



## 1. Traditional Knowledge and Fire

Societal Impact: Conceptual, Connectivity, Socio-environmental

Relevant NRFSN Logic Model outcomes:

Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Tribal and non-tribal fire managers increase awareness of fire-related issues of tribal significance	Tribal and non-tribal fire managers communicate more often on cross-jurisdictional fire and fuels management	Tribal and non-tribal fire managers collaborate to include tribal cultural values in fire and fuels management

The Northern Rockies Fire Science Network has dedicated substantial energy to understanding, showcasing, and addressing the priorities of Tribal fire and fuels managers in western MT, north ID, and northeast WA. In the past year, the fire and fuels community has become increasingly interested in traditional fire knowledge. NRFSN's Tribal Liaison, Monique Wynecoop, has been inundated with requests to participate in webinars and workshops and discuss her work with Tribes, the Colville National Forest, and the NRFSN. With Monique's assistance, we recently drafted and posted a land acknowledgement to the NRFSN webpage. In June 2020, the NRFSN kicked off the first issue of our [Traditional Knowledge and Fire Newsletter](#) to share resources, events, and publications about fire ecology and traditional knowledge in the Northern Rockies and Northwest. This semi-annual newsletter has nearly 300 subscribers and is widely shared via Twitter. In honor of Native American Heritage month, it will be in the Forest Service's next Research & Development newsletter, which reaches 11,000 subscribers. The Traditional Knowledge and Fire newsletter has received considerable positive feedback:

*"There is much that our agency can learn from indigenous perspectives on and experiences with using fire to sustain resilient forests. The TK & Fire Newsletter is a wonderful source for these types of information, and contributes to the critical role of the Fire Science Exchanges in disseminating information to stakeholders of all types."* – National Program Lead, Wildland Fire and Fuels Research, USDA Forest Service

*"The newsletter has tremendous value in sharing and collecting examples of research through a variety of formats, including webinars, blogs, publications, storymaps, and news items that make a great resource when I want to point to an example for others to consider."* – Acting National Program Lead, Tribal Research, USDA Forest Service

*"This is a fantastic newsletter!"* – Assistant Professor, Montana State University

*"Check out all the info in this new newsletter! Including resources & guidelines for the ethics & protocols of initiating research involving tribes and their traditional knowledge."* – PhD Student, University of Idaho

*"Thank you for this incredibly deep, thorough, and important resource!"* – Associate Director, Methow Conservancy (non-profit)

During the Spring of 2021, the NRFSN began working with the Spokane Tribal Network (STN) to help incorporate traditional knowledge, fire ecology and cultural burning into the STN food sovereignty garden. Specifically, Monique partnered with the Director of the STN to develop objectives for a spring cultural burn and to help the Spokane Tribe share their traditional knowledge related to fire and food sovereignty. As a result, the NRFSN and STN initiated work on a new video to communicate the value of cultural burning and food sovereignty to scientists, managers, and, most importantly, to the Tribal community. Working with a University of Montana Film Studies and Native American Studies graduate student, interviews were filmed in FY21, and the video will be produced in FY22.

In addition, NRFSN Principal Investigator, Vita Wright, was recently selected for a Detail as RMRS Tribal Liaison Officer at the Salish Kootenai College (SKC); this selection was a direct result of ten years of engaging with Tribes to ensure NRFSN resources are useful and accessible to Tribal fire and fuels managers. During her Detail, she is helping NRFSN Co-Investigator Rick Everett implement the brand new SKC Graduate Program in Natural Resource Management. In addition to mentoring the first cohort of native graduate students at SKC, Rick is teaching fire and climate science and Vita is helping the students strengthen their research and professional writing skills.

NRFSN also maintains an online [Hot Topic: Fire and Traditional Knowledge](#), which includes a curated list of links to research briefs, syntheses, publications, videos, webinars, and events (past and upcoming) about traditional knowledge and fire. In FY21, this was our 3rd most popular Hot Topic webpage.



*Monique Wynecoop  
working with Spokane Tribal  
Network on monitoring fire  
ecology.*