

Success Stories

Bringing People Together and Sharing Knowledge in the Northern Rockies



"I attended all 3 days, and I want to give accolades to the organizers. The logistics of these type of virtual events can be really difficult and you all did a great job at moderating, sharing presentations from different sources, copying relevant links on the chat, answering questions live and via text, and managing all aspects of Zoom interactions."

-Workshop participant, NWFSC Emerging Science Workshop

Community Education: Increasing Awareness and Understanding of Fire Science Topics

In Fiscal Year 2025, the Northern Rockies Fire Science Network (NRFN) produced programming aimed at community education around important fire science topics, including:

- **The Fire Problem Screenings:** NRFN assisted with screenings of this new documentary around the region to expand the conversation about fire science to more communities.
- **NWFSC Emerging Science Workshop:** Co-hosted with the Northwest Fire Science Consortium, this three-day workshop focused on emerging science for workforce development, smoke preparedness, and resilience to fire for communities.
- **Perspectives - Barriers to Fire on the Ground:** This piece examines the challenges to implementing more prescribed fire and explores what different communities can do to mitigate these barriers.

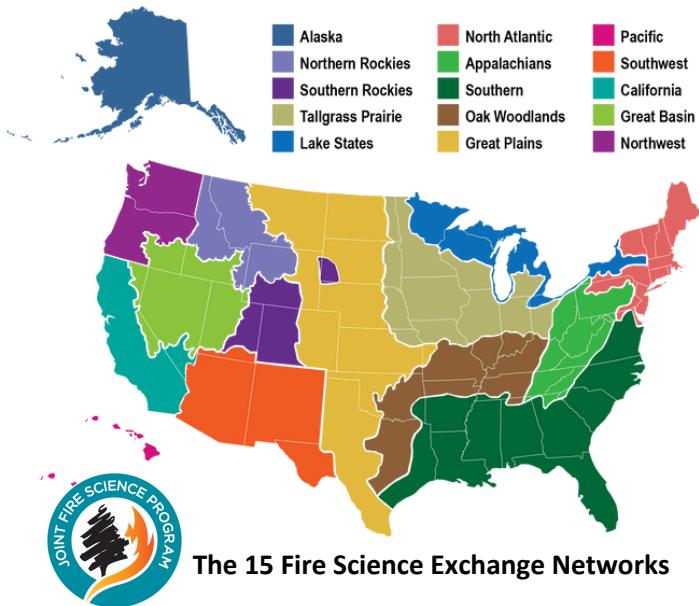
The Northern Rockies Fire Science Network (NRFN) serves as a go-to resource for managers and scientists involved in fire and fuels management in the Northern Rockies. The NRFN is funded by the Joint Fire Science Program and is one of 15 Fire Science Exchange Networks across the country. The NRFN facilitates knowledge exchange by bringing people together to strengthen collaborations, synthesize science, and enhance science application around critical management issues.

Read the story...

Some of the most important work done by the Fire Science Exchange Network is building knowledge, awareness, and understanding around key fire science topics. For the Northern Rockies Fire Science Network, this conceptual work happened through three different activities. First, NRFSN hosted a screening of a recently released documentary, “The Fire Problem,” which traces the roots of our growing fire problem and explores what many experts believe is a clear and attainable solution. The screening in Missoula was put on in collaboration with the University of Montana Wilderness Institute and drew a crowd of 325 attendees. The film was followed by an expert panel discussion, with great community engagement from the audience. This initial event prompted other groups to host their own screenings, expanding the conversation about fire science to more communities in the region.

Second, NRFSN co-hosted an Emerging Science Workshop with the Northwest Fire Science Consortium. Over the course of three days, workshop attendees focused on emerging science for workforce development, smoke preparedness, and resilience to fire within their communities. The feedback following the workshop was overwhelmingly positive, one participant wrote, “really impressed by the workforce session! Excellent panels and good balance of research/lived experiences.”

Third, an installment of NRFSN’s “Perspectives” series focused on the barriers to prescribed fire, broadening awareness and understanding about the issue. NRFSN spoke to individuals representing three distinct communities: a large private landowner, the director of the Colville Tribe, and a policy analyst working in wildfire policy. Approaching this topic from multiple angles enables readers to grasp a more complete picture of how the challenges to introducing more prescribed fire play out across different communities. This publication was shared on NRFSN social media and distributed to a mailing list with over 1,400 subscribers. 



*A screening of “The Fire Problem” held in Hamilton, MT
(photo by Ella Hall)*

More information about the Northern Rockies Fire Science Network:



nrfirescience.org



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