

Integrating Drought Science and Information with Wildfire Management Workshop

October 21st-22nd, 2015 Boise, ID

Grove Hotel

245 S. Capitol Blvd, Boise, ID 83702

Overview

Understanding drought and its effects on ecosystems, fuels, and fire behavior is an increasing concern for fire managers. This workshop will focus on bringing together drought experts and fire planners, managers, and fire behavior experts in an interactive, participant-based workshop to begin a discourse on several key questions:

- What are the communication opportunities and challenges in exchanging information between drought and fire communities?
- What is drought and what does it mean for fuel management? Fire behavior? Ecosystem responses?
- How can drought information inform fire management?

This workshop will focus on identifying key topics related to drought and wildfire impacts, how communication between drought and wildfire communities can be facilitated, and next steps in increasing the utilization of drought information in fire management planning.

Preliminary Draft Agenda

Wednesday

Theme: Introduction and set up of workshop objectives

- 1:00 Workshop Introduction
- 1:15 Drought/ENSO and Wildfire Overview: Current Overview
- 1:45 Interactive session: What are the challenges in using drought information in fire management? What makes it worth the effort?
- 2:00 Discussion
- 2:30 Break
- 2:45 *State of the knowledge: drought impacts on vegetation mortality and wildfire.*
Park Williams, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University
- 3:45 Interactive session: What are the opportunities to share information across the drought and wildfire communities? What are the barriers to doing so?
- 5:00 Close

Thursday

Theme: Uncovering questions and gaps

8:30 Continental Breakfast

9:00 Review –Day 1

9:20 Panel discussion: Perspectives on operations, planning, and policy in sharing information across the drought and fire communities.

10:00 Interactive session: What are the strategies we can use to provide drought knowledge and tools effectively between the fire management community and drought community?

Or:

How do we begin to understand how persistent drought influences ecosystem thresholds/wildfire?

10:30 Break

10:45 Discussion

12:00 Working Lunch

Theme: Barriers to progress, next steps

1:00 Interactive session: How do we make progress on integrating drought science and information with fire management?

1:30 Next steps—Moving forward from the workshop discussion

2:30 Break

2:45 Next steps discussion continued

3:15 Interactive session: Overview of what the meeting accomplished, value, and moving forward

4:00 Evaluation and closing

4:30 Adjourn