

Success Stories

Bringing People Together and Sharing Knowledge in the Northern Rockies



*Touring the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Forestry Nursery as part of the Intertribal Timber Council Symposium
(photo by Ella Hall)*

Expanding Connectivity in the Region

Building a system of strong relationships throughout the region is an ongoing project for the Northern Rockies Fire Science Network and a focus of the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year. Some examples of this include:

- **Partnering with the Intermountain West Joint Venture:** NRFSN connected the IWJV with the FSEN, where they presented on their new “tech transfer” network.
- **NW WA Indigenous People’s Burning Network:** NRFSN has been regularly attending meetings for this network, which connects a diverse group of folks interested in fire.
- **Regional Exhibits:** NRFSN attended several new conferences in the region this year, connecting with new audiences.

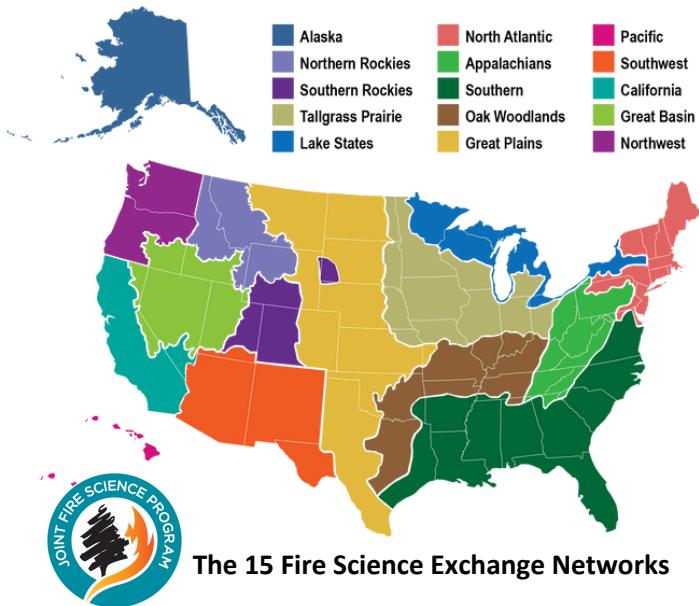
The Northern Rockies Fire Science Network (NRFSN) serves as a go-to resource for managers and scientists involved in fire and fuels management in the Northern Rockies. The NRFSN is funded by the Joint Fire Science Program and is one of 15 Fire Science Exchange Networks across the country. The NRFSN facilitates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

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Working to expand connectivity in the region, the Northern Rockies Fire Science Network partnered with a variety of different groups and attended several new conferences and meetings throughout the past year. One of those groups is the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV), an organization that unites partners across the West to conserve bird habitat and working lands through science, collaboration, and strategic investment. IWJV recently launched the Sagebrush Technical Network, aimed at facilitating a professional network to support and strengthen technical transfer work. At the suggestion of NRFSN, IWJV presented this new project at an FSEN meeting, and NRFSN is now regularly participating in their “community of practice” for science communication.

Additionally, NRFSN has been attending meetings for the NW Washington Indigenous People’s Burning Network. This group connects a diverse array of people interested in fire, from National Wildfire Coordinating Group backgrounds to more community cultural burning backgrounds.

Finally, NRFSN attended a number of regional exhibits, reaching new groups and connecting with different audiences. In February, NRFSN was in Spokane, WA, for the 2025 Society for Range Management Annual Meeting. Having a presence at this event expanded recognition of fire topics beyond forested areas, which can often receive the majority of focus in this region. This year, the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) held its annual meeting in the Northern Rockies region, and NRFSN attended this event for the first time. The ITC Symposium was a great opportunity to expand connectivity and build connections within the Tribal lands management audience. NRFSN also attended the Idaho Family Forest Landowners & Managers Conference in Moscow, ID. The audience of this event is primarily smaller family forest owners and managers, very different from the state and Federal managers that are often the focus when it comes to fire management. 



Representing the Fire Science Exchange Network at the Intertribal Timber Council Symposium in Missoula, MT
(Photo courtesy of ITC)