

How to generate and interpret fire characteristics charts for the U.S. fire danger rating system

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15371

The fire characteristics chart is a graphical method of presenting U.S. National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) indexes and components as well as primary surface or crown fire behavior characteristics. Computer software has been developed to produce fire characteristics charts for both fire danger and fire behavior in a format...

Author(s): Faith A. Heinsch, Patricia L. Andrews, D. A. Tirmenstein

Year Published: 2017

Type: Document

Technical Report or White Paper

Simulated fire behaviour in young, postfire lodgepole pine forests

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/16291

Early-seral forests are expanding throughout western North America as fire frequency and annual area burned increase, yet fire behaviour in young postfire forests is poorly understood. We simulated fire behaviour in 24-year-old lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*) stands in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, United States...

Author(s): Kellen N. Nelson, Monica G. Turner, William H. Romme, Daniel B. Tinker

Year Published: 2017

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Trend analysis of fire season length and extreme fire weather in North America between 1979 and 2015

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/16407

We have constructed a fire weather climatology over North America from 1979 to 2015 using the North American Regional Reanalysis dataset and the Canadian Fire Weather Index (FWI) System. We tested for the presence of trends in potential fire season length, based on a meteorological definition, and extreme fire weather using the non-...

Author(s): Piyush Jain, Xianli Wang, Michael D. Flannigan

Year Published: 2017

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Attribution of extreme weather events in the context of climate change - Report in brief

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/14069

As climate has warmed over recent years, a new pattern of more frequent and more intense weather events has unfolded across the globe. Climate models simulate such changes in extreme events, and some of the reasons for the changes are well understood. Warming increases the likelihood of extremely hot days and nights, favors...

Author(s): Committee on Extreme Weather Events and Climate Change Attribution

Year Published: 2016

Type: Document

Technical Report or White Paper

Development of high-resolution (250 m) historical daily gridded air temperature data using reanalysis and distributed sensor networks for the US Northern Rocky Mountains

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15620

Gridded temperature data sets are typically produced at spatial resolutions that cannot fully resolve fine-scale variation in surface air temperature in regions of complex topography. These data limitations have become increasingly important as scientists and managers attempt to understand and plan for potential

climate change...

Author(s): Zachary A. Holden, Alan Swanson, Anna E. Klene, John T. Abatzoglou, Solomon Z. Dobrowski, Samuel A. Cushman, John Squires, Gretchen Moisen, Jared W. Oyler

Year Published: 2016

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Closure to development of soil moisture drought index to characterize droughts

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15608

This is a discussion article qualifying four issues related to soil moisture drought index (SODI) moisture departure.

Author(s): Mohammad Sohrabi, Jae H. Ryu, John T. Abatzoglou, John Tracy

Year Published: 2016

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Recent advances and remaining uncertainties in resolving past and future climate effects on global fire activity

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15603

Fire is an integral component of the Earth system that will critically affect how terrestrial carbon budgets and living systems respond to climate change. Paleo and observational records document robust positive relationships between fire activity and aridity in many parts of the world on interannual to millennial timescales....

Author(s): A. Park Williams, John T. Abatzoglou

Year Published: 2016

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Weather, fuels, and topography impede wildland fire spread in western US landscapes

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/14716

As wildland fire activity continues to surge across the western US, it is increasingly important that we understand and quantify the environmental drivers of fire and how they vary across ecosystems. At daily to annual timescales, weather, fuels, and topography are known to influence characteristics such as area burned and fire...

Author(s): Lisa M. Holsinger, Sean A. Parks, Carol Miller

Year Published: 2016

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Controls on interannual variability in lightning-caused fire activity in the western US

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15601

Lightning-caused wildfires account for a majority of burned area across the western United States (US), yet lightning remains among the more unpredictable spatiotemporal aspects of the fire environment and a challenge for both modeling and managing fire activity. A data synthesis of cloud-to-ground lightning strikes, climate and...

Author(s): John T. Abatzoglou, Crystal A. Kolden, Jennifer Balch, Bethany A. Bradley

Year Published: 2016

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

A stochastic mixed integer program to model spatial wildfire behavior and suppression placement decisions with uncertain weather

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/13931

Wildfire behavior is a complex and stochastic phenomenon that can present unique tactical management challenges. This paper investigates a multistage stochastic mixed integer program with full recourse to model spatially explicit fire behavior and to select suppression locations for a wildland fire. Simplified suppression decisions...

Author(s): Erin J. Belval, Yu Wei, Michael Bevers

Year Published: 2016

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

The Influence of Climate Model Biases on Projections of Aridity and Drought

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15624

Global climate models (GCMs) have biases when simulating historical climate conditions, which in turn have implications for estimating the hydrological impacts of climate change. This study examines the differences in projected changes of aridity [defined as the ratio of precipitation (P) over potential evapotranspiration (PET)], or...

Year Published: 2016

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Spatial coherence of extreme precipitation events in the Northwestern United States

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15609

The complexity of impacts resulting from extreme precipitation events varies with the spatial extent of precipitation extremes. Characteristics of precipitation extremes, defined by the top 5% of 3-day accumulated precipitation, including their spatial coherence and relationships to two contrasting synoptic phenomena, were examined...

Author(s): Lauren E. Parker, John T. Abatzoglou

Year Published: 2016

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Projected changes in cold hardiness zones and suitable overwinter ranges of perennial crops over the United States

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15604

Average annual absolute minimum temperatures (TN_n) provide a means of delineating agriculturally relevant climate zones and are used to define cold hardiness zones (CHZ) by the United States Department of Agriculture. Projected changes in TN_n, mean winter minimum temperatures, and CHZs over the conterminous United States (CONUS...

Author(s): Lauren E. Parker, John T. Abatzoglou

Year Published: 2016

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Contribution of cut-off lows to precipitation across the United States

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15602

A chronology of cutoff lows (COL) from 1979 to 2014 alongside daily precipitation observations across the conterminous United States was used to examine the contribution of COL to seasonal precipitation, extreme-precipitation events, and interannual precipitation variability. COL accounted for between 2% and 32% of annual...

Author(s): John T. Abatzoglou
Year Published: 2016
Type: Document
Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Verification of Spot Fire Weather Forecasts

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15563

Software was developed to evaluate National Weather Service (NWS) spot forecasts. Fire management officials request spot forecasts from the NWS to provide detailed guidance as to atmospheric conditions in the vicinity of planned prescribed burns as well as wildfires that do not have incident meteorologists on site. A multi-year set...

Author(s): John D. Horel, Timothy J. Brown
Year Published: 2015
Type: Document
Technical Report or White Paper

Projected changes in snowfall extremes and interannual variability of snowfall in the western U.S.

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15647

Projected warming will have significant impacts on snowfall accumulation and melt, with implications for water availability and management in snow-dominated regions. Changes in snowfall extremes are confounded by projected increases in precipitation extremes. Downscaled climate projections from 20 global climate models were bias-

Author(s): A.C. Lute, John T. Abatzoglou, Katherine C. Hegewisch
Year Published: 2015
Type: Document
Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Seasonal reversal of the influence of El Niño–Southern Oscillation on very large wildfire occurrence in the interior northwestern United States

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15643

Satellite-mapped fire perimeters and the multivariate El Niño–Southern Oscillation index were used to examine the impact of concurrent El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phase on very large fire (VLF) occurrences over the intermountain northwestern United States (U.S.) from 1984 to 2012. While the warm phase of ENSO promotes...

Author(s): Renaud Barbero, John T. Abatzoglou, Timothy J. Brown
Year Published: 2015
Type: Document
Book or Chapter or Journal Article

The changing strength and nature of fire-climate relationships in the northern Rocky Mountains, U.S.A., 1902-2008

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15636

Time-varying fire-climate relationships may represent an important component of fire-regime variability, relevant for understanding the controls of fire and projecting fire activity under global-change scenarios. We used time-varying statistical models to evaluate if and how fire-climate relationships varied from 1902-2008, in one...

Author(s): Philip E. Higuera, John T. Abatzoglou, Jeremy S. Littell, Penelope Morgan
Year Published: 2015
Type: Document
Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Modeling study of the contribution of fire emissions on BC concentrations and deposition rates

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15578

Regional air quality simulations were performed to evaluate the contributions of wildland fires to inter-annual variability of black carbon (BC) concentrations and to assess the contributions of wildfires vs. prescribed fires to BC concentrations and deposition rates to glacier areas and snow-covered surfaces in the western US....

Author(s): Serena H. Chung, Brian K. Lamb, Farren Herron-Thorpe, Rodrigo Gonzalez-Abraham, Vikram Ravi, Tsengel Nergui, Joseph K. Vaughan, Narasimhan K. Larkin, Tara Strand

Year Published: 2015

Type: Document

Technical Report or White Paper

Forecasting integrated lightning and fuels ignition potentials in a system with real-time analysis of fire weather prediction accuracy

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15557

Weather forecasts can help identify environmental conditions conducive to prescribed burning or to increased fire danger. These conditions are important components of fire management tools such as fire ignition potential maps, fire danger rating systems, fire behavior predictions, and smoke dispersion modeling. Fire managers use...

Author(s): Miriam L. Rorig, Stacy Drury

Year Published: 2015

Type: Document

Technical Report or White Paper

Development of soil moisture drought index (SODI) to characterize droughts

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15645

A new drought index termed the "soil moisture drought index (SODI)" is developed to characterize droughts. The premise of the index is based on how much water is required to attain soil moisture at field capacity. SODI captures variations of precipitation, temperature, and soil moisture over time. Three widely used drought...

Author(s): Mohammad Sohrabi, Jae H. Ryu, John T. Abatzoglou, John Tracy

Year Published: 2015

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Climate-induced variations in global wildfire dange from 1979 to 2013

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15322

Climate strongly influences global wildfire activity, and recent wildfire surges may signal fire weather-induced pyrogeographic shifts. Here we use three daily global climate data sets and three fire danger indices to develop a simple annual metric of fire weather season length, and map spatio-temporal trends from 1979 to 2013. We...

Author(s): William Matt Jolly, Mark A. Cochrane, Patrick H. Freeborn, Zachary A. Holden, Timothy J. Brown, G.J. Williamson, David M. J. S. Bowman

Year Published: 2015

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Implications of climate change on wind erosion of agricultural lands in the Columbia plateau

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15642

Climate change may impact soil health and productivity as a result of accelerated or decelerated rates of erosion. Previous studies suggest a greater risk of wind erosion on arid and semi-arid lands due to loss of biomass under a future warmer climate. There have been no studies conducted to assess the impact of climate change on...

Author(s): B.S. Sharratt, J. Tatarko, John T. Abatzoglou, F.A. Fox, D. Huggins

Year Published: 2015

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

A wildfire-relevant climatology of the convective environment of the United States

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/13270

Convective instability can influence the behaviour of large wildfires. Because wildfires modify the temperature and moisture of air in their plumes, instability calculations using ambient conditions may not accurately represent convective potential for some fire plumes. This study used the North American Regional Reanalysis to...

Author(s): Brian E. Potter, Matthew A. Anaya

Year Published: 2015

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Daily weather and other factors influencing burn severity in central Idaho and western Montana

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15316

Burn severity as inferred from satellite-derived differenced Normalized Burn Ratio (dNBR) is useful for evaluating fire impacts on ecosystems but the environmental controls on burn severity across large forest fires are both poorly understood and likely to be different than those influencing fire extent. We related dNBR to...

Author(s): Donovan Birch, Penelope Morgan, Crystal A. Kolden, John T. Abatzoglou, Gregory K. Dillon, Andrew T. Hudak, Alistair M. S. Smith

Year Published: 2015

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

The potential impact of regional climate change on fire weather in the United States

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/13208

Climate change is expected to alter the frequency and severity of atmospheric conditions conducive for wildfires. In this study, we assess potential changes in fire weather conditions for the contiguous United States using the Haines Index (HI), a fire weather index that has been employed operationally to detect atmospheric...

Author(s): Ying Tang, Shiyuan Zhong, Lifeng Luo, Xindi Bian, Warren Heilman, Julie Winkler

Year Published: 2015

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Future mega-fires and smoke impacts

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15579

"Megafire" events, in which large high-intensity fires propagate over extended periods, can cause both immense damage to the local environment and catastrophic air quality impacts on cities and towns downwind. Increases in extreme events associated with climate change (e.g., droughts, heat waves) are projected to result in more...

Author(s): Narasimhan K. Larkin, John T. Abatzoglou, Donald McKenzie, Brian E. Potter, E. Ashley Steel, Brian J. Stocks

Year Published: 2015
Type: Document
Technical Report or White Paper

Modeling very large-fire occurrences over the continental United States from weather and climate forcing

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15656

Very large-fires (VLFs) have widespread impacts on ecosystems, air quality, fire suppression resources, and in many regions account for a majority of total area burned. Empirical generalized linear models of the largest fires (>5000 ha) across the contiguous United States (US) were developed at 60 km spatial and weekly...

Author(s): Renaud Barbero, John T. Abatzoglou, E. Ashley Steel, Narasimhan K. Larkin

Year Published: 2014

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Climate and very large wildland fires in the contiguous western USA

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/13009

Very large wildfires can cause significant economic and environmental damage, including destruction of homes, adverse air quality, firefighting costs and even loss of life. We examine how climate is associated with very large wildland fires (VLWFs $\geq 50,000$ acres, or $\sim 20,234$ ha) in the western contiguous USA. We used composite...

Author(s): E. Natasha Stavros, John T. Abatzoglou, Narasimhan K. Larkin, Donald McKenzie, E. Ashley Steel

Year Published: 2014

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Observed changes in false springs over the contiguous United States

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15668

Climate warming fosters an earlier spring green-up that may bring potential benefits to agricultural systems. However, advances in green-up timing may leave early stage vegetation growth vulnerable to cold damage when hard freezes follow green-up resulting in a false spring. Spatiotemporal patterns of green-up dates, last spring...

Author(s): Alexander G. Peterson, John T. Abatzoglou

Year Published: 2014

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

De-coupling seasonal changes in water content and dry matter to predict live conifer foliar moisture content

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/12959

Live foliar moisture content (LFMC) significantly influences wildland fire behaviour. However, characterising variations in LFMC is difficult because both foliar mass and dry mass can change throughout the season. Here we quantify the seasonal changes in both plant water status and dry matter partitioning. We collected new and old...

Author(s): William Matt Jolly, Ann M. Hadlow, Kathleen Huguet

Year Published: 2014

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Extent of the rain-snow transition zone in the western U.S. under historic and projected climate

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15660

This study investigates the extent of the rain-snow transition zone across the complex terrain of the western United States for both late 20th century climate and projected changes in climate by the mid-21st century. Observed and projected temperature and precipitation data at 4 km resolution were used with an empirical...

Author(s): P. Zion Klos, Timothy E. Link, John T. Abatzoglou

Year Published: 2014

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Observed and projected changes in absolute temperature extremes across the contiguous United States

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15657

Changes in the extent of absolute, all-time, daily temperature records across the contiguous United States were examined using observations and climate model simulations. Observations from station data and reanalysis from 1980 to 2013 show increased extent of absolute highest temperature records and decreased extent of absolute...

Author(s): John T. Abatzoglou, Renaud Barbero

Year Published: 2014

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Questionable evidence of natural warming of the northwestern United States

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15655

Johnstone and Mantua (1) claim that changes in atmospheric circulation were the primary cause of the observed warming of sea surface temperature around the northeastern Pacific margins and surface air temperature (SAT) in Northern California, Oregon, and Washington from 1901 to 2012. The results of Johnstone and Mantua's report...

Author(s): John T. Abatzoglou, David E. Rupp, Philip W. Mote

Year Published: 2014

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Is proportion burned severely related to daily area burned?

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/13018

The ecological effects of forest fires burning with high severity are long-lived and have the greatest impact on vegetation successional trajectories, as compared to low-to-moderate severity fires. The primary drivers of high severity fire are unclear, but it has been hypothesized that wind-driven, large fire-growth days play a...

Author(s): Donovan Birch, Penelope Morgan, Crystal A. Kolden, Andrew T. Hudak, Alistair M. S. Smith

Year Published: 2014

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Seasonal climate variability and change in the Pacific Northwest of the United States

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15671

Observed changes in climate of the U.S. Pacific Northwest since the early twentieth century were examined using four different datasets. Annual mean temperature increased by approximately 0.6°–0.8°C from 1901 to 2012, with corroborating indicators including a lengthened freeze-free season,

increased temperature of the coldest...

Author(s): John T. Abatzoglou, David E. Rupp, Philip W. Mote

Year Published: 2014

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Regional projections of the likelihood of very large wildland fires under a changing climate in the contiguous western United States

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/13006

Seasonal changes in the climatic potential for very large wildfires (VLWF > or = 50,000 ac ~20,234 ha) across the western contiguous United States are projected over the 21st century using generalized linear models and downscaled climate projections for two representative concentration pathways (RCPs). Significant ($p < 0.05$)...

Author(s): E. Natasha Stavros, John T. Abatzoglou, Donald McKenzie, Narasimhan K. Larkin

Year Published: 2014

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Role of extreme snowfall events in interannual variability of snowfall accumulation in the western United States

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15661

Water resources in the western United States are contingent on interannual variations in snowpack. Interannual snowpack variability has been attributed to large-scale climate patterns including the El Niño ~ Southern Oscillation (ENSO), however, the contribution of snowfall frequency and extreme snowfall events to this...

Author(s): A.C. Lute, John T. Abatzoglou

Year Published: 2014

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Defining extreme wildland fires using geospatial and ancillary metrics

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/12953

There is a growing professional and public perception that 'extreme' wildland fires are becoming more common due to changing climatic conditions. This concern is heightened in the wildland-urban interface where social and ecological effects converge. 'Mega-fires', 'conflagrations', 'extreme' and 'catastrophic' are descriptors...

Author(s): Karen O. Lannom, Wade T. Tinkham, Alistair M. S. Smith, John T. Abatzoglou, Beth A.

Newingham, Troy E. Hall, Penelope Morgan, Eva K. Strand, Travis B. Paveglio, John Anderson, Aaron M. Sparks

Year Published: 2014

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Tracking interannual streamflow variability with drought indices in the U.S. Pacific Northwest

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15659

Drought indices are often used for monitoring interannual variability in macroscale hydrology. However, the diversity of drought indices raises several issues: 1) which indices perform best and where; 2) does the incorporation of potential evapotranspiration (PET) in indices strengthen relationships, and how sensitive is the choice...

Author(s): John T. Abatzoglou, Renaud Barbero, Jacob W. Wolf, Zachary A. Holden

Year Published: 2014

Type: Document
Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Development of gridded surface meteorological data for ecological applications and modeling

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15682

Landscape-scale ecological modelling has been hindered by suitable high-resolution surface meteorological datasets. To overcome these limitations, desirable spatial attributes of gridded climate data are combined with desirable temporal attributes of regional-scale reanalysis and daily gauge-based precipitation to derive a spatially...

Author(s): John T. Abatzoglou

Year Published: 2013

Type: Document
Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Drought seasonality explains patterns in widespread aspen forest mortality across the western United States

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15679

Globally documented widespread drought-induced forest mortality has important ramifications for plant community structure, ecosystem function, and the ecosystem services provided by forests. Yet the characteristics of drought seasonality, severity, and duration that trigger mortality events have received little attention despite...

Author(s): Leander Anderegg, William R.L. Anderegg, John T. Abatzoglou, Alexandra M. Hausladen, Joseph A. Berry

Year Published: 2013

Type: Document
Book or Chapter or Journal Article

The missing mountain water: slower westerlies decrease orographic enhancement in the Pacific Northwest USA

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15674

Trends in streamflow timing and volume in the Pacific Northwest United States have been attributed to increased temperatures, because trends in precipitation at lower-elevation stations were negligible. We demonstrate that observed streamflow declines are probably associated with declines in mountain precipitation, revealing...

Author(s): Charles H. Luce, John T. Abatzoglou, Zachary A. Holden

Year Published: 2013

Type: Document
Book or Chapter or Journal Article

The climate velocity of the contiguous United States during the 20th century

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15681

Rapid climate change has the potential to affect economic, social, and biological systems. A concern for species conservation is whether or not the rate of on-going climate change will exceed the rate at which species can adapt or move to suitable environments. Here we assess the climate velocity (both climate displacement rate and...

Author(s): Solomon Z. Dobrowski, John T. Abatzoglou, Alan Swanson, Jonathan A. Greenberg, Alison R. Mynsberge, Zachary A. Holden, Michael K. Schwartz

Year Published: 2013

Type: Document
Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Evaluation of CMIP5 20th century climate simulations for the Pacific Northwest USA

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15675

Monthly temperature and precipitation data from 41 global climate models (GCMs) of the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 5 (CMIP5) were compared to observations for the 20th century, with a focus on the United States Pacific Northwest (PNW) and surrounding region. A suite of statistics, or metrics, was calculated, that...

Author(s): David E. Rupp, John T. Abatzoglou, Katherine C. Hegewisch, Philip W. Mote

Year Published: 2013

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

An evaluation of multi-scalar drought indices in Nevada and eastern California

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15687

Nevada and eastern California are home to some of the driest and warmest climates, most mountainous regions, and fastest growing metropolitan areas of the United States. Throughout Nevada and eastern California, snow-dominated watersheds provide most of the water supply for both human and environmental demands. Increasing demands on...

Author(s): Daniel J. McEvoy, Justin L. Huntington, John T. Abatzoglou, Laura M. Edwards

Year Published: 2012

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Climate and vegetation influences on fire impacts in Alaskan boreal forest: implications for carbon and fire management

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15688

Boreal forest fires are an important source of terrestrial carbon emissions, particularly during years of widespread wildfires. Most carbon emission models parameterize wildfire impacts and carbon flux to area burned by fires, therein making the assumption that fires consume a spatiotemporally homogeneous landscape composed of...

Author(s): Crystal A. Kolden, John T. Abatzoglou

Year Published: 2012

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Climate extremes and their linkage to regional drought over Idaho, USA

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15683

To investigate consequences of climate extreme and variability on agriculture and regional water resource, twenty-seven climatic indices of temperature and precipitation over Idaho, USA, were computed. Precipitation, mean temperature and maximum temperature, self-calibrated Palmer Drought Index and Standardized Precipitation Index...

Author(s): Mohammad Sohrabi, Jae H. Ryu, John T. Abatzoglou, John Tracy

Year Published: 2012

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Changes in climatic water balance drive downhill shifts in plant species optimum elevations

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15690

Uphill shifts of species' distributions in response to historical warming are well documented, which leads to widespread expectations of continued uphill shifts under future warming. Conversely, downhill shifts are often considered anomalous and unrelated to climate change. By comparing the altitudinal

distributions of 64 plant...

Author(s): Shawn M. Crimmins, Solomon Z. Dobrowski, Jonathan A. Greenberg, John T. Abatzoglou, Alison R. Mynsberge

Year Published: 2011

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Mapping the potential for high severity wildfire in the western United States

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15320

Each year, large areas are burned in wildfires across the Western United States. Assessing the ecological effects of these fires is crucial to effective postfire management. This requires accurate, efficient, and economical methods to assess the severity of fires at broad landscape scales (Brennan and Hardwick 1999; Parsons and...

Author(s): Gregory K. Dillon, Penelope Morgan, Zachary A. Holden

Year Published: 2011

Type: Document

Synthesis

Empirical downscaling of daily minimum air temperature at very fine resolutions in complex terrain

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15692

Available air temperature models do not adequately account for the influence of terrain on nocturnal air temperatures. An empirical model for night time air temperatures was developed using a network of one hundred and forty inexpensive temperature sensors deployed across the Bitterroot National Forest, Montana. A principle...

Author(s): Zachary A. Holden, John T. Abatzoglou, Scott L. Baggett, Charles H. Luce

Year Published: 2011

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Detailed point weather forecasts: how to get them when you need them

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/12441

Detailed point weather forecasts are a critical component of fire management planning. Accurate hour-by-hour forecasts for your exact location are valuable when you are preparing to ignite a prescribed burn and want to compare your prescription with actual conditions. They also provide important weather documentation for your files...

Author(s): Alan J. Long, Annie Oxarart

Year Published: 2011

Type: Document

Research Brief or Fact Sheet

Influence of the PNA on declining mountain snowpack in the western United States

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15695

The widespread decrease in mountain snowpack across the Western United States is a hallmark indicator of regional climate change. Observed decreases in snowpack across lower-elevation watersheds are broadly consistent with model predictions of anthropogenic climate change; however, the magnitude of the decreases across much of the...

Author(s): John T. Abatzoglou

Year Published: 2011

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Learning the rhythm of the seasons in the face of global change: phenological research in the 21st century

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15709

Phenology is the study of recurring life-cycle events, classic examples being the flowering of plants and animal migration. Phenological responses are increasingly relevant for addressing applied environmental issues. Yet, challenges remain with respect to spanning scales of observation, integrating observations across taxa, and...

Author(s): Jeffrey T. Morrisette, Andrew D. Richardson, Alan K. Knapp, Jeremy I. Fisher, Eric A. Graham, John T. Abatzoglou, Bruce E. Wilson, David D. Breshears, Geoffrey M. Henebry, Jonathan M. Hanes, Liang Liang

Year Published: 2009

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Influence of the Madden Julian Oscillation on summertime cloud-to-ground lightning activity over the continental US

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15696

Summertime cloud-to-ground lightning strikes are responsible for the majority of wildfire ignitions across vast sections of the seasonally dry western United States. In this study, a strong connection between active phases of the Madden–Julian oscillation (MJO) and regional summertime lightning activity was found across the...

Author(s): John T. Abatzoglou, Timothy J. Brown

Year Published: 2009

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

How much influence does landscape-scale physiography have on air temperature in a mountain environment?

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15698

Spatio-temporal patterns of temperature in mountain environments are complex due to both regional synoptic-scale and landscape-scale physiographic controls in these systems. Understanding the nature and magnitude of these physiographic effects has practical and theoretical implications for the development of temperature datasets...

Author(s): Solomon Z. Dobrowski, John T. Abatzoglou, Jonathan A. Greenberg, S.G. Schladow

Year Published: 2009

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Fuel consumption and flammability thresholds in shrub-dominated ecosystems - Final Report to the Joint Fire Science Program

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/11164

Research to quantify fuel consumption and flammability in shrub-dominated ecosystems has received little attention despite the widespread occurrence of fire-influenced, shrub-dominated landscapes across the arid lands of the western United States. While some research has addressed issues relating to fire behavior in some shrub-...

Author(s): Clinton S. Wright, Roger D. Ottmar, Sue A. Ferguson, Robert E. Vihnanek

Year Published: 2007

Type: Document

Technical Report or White Paper

The asymmetry of trends in spring and autumn temperature and circulation regimes over western North America

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15710

Observational evidence shows that spring temperatures over western North America have undergone significant warming over the past half century, while autumn temperatures have shown relatively little change. Low-frequency modes of atmospheric variability for spring and autumn are demonstrated to account for a great deal of the...

Author(s): John T. Abatzoglou, Kelly T. Redmond

Year Published: 2007

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Planetary wave breaking and nonlinear reflection: seasonal cycle and interannual variability

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15713

Forty-six years of daily averaged NCEP–NCAR reanalysis data are used to identify the occurrence of planetary wave breaking (PWB) in the subtropical upper troposphere. As large-amplitude waves propagate into the subtropics where the zonal flow is weak, they may break. PWB is diagnosed by observing the large-scale meridional...

Author(s): John T. Abatzoglou, Gudrun Magnusdottir

Year Published: 2006

Type: Document

Book or Chapter or Journal Article

Introduction to the Canadian Forest Fire Weather Index System

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/14134

This video provides an introduction to the Canadian Forest Fire Weather Index System.

Type: Media

Video

Comparison of sling psychrometer to digital weather meters

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/13774

Belt weather kits for recording of weather information have been in use since 1959. The use of a sling psychrometer from these kits is standard practice for the recording of dry and wet bulb temperatures to calculate relative humidity. Electronic based meters for recording weather information could replace belt...

Type: Media

Webinar

An Assessment of Temperature and RH from a Variety of Weather Meters

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15934

Do you use belt weather kits or electronic handheld weather meters for measuring temperature and relative humidity in the field? Which device do you trust? Belt weather kits for obtaining weather information on prescribed fires and wildfires have been in use since the 1960's and the use of sling psychrometers from these kits has...

Type: Media

Webinar

Elements of the National Weather Service fire weather forecast

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/13247

Casey Sullivan provides an overview of the National Weather Service fire weather forecast program and discusses elements of the fire weather forecast available to any fire practitioner. The hourly weather graph and definitions of surface winds were emphasized.

Type: Media

Webinar

Part 3. Wildland fire, smoke & roadway visibility series: Planned Burn (PB) Piedmont Web Tool - Estimating Superfog potential from Smoldering Combustion

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15297

In Part 3 of the Wildland Fire Smoke and Roadway Visibility Webinar Series, Matthew Fearon, research meteorologist for the Desert Research Institute, presented on the PB-Piedmont Web Tool, Super-Fog Potential, and Estimated Smoldering Potential - all with a focus on moving science to a usable tool for managers and others.

Type: Media

Webinar

Fire and Lightning from Space: Using the new GOES-16 Satellite for Fire and Total Lightning Detection

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15802

GOES-16 is NOAA's latest earth-observing geostationary satellite, launched Nov 19, 2016. The GOES-16 platform hosts many improved earth-and sun-looking instruments, of which the Advanced Baseline Imager (ABI) and the Geostationary Lightning Mapper (GLM) are the primary earth-pointing instruments. Both instruments take current...

Type: Media

Seminar

Beyond the stability index: fire management and forecasting tools for air quality, weather and climate impacts of prescribed fires

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/13063

This webinar introduced and described forecasting tools for air quality, weather and climate impacts of prescribed fires.

Type: Media

Webinar

Part 1. Wildland fire, smoke & roadway visibility series: Superfog: how it forms, where it forms, where it goes, what to do

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15293

In Part 1 of the Wildland Fire Smoke and Roadway Visibility Webinar Series, Gary Achtemeier, former research meteorologist for the USFS Southern Research Station, presented information on the following topics: • What is Superfog and how it forms on your burn site • How common is Superfog on burn sites • Superfog weather:...

Type: Media

Webinar

Transitioning from a small fire: fire behavior driving episodic fire growth after 1988 in Yellowstone National Park

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15154

This presentation was part of the 13th Biennial Scientific Conference on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem held at Jackson Lake Lodge in Grand Teton National Park, October 4-6, 2016. The conference theme was Building on the Past, Leading into the Future: Sustaining the Greater

Yellowstone Ecosystem in the Coming Century.

Type: Media

Webinar

Introduction to WFDSS - air quality tools

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/12865

Introduction to WFDSS - Air Quality Tools Smoke management is an important aspect of managing wildland fire. While mitigating smoke impacts from prescribed burns is important, smoke from large wildfire complexes (such as the AZ/NM fires in 2011) can expose millions of people to significant smoke, with hundreds of thousands living in...

Type: Media

Webinar

Burn boss stories

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/14148

Veteran burn bosses share their stories and firsthand insights.

Type: Media

Video

WFDSS modeling and weather

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/14131

This webinar was facilitated by Tom St. Clair, Fairbanks, Alaska, and focused on WFDSS modeling and weather. The agenda items covered included: how to pick RAWs to get the best data for wind and fuels, using predicted weather, ERC classes tab in WFDSS, ERC streams tab in WFDSS, winds tab in WFDSS, dealing with weather forecast...

Type: Media

Webinar

Learning From The Experts: Margit Bucher - Another Pair of Eyes

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/16040

In this 9 minute video, Margit Bucher explains how she uses her crew as another pair of eyes and the importance of double checking assumptions that you are working on within the burn plan. The goal of the Learning from the Experts video series is to speed up individual and organizational learning. Project personnel have...

Type: Media

Video

Rapidly-updating numerical weather prediction for fire weather situational awareness and forecasting: The High-Resolution Rapid Refresh model

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15804

The 3-km High-Resolution Rapid Refresh (HRRR) numerical weather prediction model, developed at the NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory and operational since September 2014, is a tool for situational weather awareness and short-range forecasting for a variety of end-user applications, ranging from severe weather prediction to...

Type: Media

Seminar

Part 2. Wildland fire, smoke & roadway visibility series: Weather information and tools available to stay ahead of superfog events

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15295

In Part 2 of the Wildland Fire Smoke and Roadway Visibility Webinar Series, Gary Curcio, former Fire Environment Branch Head NC Forest Service, presented information on the following topics: • Obtaining and tracking key environmental variables • Reviewing operationally developed indexes (Turner Stability Index (TS),...

Type: Media

Webinar

Evaluating the Swiss SNOWPACK modeling system across the Northern Rocky Mountains

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15791

Since late 2015, a one dimensional model of snow pack structure, know as SNOWPACK, has been evaluated by the National Weather Service at Missoula, in collaboration with Montana State University. The model is driven by point-based output from a high-resolution numerical model (WRF-ARW).Hourly forecasts of incoming radiation,...

Type: Media

Seminar

A topographically resolved wildfire danger and drought monitoring system for the conterminous United States

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15242

Patterns of energy and available moisture vary over small distances in mountainous regions and available climate data are too coarse to resolve these terrain-mediated effects. This seminar focused on efforts to improve the physical template we use to analyze vegetation patterns and post-fire ecological effects, including what has...

Type: Media

Seminar

A summary of fire season 2016 in Oregon and Washington

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/15112

John Saltenberger, Meteorologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, presented A Summary of Fire Season 2016 in OR and WA. This webinar was hosted by the NW Fire Science Consortium.

Type: Media

Webinar

A dynamic, severe fire weather potential mobile mapping program

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/14536

Goal of this tool is to provide spatial, dynamic fire danger and fire behavior assessment tools so that firefighters can abide by the Standard Fire Orders 1 and 3: "Keep informed of fire weather conditions and forecasts" and "Base all action on current and expected fire behavior".

Type: Media

Video

Predicting local smoke dispersion during low-intensity wildland fires in forested environments

www.nrfirescience.org/resource/12835

Smoke generated from low-intensity prescribed fires used for fuels management can have an adverse impact on local air quality, raising human health and safety concerns especially in wildland-urban-interface areas. Local smoke behavior is a complex process and is highly dependent on local ambient atmospheric conditions (e.g....

Type: Media

Webinar